



**King George's Park
Management and Maintenance Plan
Volume One: Understanding King George's Park**

Prepared by LUC in association with CFP, and HADA

May 2019



Project Title: King George's Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Client: Wandsworth Borough Council

Version	Date	Version details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
3	May 2019	Final report	Inez Williams Sebastian West Amy Coleman Callum McCulloch	Matthew Parkhill	Matthew Parkhill

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Structure and scope	1
	Study area	1
2	Understanding King George's Park	6
	Physical description	6
	Natural landscape	7
	Planning context	10
	Current use	15
	Ownership and leases	18
	Thames Tideway Tunnel	19
	Outline history	19
	Historic land use, design elements and views	23
	Summary of the significance of King George's Park	26
	Summary of key considerations	26
3	Management and maintenance arrangements	28
	Management	28
	Maintenance	34
	Summary of key considerations	36
4	Ecology baseline review	37
	Summary of key considerations	41
5	Visitor accessibility	42
	Current access and circulation	42
	Infrastructure audit	47
	Disability access	48
	Summary of key considerations	49
6	Land use and visitor experience	51
	Household survey	51
	Stakeholder workshops	51
	Visitor patterns	52
	Visitor observation study	55
	Demographics	56
	Activity	56
	Educational resources	57
	Playground	57
	Formal and informal sporting activities	58
	Events	59
	Community safety	60
	Statutory stakeholder consultation	60
	Summary of key considerations	63
7	Issues and opportunities	64
8	Management and maintenance aims and objectives	72
	Conservation management strategy	72
	Management and maintenance aims	72
9	Action plan	73

10	Review	84
Appendix 1		85
	Relevant planning policy	85
Appendix 2		100
	Ecology Policy and Legal Considerations	100
Appendix 3		103
	Wandsworth Council's open spaces events policy	103
Appendix 4		110
	Landscape materials palette	110
Appendix 5		117
	Dog control order map	117
Tables		
	Table 1.1: Study area summary	2
	Table 2.1: Parks and Events Police statistics 1st April 2015 & 30th June 2017	18
	Table 3.1: Key built structures within King George's Park	31
	Table 4.1: Urban River Survey	40
Figures		
	Figure 1.1: Site location	3
	Figure 1.2: Study area boundary and site features	4
	Figure 1.3: Features along site boundary	5
	Figure 2.1: Character Areas	9
	Figure 2.2: Designations	11
	Figure 2.3: Design aspirations following the Thames Tideway works	19
	Figure 2.4: C20th Historic map progression analysis	22
	Figure 2.5: Historic photos	23
	Figure 2.6: Example of sightlines within King George's Park	24
	Figure 2.7: Key Views	25
	Figure 3.1: Organogram of Enable Parks and Leisure Services department	28
	Figure 5.1: Example of shared use path within the park	43
	Figure 5.2: Example of segregated cycle path	44
	Figure 5.3: Access & Circulation	46
	Figure 5.4: The steep ramp with little safety and guidance features	49
	Figure 6.1: Frequency of use - most frequently visited areas	52
	Figure 6.2: Reasons for visiting King George's Park	53
	Figure 6.3: Travelling to King George's Park	54
	Figure 6.4: Length of journey to King George's Park	54
	Figure 6.5: Visitor observation study	55

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP) has been prepared to guide the conservation and stewardship of King George's Park. The MMP puts forward design and management proposals that will enable the park's heritage, ecological and amenity value to be conserved and enhanced for the benefit of all.
- 1.2 The purpose of this MMP is to:
- Develop a strategy for the way in which King George's Park is managed and maintained, to ensure an enjoyable experience for present and future users;
 - Identify and address who is responsible for each aspect of management;
 - Identify, discuss and resolve issues relating to park infrastructure, site users and available resources;
 - Support applications to the Green Flag Award scheme;
 - Develop prioritised actions which will inform the project to conserve and enhance the park, the River Wandle and mitigate against the effects of the Thames Tideway project;
 - Develop outline costs for the management and maintenance of King George's Park; and
 - Support application for grant funding to finance identified improvements/development projects.
- 1.3 Once adopted the plan will cover a period of 10 years and will be continuously reviewed and updated.

Structure and scope

- 1.4 This report is set out over 11 chapters beginning with a description of an understanding of the park along with the strategic and policy background information, concluding with a summary of the issues and opportunities.
- 1.5 Following consultation, the proposed management arrangements and maintenance requirements are described to ensure the objectives are achieved. These will help safeguard the landscape for the future and to provide an enjoyable experience for visitors of the park.
- 1.6 The appendices to this report provide background information and give sources of information useful for the informed, efficient and responsive management of the park.

Study area

- 1.7 King George's Park is a 23 hectare public park situated in the London Borough of Wandsworth, stretching from central Wandsworth in the north to Earlsfield in the south. **Figure 1.1** shows the location of the park, which has a grid reference of TQ 2569 7370.
- 1.8 Today the park is a well-used and valuable public amenity, offering wide expanses of open space. The space is primarily composed of open grassland with a lake located to the north and the River Wandle flowing along its eastern boundary. The park is used for a variety of formal and informal activities as well as functioning as a venue for community events. **Figure 1.2** shows the study area boundary and site features.

Table 1.1: Study area summary

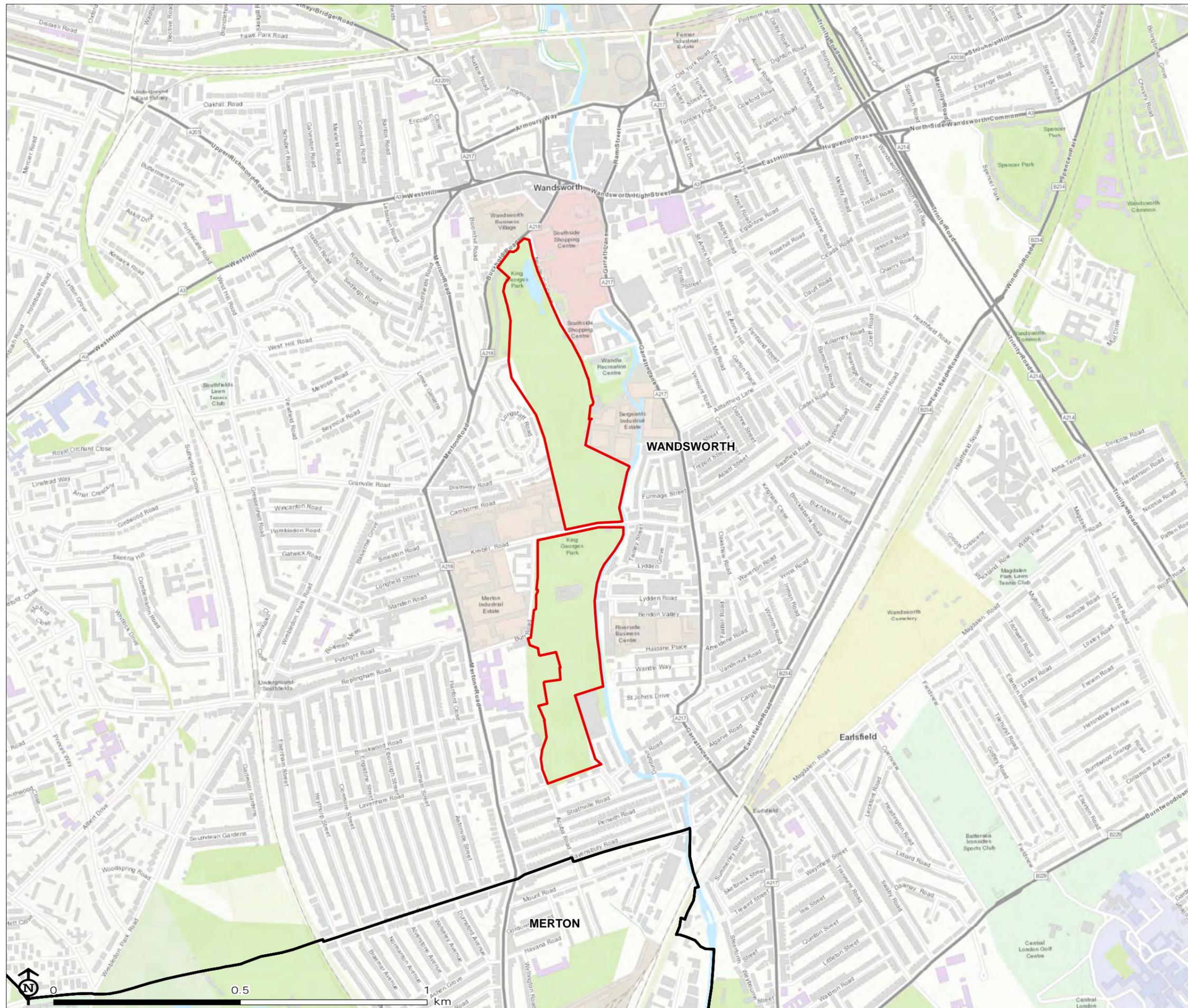
Name	King George's Park
Address (main gate)	Buckhold Road SW18
Location	London Borough of Wandsworth, South London
Grid reference	TQ25697370
Wards	Southfields Ward abutting East Putney to the North West
Date of Wandsworth Borough Council Acquisition	1920
Dates/Phases of key development	Early 20 th Century/ 21 st Century
Ownership and leases	<p>Wandsworth Borough Council owns the freehold of the park.</p> <p>Leases within the site include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southfields Community College which has a 25 year lease (2012-2037) and includes an all-weather pitch partly within King George's Park land with title number TGL334020¹ to accommodate the all-weather pitch;• Tennis courts;• Fitness centre; and• Children's centre and nursery.

¹ King George's Park and Southfields Community College Lease documents

King George's Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 1.1: Site Location

-  King George's Park boundary
-  Local Authority boundary



Map Scale @A3: 1:10,000





- King George's Park boundary
- Local Authority boundary

King George's Park
Management and
Maintenance Plan

Figure 1.2: Study area boundary and site features

Source: LUC

Map Scale @A3: 1:6,000





- King George's Park boundary
- Local Authority boundary

King George's Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 1.3: Features surrounding King George's Park

Source: LUC

Map Scale @A3: 1:6,000



2 Understanding King George's Park

- 2.1 This chapter provides a baseline understanding of King George's Park and its component parts. The understanding is informed through identification of the physical properties of the park as well as reviewing documents and surveys, which chart the park's cultural and natural heritage.

Physical description

Topography

- 2.2 The topography of the park is generally flat with a range of approximately 10-30 metres above sea level, following the course of the River Wandle.

Geology and soils

- 2.3 King George's Park has a geology consisting of London Clay Formation, made up of clay and silt with superficial deposits of Kempton Park gravel members of sand and gravel. The river terrace gravels which form the side of the river valley, lies approximately 30m to the east.
- 2.4 The park sits within the River Wandle floodplain and therefore has loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater.
- 2.5 Anecdotal information has identified contamination within the area defined as Character Area 4: Park extension also known as Bodmin Street field (refer to **Figure 2.1**)².

Hydrology

- 2.6 River Wandle flows south to north along the eastern boundary of the park, located beneath steeply sloping banks which adjoin the park. The proximity of the park to the River Wandle means the area is naturally wet and has a high water table. The Environment Agency's flood map for planning indicates the majority of the park is located within flood zone 2 and therefore has a medium probability of river flooding. The northern playing fields near the play area and the area in adjacent to the lake are located in flood zone 3 and therefore have a high probability of annual flooding.³
- 2.7 The lake, located in the north of the park, formed part of the formal 1920's urban recreation park.
- 2.8 French drains are located along the western margins of Bodmin Street Field in the south of the park. The adjacent pathway floods in wet years when the French drain is full.⁴

Archaeology

- 2.9 King George's Park is within an Archaeology Priority Area [see DMPD Policy DMS2]⁵. There are no archaeological features listed on the heritage gateway website within the park or within the immediate park boundaries.

² Information provided by the Enable Leisure and Culture Principal Parks Officer – Operations

³ Environment Agency/Government Website (2018). *Likelihood of flooding in this area*, [online] Available at: <<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/summary?eastings=525506&northings=174286>> [Accessed 08 05 2018]

⁴ Information provided by the Enable Leisure and Culture Principal Parks Officer – Operations

⁵ London Borough of Wandsworth, *Wandsworth Local Plan Policies Map* Adopted March 2016.

Natural landscape

Ecology

- 2.10 King George's Park supports neutral grassland, woodland and standing water habitats each of which are recognised as priority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats in the London and Wandsworth BAPs. A 'BAP species & suitability for BAP habitats' map was produced in 2012 by Greenspace Information for Greater London to help target habitat management, enhancement and creation.
- 2.11 The section of the River Wandle which flows along the boundary of the park is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) of Borough Grade I importance. The Review of Metropolitan SINC's for the Greater London Authority (GLA)⁶ recommends upgrading the River Wandle in Wandsworth SINC to the Metropolitan level.
- 2.12 King George's Park supports many mature trees including those identified as veteran trees of particular wildlife importance, landscape and heritage interest. King George's Park is a SINC of Borough Grade II importance.
- 2.13 Further ecological information is provided in **chapter 4**.

Trees

- 2.14 Trees provide an important framework within the landscape of King George's Park, providing a sense of enclosure and partly foiling built development and industry. The park contains a number of individual mature trees and tree avenues. Trees are of varying condition with the majority relating to planting carried out during the C19th and C20th. There are no 'stand out trees' in the park in terms of historic, veteran or specimen trees. There are, however, lots of boundary trees which individually have little interest but as groups have merit both functionally and visually.
- 2.15 Notably there is a cherry tree avenue beside the lake and mature plane trees along Neville Gill Close. There is a group of memorial trees at the park extension entrance to the south. These were planted on 30 November 1994 by the Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Mrs B. Jeffery; to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Campaign in North West Europe, 1944-1945.

River Wandle

- 2.16 The River Wandle is one of the oldest rivers in the Thames system.⁷ It was likely used to drive millwheels during the Roman period and certainly from early Anglo-Saxon times and drove the industrial expansion in the area. During the late 19th century the River Wandle was diverted into a number of holding pools developed on the location of the current park. These were utilised to aid industries which were developing in the area such as the Royal Paper Mills and Wandle Colour Works.
- 2.17 The Wandle rises in Carshalton and in Waddon Park Croydon, flowing from there through the boroughs of Croydon, Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth to join the River Thames just north of King George's Park.
- 2.18 The river is fairly short by normal standards and runs for a length of 19 Kilometres (11 miles) however it falls 55 metres (126 ft) over its length and it is therefore a fast flowing river. In the past there was much more water flowing along the River Wandle, this made it very suitable as a source of water power for local industry in the C19th.

⁶ LUC (2016). *Greater London Authority: Review of Metropolitan SINC's*

⁷ Thames Water (2009). *Design and Access Statement: Part 1 King George's Park*, pp166

Character areas

2.19 There are four distinct character areas identified within this plan which have been used to assist with landscape analysis. The boundaries are broadly defined by the current physical and natural characteristics and use within each area. The character areas are shown in **Figure 2.1** and are named as follows:

- 1 Lake
- 2 Main pitches and playground
- 3 Southfields
- 4 Park extension



- King George's Park boundary
- Local Authority boundary
- Character Areas
- 01: Lake
- 02: Main pitches & playground
- 03: Southfields
- 04: Park extension

Source: LUC

King George's Park
Management and
Maintenance Plan

Figure 2.1: Character areas



Map Scale @A3: 1:6,000

Planning context

Designations

- 2.20 **Figure 2.2** outlines the historic and wildlife designations within the vicinity of the study area boundary of King George's Park. There are no listed buildings or archaeology find spots within the park; however the site is within an Archaeological Priority Area [Wandsworth APA 2.1: Wandle Valley / Wandsworth]⁸. Key designations affecting the park are described below.

Environmental designations

- King George's Park is a **Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (Grade II)**. These areas are designated for their importance for wildlife. The designation is also referred to as a 'non-statutory wildlife site' or 'local wildlife site'. Such sites are protected through planning policy at a London, Regional and National level.
 - King George's Park is an area of **Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)** which affords the same level of protection as the Metropolitan Green Belt. Designation is intended to protect areas of landscape, recreation, nature conservation and scientific interest which are strategically important.
 - The River Wandle is a **Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (Grade I)**. The Review of Metropolitan SINCS for the Greater London Authority (GLA)⁹ recommends upgrading the River Wandle in Wandsworth SINC to the Metropolitan level.
 - King George's Park is within the **Wandle Valley Regional Park**.
- 2.21 The national and local policy context summary relating to King George's Park follows. A full planning policy context can be found within **Volume 1: Appendix 1**.

⁸ Greater London Historic Environment Record. *DRAFT review Wandsworth Archaeology Priority Area 2018* : 'The APA follows the course of the River Wandle from the borough boundary at Summerstown in the south to King George's Park in the north. Archaeological finds and features have been found along other stretches of the Wandle and similar finds should be anticipated here. A number of mills were also built along this section of the river in previous centuries and remains of these industries may survive. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it covers an area of historic industry.' This information is in draft form as it is to be signed off by Historic England and the GLA.

⁹ LUC (2016). *Greater London Authority: Review of Metropolitan SINCS*

National Planning Policy

- 2.22 The National Planning Policy Framework¹⁰ (NPPF) was published in March 2012 to replace the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs). The NPPF explains the statutory provisions and provides guidance to local authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system.
- 2.23 The framework outlines 12 core planning principles aimed at guiding plan-making and planning decisions at the national and local level, the most relevant of which are:
- Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment;
 - Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations; and
 - Take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

- 2.24 To conserve and enhance the historic environment, local planning authorities are required to take into account:
- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
 - The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
 - The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
 - Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place¹¹.
- 2.25 When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens should be wholly exceptional¹².

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

- 2.26 Local planning policies should identify and map, preserve, restore and connect local ecological networks of importance for biodiversity. Biodiversity, particularly priority species populations linked to national and local targets, should be monitored using suitable indicators¹³.
- 2.27 Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted, whereas those that pose significant harm that cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, should be refused. Development incorporating biodiversity should be encouraged, whereas development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats should be refused, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss¹⁴.

¹⁰ [National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012](#)

¹¹ Paragraph 126, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

¹² Paragraph 132, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

¹³ Paragraph 117, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

¹⁴ Paragraph 118, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

- 2.28 Furthermore, developments should aim to prevent significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of noise and protect areas of tranquillity prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason¹⁵.
- 2.29 By encouraging good design, local planning authorities should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation¹⁶ and sustain compliance with EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. New developments in Air Quality Management Areas should be consistent with the local air quality action plan¹⁷.

Promoting healthy communities

- 2.30 Local planning authorities must maximise the provision of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation by preparing robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities to justify new and improved provision¹⁸.
- 2.31 Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- An assessment clearly shows the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss¹⁹.

Regional Planning Context

The London Plan

- 2.32 The London Plan²⁰ is unique in England and Wales in that it is the only remaining statutory regional spatial strategy. London Boroughs are required to prepare development plans (usually referred to as Local Plans), and make planning decisions, that conform to the London Plan. The most relevant planning policies to King George's Park are:
- Policy 2.18 – Green Infrastructure: the network of open green spaces
 - Policy 7.4 – Local Character
 - Policy 7.6 – Heritage Assets and Archaeology
 - Policy 7.17 – Metropolitan Open Land
 - Policy 7.18 – Protecting Local Open Space and Addressing Local Deficiency
 - Policy 7.19 – Biodiversity and Access to Nature
 - Policy 7.21 – Trees and Woodlands

Draft London Plan (2017)

- 2.33 The Mayor published a consultation draft of a new London Plan in November 2017²¹. The new London Plan is due to be published in Autumn 2019. The current 2016 consolidation Plan is still the adopted Development Plan. However, the Draft London Plan is a material consideration in planning decisions. It gains more weight as it moves through the process to adoption. Relevant policies within the draft London Plan include:
- Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities

¹⁵ Paragraph 123, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

¹⁶ Paragraph 125, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

¹⁷ Paragraph 124, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

¹⁸ Paragraph 73, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

¹⁹ Paragraph 74, [NPPF, March 2012](#)

²⁰ [London Plan](#), Mayor of London, 2016

²¹ [Draft London Plan](#), Mayor of London (2017)

- Policy GG2 Making the best use of land
- Policy GG3 Creating a healthy city
- Policy D3 Inclusive design
- Policy D7 Public realm
- Policy S1 Developing London's social infrastructure
- Policy S4 Play and informal recreation
- Policy S5 Sports and recreation facilities
- Policy HC1 Heritage conservation and growth
- Policy G1 Green infrastructure
- Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land
- Policy G4 Local green and open space
- Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature
- Policy G7 Trees and woodlands

*All London Green Grid: The Wandle Valley Area Framework*²²

2.34 The document sets out a number of programmes for the creation of the All London Green Grid, Wandle Valley Area. This includes:

- **Ram Brewery** – The redevelopment of the Ram Brewery will provide 1ha of public realm, including refurbished listed buildings and riverside walkways, improved flood defences and habitat creation. A new riverside walkway will provide connectivity upstream towards King George's Park, continuing the Wandle Trail.
- **King George's Park management plan** - The creation of a Management Plan for King George's Park to identify future landscape and facility enhancements. The Management Plan would identify landscape enhancements, including; river restoration; creating improvement in public access to the nature and habitats associated with the River Wandle; creation of additional allotment space; improvement of sports provision, with improved tennis courts and associated changing rooms; additional play provision and improvements to walking and cycling links to, through and within the park.
- **Earlsfield Missing Link** - This scheme will address a major barrier to the continuity of the Wandle Trail, part of the National Cycle Network. At present, travelling north from Plough Lane, the Trail follows the alignment of the river until Summerley Street. At this point access to the river is restricted by development. Pedestrian and cyclists are forced to continue to Garratt Lane, before linking into Penwith Road and following residential roads to King George's Park. This is particularly challenging for younger and less confident cyclists, Garratt Lane is busy and narrows underneath the railway bridge adjacent to the station entrance. A new link along the river would continue the quiet and traffic free nature of much of the route. The scheme would increase access to the river and surrounding nature, and improve sustainable travel connections.

Wandsworth Local Plan and development management documents

2.35 The London Borough of Wandsworth has adopted a Local Plan which sets out the spatial development for the Borough until 2030. The following provides a summary of the most relevant policies concerning King George's Park:

- CS IS1: Sustainable Development
- CS IS3: Good Quality Design and Townscape
- CS IS4: Protecting and enhancing environmental quality
- CS PL4: Open Space and the natural environment

²²Greater London Authority (2011) [All London Green Grid: The Wandle Valley Area Framework](#)

- CS PL10: The Wandle Valley²³
- CS PL 12 Central Wandsworth and the Wandle Delta
- SSAD 3.12 Ram Brewery/Capital Studios/Former Dexion/Duvall site, Ram Street/Armoury Way/Wandsworth, SW18

NB: It is considered that that the allocation Armoury Way will not have an effect on the park.

- SSAD 3.1.1 Wandsworth Business Village, Buckhold Road/Broomhill Road, SW18
- SSAD 3.1.3 Southside Shopping Centre (northern end), Wandsworth High Street, SW18
- SSAD 9.2 Army Forms Depot (Westfield House), 30 Knaresborough Drive, SW18
- DMS 2: Managing the historic environment²⁴
- DMO1: Protection and enhancement of open spaces²⁵
- DMO 2: Playing fields and pitches, sport, play and informal recreation²⁶
- DMO 4: Nature conservation²⁷
- DMO 5: Trees²⁸

Other relevant local planning policy documents

*Historic Environment SPD*²⁹

- 2.36 The Historic Environment SPD provides further guidance on existing planning policy included in the Core Strategy and DMPD. It details criteria that are material in determining planning and listed building applications related to heritage matters and the evidence that justifies the Council's approach. As such, the SPD positively contributes towards achieving sustainable and balanced communities and vibrant town centres, whilst meeting the needs of local residents. The SPD includes supplementary guidance on Archaeological Priority Areas.

Conservation Areas

- 2.37 There are no Conservation Areas located adjacent to the park.

Local listing

- 2.38 The existing Local List of buildings of architectural or historic interest contains around 520 buildings. There are no locally listed buildings identified within King George's Park.³⁰

London Parks and Gardens Trust

- 2.39 King George's Park is noted on the Inventory of London's Green Spaces of Local Historic Interest prepared by the London Parks and Gardens Trust. Further information at London Gardens Online Website, 2015. Available at: <<http://www.londongardensonline>>

Current use

Public access

Entrances and access

- 2.40 **Figure 2.3** provides an overview access and circulation. An Accessibility Appraisal (HADA, 2018) is provided within **Volume Two: Consultation & Access Assessment Reports**.

²³ London Borough of Wandsworth (2010) [Core Strategy](#), CS PL10: The Wandle Valley

²⁴ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMS 2

²⁵ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMO1

²⁶ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMO 2

²⁷ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMO 4

²⁸ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Adopted Version, pp111-112

²⁹ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Historic Environment SPD](#)

³⁰ <http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/3847/local_list_of_buildings_of_architectural_or_historic_interest> [Accessed 22 November 2017]

2.41 King George's Park is freely accessible to the public at no cost with various leisure and amenity facilities. The Park is fairly porous with numerous key access points along its boundary and internal footway routes. Principal routes include the off road cycle route and footways which cross from south to north and from the east to the west. The Wandle Trail runs through the park from the north to south. King George's Park is key to active travel and is featured on Wandsworth Council's Active Living Map³¹.

2.42 The opening times and brief summary of facilities within the park are listed below:

Park facilities

- Bowls Green (largely disused): Open 24 hours
- King Georges Park Playground: Open 24 hours
- Kimber Skatepark and BMX Track is managed by Wandsworth Council and opened in 2013. The facility is unique in providing a free facility where children (up to 16) can skate and ride in a safe enclosed space under instruction and supervision from staff who can also provide first aid and address unsuitable and antisocial use of the space. Summer opening hours: Monday to Friday 15:00pm to 18:00pm and Saturday and Sunday 12:00 noon to 18:00pm.

Separate park leases and concessions

- West Hill in The Park Children's Centre: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 16:30pm
- All Star Tennis Courts: All Star Tennis are in a 25 year contract (2013-2038). They have a team of 7/8 staff and in summer have 40/50 associated coaches on the books. The courts are available from 8:00am to 20:00pm.
- 3G Artificial Pitch: The pitch is run by Aspire at Southfields, which is the umbrella under which the school (Southfields Academy) operate all their community services including sport and leisure provision. The pitch is available for use during the following times:
 - Monday to Thursday 18:00pm to 10:00pm
 - Friday 18:00pm to 20:00pm
 - Saturday to Sunday 9:00am to 18:00pm
- Nuffield Health Fitness and Wellbeing Gym: Open during the following times:
 - Monday to Thursday 6:30am to 10:30pm
 - Friday 6:30am to 10:00pm
 - Saturday and Sunday 8:00am to 20:30pm

2.43 An assessment of the site furniture and hard landscaping can be seen in **Volume 1: Appendix 4**.

Transport links

2.44 The park can be reached by public transport with the following stations/stops nearby:

- **Rail:** Earlsfield station is 400m to the south east and Wandsworth Town Station is 600m to the north east.
- **Tube:** Southfields Station is 800m to the west and Wimbledon Park is 2.57km to the south west.
- **Bus:** Buses 44 and 270 pass along Garratt's Lane to the east. Bus 159 and 39 runs along the A218 to the west. A number of routes run along Wandsworth High Street to the north. (Generally buses run every 15 minutes on weekdays and every 30 minutes at the weekends).
- **Travelling by car:** There is no dedicated off-street car parking or drop-off associated with the park although the street network provides opportunities for on-street parking for Blue Badge holders to the south and west of the park. There is a multi-storey car park to the north east as part of the shopping centre. The sports centre located in the centre of the park has four "blue badge" accessible parking bays that could be used by park visitors. However the short path link via the pedestrian gate is uneven and may be a trip hazard and creates

³¹ CFP (2017). KPG Phase 1 Stakeholder Consultation Report

difficulties for wheelchair users³². There is a car park at the Wandle Recreation Centre to the north of the park boundary.

Allotments

- 2.45 There are 55 allotment plots located at site which adjoins the western boundary of the parks. A review of the postcodes of tenants reveals that plot holders are largely residents of Wandsworth and Southfields (38nr). Other tenants come from Battersea, Balham, Tooting, Streatham and Wimbledon.
- 2.46 The allotments within the borough are currently oversubscribed and there are 242 applications on the waiting list. The plots at King George's Park are (in the majority) 2.5 rods in size which is similar to other allotment plots within the borough.

Events

- 2.47 The park provides for a range of social needs of the community including: formal and informal sporting facilities, play areas, a fitness trail and walking routes. The park is sometimes utilised for education groups and school learning activities.
- 2.48 A range of regular events take place on an annual or bi annual basis. Examples of events held at King George's Park include two annual funfairs, Get Active Wandsworth Festival and open air screenings.

Groups and organisations

- 2.49 Organisations involved in the management and use of King George's Park are set out below (list not exhaustive).
- Active Wandsworth
 - Allotment plot holders
 - Aspire Southfields
 - Kimber Skate park and BMX Track
 - Lifetimes (CVS for Wandsworth)
 - Move More Wandsworth (Macmillan Group)
 - North to South Cycle Superhighway (TfL)
 - Nuffield Health Fitness and Wellbeing Gym
 - Riversdale Primary School
 - South Thames College
 - Southfields Academy
 - Sustrans
 - Tennis Concession (All Win Tennis)
 - The Park Gardens Day-care & Nursery
 - Wandle Recreation Centre
 - Wandle Trail Group
 - Wandle Valley Forum
 - Wandle Valley Regional park Trust
 - Wandsworth Premier FC (Children's Football)
 - West Hill Children's Centre

³² HADA (2018). *King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal*

Anti-social behaviour

- 2.50 The park has been subject to anti-social behaviour which has impacted its reputation. However it is considered efforts to improve park safety, including an increased police presence, the number of incidents has reduced. Wandsworth Council's Dog Control Map for King George's Park is available in **Volume 1: Appendix 5**.

Table 2.1: Parks and Events Police statistics 1st April 2015 & 30th June 2017

Type of incidents in the park	Number of incidents in the park
Written warnings	13
Reported for prosecution	3
Arrests	0
Found property	4
Traveller incursions	0
Community fairs attended	2
Attend Friends/ MAC meetings etc.	No
Events/ filming shoots policed	16
Registered Multiple dog walking licences	Maximum of 3 with average 2 per annum

Byelaws

- 2.51 The King George's Park byelaws entitled 'Wandsworth Borough Council, Parks and Open Spaces Committee Byelaws' are available online³³.

Ownership and leases

- 2.52 There are a number of leases relevant to King George's Park including relating Southfields Community College, tennis courts, the Fitness Centre, and the children's centre and nursery.
- 2.53 Southfields Community College has a 25 year lease (2012-2037) and includes an all-weather pitch partly within King George's Park land (title number TGL334020³⁴) to accommodate the all-weather pitch.
- 2.54 The One O'Clock Club/Children's Centre is under private ownership.
- 2.55 Monitoring of the landscape aspects within King George's Park are conducted by Enable Leisure and Culture.
- 2.56 Maintenance of the tennis facilities are monitored by Wandsworth Borough Council.

³³ Wandsworth Borough Council. Date n.d. *Wandsworth Borough Council, Parks and Open Spaces Committee Bye-laws* [pdf] Available at: http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0ahUKEwioh9fo9bvZAhVMGsAKHYNdBZoQFghaMAM&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wandsworth.gov.uk%2Fdownload%2Fdownloads%2Fid%2F9940%2Fwandsworth_council_parks_and_open_spaces_bye-laws.pdf&usq=AOvVaw1mEt-zWq8odIoigXr--jgu [Accessed 23 February 2018]

³⁴ King George's Park and Southfields Community College Lease documents

Thames Tideway Tunnel

- 2.57 The Thames Tideway Tunnel Project is part of a London wide tunnel improvement project to relieve pressure on storm drains within the area. It's also designed to control the sewage discharges from the Frogmore Storm Relief and Buckhold Road combined sewer overflow. When the tunnel is in operation it is expected that there will be only one discharge. An area within the north of King George's Park, adjacent to the entrance from Buckhold Road, will be used to connect to the main tunnel via the Frogmore connection tunnel.
- 2.58 The project was granted Development Consent on 12 September 2014 and came into force on 24 September 2014, with main works commencing in 2016. Works within King George's Park commenced in winter 2017 and will last for approximately two years.
- 2.59 Following the tunnel works, the landscape within the park will be restored. Initial design proposals aim to create an elevated multifunctional public space with its own sense of place and character. The proposed landscape design shown below is illustrative.

Figure 2.3: Design aspirations following the Thames Tideway works



Dormay Street & King George's Park Community Liaison Working Group (CLWG)

- 2.60 The CLWG will serve as a two-way communications channel between Thames Tideway and local communities. CLWG will provide a forum for open discussion on matters concerning construction and communications with local authority and community representatives for the duration of the project.

Outline history

- 2.61 King George's Park is unique in that for most of its history it has been uninhabited and remains a large open area which has never been developed. The adjacent River Wandle, one of the oldest rivers in the Thames system would have provided prehistoric communities with fresh water and fishing potential. A number of prehistoric finds have been recovered from the surrounding

Archaeology Priority Area (APA). During the Roman period the site comprised of mainly marshland that was unsuitable for habitation but may have been exploited in other ways such as for grazing of livestock. The site remained largely marshy pastureland throughout the medieval period.

- 2.62 Wandsworth was the closest settlement which established as a roadside settlement. The settlement was located along the east-west road beside the nearby medieval church and the bridge which crossed the River Wandle approximately 200m north east of the northern end of the park. There is little recorded evidence of later medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the park.³⁵
- 2.63 During the post medieval period the park remained outside the Wandsworth settlement, probably on reclaimed land beside the River Wandle, the course of which was altered throughout this and earlier periods. The main channel became in effect a succession of level pools between mills. It remained a focus for many types of manufacturing and industrial processes, which characterised much of the development of Wandsworth throughout the post-medieval period.
- 2.64 In the 16th Century, dye works were established along the River Wandle and the area diversified in the 17th Century with the production and processing of iron, gunpowder, leather, linen and copper.
- 2.65 At the start of the 19th Century the Surrey Iron Railway, the first public horse drawn railway independent of a canal, was constructed 190m east of the northern edge of the park³⁶. The formerly open land of the park now accommodated a band of trees and an open drainage culvert that crossed the centre on a northeast-southwest alignment. The Middlesex XXI plan published in 1873 is one of the first mapped evidence of the landscape. The map highlights agricultural field systems surrounded by residential and industrial developments. The arrival of the railway encouraged extensive developments in the area, as the surrounding areas of central London became more accessible. This is evidenced by the generally large houses with landscaped gardens within more open space, to the south of the location of King George's Park, compared to the terraced developments to the north of the site, closer to the Thames³⁷.
- 2.66 By the 1890's the expansion of London began to encroach on surrounding areas. However land which now forms King George's Park remained in agricultural and industrial use. The diversion and damming of the River Wandle had extended and had become more complex. This is likely as a response to meet the growing industry within the area.
- 2.67 During the early part of the 20th century large amounts of housing development occurred in the area³⁸. By the time the 1920 Ordnance Survey map was published, the landscape of King George's Park was fully enclosed by residential and industrial developments. The park landscape itself remained fragmented with allotment gardens and agricultural land to the south and industry work areas to the north. A number of roads and urban infrastructure, such as the Storm Relief Sewer Aqueduct, further fragmented the landscape. Remnants of the aqueduct remain below ground and can be seen during prolonged periods of dry weather when ground is parched. It wasn't until the park was laid out in 1921 that it became more of a unified and connected landscape.
- 2.68 Originally named Southfields Park, King George's Park was laid out in 1921-23 by unemployed soldiers and designed by Stephen Percival (Percy) Cane (1881 to 1976)⁴. The park was opened in 1923 by King George V³⁹ and therefore the park was renamed. The park included a "leisure" lake with a footbridge at the southern end, tennis courts, swimming pool, a menagerie to the west and ornamental planting. In 1929 a green house was built to the north west of the park to supply stock for the ornamental gardens. The ornamental area around the lake was formerly the garden of the Watney family a local mill owner⁴⁰.

³⁵ Thames Water (2009). *Design and Access Statement: Part 1 King George's Park*, pp166

³⁶ Thames Water (2009). *Design and Access Statement: Part 1 King George's Park*, pp166

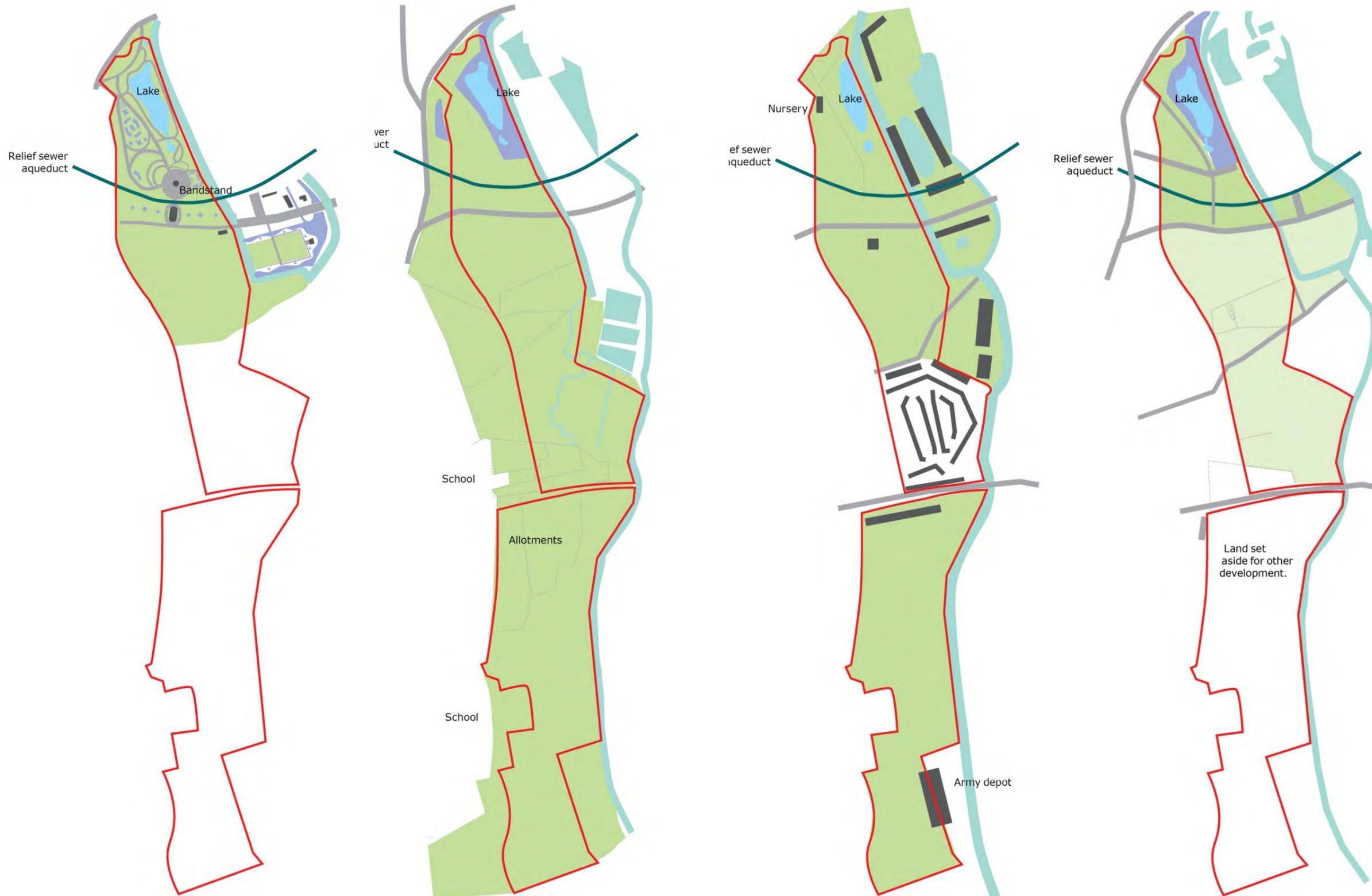
³⁷ 1873 OS Map

³⁸ 1910 -1950 OS Maps

³⁹ Wandle Valley Park Trust (2017). King George's Park: <https://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/locations/wandsworth/king-georges-park/>

⁴⁰ Study LIB (2017). Wandsworth Council Parks' time line: <https://studylib.net/doc/8784326/parks-open-spaces-timeline---wandsworth-borough-council>

- 2.69 The Wandsworth Open Air Pool was opened on 6 May 1938 and designed by Wandsworth Borough Architect Ernest J Elford, with the cost of £22,386 split between the Borough Council and the LCC. The swimming pool was privatised in 1985 and was equipped with slides. It was latterly purchased by another private company, but returned to Wandsworth Council in 1988 and eventually closed in 1993. The site was later redeveloped with an indoor tennis and bowls centre. Interestingly after World War II a colony of prefabricated houses was planted in the middle of the park almost creating two separate parks. It is thought approximately 100 houses were located in the park providing homes to roughly 400 people. Residents known have tended to their gardens, grow vegetables as well as keeping chickens and rabbits. The buildings were present for 18 years before they were removed and the area returned the park.
- 2.70 The path in the south of the park, known as Foster's Way (shown in **Figure 1.2**), is named after a local soldier who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917.
- 2.71 A plan drawn up by the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth in the late 1980s suggests the land which now forms the southern section of the park was earmarked for development. However the park was later extended to include the Wangas site extending the public open space along the Wandle and incorporating the area of the park now known as Park Extension (Character Area 4) to the south. The park extension was officially opened on 30th November 1994 by the Mayor of Wandsworth and the Chairman of the Leisure and Amenity Services Committee.
- 2.72 **Figure 2.4** summarises the evolution of the landscape within the park utilising historic mapping from the 20th Century. **Figure 2.5** shows various historic images from the 20th Century including the ornamental bridge, lake and swimming pool (now gone).



1920's sketch layout of King George's Park
 Plan setting out the layout of Southfields Park
 - Battersea Heritage Centre: Plans/107.

1938 OS Map of King George's Park

1960's OS Map of King George's Park.

Plan showing the Watney Estate and Southfields Park (c.1980s).
 Heritage Centre: Plans/107.

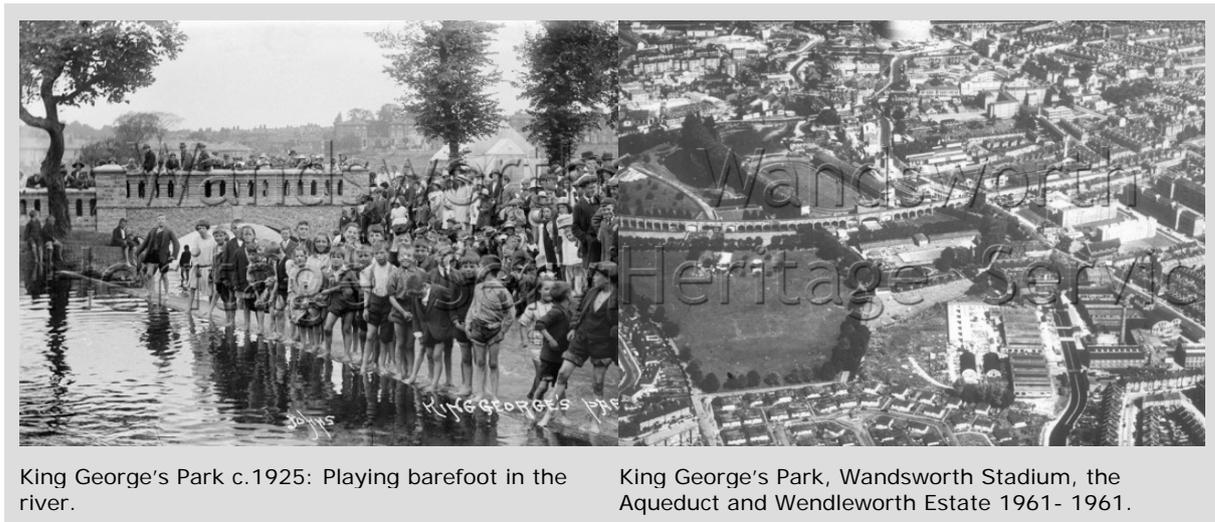
Key

- Lake
- River and associated water works infrastructure
- Road and path network
- Lawn
- Floral beds
- Buildings (miscellaneous)
- Field boundaries
- KGP current boundary

Drawing not to scale.

Figure 2.4: Changes to King George's Park during the 20th Century

Figure 2.5: Historic photos



Historic land use, design elements and views

- 2.73 This section details the origins and design evolution of King George's Park and assesses the site's setting.
- 2.74 The result of the 1920's park development and subsequent additions together with the presence of the River Wandle has helped create a landscape which can be appraised at a number of levels.
- 2.75 The landscape has its origins as part of the urban industrial fringe landscape which developed along the River Wandle riverbanks. To this day the industrial heritage of the Wandle remains an important element of Wandsworth's and King George's Park's overall historic character⁴¹.
- 2.76 The park's currently layout is primarily a result of piecemeal additions and losses responding to the requirements of the communities it supports. The park is an important recreational area for the local community and provides vital access to nature, providing a collection of different compartments each with their own character.
- 2.77 There are a number of historical and environmental features throughout the site which although not designated, are appreciated for their historical, ecological and aesthetic merit. These include:
- The River Wandle
 - The Rose Garden
 - The Lake
 - Art Deco style gate piers and railings
 - Memorial trees
 - Ornamental bridge
- 2.78 The park and Wandle Valley Regional Park provides protection from additional spread of development along its margins, providing an open space for the public to appreciate. The area also supports a variety of habitats contributing to the biodiversity value of the area.

Views

- 2.79 **Figure 2.6** provides examples of the type of views in the north and south of the park. **Figure 2.7** summarises the key views within the park. The park should be managed to conserve and enhance its overall character and variations within. Key views to, from, and within the park should be protected and, where appropriate, strengthened. Built features contributing positively to

⁴¹ Greater London Historic Environment Record (2018). Wandsworth Draft Archaeology Priority Area review.

landscape character should be conserved, although the introduction of new features should be carefully considered in relation to impacts on the character of the park. Some of the ad-hoc utilitarian buildings and roads have created some visual intrusion and fragmentation throughout the park.

Figure 2.6: Example of sightlines within King George's Park



Example of a view across the ornamental rose garden towards The Argento Tower.



Example of an open view northwards across the open space near Southfields Academy.

- Wide open views
- Long views
- Features of interest

Figure 2.7: Key views

Source:

Drawing not to scale



Summary of the significance of King George's Park

2.80 The importance and significance of King George's Park is summarised below:

King George's Park is an example of an early 20th Century urban recreation park built with the intention of providing the local community with amenity and sporting facilities. While the park is not included in Historic England's register of historic parks and gardens of special historic interest in England. However the design evolution, particularly from the 1920s, is noted on the Inventory of London's Green Spaces of Local Historic Interest, prepared by the London Parks Trust.

The park remains an important recreational asset as well as being valued for its contribution to the setting of the local area. The park was opened by King George V in 1923 and a memorial to the late King is located on the northern gate. The lake, water fountain, tennis courts and the formal park design in the north of the park are all remnants of the original 1920s design. From this period the park has continued to evolve to reflect the needs of the local demographics and now provides facilities for tennis and football. In addition the park includes a gym, a children's centre, a playground and a popular skate park for a range of age groups.

The park is a significant linear green open space in an urban environment and provides important access to nature for the local community. The park is within the Wandle Valley Regional Park and it's adjacent to the River Wandle which is the largest river of the south-west sector of London and one of the oldest rivers in the Thames system. The river is fine example of a chalk stream and has a rich industrial history. In addition the river provides important wider green links within the borough.

Designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation of Borough Grade II Importance, the park is recognised for ecological features including its trees and lake, and the role it plays in forming part of an important wildlife corridor in the local area. Furthermore King George's Park supports the conservation value of the River Wandle, which is designated a Site of Importance of Nature Conservation of Borough Grade I importance.

As populations rise and housing density increases, the value of open spaces such as King George's Park will increase and hence its significance will also increase.

Summary of key considerations

2.81 The following summarises the key considerations which have been highlighted within the analysis of Chapter 2: Understanding the site and its heritage. These are to be taken forward to inform the future policies and management strategies.

- The Lake and River Wandle are key features of the natural and historic environment within and adjacent to the park.
- During the late 19th century the River Wandle was diverted into a number of holding pools developed on the location of the current park. These were utilised to aid industries which were developing in the area such as the Royal Paper Mills and Wandle Colour Works.
- The park is within an Archaeology Priority Area. There have been a number of prehistoric finds recovered from the surrounding Archaeology Priority Area and there is potential for further finds.
- The park trees provide an important framework within the landscape and to a large extent, its containment around much of the boundary, partly foiling built development and industry.
- King George's Park is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation of Borough Grade II Importance. The park is an area of Metropolitan Open Land and adjoins the River Wandle which is a Site of Importance of Nature Conservation of Borough Grade I importance. The Review of Metropolitan SINCs for the Greater London Authority ⁴² recommends upgrading the River Wandle in Wandsworth to Metropolitan level.

⁴² LUC (2016). *Greater London Authority: Review of Metropolitan SINCs*

- An area to the north of the park is to be used for the Thames Tideway Tunnel and associated landscape design. Construction works are expected to last two years (2017-2019) resulting in an area of the park being inaccessible for public use during this time.
- The Dormay Street & King George's Park Community Liaison Working Group serves as a two-way communication link between the KGP stakeholders and the Thames Tideway Tunnel.
- The King George's Park Management and Maintenance Plan is an essential action of the All London Green Grid: The Wandle Valley Area Framework.
- The landscape origins of the park, as being part of the urban industrial fringe of the River Wandle, remain an important aspect of the local area's industrial heritage.
- The River Wandle is an important element of Wandsworth's and King George's Park historic character.
- The open views and views towards features of interest and heritage in the park are an important feature of the parks overall character.

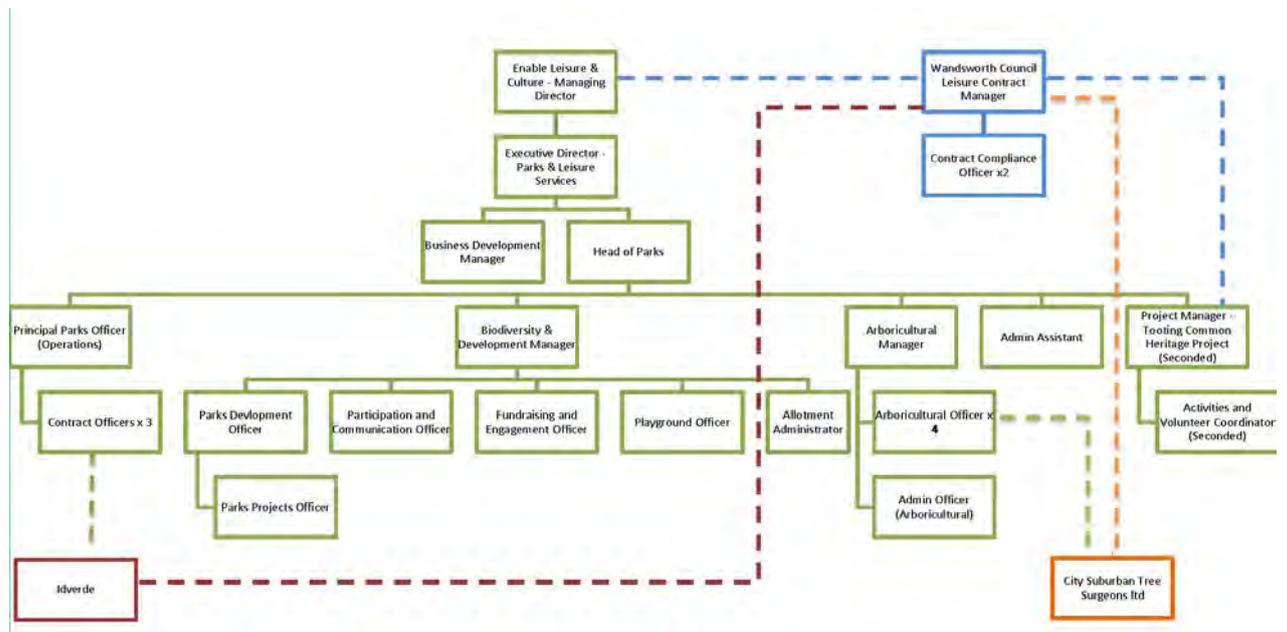
3 Management and maintenance arrangements

3.1 This chapter provides an overview of the current arrangements for the management and maintenance of King George’s Park.

Management

- 3.2 King George’s Park is owned by Wandsworth Council with management outsourced to Enable Leisure and Culture (Enable). However Wandsworth Council is ultimately responsible for the park and holds the budget for its management and maintenance.
- 3.3 Enable was formed as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status on 1 October 2015 when it commenced a four year contract with Wandsworth Council. The organisation is contracted to deliver the range of services such as management of parks, playgrounds, bereavement services, leisure and sport, Putney School of Art, arts, events and filming. The contract also provides client side management services on behalf of the Council for other contracted services such as the Grounds Maintenance and Arboricultural contracts. These contracts were awarded to Idverde and City Suburban Tree Surgeons commencing on 24 February 2013 and are due to expire on 23 February 2021.
- 3.4 Enable’s contract is managed by the Wandsworth Council’s Leisure Contract Manager with the contract due to expire on 30 September 2019. Arrangements are in place to ensure that Enable’s performance is effective and that the Council’s interests are protected. Enable is responsible for dealing with all complaints and has a complaints procedure that details the process to be followed. The policy includes escalation steps if the complainant is not happy with the response. This ends with the Managing Director of Enable. It also includes details of how complaints should be escalated to the Council if the complainant is still not satisfied.
- 3.5 An organogram showing the structure of the department relating to the management of parks and open spaces in the borough is shown in **Figure 3.1**.

Figure 3.1: Organogram of Enable Parks and Leisure Services department



3.6 Key posts responsible for the day-to-day management of King George's Park are described below.

Head of Parks

3.7 The Head of Parks is responsible to the Executive Director for Parks and Leisure Services. The post is responsible for the delivery of Enable's parks' management service on behalf of Wandsworth Council including:

- Park management, strategy and development (including playgrounds in parks).
- Park maintenance and service delivery.
- Biodiversity management and development.
- Arboricultural management.
- Project management (landscape and heritage).

3.8 The post holder is responsible for the supervision of three teams tasked with different aspects of parks and landscape conservation. The post has specific responsibility of management and oversight of specialist projects such as the Tooting Common Heritage Project.

Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager

3.9 The Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager is responsible to the Head of Parks and is primarily responsible for the management, development and delivery of key elements of the Council's front-line services including:

- Biodiversity services management.
- Biodiversity development.
- Parks strategy.
- Parks, commons and open spaces development.

3.10 The post holder is responsible for the supervision of the parks development team with responsibility for strategy, communications, allotments, playgrounds and horticultural development of parks and open spaces.

Playground Officer

3.11 The Playground Officer is responsible to the Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager for all aspects of playground inspection, maintenance and repair. The post manages a contract for repair and maintenance of equipment and safety surfaces along with contracts for Annual and Operation (Quarterly) independent inspections. The post holder additionally checks all the equipment and safety surfaces for faults, wear and tear and arranges necessary repairs weekly.

Principal Parks Officer – Operations

3.12 The Principal Parks Officer – Operations is responsible to the Head of Parks and oversees all aspects of the day-to-day performance and contract management of Contractors employed to carry out horticultural and sports pitch maintenance and litter picking. These contracts relate to the borough's commons, parks, open spaces, cemetery services, and social services sites and highways amenity areas. The post directs and supervises the following three Contract Officers responsible for:

- Biodiversity Management and Development.
- Sports Turf and Green Space.
- Ornamental and Green Space.

Contract Officers

3.13 The Contract Officers are responsible to the Principal Parks Officer (Operations) for the day-to-day management of the functioning of the grounds maintenance contract across the borough's parks and open spaces, with each responsible for their specialist area. The posts are responsible for indirectly supervising up to 80 staff employed by private contractors on all aspects of horticultural

and cleaning of parks, commons, sports fields and highways amenity. The Officers carry out daily inspections of contractor's routine and non-routine work checking compliance with contract specifications and specific task instructions.

Arboriculture

- 3.14 The tree stock at King George's Park is managed by Enable's arboricultural team on behalf of Wandsworth Council. The team consists of an Arboricultural Manager and four Arboricultural Officers and is supported by an Administrative Officer. The Arboricultural Manager is responsible to the Head of Parks but, as with the maintenance of the land, the ultimate responsibility for the management of the trees remains with Wandsworth Council, as does the associated budget.

Policing of King George's Park

- 3.15 Policing of King George's Park is provided by The Metropolitan Police team members for Southfields and the Parks and Events Police. The Metropolitan Police provide a daily service of up to two officers patrolling the park between 6am to midnight.
- 3.16 The responses to 999 and 101 calls are the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Service as well as serious crime incidents that occur in the park.

Built structures

- 3.17 An overview of the key built structures within the park is described below in **Table 3.1**. The location of features is shown in **Figure 1.2**.

Table 3.1: Key built structures within King George's Park

Structure	Description	Image
<p>West Hill in the Park Children's Centre</p>	<p>C21 Children's Centre building adjacent to the leisure lake and tennis facilities.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25430 74376</p>	
<p>Storage building within the Children's Centre perimeter</p>	<p>C20 varied material storage units used by the West Hill Children's Centre.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25430 74376</p>	
<p>All Star tennis kiosk</p>	<p>Late C20 brick tennis kiosk.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25504 74288</p>	
<p>Water fountain</p>	<p>Early C20 granite capped water fountain not in working order.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25629 74042</p>	

Structure	Description	Image
<p>Kimber Skatepark, BMX track and Activity Centre building</p>	<p>Late C20 construction with early C21 equipment. Grid ref: TQ 25669 73734</p>	
<p>Nuffield Health and Wellbeing Gym</p>	<p>C20 Nuffield health and wellbeing gym sports centre building. Grid ref: TQ 25575 73583</p>	
<p>Ornamental entrance</p>	<p>Original early C20 ornamental brick pier and painted metal entrance with painted crest (north of park) Grid ref: TQ 25417 74493</p>	
<p>Ornamental entrance</p>	<p>1990's ornamental brick pier and painted metal entrance with painted crest (south of park) Grid ref: TQ 25509 73058</p>	

Structure	Description	Image
<p>Art Deco style ornamental entrances</p>	<p>1980's/1990's Art Deco style brick pier and painted metal entrances located throughout the park particularly at primary entrances.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25563 73743</p> <p>TQ 25519 73921</p> <p>TQ 25406 74199</p> <p>TQ 25599 74202</p>	
<p>Bowling green club house</p>	<p>Late C20 timber clad bowls pavilion.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25556 74252</p>	
<p>Pergola and associated structures</p>	<p>Early C20 brick pergola forms part of the formal gardens located in the northern area of the park. There is also an ornamental stone seat within the gardens.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25534 74213</p>	
<p>Leisure lake and bridge</p>	<p>Early C20 brick bridge.</p> <p>Grid ref: TQ 25494 74339</p>	

Maintenance

Grounds maintenance

- 3.18 The current grounds maintenance contractor is *idverde* UK (formerly Quadron Services Ltd), which commenced an eight year Parks and Cemeteries Contract with Wandsworth Council in February 2013. There is an option to extend the contract for a further four years. This contract includes responsibility for the following works:
- Horticultural maintenance.
 - Sports pitch booking service.
 - Maintenance of buildings furniture, fixtures and fittings (Handyman and Engineer's duties).
 - Building and premises cleaning duties.
 - Litter picking, sweeping and clearance duties.
 - Ecological maintenance tasks.
 - Grounds maintenance and provision of sports facilities.
 - Hard surfaces: chemical weed control, self-binding gravel paths and surfaces.
 - Event preparation and staging.
- 3.19 Core work tasks are carried out in accordance with the *Parks and Cemeteries Contract Specifications* (2013). This document deals with the nature and quality of the work to be undertaken in all parks, open spaces and cemeteries in the Borough of Wandsworth. It provides the following:
- Frequency or operation of specification that defines exactly when and how many times tasks are to be undertaken, for example 'wild flower meadows to be cut to 50mm once per year'.
 - Performance specification that concentrates on the final result that is required, for example 'grass length to be kept between 40mm and 60mm'.
- 3.20 All maintenance works outside of the core contract are determined by the Enable Contracts Officers with each officer primarily responsible for their own areas (e.g. sport, horticulture or ecology) although they provide support to each other during peak periods.
- 3.21 The ground maintenance contract is a borough-wide contract and *idverde* have staff yards / facilities in locations across the borough.

Performance and quality monitoring

- 3.22 All tasks carried out by the contractor as part of the Parks and Cemeteries Contract are monitored and assessed by the Contracts Officers on an ongoing basis. Some additional works outside the scope of the contract require quotations and *idverde* are invited to provide quotes along with others subject to value limit.
- 3.23 A client and contractor meeting is held monthly and is attended by the Contract Officers and *idverde's* Wandsworth Assistant Contract Manager and Supervisors.
- 3.24 In addition a senior contract management meeting is held monthly which is attended by the Head of Parks and Leisure Services, the Head of Parks, the Principal Parks Officer, the Bereavement Services Manager from Enable, the *idverde* Wandsworth Contract Manager and the Managing Director for *idverde*.
- 3.25 A quarterly contract review meeting is attended by the Assistant Director of Environment and Community Services and senior parks staff as well as representatives from *idverde* including the Managing Director, the Director of Operations and the Wandsworth Contract Manager.

Arboricultural maintenance

- 3.26 The maintenance of trees is carried out under the Arboricultural Maintenance Contract, which was awarded to City Suburban Tree Surgeons in 2013 for eight years with an option to extend for a further four years. This contract includes responsibility for the following works:
- Tree felling and removals.
 - Tree surgery works.
 - Removal and replanting of saplings.
 - Stump removal.
 - Root pruning.
 - General tree maintenance.
 - Ad hoc and emergency services.
- 3.27 A programme of surveys undertaken by the Enable Arboricultural Team generates work orders for the contractor on a three year basis and tree works are carried out in accordance with the *Specifications for the Arboricultural Maintenance Contract (2013)*. This document contains definitions, general guidelines on tree maintenance for the entire borough and specific management information (age, size, health, condition etc.) on each individual tree in the borough.
- 3.28 City Suburban has a staff yard on Larkhall Lane in nearby Lambeth which services the Wandsworth tree maintenance contract.
- 3.29 There are a range of tree planting considerations such as:
- Limitations on planting and tree management due to utilities services, many of which are underground, occur in some places within the park. Any trees within four metres of highway roads are the responsibility of the Highway Authority. All other trees within the park and surrounding roads are the responsibility of Wandsworth Council.
 - The contract for planting falls outside the arboricultural maintenance contract and is awarded on a twelve month basis principally to replace removed trees. This arrangement allows smaller firms to win contracts in the borough. All planting occurs in December- January.
- 3.30 All trees in King George's Park are surveyed every three years on a rolling cycle as per the Wandsworth Borough tree management strategy. The park is broken down into six area to make the planning for tree work easier as not all areas are surveyed at the same time.
- 3.31 As part of the routine tree survey, all trees that belong to Wandsworth Council will be surveyed to ensure they do not represent any health and safety issues. During the process of surveying, other factors will be taken into account including problems with street furniture and infrastructure. Any problems identified during the survey will be addressed. Issues of low branches over paths and roads will also be addressed. In addition the health and vitality of the tree stock will be maintained with a view to improving the life expectancy of the trees.

Playground maintenance

- 3.32 The maintenance and repair of playground equipment, including minor repairs to safety surfaces, is undertaken by HAGS-SMP Ltd under a contract originally awarded by Wandsworth Council in 2013 but subsequently novated to Enable in June 2016.
- 3.33 All tasks carried out are instructed and inspected by the Playground Development Officer in accordance with the specification.

Volunteers

- 3.34 There are no direct volunteers involved in the management and maintenance of King George's Park; the Wandle Trust has successful clean-ups 3-4 times a year (approx. 70 people). Four or five volunteers are trained to carry out invasive species stem injection within the river area.

Highways, Transport for London and utilities

- 3.35 Maintenance of public footpaths and the cycleway within King George's Park are maintained by the Council's Highways Department and Transport for London. All trees within the park and surrounding roads are the responsibility of Wandsworth Council. There are limitations on tree planting due to utilities services, many of which are underground within the park.

Summary of key considerations

- 3.36 The following summarises the key considerations which have been highlighted within the analysis of chapter 3: Management and maintenance arrangements. These are to be taken forward to inform the future policies and management strategies.
- King George's Park is owned by Wandsworth Council but Enable Leisure & Culture is contracted as the managing agent to plan, oversee and monitor the delivery of management and maintenance of the space.
 - Enable Leisure & Culture was formed as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status on 1 October 2015 and is contracted to deliver the range of services formerly provided by staff directly employed by the Council's Leisure and Culture service's division.
 - The current grounds maintenance contractor is idverde UK (formerly Quadron Services Ltd), which commenced an eight-year Parks and Cemeteries Contract with Wandsworth Council in February 2013.
 - The maintenance of trees is carried out under the Arboricultural Maintenance Contract, which was awarded to City Suburban Tree Surgeons in 2013 for eight years.
 - There are no direct volunteer's involved in the management and maintenance of King George's Park.
 - Maintenance of public footpaths and the cycleway within King George's Park are maintained by the Highways Department and Transport for London.

4 Ecology baseline review

- 4.1 The following chapter summarises the results of the Ecology desk based assessment and on site condition assessment. **Figure 2.1** provides an overview of the four character areas which has assisted the ecological analysis.

Baseline

Designated Sites

- 4.2 A number of designated sites lie within a 1km buffer of King George's Park as identified within biological records provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL). This included 16 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and a single Local Nature Reserve (LNR). These are summarised below and illustrated in **Figure 2.2**.
- 4.3 The park itself is designated as a SINC of Borough Grade II importance, a non-statutory designation. It is recognised for ecological features including trees and a lake, and the role it plays in forming part of an important wildlife corridor in this local area.
- 4.4 The River Wandle flows north to south along the eastern perimeter of King George's Park, and is partially adjacent to the park boundary. This part of the River Wandle is designated as a SINC of Borough Grade I importance: the **River Wandle in Wandsworth**. The LUC Review of Metropolitan SINCs for the Greater London Authority (GLA)⁴³ recommends upgrading the River Wandle in Wandsworth SINC to the Metropolitan level. Other designations within the vicinity of King George's Park associated with The Wandle are detailed below:
- **River Thames and Tidal Tributaries SINC** of metropolitan importance, 460m north;
 - **Lower Wandle Local Nature Reserve (LNR)**, 570m south east;
 - **Wandle Meadow Nature Park and the Lower River Wandle SINC** of Borough Grade I importance, 250m south; and
 - **Wandle Valley Regional Park** which incorporates the whole river and associated designations.
- 4.5 Other SINCs in the vicinity include railside habitats, woodland and scrub, parks and commons, and wetland habitats associated with the Wandle.
- 4.6 The closest European designation did not fall within the 1km data search, however lies 1.8km west: The Wimbledon Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Habitats and Parcels

- 4.7 Key habitats which lie within the park boundary include:
- Amenity grassland.
 - Standard trees.
 - Broadleaved semi-natural woodland.
 - Neutral grassland.
 - A pond/lake; and
 - Ornamental planting.
- 4.8 Amenity grassland is the dominant habitat across the park, comprising more than 75% of the habitats. Parkland/standard trees are present throughout the park, although were mostly located along boundaries. These together with treelines and woodland planting close to the River Wandle provide habitat connectivity through the park.

⁴³ LUC (2016). *Greater London Authority: Review of Metropolitan SINCs*

- 4.9 The park was split into four character areas for the assessment; refer to **Figure 2.1** for the boundaries of these areas.

Character area one: Lake

- 4.10 The northern character area is adjacent to Southside Shopping Centre and leisure facilities. This area includes typical urban park habitat features including amenity grassland, a lake, scattered trees, ornamental planting and tennis courts in the south.
- 4.11 The lake is of particular ecological interest within the park, providing a variety of wetland habitats, including a range of marginal vegetation such as common reed *Phragmites australis*, bulrushes *Typha latifolia* and water lily *Nymphaea sp.*, whilst scrub planting and trees on the banks and on a small island provides shelter and foraging opportunities for wildlife on the lake margins. Frequent tree cover in this part of the park provides a dense and diverse canopy cover, including dominant weeping willow *Salix babylonica*, frequent London plane *Platanus × acerifolia* and horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Deadwood is also present in this area, providing potential habitat for invertebrates, and foraging for birds.
- 4.12 Ornamental planting is abundant in character area one, including shrubberies and rockeries surrounding the lake and paths, as well as a Rose Garden. These areas are of relatively low ecological value being regularly managed and disturbed. They comprised a variety of native and non-native species, primarily shrubs, including species such as gorse *Ulex europaeus* and rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*. The Rose Garden is dominated by amenity grassland, with some small planted areas which include a variety of roses *Rosa sp.* as well as other flowers such as pansies *Viola sp.* Although the flowers in the ornamental planting areas provide nectar for pollinating invertebrates, they are limited in diversity.

Character areas two and three: Main pitches and playground and Southfields

- 4.13 Character areas two and three, comprised the majority of the park, are located north and south of Kimber Road and are dominated by amenity grassland with well used sports pitches. The species present included perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* which dominate, and common 'weed' species such as white clover *Trifolium repens*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, daisy *Bellis perennis* and yarrow *Achillea millefolium*.
- 4.14 In character areas two and three, mature trees line the park perimeter. Tree species are more diverse in character area two (north of Kimber road) than three, and include willow, London plane, horse chestnut, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, oak *Quercus sp.*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and poplar *Populus sp.* Only alder, ash, oak and poplar were recorded in the park perimeter of character area three. However, on the western boundary of character area three, adjacent to the river in an undisturbed section, broad-leaved semi-natural woodland was recorded. This area has potential to provide valuable wildlife habitat for a range of species, particularly invertebrates and birds, and supports native trees and shrubs including hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. This connects to a small fenced off area of neutral grassland with scattered broad-leaved trees at the beginning of character area four.
- 4.15 There was relatively little ornamental planting in character areas two and three, mostly restricted to the perimeter of the park, with a linear area of planting alongside a path on the northern boundary of character area two.
- 4.16 In summary, character areas two and three supported a less diverse habitat mosaic, dominated by regularly managed amenity/ornamental habitats, compared to the other character areas. The broadleaved woodland was the most valuable habitat within these character areas and provided connectivity within them.

Character area four: Park extension

- 4.17 The final character area was located in the south of the park and supported amenity grassland, scattered trees, broad-leaved semi-natural woodland and neutral grassland. The character area comprises a small fenced off area of neutral grassland and broad-leaved semi-natural woodland. This grassland area supported greater species diversity than grassland elsewhere in the park including common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, red clover *Trifolium pratense* and common vetch *Vicia sativa* and was not regularly managed for amenity use. The remaining part was typical of character areas two and three, with amenity grassland and trees around the perimeter.

- 4.18 The broad-leaved semi-natural woodland in the north of character area four surrounded the neutral grassland and comprised a similar species composition to that in character area three.
- 4.19 This character area provided the highest species and habitat diversity in the park, particularly within the neutral grassland and woodland habitat.

The River Wandle

- 4.20 During the assessment, the River Wandle was considered due to its close proximity and connectivity to habitat within King George's Park. **Table 4.1** below summarises the river survey.
- 4.21 The river and banks are not physically accessible within the park, and access is restricted by fencing, due to health and safety considerations, however there are regular crossing points where the river corridor can be viewed. Therefore, the stretch of the River Wandle adjacent to the park was assessed with reference to the Urban River Survey methodology to assess the section of river adjacent to the park as a whole (rather than for individual sampling points/sections). Where appropriate an average figure was used following visual assessment (for example, for width of the river corridor).
- 4.22 The various attributes are detailed below in Table 4.1 in accordance with the methodology. In summary, the River Wandle adjacent to King George's Park has some concrete banks and limited natural features, with varying amounts of vegetation along the concrete banks including species such as willow herb *Epilobium hirsutum* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. This vegetation provides shelter and foraging opportunities for wildlife. Macrophytes are present in varying amounts within the river channel, but were limited in extent. The bank tops and adjacent areas are planted with trees and shrubs.
- 4.23 In one part of the River Wandle, adjacent to character area three of the park and not far south of Kimber Road, Japanese Knotweed was identified on private land on the eastern banks. This is an invasive species, it can spread rapidly and out-compete other native species.
- 4.24 The river corridor is a valuable wildlife corridor linking the River Thames with a series of parks and open spaces along the Wandle Valley.

Table 4.1: Urban River Survey

Dimensions	
Water width	10 meters
Bankfull width	14 meters
Left banktop height	3.5 meters
Right banktop height	2.5 meters
Left embankment height	4.5 meters
Right embankment height	3 meters
Water depth	3 meters
Physical attributes	
Planform	Engineered – sinuous
Cross section	Enlarged
Reinforcement	Both banks only
Left and right bank material	Artificial (concrete)
Left and right bank protection	Concrete
Left and right marginal and bank features	Vegetated (25%), none (75%)
River channel	
Substrate	Varied from bedrock, to gravel-pebble to silt.
Flow type	Rippled flow
Channel features	Vegetated rock
Banktop land use and vegetated structure	
Land use	Mixed: recreational land, open park, residential.
Banktop structure	Uniform
Bankface structure	Simple
Channel vegetation	None (65%), Liverworts, mosses and lichens (15%), broadleaves submergent (5%), fine submergent (10%) and floating rooted (5%).

Species

4.25 A number of protected and / or notable species have been recorded in the site and within a 1km buffer, as identified within the GiGL records. These include Species of Principle Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. The following species or species groups are considered of particular interest given the habitats present on site and potential management implications:

- Bats - three pipistrelle species *Pipistrelle* sp., *daubentons* *Myotis daubentonii* and *noctule* *Nyctalus noctula* ;
- Amphibians - common toad *Bufo bufo* and common frog *Rana temporaria*;
- Reptiles - common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow worm *Anguis fragilis*;
- Invertebrates - including ruddy darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*, stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* and other notable species associated with woodland/trees/scrub; and
- Birds - 77 species recorded including wetland species such as kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, grey heron *Ardea cinerea*, wood sandpiper; and woodland/mature trees/scrub species such as lesser spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*, firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*, willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, spotted flycatcher

Muscicapa striata, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and linnet *Carduelis cannabina*.

- 4.26 Grey heron, house sparrow and stag beetle are identified as Priority Species within the London Biodiversity Action Plan, as well as being species of particular focus in the Wandsworth Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 4.27 As described above, these species are likely to use habitats within the park, including woodland, mature trees, treelines, scrub, neutral grassland and wetland, as well as the adjacent River Wandle.
- 4.28 **Volume 1: Appendix 2** provides details on relevant ecology policy and legal considerations.

Summary of key considerations

- 4.29 The following summarises the key considerations which have been highlighted within the analysis of Chapter 4: Ecology baseline review. These are to be taken forward to inform the future policies and management strategies.
- 4.30 King George's Park has six key habitats which lie within the park boundary including:
- Amenity grassland
 - Standard trees
 - Broadleaved semi-natural woodland
 - Neutral grassland
 - A pond/lake
 - Ornamental planting
- 4.31 These habitats support a wide range of protected and / or notable species which have been recorded in the site and within a 1km buffer, which have been identified within the GiGL records as well as noted as Species of Principle Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.
- 4.32 There are recreational pressures on habitats of importance for wildlife.
- 4.33 Grass maintenance regimes could be further relaxed in places and water edges could be enhanced to improve habitat quality and connectivity.
- 4.34 There needs to be continued control of invasive species. These will require appropriate partnership action for ongoing management and treatment to avoid spreading. The Wandle Trust Project Officer is responsible for the implementation of the River Wandle Invasive Non-Native Species Action Plan⁴⁴.

⁴⁴ The Wandle Trust, 2017. *Wandle Invasive Specie Action Plan* [pdf] Available at: <<http://www.wandletrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/1.-Wandle-Invasive-Species-Action-Plan.pdf>> [Accessed 22 March 2018]

5 Visitor accessibility

- 5.1 The following chapter summarises the results of the desk based assessment and the onsite condition assessment of the current access and circulation within King George's Park. Information is largely drawn from the *King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal (2018)*⁴⁵.

Current access and circulation

- 5.2 King George's Park is freely accessible to the public at no cost and it is therefore a popular site for passive and more active sport and recreation. **Figure 5.3** outlines key aspects of access and circulation within the park including primary circulation routes and the distribution of public transport provision under 1km distance from the park. There are a number existing larger scale primary access points which are in more prominent locations. These entrances are generally located to the northern and southern end of the park and at the Mapleton Road axis and western edge. Smaller scale secondary access points are distributed along the periphery of the park.

Pedestrian access

- 5.3 As highlighted by **Figure 5.3** the key primary pedestrian routes can be identified. Much of the formal circulation is kept to the periphery of the open areas. Notably the Wandle Trail green route follows the route of the River Wandle primarily along the east of the park entering from the south and exiting to the north at Mapleton Road. This route is also an off-road cycle route. The Capital Ring long distance route is located to the south and south-east of the park.
- 5.4 The surrounding and bisecting roads provide important circulation within the park. The skate park and the Gym can be accessed along Kimber Road and via Burr Road respectively.
- 5.5 The majority of the footpaths are surfaced with grey/black tarmac, most are in reasonable repair but some require attention for cracks and bumps. There are a number of pinch point's en-route where site furniture such as lamp posts restrict passing widths for double buggies and wheelchair users, as seen in **Figure 5.1**. Brick paved areas are mainly located along the western areas and central area near to the play area.

⁴⁵ HADA (2018). *King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal*

Figure 5.1: Example of shared use path within the park



5.6 The park can be reached on foot and through the use of public transport with the following stations/stops nearby

- **Rail:** Earlsfield, Wandsworth Town and East Putney
- **Tube:** Southfields [District line]
- **Bus:** Buses 39 and 156 pass along Buckhold Road. Buses 270 and 220 pass along Garrett Lane. (generally every 15 minutes on weekday and every 30 minutes at weekends)

Options and opportunities

- Maintaining the widespread network of paths which provides appropriate access in all weathers and has capacity to take intensive usage.
- Opportunities to reduce overall extent of hard surfacing where paths are duplicated or carriageways narrow. Examples of areas of path duplication includes the ramp/stair located towards the central area of the park.
- Subsidiary tarmac paths in poor condition or localised areas of damage should be replaced following expiry with self-binding gravel such as Coxwell gravel to enhance natural appearance and drainage.
- Consider creating a series of circulation routes offering the opportunity for visitors of all abilities to experience points of interest within the park. One route could be promoted as a nature walk to provide access to key points of ecological interest including key viewpoints, particularly at the lake and along the River Wandle. Information could be provided in a digital format as part of environmental strategies to reduce waste.
- Primary and secondary entrance points should be reassessed with an improved setting and rationalised/replacement signage.

Cycle routes

- 5.7 **Figure 5.3** identifies the off-road cycle route within the site which is currently part of segregated shared use paths. This principal route links the northern and southern section of the park and the route runs along a significant length of the eastern boundary of the park. Cycle racks are located near the northern entrance.
- 5.8 The cycle routes are segregated by a tactile strip in the north half of the park and a faded painted line in the southern half of the park with no tactile definition which can be hazardous for blind or

partially sighted people and children. **Figure 5.2** highlights the uneven surface and inconsistent delineation along a portion of the cycle route within the park.

- 5.9 During the access survey it was observed that where there are segregated paths on the north side of the park, with an approved DFT tactile line, cyclists proceeded at high speed creating conflict with pedestrians. Furthermore the cycle path crosses many of the entrances around the park, again creating a collision hazard.

Figure 5.2: Example of segregated cycle path



Options and opportunities

- Future refurbishments present an opportunity to widen path surfaces where shared with cyclists. Further discussion is required about segregating cyclists from pedestrians on primary commuter routes or creating non segregated routes. Shared use and desegregated paths are the preferred option due to cyclists tending to go faster on segregated routes. There is no ideal form of segregation; all have their advantages and disadvantages as discussed further within *Sustrans: The Merits of Segregated and Non-Segregated Traffic-Free Paths – A Literature-Based Review (2011)*⁴⁶.
- Improve the availability of cycle racks at the margins of the park.
- Introduce (or strengthen the existing) speed reduction measures through physical measures, legal measures and enforcement measures for safety.
- Grills and manhole covers require replacing and resetting across the site.
- Repair paving around tree root disturbance and service covers ideally should not conflict with tactile paving.

⁴⁶ Phil Jones Associates (2011). *Sustrans – The Merits of Segregated and Non-Segregated Traffic-Free Paths – A Literature-Based Review, Updated Report, Aug 2011* [pdf] Available at: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sites/default/files/file_content_type/phil_jones_associates_report_-_september_2011.pdf> [Accessed 22 March 2018]

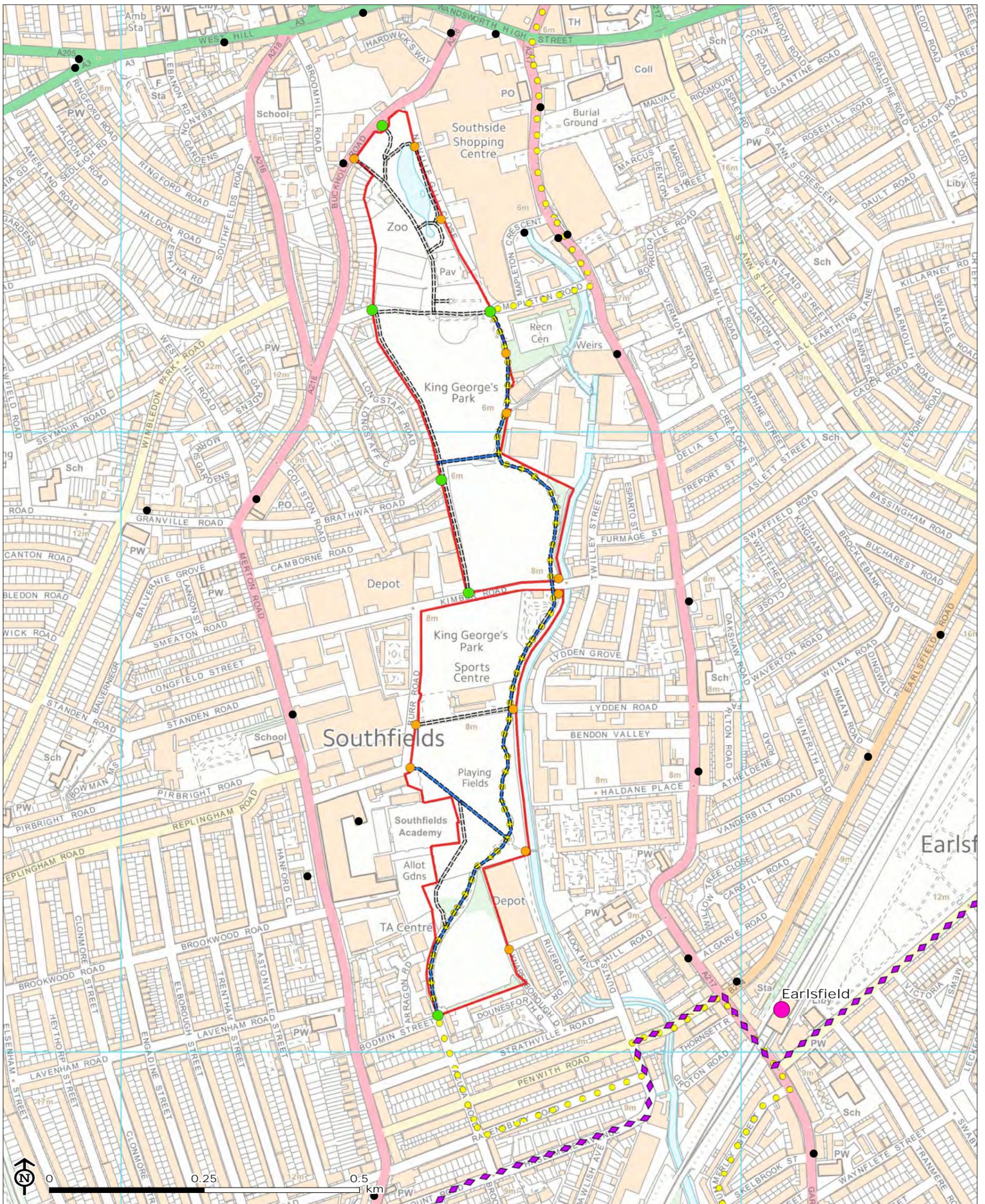
- Improve regulation of cycling behaviour through creating awareness through the Borough's school cycle training programmes; cycling do's and don'ts within maps, leaflets and guides and occasional public liaison initiatives e.g. information stalls.

Vehicular access

- 5.10 Roads located around the periphery of the park provide good vehicular connections to the surrounding areas. However there is very limited car parking within the vicinity of the park especially during peak periods and particularly for the skate park which attracts visitors from further afield.
- 5.11 There is no dedicated off-street car parking or drop-off associated with the park although the street network provides opportunities for on-street parking for Blue Badge holders to the south and west of the park. A multi-storey car park is located to the north east as part of the shopping centre. The sports centre at the heart of the park has four accessible parking bays that could be utilised by park visitors. The short path link via the pedestrian gate is uneven and may be a trip hazard and create difficulties for wheelchair users however. There is a car park at the Wandle Recreation Centre outside of the park boundary to the north.

Options and opportunities

- Undertake survey to ascertain if the four accessible parking bays are sufficient and used by park and sports centre visitors. Events days will require increased provisions, preferably in the sports centre car park.
- Improve path link from the sports centre car park to the path route.
- As a long term objective it would be desirable to calm the traffic flow along Kimber Road with a wide raised table at controlled crossing points to provide a pedestrian priority zone.



King George's Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 5.3: Access and circulation



Source: LUC, NaPTAN

Map Scale @A3: 1:6,000

Infrastructure audit

- 5.12 The following provides an overview of the condition of infrastructure features within King George's Park. **Volume 1: Appendix 4** provides photo sheets of the existing and proposed materials palette of site furniture, equipment and infrastructure.

Hard surfaces

- 5.13 The majority of the footpaths are surfaced with grey/black tarmac which in many localised areas is beginning to deteriorate and crack. The park contains a number of shared use paths which are generally in a deteriorating condition, within embedded signage showing signs of heavy wear.
- 5.14 Areas of brick paved steps and concrete slabs are also in a deteriorating condition and showing signs of heavy wear. This is a particular issue with the steps near the ABC Selfstore building. The park also contains a small section of bound gravel footpath which surrounds the Aspire artificial turf pitch. This path is considered to be in a good condition.

Fencing, gates and barriers

- 5.15 There is a mixture of fencing styles throughout the park. The perimeter of the park is predominantly lined by metal railings, which are painted black. The railings and associated gates are of differing heights and styles with some areas of localised damage. Adopting a programme of maintenance and restoration operations of the railings would be timely to ensure the boundary is in keeping with the historic boundary treatment of the 20th century park.
- 5.16 There is a mixture of wooden and metal bollards throughout the park, which are of variable quality. The tennis courts, artificial pitches, the skate park and the play areas are enclosed by varying styles of fencing. The provision of fencing in the park should be reviewed to improve the character and help reduce fragmentation of the park.
- 5.17 The primary entrance gate to the north an important historic feature of the park. However it is in a poor condition and the Royal crest no longer depicts the significance of the historic royal connections with the park. The metal work and brick walls of the 1980's/1990's Art Deco style arches over the main entrances are in generally good condition with some minor deterioration.

Benches and seats

- 5.18 There are a large number and distribution of benches and seats in the park of a variety of styles. Some areas of the park are more accommodating with seating than others. In addition some benches have suffered graffiti damage.
- 5.19 Some seating is set back from the path networks with no firm path link for mobility aids. In some areas there is insufficient seating provision for disabled people or people with mobility aids.

Litter bins and dog bins

- 5.20 The park contains a mixture of litter bins. Some are of a green metal style with black plastic lid others are of a black metal. The dog bins are either standalone or attached to litter bins and of a red metal style with a black plastic lid. These are supplemented as necessary, depending on the season and events, with temporary large cage baskets; these are largely located near the tennis courts and bowling green areas. The bins in some areas are fairly obtrusive, and fail to coordinate with the benches and other furnishings. The bins are sometimes inappropriately located or there are often not enough however this needs to be balanced with appropriate management of public littering.

Signage

- 5.21 The King George's Park case boards and interpretation boards comprising of green and black painted cast metal are of a generally good quality. However signage could be better positioned in terms of potential closer proximity to key entrances with provision of clear mapping to assist with orientation and access and facility considerations.

- 5.22 While there is caution about proliferation of interpretive boards and signs there are specific opportunities for signage along the River Wandle where additional ground plaques or interpretive information would be of benefit near historic and wildlife features.
- 5.23 Roadside signage and way marking is less co-ordinated and relatively intrusive. There is an abundance of varying style and condition of signage which lacks clarity making navigating the routes more difficult and makes the park feel cluttered. Furthermore there is an abundance of cycle route/restriction signage which is not always very clear. A range of signage could be used to identify the key locations in the park such as the tennis, bowling green and lake.

Lighting

- 5.24 The lighting within the park comprises of traditional heritage streetlamps along the park paths particularly within character area 2: main pitches and playground. A basic utilitarian design is used along the wider network of paths.
- 5.25 Lighting remains an important function and feature within the park as it carries much after dark pedestrian commuter traffic in winter. There is a considerable lack of lighting along primary path routes. There are particular concerns about the level of illumination on shared cycleway/footpaths where there is already some level of conflict between users as well as along ramps and stairs. There is potential for lower level lighting, such as light bollards, which would aid the blind or those visually impaired⁴⁷.
- 5.26 The tennis courts are in the process of installing flood lighting.

Other items

- 5.27 There are a number of other structures and features which have been accrued incrementally by the park and forms part of the built landscape. These include plaques and memorials along the River Wandle.
- 5.28 Additional subsidiary items recorded include cycle racks, trim trail equipment and service boxes.

Disability access

- 5.29 There is a substantial stepped and ramped link to the east to west, as seen in **Figure 5.4**; the ramp is non-compliant with two 10 metre spans with gradients ranging from 1:12 to 1:15. The gradients need to be improved for independent wheelchair access.⁷ However there is a compliant ramp which heads west to achieve appropriate gradient.
- 5.30 Many of the stairs around the park do not have any highlighted nosings or tactile corduroy warning surface top and bottom for blind and partially sighted people whilst the widths exceeds the recommendations for the span between the handrails.
- 5.31 The cyclist ramp and central slope is also potentially dangerous for blind or partially sighted people in that there is no protection and the low wall at the top of the cyclist's ramp could be a trip hazard. The area is on the whole, confusing especially for blind and partially sighted people and people with dementia due to the close proximity of the three ramps and one set of steps with little guidance.

⁴⁷ HADA (2018). *King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal*

Figure 5.4: The steep ramp with little safety and guidance features



Options and opportunities

- Improving wheelchair accessibility along the Wandle Trail path running from south to north.
- Increase in allocated disabled parking provision subject to further survey work. Any increase in car parking provision within the park would result in the loss of publicly accessible open space.
- Potential for a mini-bus drop off point for use as a disability access facility.
- Site-wide localised enhancements particularly near primary access points including widening shared use paths at highway junctions, dropped kerbs and tactile paving installation.
- Site wide enhancement of site furniture particularly increasing the amount of seating available and their location.
- Remove or lower the kerb edge into the woodland walk to enable wheelchair access for route 6.

Summary of key considerations

5.32 The following summarises the key considerations which have been highlighted within the analysis of chapter 5: Visitor accessibility. These are to be taken forward to inform the future policies and management strategies.

- The formal paths are kept to the periphery of the open areas. Notably the Wandle Trail which follows the route of the River Wandle along the east of the park.
- The majority of the footpaths are surfaced with grey/black tarmac, most are in reasonable repair but some require attention for cracks and bumps. There are a number of pinch points en-route where site furniture such as lamp posts restricts passing widths for double buggies and wheelchairs.
- The cycle routes are segregated by a tactile strip in the northern half of the park and a faded painted line in the southern half of the park with no tactile definition which can be hazardous for blind or partially sighted people and children.

- There is no dedicated off-street car parking or drop-off associated with the park although the street network provides opportunities for on-street parking for Blue Badge holders. The sports centre at the centre of the park has four accessible parking bays that could be utilised by park visitors. There is a car park at the Wandle Recreation Centre outside of the park boundary to the north.
- There are localised areas consisting of brick paved, steps and concrete slabs which are also in a deteriorating condition and showing signs of heavy wear.
- The boundary fencing and gates are variable in quality with some areas of localised damage and differing heights and styles.
- There is a wide mixture of litter bins throughout the park.
- There is a lack of mapping at primary access points and around main activity hubs furthermore roadside signage and way marking is less co-ordinated and relatively intrusive.

6 Land use and visitor experience

- 6.1 This chapter looks at the way the park is used and any conflicts which arise. This chapter includes the results of the household survey and stakeholder workshops which were carried out during the preparation of the MMP.

Household survey

- 6.2 In 2017 a large scale household survey was carried out to gather the opinions of local residents, users and non-users of the park. The survey was made available online and as a paper survey from the 6th November to the 17th December 2017. The survey was advertised in the Brightside publication and promoted through the Have Your Say website. Follow up promotion was carried out by Wandsworth Council's communications team using social media. As such the survey was promoted across the borough.
- 6.3 There was a good response to the survey, with almost 500 respondents. 470 of the respondents had visited the park in the last 12 months, with most using the play area and open fields. Many of the users are local, taking less than five minutes to get to the park on foot.
- 6.4 A major theme throughout the survey responses was cyclist-walker conflicts. Although the quality of walking and cycling routes were generally rated highly, many wanted the lanes to be more separate and better marked to reduce future conflicts. Some also wanted better enforcement to prevent cyclist from riding irresponsibly and endangering other users. Again, although the majority considered the park to be safe there were some instances of antisocial behaviour reported and some said that certain areas felt unsafe, particularly with a lack of lighting and security.
- 6.5 Several commented that King George's Park was well loved with people using it regularly and wanting to see it better maintained with more varied features, such as natural play or a café, so that it will be better used in the future.
- 6.6 A summary of the findings on how King George's Park is used is provided below. The full Household Survey Report is contained in **Volume Two: Consultation and Access Assessment Reports**.

Stakeholder workshops

- 6.7 During the preparation of the MMP a workshop was held to look at issues affecting the use of the park and the solutions for each issue. The event found that the key issues that the plan needs to address include the following:
- Biodiversity (trees, woodlands, wetlands & grassland).
 - Invasive species.
 - Appropriate path surfacing.
 - Appropriate signage and furniture.
 - Lack of community toilets.
 - Lack of appropriate facilities for the sporting activities.
 - Management of conflicts between user groups (cycling & dogs).
 - Events policy.
 - Trails, guided routes & interpretation (nature & fitness).

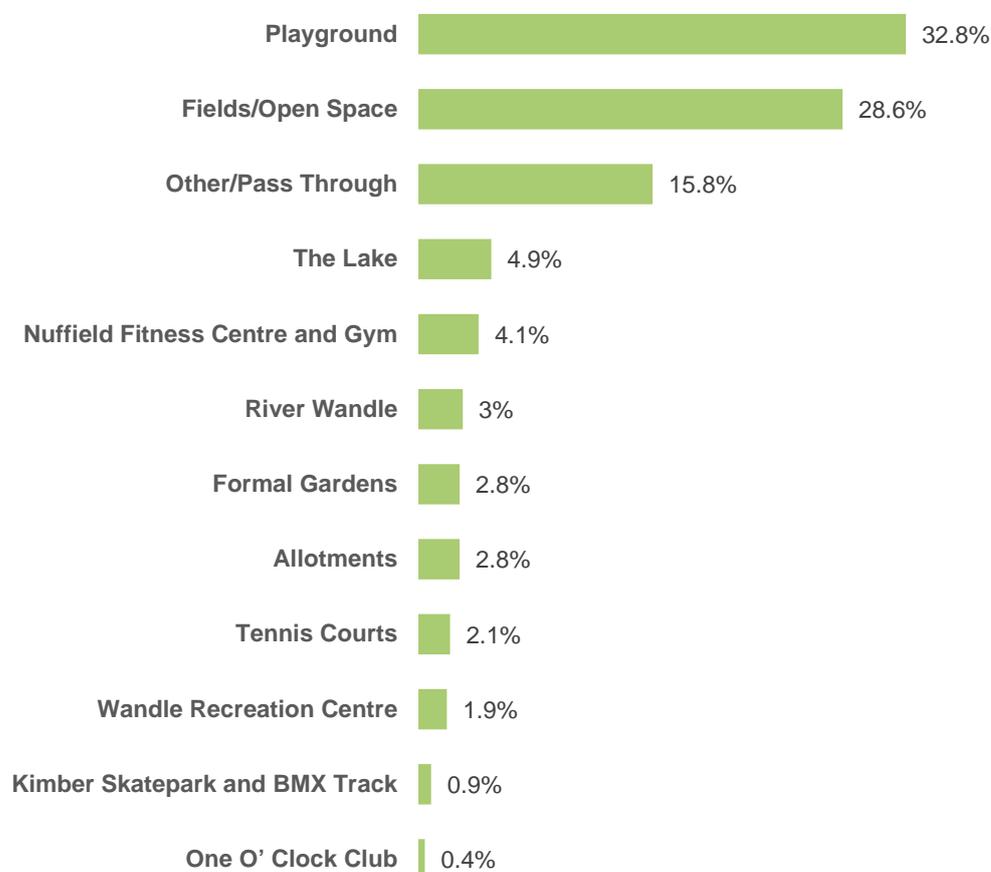
- Littering and fly tipping on the banks of the River Wandle.
- Lack of access to the River Wandle.
- Interface with the river and promote ecological and cultural links to the park.
- Lack of Friends Group.
- Link and access to the surrounding local area.
- Access to the allotments.
- Lack of identity for the park.
- Enhancement of the park's character.
- Unnecessary fencing in the park serves no purpose and feels prohibitive.
- Condition of sports facilities.

6.8 The completed reports from individual meetings are contained within **Volume Two: Consultation & Access Assessment Reports**.

Visitor patterns

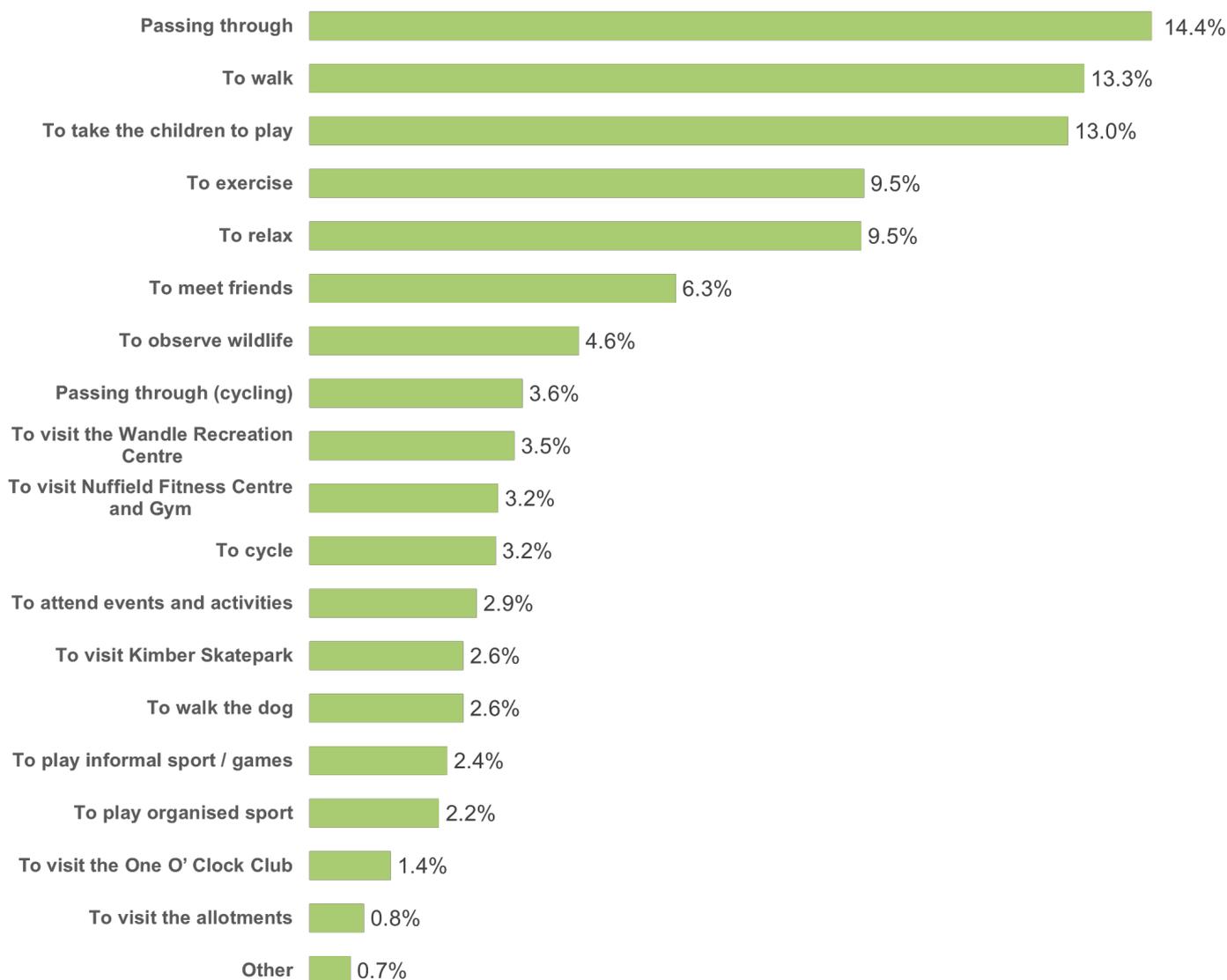
6.9 The household survey found that the most popular areas of the park to visit are the playing fields, the River Wandle and the playground, the lake and the formal gardens. Typically visits to the park last for between 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Figure 6.1: Frequency of use - most frequently visited areas



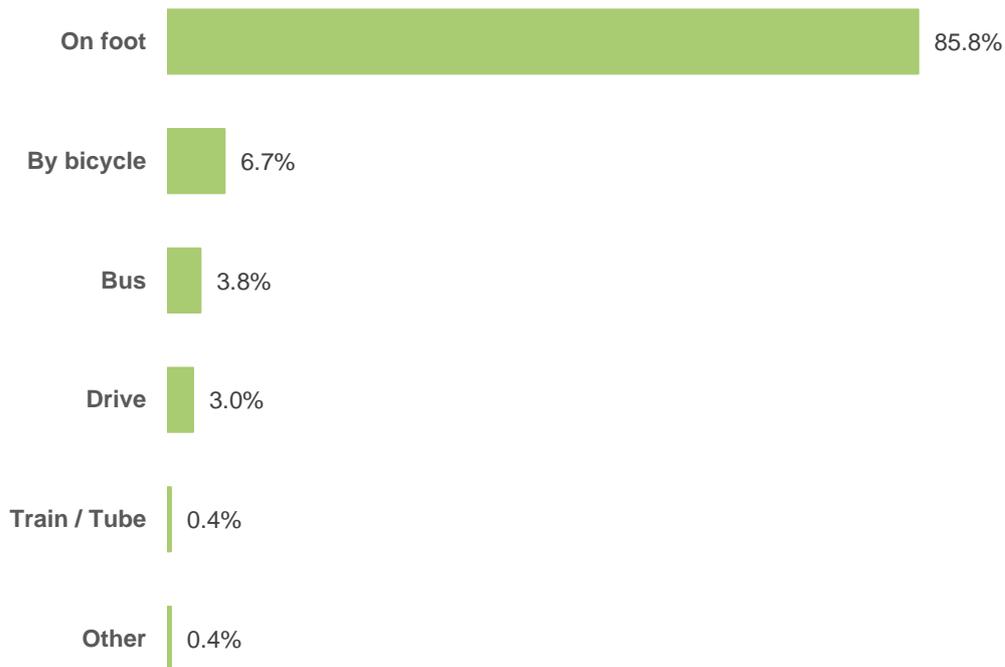
6.10 The primary reason to visit King George's Park is to walk, exercise and to relax. Visiting the children's play areas is also popular alongside visits to the Nuffield Health Centre. The most common reason for visiting King George's Park was to pass through on foot or using a mobility scooter (14.4%). Reasons cited for this was to avoid traffic on the main road or walk to the Southside Shopping Centre from Earlsfield. This was closely followed by to walk (13.3%) and to take to children to play (13.0%). The least common reasons for visiting the park were to visit the allotments, with only 20 respondents (0.9%), and to visit the One O'clock Club (1.4%).

Figure 6.2: Reasons for visiting King George's Park



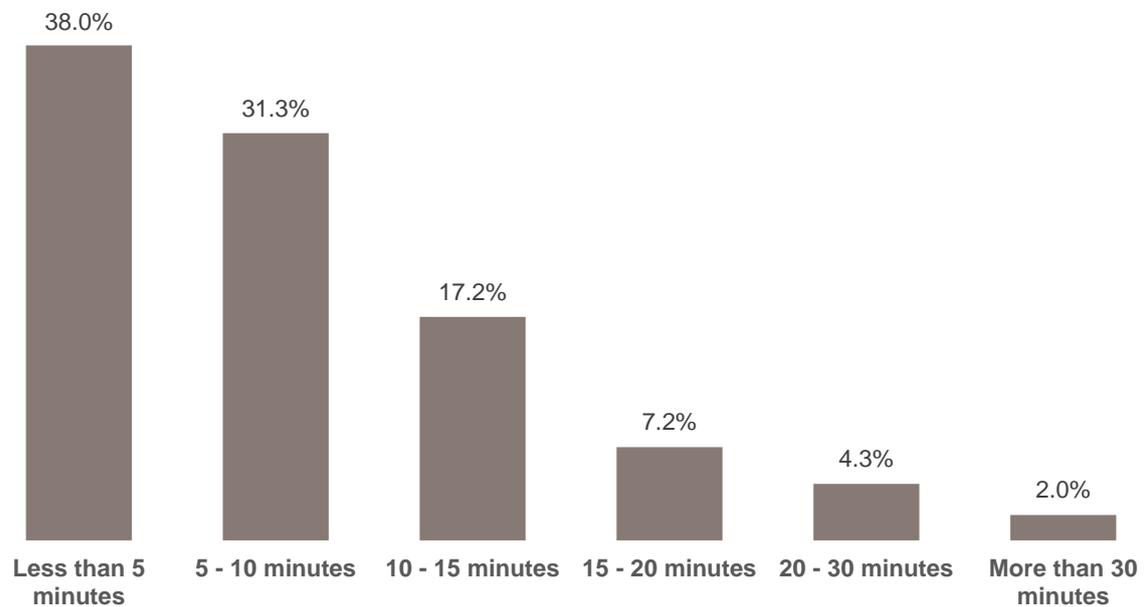
6.11 The survey also looked at the location of respondent visitors to the park. This showed most respondents visited on foot to the park. Almost nine in every ten respondents (85.8%) said they travelled to the park on foot. Just 31 respondents (6.6%) said they usually travelled by bicycle while only 14 respondents (3.0%) said they usually travelled to the park by car.

Figure 6.3: Travelling to King George's Park



6.12 Most respondents do not travel far to King George's Park, with over two thirds of respondents (69.3%) taking less than ten minutes to travel there. Only nine respondents (2.0%) took longer more than 30 minutes (Chart 9).

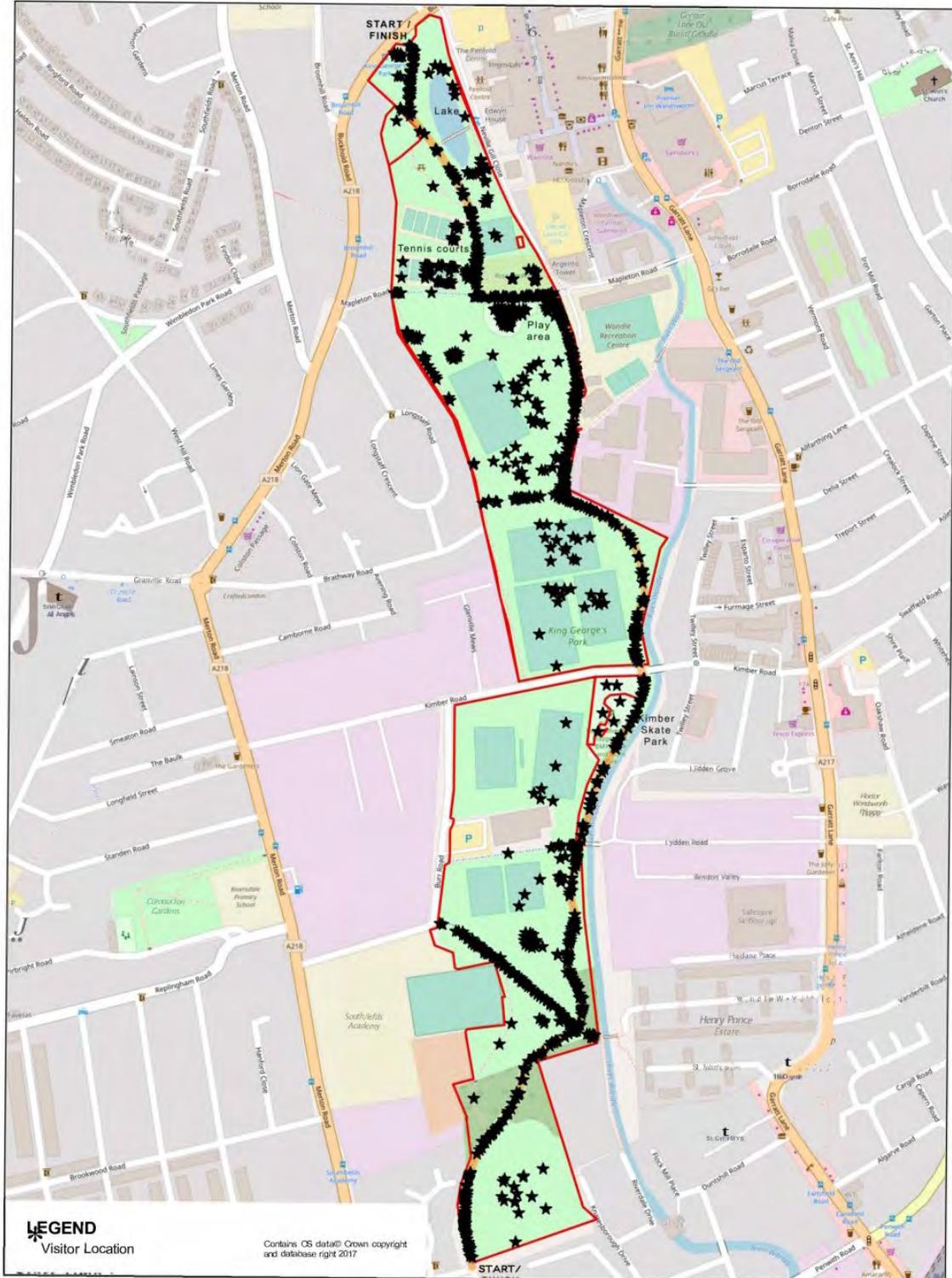
Figure 6.4: Length of journey to King George's Park



Visitor observation study

- 6.13 Figure 6.5 reveals the general distribution of visitors, with key areas of use being the main footpaths through the park, the playground areas and sporting areas. The areas of tennis courts and football pitches are also noticeably busy as is the area surrounding the lake. These general observations on key areas of use concur with the results from the household survey.

Figure 6.5: Visitor observation study



- 6.14 The area to the north of the park around the lake and sport pitches and playground are the most popular areas for visitors to the park; this is in part due to the facilities that these areas provide and visitor requirements for more formal recreation.
- 6.15 The areas to the south and west of the park are not so heavily used and used more for informal recreational activities, with the exception of the park extension and the allotments.
- 6.16 These results suggest that the balance of formal vs informal use on the park should be largely maintained.

Demographics

- 6.17 The King George's Park Demographic Profile (2017) carried out as part of research for the MMP noted the following key findings on the demography of the immediate area and users of the King George's Park:
 - Within the 1.2 km catchment area there are around 71,556 residents. There is a more or less even gender split with slightly more females than males (50.7%).
 - The age profile of the 1.2km catchment is similar to that of Wandsworth overall. Generally the borough's population is younger than England and Wales, with a third of the population aged 25 to 34 compared to only 13.4% in England and Wales. However, while the population is generally younger, there are fewer children and young people living within the catchment (25.0%) compared with the country overall (30.7%).
 - Although significantly lower than England & Wales, the proportion of residents identified as White British within the catchment (59.1%) is slightly higher than Wandsworth overall (53.3%). Notably one in six residents within the 1.2 km catchment identified themselves as Other White. While similar to Wandsworth, this is significantly higher than England & Wales overall, where around one in 20 residents are Other White. Although the 1.2km catchment is less diverse than Wandsworth, certain BME groups are better represented compared with England & Wales. For example, 3.8% of residents are Pakistani or British-Pakistani and 6.8% of the population identify themselves as Black or Black British (compared with only 3.4% in England & Wales).
 - Levels of deprivation within the catchment area are low, with most Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)/ geographic areas falling within top 60% least deprived in the country. Of the selected LSOAs, five are considered deprived including one to the north and one to the south of the park. All five deprived LSOAs are within the 60 – 60% most deprived in England.

Activity

- 6.18 The Visitor Survey shows the significant use of King George's Park as an amenity resource for the local community and the popularity of active pursuits across the park. With distinct patterns of use noticeable in cycling, running, dog walking and play and sports activity on the park.
- 6.19 Active pursuits account for a large percentage of all visits to the park. Coupled with the sports figures, this shows the value the space has for the local community and the potential benefits it can offer for physical and mental well-being. The park therefore supports wider strategic health and wellbeing aims of Wandsworth Borough Council.
- 6.20 During the workshop consultation process and through anecdotal recordings, it is clear that the potential for conflict between some of these user groups exist (cyclists, runners and dog walkers). To some extent, these activities have shown a natural distribution to different areas on the park with commuters, walkers, cyclists and runners sticking to the periphery and direct paths through the park. Dog walkers, as might be expected, tend to stick to the informal open spaces of the park.
- 6.21 The demands upon the park for greater sports use and events will conflict with the demand from users of the park to retain informal, naturalistic areas and improve its ecological value. Creating character areas which consider the physical and natural characteristics and use of specific areas

as per **Figure 2.1** should be considered as a way to reduce conflict and contain the spread of conflicting activities.

Cycling

- 6.22 The household survey found that 42.9% of consultees felt the greatest conflict of users on the park was between cyclists and walkers. 55% felt that there was conflict between cyclist and other users of the park.
- 6.23 The conflict with cyclists seems to mainly relate to the width of paths and blind corners along the main paths within the park, which is a shared path with pedestrians. Cyclists tend to cycle at a fast speed and not all of the routes provide suitable and safe space for all users.
- 6.24 The following options and opportunities were identified during public consultation. In some instances, these points differ to the findings of the accessibility research:
- More routes within the park to increase the availability of space for users.
 - Barriers to slow cyclists.
 - Surfacing to slow cyclists.
 - Separate and better marked paths to reduce future conflicts.
 - Signage notifying of regulations, speed limits.
 - Enforcement of cycling regulations.
 - Education on the dangers of fast cycling/ cycling etiquette.

Dog walking

- 6.25 The council's Dog Control Orders (introduced in 2010) ensure that all open spaces and the borough's highways and pavements are regulated properly using a single piece of legislation.
- 6.26 Conflicts with dog walkers and other users have been a long standing issue. Example issues include dogs affecting bird life in the lake and using trees to exercise and train dangerous dogs e.g. jaw strengthening. Dog free zones have been designated within the park particularly within self-contained areas and popular site facilities such as Kimber Skate Park and BMX Track and areas around the lake. There are also areas which do not allow dogs, except on a lead. Dog free zones should remain or increase to include additional popular public areas.
- 6.27 There should be ongoing enforcement where necessary including through licenced dog walking and improved understanding and definition of the dog restrictions. Current dog restrictions are shown on a map of King George's Park in **Volume 1: Appendix 5**.

Educational resources

- 6.28 The location of schools and children's centre facilities within the local area are shown in **Figure 1.3**. The landscape next to the River Wandle provides the opportunity to develop a greater education resource aimed at environmental, biodiversity and nature education programmes for schools and children in the area. This was particularly noted in the stakeholder consultation and workshops and was supported by the Wandle Trust, Southfields Academy and the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership.

Playground

- 6.29 The primary playground within King George's Park is shown in **Figure 1.2**. The play area is located in the south of the Rose Garden. This facility is a popular space for children and families.
- 6.30 Respondents to the household survey identified the following issues and opportunities:
- Potential conflicts between the current proximity and location of the cycle path and the playground.

- A family friendly café and toilet facility would be beneficial within the playground.
- Introduce more age specific areas to alleviate the conflicting interest of younger and older children and safety concerns of younger children.
- The playground is said to be great for younger children, but there was little provision for older children (over eight).
- More varied play provision, such as water play or a sand pit in the park, as well as additions like climbing frames, slides and trampolines.
- The park needs more play provision particularly with the increase in the numbers of families in the area. Respondents suggested additional play areas to the south of the park, which would be easier to access for people from Earlsfield and reduce crowding within the current play area.
- Other suggestions included the addition of child-friendly toilets near the play area with changing rooms, drinking fountains and a shelter for the teenagers to use.

Formal and informal sporting activities

6.31 Formal sporting activities at King George's Park include:

- Football
- Tennis
- Bowls
- Bootcamp
- Tag-rugby
- Cricket
- Judo
- Pilates
- Table tennis
- Softball

6.32 The formal sporting areas are largely located to the north of the park within character areas 1 and 2.

6.33 The formal sports pitches are well used at the weekends and the tennis courts booked regularly. It is noticeable that the level of use of the pitches is variable between week days and weekends, with the demand for the pitches high at the weekends and quieter during week days. Results from consultation reveals that there is sometimes confusion over the booking system for the football pitches and greater clarity is needed to improve visitor accessibility.

6.34 Informal activities include:

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Running
- Cycling
- Sitting
- Play, including informal sports
- Relaxing
- Socialising
- Rounders
- Football

- 6.35 The whole park is used for informal activities. There are preferred areas for different activities dependant on the facilities and access provided.
- 6.36 The household survey found that the primary reason to visit King George's Park is to walk, exercise, and relax. The park remains popular for informal and formal/ organised sport. Running and jogging is the most popular sporting activity amongst visitors and tennis. An extract from the Household Survey Report (2017) outlines the main reasons for visiting King George's Park; this is shown in **Figure 6.2**.

Options and opportunities

- Respondents to the household survey highlighted introducing toilet facilities as an improvement to their sporting enjoyment of the park.
- The stakeholders attending the workshops felt that the balance of formal to informal recreational activity was right, and that formal sports in terms of amount of space allocated should not be increased.
- Improved seating and picnic areas.
- Greater access to the River Wandle and improved education facilities for schools to come and use and engage children with the Wandle and nature e.g. nature trails and nature play.
- More facilities and activities, such as gym equipment (like at Clapham and Mitcham commons), table tennis, basketball / netball court, outdoor fitness classes and parkrun
- General update of the facilities currently there and improving maintenance through clearing litter and ensuring dog-free areas remain dog-free. Further suggestions for enhancing the facilities included separating the pitches through fencing, adding flood lighting, installing permanent goal posts, drinking fountains, a café, and accessible toilets for spectators. Others suggested better advertising of the current facilities provided such as the tennis courts, cricket and bowls.

Events

- 6.37 Enable Leisure and Culture has an Events Team responsible for the management of large scale events held in the Borough's parks and Open Spaces. The events team operate according to the Wandsworth Events Policy. The events team vet applications from organisers and enforces the events policies on frequency, size and type of events, timing and location of events within the park. **Volume 1: Appendix 3** contains Wandsworth Council's Open Spaces Events Policy.
- 6.38 The events strategy sets out the protocols for the implementation of large scale events including; maximum size of audiences, frequency of events, noise limits and weekend events. King George's Park is one of five parks in the borough capable of holding events for more than 200 people.
- 6.39 The consultation workshops and stakeholder interview with Enable Leisure and Culture's events team reveal that there is a demand from organised groups for more events at the park, which could include large regular events such as Park Run.
- 6.40 There is a large consensus within the visitor feedback and stakeholder consultation to encourage greater use of the park to hold events such as a weekend market, music events and community events.

Options and opportunities

- Develop an activity plan to co-ordinate future events and plan appropriate location of events and associated infrastructure.
- Toilet provision and electricity supply is required.
- Drop off points would be needed for large vehicles to supply equipment for the staging of the events, plus additional parking for attendees.
- Pre and post event site condition surveys should be carried out to assess damage with all remedial works.

Community safety

- 6.41 Respondents to the household survey were asked how safe they feel in the park. The majority (71.4%) felt safe or very safe (10.2%). Where respondents felt unsafe, this was largely due to a feeling the park is inadequately lit at night and sightlines through the park are currently blocked.
- 6.42 Some respondents also cited specific cases of anti-social behaviour around the park, including young drug dealers trafficking near the Waterside development, drug use and drinking around Buckhold Road and near Brathway Road, around George View house development, around the Wandle and towards the south side of the park. There were also multiple cases of assaults and muggings or pickpocketing around the Henry Prince estate and the bridge. One respondent also cited three cases of a flasher in the park (reportedly drunk and in daylight).
- 6.43 There were also reports of groups of youths in the park intimidating other users (some identified them as bored school kids during the holidays). Incidences included teenagers in the play area acting intimidatingly, listening to loud music, using bad language and throwing fireworks. One respondent cited an incident where their partner was nearly knocked off his bike by youths and another reported Southfield Academy students shouting abuse at passers-by. Others had seen people riding mopeds and burned out mopeds in the park. Some also highlighted cases where a swan had been killed and cygnets stolen from the park. Aggressive parents in the play area was also an issue for some users.
- 6.44 Other safety concerns include cyclists riding too fast and coming up behind people unexpectedly. Some cyclists also commented on pedestrians walking in the cycle lane. Litter (including broken glass) and dog mess was also commented on by respondents, with some suggesting creating a restricted area for dogs to be let off lead, would reduce conflict with other users. One respondent also said they had seen minicab drivers defecating in the woods as well as people urinating in the park.
- 6.45 Much of the issues were put down to a lack of police presence or CCTV, with respondents asking for better security and more frequent park patrols.
- 6.46 Measures to improve safety should be implemented in consultation with the Parks Police and Wandsworth Parks managers. This could include:
- Maintaining the visibility of police presence in the park.
 - Improve lighting at access points, where users feel vulnerable.
 - Scrub clearance along the secluded routes.
 - Advertise the presence of police patrols on notice boards.
- 6.47 Although the consultation of the revealed concerns over safety in the park, reported incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour within the park are low.

Statutory stakeholder consultation

- 6.48 In drawing up this MMP a number of different organisations and individuals were consulted. A questionnaire was produced to seek the information that was felt would be useful in ascertaining their interest with King George's Park and their views on the issues which need to be addressed in the MMP. The questionnaire was issued to the groups and/or individuals or facilitated a phone discussion around the topics.
- 6.49 The following organisations and individuals were contacted and a full questionnaire was completed:
- Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager
 - Natural England
 - Southfields Academy
 - Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust

6.50 The Greater London Authority, Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) and the London Wildlife Trust offered their support to the project. The Environment Agency, The Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, Historic England, London Parks and Gardens Trust and the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association were unable to provide any views and response to the questionnaire during this time. These groups were invited to subsequent consultation events where appropriate.

6.51 The following summarises the responses from stakeholders.

Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager

6.52 Good points:

- Clear cycle routes (I cycle this from time to time).
- Big green space near to Wandsworth Town Centre. The centre is very built up so it's great there is such a big space for people to enjoy.
- The space runs all along the Wandle.
- The fencing/railings along the river create a good buffer strip for wildlife.

6.53 Areas for concern:

- Lots of football pitches and not much habitat for wildlife (apart from the River Buffer Strip).

6.54 Thoughts on future of the park:

- We would welcome any enhancements for biodiversity, increased promotion of the Wandle Trail and also some interpretation to communicate the value of the River Wandle that runs all the way along it.
- Interpretation to explain the purpose of the railings and raise awareness of river wildlife.
- And the use of more interpretation about the local history.
- More varied mowing/planting for wildlife benefit.

Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust

6.55 Good points:

- Accessible from local shops.
- Well maintained, good facilities for physical activity.
- Well lit for evening activities.
- Fairly regularly used.
- Has the river running through it.

6.56 Areas for concern:

- Signage to the park from local shops/southside not clear.
- Signage within park to ensure everyone is aware what they can access there.
- Toilet access, meaning people don't stay for long enough.
- Awareness that the park is on the Wandle Trail, no Wandle Valley signage – developers and estate agents now using this as a big selling point for Wandsworth homes etc.
- Downgraded in respect to facilities and quality horticulture due to reduced management budgets. Lack of heritage opportunities.
- Lack of a relationship with the river – leading to this being potentially neglected.
- Scope for enhancing the river.

6.57 Thoughts on future of the park:

- Free activities for the public must remain free to the provider to allow us to continue to deliver to deprived communities in the locale.

- Should be a fantastic gateway to cycling/walking/running on the traffic free Wandle Trail, this needs more awareness.
- Could it be better joined up to the Thames, the Causeway and the Thames Path?
- Better visual, physical and cultural access to the river and awareness of the wider regional park.
- Raise awareness of the significant importance of the River Wandle.
- Better opportunities for collaborative working with organisations like the Trust who have access to funding.
- Better use of underspent CIL.

Greater London Authority

6.58 Thoughts on future of the park:

- We would expect future management and maintenance to be consistent with the aims, principles and objectives identified in the Wandle Valley Green Grid Area Framework <https://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/all-london-green-grid/>.

Natural England

6.59 Good points:

- River Wandle.
- There is a river improvement community. As part of the development at Armoury Way, Wandsworth there has been resource for re-naturalisation works to the banks of the River Wandle.
- As part of the River Wandle Project teams have been trained up to identify invasive weeds etc.

6.60 Areas for concern:

- Invasive weeds within the River Wandle area including Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed (these areas have been mapped – Living Wandle Partnership Scheme). There may also be some Pennywort.
- There are currently no agri-environment schemes.

6.61 Thoughts on future of the park:

- There are opportunities with the Forestry Commission and Mayor of London for the Big Tree Plant to increase tree cover in London.
- There are opportunities to increase nectar rich planting and include relaxed and rotational cutting regimes (cutting 90% and leaving 10%).
- There's potential for further pollarding and coppicing of woodland areas.
- After assessing whether there are any rare or scarce grass species e.g. acid grassland appropriate grassland management regimes should be adopted. Cut and collecting may improve diversification.
- Access could be improved to the river.
- SUDs opportunities could be looked into to help alleviate any flooding issues.
- The Environment Agency should be involved.

Southfields Academy

6.62 Good points:

- Well used park. The area near Southfields Academy is used heavily by kids and adult teams. There is a 3G football pitch supported by the Premier League which is also well used.
- Land is frequently used as a cut through but offers a range of facilities.

- There are generally good opportunities for play with the skate park and designated play areas.

6.63 Areas for concern:

- There is an issue with dog mess, particularly where children play.
- Lack of provision for older children, there used to be a Youth Centre which was well used many years ago.
- The park is fragmented and there are a number of access issues and pinch points involving fast cyclists and push chair users for example.

6.64 Thoughts on future of the park:

- Southfields Academy are keen to purchase land and are in communication with AFC Wimbledon about sourcing funding for a new pitch.
- There are opportunities to enhance and utilise the River Wandle further as underutilised currently.
- Access, cleanliness and provision for older children could be improved.

6.65 In summary the main points arising out of the consultation are:

- There is good support for the park.
- A well-used resource within a built up environment.
- Important as an open space next to the River Wandle.
- There is a desire to enhance the character of the park alongside historic, wildlife and amenity assets of the park.
- Improved interpretation (including using new technology (apps)) and signage along with the enhancement of the parks character.

Summary of key considerations

6.66 The following summarises the key considerations which have been highlighted within the analysis of Chapter 6: Land use. These are to be taken forward to inform the future policies and management strategies.

- Most areas of the park are popular.
- Typically, visits to the park last for between 30 minutes to 2 hours.
- The primary reason to visit King George's Park is to walk, exercise and to relax. Visiting the children's play areas is also popular alongside visits to the Nuffield Fitness Centre.
- Most respondents visited the park by foot.
- Key issues identified in the stakeholder workshop include: *Biodiversity; invasive species; path surfacing; signage & furniture; lack of community toilets; lack of appropriate facilities for the sporting activities; management of conflict; events policy; trails, guided routes & interpretation; littering and fly tipping on the banks of the Wandle; interface with the river and promoted ecological and cultural links to the park; lack of Friends Group; link and access to the surrounding local area; access to the allotments; lack of identity for the park; unnecessary fencing in the park serves no purpose and feels prohibitive and condition of sports facilities.*
- Generally the borough population is younger than the average for England and Wales, with a third of the population aged 25 to 34 compared to only 13.4% in England and Wales.
- Levels of deprivation within the catchment area are generally low, with most LSOA's falling within top 60% least deprived in the country.

7 Issues and opportunities

- 7.1 Drawing on the preceding evaluation and analysis, this chapter identifies the issues and opportunities that may affect the site as a whole, its component character areas and/or individual features.

Planning policy context	
1(a)	Management of the park will need to accord with national and local planning policy including the National Planning Policy Framework and Wandsworth Local Plan.
1(b)	Relevant planning controls should be followed to ensure the conservation of designated areas including listed buildings, conservation areas, open land, Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation.
1(c)	Appropriate management of priority habitats identified by Biodiversity Action Plans, Species of Principle Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.
1(d)	Features of cultural heritage interest located within the park are not protected through designations.
1(e)	The park has previously been included on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. However it has since been downgraded. Consideration should be given to reviewing this decision particularly if key elements of the park's cultural heritage are conserved.
1(f)	The park is located within an Archaeological Priority Area. Any works will therefore need consider potential impacts on underground archaeology.

Management and maintenance requirements	
2(a)	Management will need to balance the demands for formal and informal recreation with the need to conserve features of nature conservation and cultural heritage importance.
2(b)	The park has experienced issues with anti-social behaviour such as vandalism. However an increase in police presence has reduced anti-social behaviour and built community connections over the last ten years.
2(c)	Any works within the park should have minimal environmental impact, both in terms of the initial works and ongoing use. Where possible, materials specified as any part of a capital works project will come from sustainable sources. This will include supporting local suppliers and businesses and selecting appropriate materials (e.g. FSC certified or similar).
2(d)	There are currently no volunteers involved in the management of the park. There is therefore an opportunity to support a King George's Park Friends group to champion the park and to support ongoing management and delivery of activities.
2(e)	Consideration should be given to the presence of legally protected species before carrying out any work which might cause disturbance (including ongoing maintenance operations). Management should operate in accordance with terms of nature conservations designations (e.g. Site of Nature Conservation Importance).
2(f)	There is potential to review landscape maintenance operations with the aim of increasing habitats of nature conservation interest (e.g. grasslands and woodlands) whilst balancing with the need to

	manage vegetation for personal safety.
2(g)	There are concerns about dogs within the park and there is a need to enforce dog restrictions.
2(h)	There are concerns about the feeding of birds in the lake which attracts pests (e.g. rats). Consideration should be given to providing clear information and signage in-situ regarding bird feeding restrictions.
2(i)	Elements of the park's infrastructure (railings, hard surfaces and play equipment) are in poor or deteriorating condition. There is a need to develop a programme of renewal/ repair/ restoration.
2(j)	There are concerns about lighting around the park. A review of lighting should be considered to ensure all street lights are in working order and their automatic switches timed correctly.
2(k)	The area of grassland within the park extension appears to be currently underused. Consider opportunities to improve visitor offer in this location (e.g. creation of an informal play space).
2(l)	A stand of Japanese Knotweed has been noted on a property adjacent to the park. The Japanese Knotweed (and any other invasive species) should be monitored by the maintenance team and management taken if it spreads into the park.
2(m)	Look to restore key landscape features in the park such as the formal gardens which are in a poor condition.
2(n)	Consideration should be given to increase staff resources in the park to support events including potential partnership with local organisations (e.g. Wandsworth Business Improvement District).
2(p)	Consideration should be given to securing additional funding for the park to delivery park enhancement projects. Potential funding sources could be secured through planning contributions (e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy).
2(q)	Future management and maintenance should be consistent with the aims, principles and objectives identified in the Wandle Valley Green Grid Area Framework.
2(r)	The management of the park is divided between a number of departments and organisation. Wandsworth Council and Enable are responsible for management of the park as whole with the paths and cycleways the responsibility of Highways department and Transport for London. Trees within four metres of the public roads are responsibility of the Highway Authority.

Trees	
3(a)	There currently is not a strategy for the management trees within the park. A strategy is need to guide the conservation or replacement of the lines, avenues and individual trees.
3(b)	Consideration could be given to for increasing standing deadwood and deadwood piles to increase habitats for invertebrates, fungi and birds. Deadwood should be retained where it does not conflict with health and safety concerns.
3(c)	The need to ensure appropriate management of maturing trees to enhance longevity and ecological value particularly where there are already signs of significant decay.
3(d)	Consider opportunities for planting of trees across the site, acknowledging the parks character and current species mix. Consideration should also be given to the anticipated effects of climate change and pests and diseases when choosing new tree species.
3(e)	Tree planting will need sufficient after-care to ensure the successful establishment.

3(f)	Requirement to sensitively manage and control the spread of invasive non-native species including sycamore via Contractor (Idverde). Further support is provided at the Invasive Non Native Species Association (INNSA)
3(g)	Requirement to continue to monitor trees regularly for safety and signs of disease.
3(h)	Age profile of trees is top heavy with low numbers of trees in the small category (12.5% of total).
3(i)	Some tree species within the site could potentially be impacted by climate change in a number of ways. Changes in temperatures and rainfall pattern, for example, could threaten the site's valuable tree stock and alter the range of species suitable for planting. It could also lead to an increase in the diversity and activity of pests and diseases.
3(j)	Requirement to obtain all relevant statutory permissions prior to works affecting trees.. The Forestry Commission will need to be contacted regarding felling licences dependent on the quantity of trees to be removed. .
3(k)	Impacts of the Thames Tideway Tunnel development. The King George's Park site encompasses a small part of the northern end of King George's Park adjacent to the entrance from Buckhold Road and the junction of Buckhold Road and Neville Gill Close. The site will be used to connect the existing Frogmore Storm Relief–Buckhold Road combined sewer overflow to the main tunnel via the Frogmore connection tunnel.
3(l)	There needs to be continued funding for trees in the park and an adequate budget for buying and replacement of trees as well as funding for contractors and tree inspector posts to ensure future tree protection. There are opportunities with the Forestry Commission and in August 2017 the Mayor of London announced his new Greener City Fund, a £9m fund to help plant trees and create and improve green spaces across London (2017-2020). The Greener City Fund includes Community Tree Planting grants. Further information at the GLA website ⁴⁸

Ecology	
4(a)	Habitat fragmentation is an issue, particularly at Kimber Road which acts as a barrier. In addition, tree cover in this areas is limited and development such as the fitness centre contributes to habitat fragmentation along the River Wandle.
4(b)	All grassland areas with the exception of the fenced off habitat areas in character areas two, three and four are intensively managed and maintained very short, as sports pitches and formal recreation spaces. This offers negligible habitat for wildlife and therefore there is an opportunity for more naturalised grass areas particularly at margins.
4(c)	Existing lighting within the park is located in the vicinity of features of likely wildlife value such as treelines adjacent to the River Wandle. This can disrupt the habitat connectivity for many species such as bats.
4(d)	There is limited habitat richness/structure: particularly within character areas two and three. Habitats are restricted to species poor amenity grassland and standard mature trees.
4(e)	Invasive species such as Japanese knotweed was identified along the River Wandle along the eastern banks which is in private ownership. These will require appropriate partnership action for ongoing

⁴⁸ Greater London Authority Website, 2018. *Greener City Fund*. Available at: <<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/greener-city-fund>> [Accessed 23 March 2018]

	management and treatment to avoid spreading. The Wandle Trust Project Officer is responsible for the implementation of the River Wandle Invasive Non-Native Species Action Plan ⁴⁹ . Further support is provided at the Invasive Non Native Species Association (INNSA).
4(f)	Potential for increasing the amount of tall herb and scrub planting particularly to supplement existing trees, treelines and woodland areas, and creating more diverse edge habitats and 'ecotones' which maximise opportunities for wildlife. This could diversify both habitat richness and structure to attract a wider range of wildlife. However, it will be important to maintain visibility for safety.
4(g)	Potential for relaxation of mowing regimes around areas of regularly managed amenity grassland/sports pitches, providing wildlife habitat and increased connectivity. These areas could be enriched through wildflower sowing.
4(h)	Opportunity for planting of pollinator friendly species and plants / shrubs / trees which are known to have benefits for wildlife, including those with high nectar loads, and fruiting and berrying species.
4(i)	Potential to increase tree and scrub cover in strategic areas such as along Kimber Road and the eastern boundary in parcel two to improve connectivity through the park, whilst also improving screening.
4(j)	Increase deadwood to provide habitat for invertebrates in particular, for example by creating loggeries or dead hedges, ideally adjacent to areas of woodland/tree planting (again enhancing edge habitats).
4(k)	Consider increasing interpretation of the park and its habitats (e.g. providing information on interpretation boards, apps or website) in areas set aside for nature and to inform park visitors of the role the park plays for wildlife.
4(l)	Consider opportunities to increase wetland habitat along the edge of the River Wandle.
4(m)	There are opportunities to improve the management of woodland areas to maintain varied habitat structure and species diversity. Management operations could include localised and cyclical coppicing of the understorey/young saplings.

Hydrology	
5(a)	The lake and the River Wandle are key features within/ adjacent to the park but experience issues with littering and regular clean-up activities are required.
5(b)	There is an occasional flooding problem with the path along the western margins of Bodmin Street field due to the French drains not being of sufficient capacity to withstand prolonged periods of heavy rainfall.

Visitor accessibility	
6(a)	The park provides important commuting routes for pedestrians and cyclists.
6(b)	There is currently very little interpretation of the park's significance such as its use to home residents following World War II.
6(c)	The park contains different styles of signage with differing levels of information provided at park

⁴⁹ The Wandle Trust, 2017. *Wandle Invasive Species Action Plan* [pdf] Available at: <<http://www.wandletrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/1.-Wandle-Invasive-Species-Action-Plan.pdf>> [Accessed 22 March 2018]

	entrances. There is insufficient directional signage to the park from the surrounding area.
6(d)	There is no single point of call or joined up approach to communications about the park and upcoming events.
6(e)	There are opportunities to strengthen links with Wandle Valley through incorporating brand identity and interpretation along the Wandle Trail. Such approach would create a greater feeling of cohesiveness with the surrounding green routes.
6(f)	There are insufficient access arrangements to toilets located within the fitness centre and a lack of provision of toilets as a whole throughout the park.
6(g)	Some of the paths are in a poor condition and do not provide optimum width for wheelchair users or double pushchairs.
6(h)	There is limited provision for car parking for the park, which can be an issue for commuters, during summer months and during events. However there is parking in surrounding streets and off-street parking particularly in the northern areas.
6(i)	Some of the entrances are not readily identifiable due to lack of formal labelling as well as reduced sightlines to and from the entrances.
6(j)	Management of the park will need to comply with the Equality Act (2010). Refer to <i>Accessibility Appraisal (2018)</i> for further information.
6(k)	There are newly surfaced and flood lit tennis courts which offer access for those with impaired mobility.
6(l)	The park is dissected and surrounded by a number of roads which have a negative impact on the park and cause safety issues for users. There may be an opportunity to enhance the crossing points on Kimber Road through creating a shared table.
6(m)	Public consultation revealed conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on shared use paths which are segregated. Shared use and desegregated paths are the preferred option due to cyclists tending to go faster on segregated routes.
6(n)	There is limited of availability of cycle parking within or at the periphery of the park.
6(o)	There is limited access and visual connectivity to the River Wandle.
6(s)	Awareness of strategic links within surrounding open spaces could be improved to strengthen access and to support wildlife as outlined in the <i>All London Green Grid Wandle Valley Area Framework (8)</i> by the Greater London Authority (2011) ⁵⁰ .
6(t)	The park experiences occasional issues with traveller communities on playing fields.
6(u)	Wandsworth Council has new policy, moving from segregated paths to space shared between cyclists and pedestrians. Potential for linking the Park into the Quietway system.

Views and vistas

7(a)	There is potential to improve visual connectivity between areas of the park, particularly where it is fragmented by the road network.
------	---

⁵⁰ Greater London Authority, 2011. *All London Green Grid Wandle Valley Area Framework 8*.

7(b)	There has been a gradual deterioration in the condition of trees together with a lack of succession planting.
7(c)	The division of the park by the highway along with the associated fencing is visually intrusive and has created a fragmented park.
7(d)	Encroachment of established perimeter vegetation and trees has resulted in loss in views.
7(e)	Installation of new features should give careful consideration to sightlines.
7(f)	Bankside vegetation impedes views to the River Wandle.
7(g)	Vegetation encroaching on built features including the 20 th century Art Deco style entrances.
7(h)	Vegetation has been allowed to encroach on site lines to and from entrances.
7(i)	Buildings along the perimeter of the park detract from its setting and character.

Built structures	
8(a)	There is little information on the condition of within the park.
8(b)	There is an incoherent approach to site furniture and path surface materials.
8(c)	Built features are not subject to a planned programme of maintenance and conservation.
8(d)	Potential to remove or screen intrusive buildings within the park through planting of trees and shrubs or climbers.
8(f)	The ornamental drinking fountain is currently not in working order.

Land use	
Infrastructure	
9(a)	There are no design guidelines for the provision of site furniture or equipment.
9(b)	Potential to develop sensitively designed and located interpretation at entrances to improve the understanding and orientation within the park.
9(c)	The park provides a widespread network of paths which offers appropriate access in all weathers. There might be opportunities to reduce overall extent of hard surfacing where paths are duplicated.
9(d)	Paths throughout the park are predominantly formed of asphalt or brick. Consideration should be given to the use of materials that reflect the character of the park and which are semi-permeable surfaces to reduce water runoff.
9(e)	The design and location of the cycle lanes are in need of review to reduce conflicts between user groups and ensure that they are of an appropriate width and material.
9(f)	Limited lighting in northern portion of the park which is used as a cut through and by users of the tennis courts and children's centre.

9(g)	The ramp and stairs adjacent to by ABC Selfstore are steep and may pose an obstacle to those with impaired mobility.
9(h)	Consideration could be given to the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) to help alleviate issues with surface water flooding.
Events	
9(i)	The park offers opportunities for a full-programme of events and activities. However the events would need to be carefully managed to ensure there is no long-term damage to the landscape fabric of the park and to minimise disruption to local communities.
9(j)	Consideration should be given to limit the extent of area used for events in order to protect adjacent habitats.
9(k)	Events and activities within the park could be used to engage local community and increase the range of people that visit the park.
9(l)	The park has experienced issues with crime and antisocial behaviour including a serious incident of violence at an event some 10 years ago ⁵¹ . This has possibly resulted in some people not feeling safe in the park.
Community	
9(m)	There is not currently a local representative group that has direct links with the site.
9(n)	The park would benefit greatly from increased resources to undertake physical maintenance, manage and recruit volunteers and to increase opportunities for people to actively engage with the park.
9(o)	Potential to carry out an annual survey to review and monitor park user satisfaction.
9(p)	The park experiences problems with anti-social behaviour which has been largely reduced through the adoption of appropriate management operations.
9(q)	There are opportunities to develop and implement an Activity Plan which will provide a solid understanding of who currently visits the park and encourage existing and new audiences to visit the park.
9(r)	There is currently limited promotion of King George's Park through websites and newsletters.
9(s)	Limited directional signage to link features within the park as well as with other recreation and leisure assets in the surrounding area.
9(t)	There is potential to expand the range of events and learning opportunities linked to the parks heritage, recreation and environment, giving more people an opportunity to become involved.
9(u)	Heavy use of the park for dog walking causes conflicts with other users and wildlife.
9(v)	There are concerns about safe routes to and through the park from surrounding schools. Consideration could be given to providing drop-off points at park and extending crossing times.
9(w)	There is very little information about facilities, interests and what people can/ can't do within the park.

⁵¹ CFP (2017). KPG Phase 1 Stakeholder consultation report

9(x)	The Wandsworth Business Improvement District (BID) would like to see more events taking place in the park. They are aware of an increasing young professional population in the area which are not being catered for in terms of cultural events.
9(y)	Consideration could be given to raising awareness of the importance of the River Wandle through collaboration with the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust.
Facilities	
9(z)	There is limited provision for car parking within the park which causes issues during busy summer months.
9(zi)	There are no public toilets or café in the park.
9(zii)	The sport pitches offer the opportunity to further promote active recreation in the park. However the pitches may need enhancement to ensure they are able to withstand any increase use.
9(ziii)	Careful balance between formal and informal recreation will be required to ensure the park continues to be used by a broad range of users.
9(ziv)	There is often unauthorised use of the football pitches, however this is largely down to lack of awareness of the need to book to use the pitches and teams often move on without any hassle.
9(zv)	There are currently very few facilities within the southern section of the park, including no opportunities for information play.
9(zvi)	The northern section of the park is heavily used and there are opportunities to increase facilities such as toilets, shelter, hub space and bike racks.
9(zvii)	The play area is currently divided in two by age group which causes difficulties for some families.
9(zviii)	The bowling green is largely unused and therefore there are opportunities for enhancement.

8 Management and maintenance aims and objectives

- 8.1 This chapter outlines the vision and supporting objectives which will guide the future management of King George's Park.

Conservation management strategy

- 8.2 The overall strategy is to:

“Conserve and enhance the cultural and natural conservation values of the park, and its association with the River Wandle which flows along its eastern boundary. The intrinsic qualities of the park will be revealed and interpreted to convey the histories of King George's Park and the surrounding communities. Residents and visitors will be actively engaged in the park and its future management.”

Management and maintenance aims

- 8.3 Identified aims for King George's Park are to:

- Positively welcome people into the park, in terms of both physical and social access whilst balancing the need to provide a sanctuary for wildlife in their natural habitats.
- Ensure a healthy, safe and secure experience for park users.
- Provide a well-maintained and clean park, maintaining the landscape, buildings and infrastructure of the park to consistently high standards.
- Improve the environmental quality and sustainability of practices carried out in the park.
- Conserve and increase the diverse mosaic of habitats within the park.
- Conserve and promote the cultural heritage value of the park and maintain the historic landscape character, whilst ensuring provision for contemporary users with relevant events and activities.
- Provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement, particularly through events, education, interpretation and building partnerships.
- Manage the park as a local amenity, a source of pride, which realises the full potential of its cultural and natural heritage attributes and ensures effective promotion of the park as a community resource within the centre of Wandsworth.
- Ensure all those involved (including the local community) in the management and maintenance of King George's Park effectively use the Management and Maintenance Plan as a working document.

- 8.4 It should be noted that each aim and its associated objectives do not exist independently from the others and have been organised in this way for ease of use.

9 Action plan

- 9.1 The following action plan sets out how Wandsworth Council and Enable will conserve and enhance King George's Park. The action plan has been prepared to support the overarching vision, aims and objectives set out in the previous chapter. It has been informed by a thorough analysis of the park and through consultation with park users, stakeholders and surrounding residents. Consultation activities included a drop in session in the park where park users were presented with a site plan identifying potential projects for enhancement. Respondents were asked to comment on each project and to identify which projects should be carried forward as a priority together with any projects they did not agree with. Respondents were also able to suggest other projects not identified on the masterplan. 78 people provided comments during the drop-in session. An online survey was run at the same time which received 110 responses.
- 9.2 This section sets out the programme which will be carried out to meet the management aims and objectives for King George's Park. It lists each management objective, how each will be achieved and who is responsible for achieving them. Where appropriate a timescale is given. The programme will be reviewed annually, and targets monitored to ensure timescales have been achieved.
- 9.3 In assessing the issues and formulating actions for managing the site as both a heritage resource and as an amenity for visitors we make reference to the guidance used by the Green Flag Award scheme. The scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world⁵².
- 9.4 Delivery timescales are defined as follows:
- **Short Term:** Defined as delivery within 1-2 years;
 - **Medium Term:** Defined as delivery within 3-5 years; and
 - **Long Term:** is defined as delivery within 6 + years (all aspirational goals would fall in this category)
- 9.5 Indicative costs are provided for each action. The following cost ranges have been used:
- **Low:** <£1,000
 - **Low-Medium:** £1,000-2,000
 - **Medium:** £2,000-£10,000
 - **Medium-High:** £ 10,000-£50,000
 - **High:** £50,000-£100,000
 - **Major:** >£100,000
 - **TBC** - cost to be determined by further feasibility studies
 - **N/A** - Not applicable
 - **CWEB** - Covered within existing budgets

⁵² Ellicott, K. 2016. *Raising the standard – The Green Flag Award guidance manual*. [pdf] Available at: <<http://www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf>> [Accessed 13 April 2018]

Aim: To positively welcome people into the park, in terms of both physical and social access whilst balancing the need to provide a sanctuary for wildlife in their natural habitats

Ref	Objective	Implementation/ tasks	Character area	Timescale/ frequency	Responsibility	Resources
A.1	Maintain and improve interpretative and directional signage within the park to link with surrounding areas (e.g. Wandle Trail).	Ensure information is clearly displayed, paying particular attention to the key 'gateways' (with contact details, byelaws). Keep all signage clear of graffiti, update information when necessary and ensure consistency in design. Repair damaged or worn signage.	1-4	Ongoing Review information panels on a quarterly basis	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance staff	Existing revenue budgets for ongoing maintenance. Capital budget for repairs/ replacement: Medium-High
A.2	Ensure signage is accessible to all.	Provide signage which incorporates a tactile map for blind and partially sighted people where warnings are required at key park junctions. Further information in <i>King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal (2018)</i> ⁵³ .	1-4	Medium Term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Capital budget: Medium/ Medium-High
A.3	Ensure the park and associated facilities are safe and accessible to all and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.	Ensure surfaces are stable, level and obstruction free with good access to buildings. Refer to the <i>King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal (2018)</i> ⁵³ .	1-4	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance staff	Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors.
A.4	Seek to reduce accessibility conflicts in vicinity of the ramp on the eastern boundary.	Seek improvements to access in the vicinity of the ramp including via Sustrans requesting funding from Transport for London through the Quietway cycling programme.	2	Short term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Capital budget: Medium
A.5	Ensure appropriate seating is provided for all users.	Provide wheelchair accessible seating throughout the park and in particular within the rose garden and picnic area. Provide further seating where there are identified shortfalls as highlighted in <i>King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal (2018)</i> ⁵³ .	1-4	Medium term	Principal Parks Officer (Operations)/ Chief Parks Officer	Capital budget: Medium - High
A.6	Work effectively with access related partners.	Arrange an annual review of the park with relevant partners e.g. Wandsworth Council Highways department.	N/A	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer	Wandsworth Council Leisure and Highways departments. CWEB
A.7	Provide on-site accessibility improvements and guidance.	Address the barriers to access as identified in the <i>King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal (2018)</i> ⁵³ . The proposals should consider the context of intended use and the potential impact on historic fabric. Prepare an access map for the park and update as required.	1-4	Medium term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	TBC
A.8	Strengthen path links to improve access to popular areas.	Improve the path link from the Fitness Centre car park to the wider park path network.	1-4	Long term	Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance staff	Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors. Medium - High
A.9	Enhance appearance and stability of footways through using more appropriate materials.	Paths in poor condition should be repaired/ replaced with consideration given to the most appropriate material. Self-binding gravels, such as Coxwell gravel, may be suitable in some areas.	1-4	Long term	Chief Parks Officer/ Property Services	Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors. Medium – High/ High
A.10	Provide attractive, educational and well way-marked routes for pedestrians.	Consider creating a series of circulation routes offering the opportunity for visitors of all abilities to experience points of interest within the park. Consider a baby friendly 'buggy trail'. One route could be promoted as a heritage walk to provide access to key points of historic interest including key viewpoints, sites of associations and events, and the lake. Consider providing leaflets interpreting the route in the kiosk.	1-4	Long Term	Principal Parks Officer (Biodiversity and Parks Development)	Medium

⁵³ HADA (2018). *King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal*

A.10	Increase use of areas where access is impeded.	Conduct a further survey of usage of the area to the south and north-east of lake as paths are steep in areas. Visitor observation studies suggest the area is not well-used and that there are areas for improvement.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Medium – High/ High
A.11	Enhance the rose garden and its interpretation.	Improve setting, functionality and access at the rose garden including additional heritage interpretation and a sensory garden.	1	Long term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Medium – High/ High
A.12	Consider the need for increased car parking provision.	Conduct a car parking (including disabled) survey within vicinity of park and consider need for increased provision. Any additional parking should be designed to be discrete but safe and accessible.	1-4	Medium term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors.
A.13	Provide safe cycling routes.	Conduct a survey of cycle paths within the vicinity of park and consider need for improving network of shared use paths as well as increasing provision of cycle racks..	1-4	Short term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	TBC, Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors.
A.14	Implement cycleway improvements.	Implement recommendations for cycleway enhancements including path widening (where shared) and realignment where there is conflict with pedestrians. Refer to <i>King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal (2018)</i> ⁵⁴ . Support and implement the Quietway project and shared cycleway proposals following appropriate assessment and consultation. Advantages and disadvantages of segregation are discussed further within <i>Sustrans: The Merits of Segregated and Non-Segregated Traffic-Free Paths – A Literature-Based Review (2011)</i> ⁵⁵ .	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	TBC, Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors.
A.15	Understand surrounding developments which may affect cycling routes in the vicinity of the park.	Keep abreast of Cycle Superhighway Route 8 proposals to the north of Garratt Lane and enhancements for cycling and buses in vicinity of Wandsworth High Street.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	N/A. Officer time. CWEB
A.16	Increase the number of visits to the park using bicycles through the use of technology.	Consider dockless bike technology to encourage sustainable transport to the park.	N/A	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer (Operations)/ Chief Parks Officer	N/A. Officer time. CWEB
A.17	Increase number of visits to the park using public transport.	Work with service providers such as Transport for London, Wandsworth BID and local authorities to improve directional signage to the park and highlight the best routes from existing public transport links.	N/A	Medium term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	N/A. Officer time. CWEB
A.18	Improve catering facilities within the park.	Seek opportunities to provide a catering concession within the park.	1	Medium term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Officer time and business planning consultants. Medium
A.19	Improve crossing points across Kimber Road.	Consider need for the creation of a pedestrian priority zone in vicinity of Kimber Road. A possible intervention may include the creation of a wide raised table at zebra crossing point aligned with entrances.	3-4	Long term	Wandsworth Council Highways and Transportation department	Wandsworth Council Highways department Major
A.20	Promote and provide managed sports activities in the current identified sports areas	Secure additional resources and funds for sport and recreation enhancements. Investigate other potential funding sources to support sport facility enhancements.	N/A	Short term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Officer time. CWEB

⁵⁴ HADA (2018). *King George's Park Accessibility Appraisal*

⁵⁵ Phil Jones Associates (2011). *Sustrans – The Merits of Segregated and Non-Segregated Traffic-Free Paths – A Literature-Based Review, Updated Report, Aug 2011* [pdf] Available at: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sites/default/files/file_content_type/phil_jones_associates_report_-_september_2011.pdf> [Accessed 22 March 2018]

A.21	Strengthen links with the wider green infrastructure network.	Understand peripheral green infrastructure assets and potential enhancement (e.g. through tree planting and signage) to improve access and support wildlife as outlined in <i>the All London Green Grid Wandle Valley Area Framework (8)</i> by the Greater London Authority (2011) ⁵⁶ . Continue to support the Wandle Trail (Greenway for walkers and cyclists). A 12 mile shared walking and cycling route and NCN route 20 for much of its length. NB In 2012 TfL commissioned Sustrans to produce a feasibility study assessing relevant issues.	1-4	Long Term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Officer time. CWEB
A.22	Improve the setting of the existing car park at the Fitness Centre.	Develop proposals to reduce the visual impact of the car park on the character of the King George's Park. This include tree planting.	3	Medium Term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Medium

Aim: To improve the environmental quality and sustainability of practices carried out in the park

Ref	Objective	Implementation/ task	Character area	Timescale/ frequency	Responsibility	Resources
B.1	Minimise use of pesticides and fertilisers.	Ensure pesticide use is minimised via controlled droplet application and spot weed treatment and fertiliser application restricted.	N/A	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer	CWEB
B.2	Encourage waste recycling.	Review potential locations and provide green waste recycling / capability and ensure staff are aware of policy. Include recycling requirement within operating specification of any new proposed structures.	N/A	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer	Medium
B.3	Ensure sustainability in management.	All capital works should be assessed for sustainability impacts and efforts should be made to "close the loop" with regard to recycling materials.	N/A	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer	CWEB
B.4	Incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems.	Seek opportunities to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems within the park to attenuate surface water.	1-4	Medium term	Principal Parks Officer	Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors, civil engineers and contractors. Capital costs
B.5	Ensure efficient and effective lighting within the park.	Ensure lighting is in working order and automatic timing switches are timed correctly. Utilise lower lux or more directional lighting to limit adverse ecological impact following appropriate assessment.	1-4	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer	Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors, civil engineers and contractors. Capital costs
B.6	Ensure staff are trained to understand environmental issues, principles of sustainability and management practices to increase biodiversity.	Provide staff training specific to the requirements of King George's Park through the internal appraisal process.	N/A	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance contractor	CWEB

⁵⁶ Greater London Authority, 2011. *All London Green Grid Wandle Valley Area Framework 8*.

Aim: Maintain and increase the diverse mosaic of habitats within the park with encouragement of its de-urbanisation.

Aim Conserve and promote the heritage value of the park and maintain the historic landscape character, whilst ensuring provision for contemporary users with relevant events and activities.

Ref	Objective	Implementation/Task	Character area	Timescale/frequency	Responsibility	Resources
General						
C.1	Use statutory legislation to protect the site and its component parts.	Be aware of legislation which is applicable to the site and its elements, including its heritage, landscape and ecological significance.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Wandsworth Council Planning Department	CWEB
C.2	Ensure appropriate management of natural features, wildlife and flora, landscape features and structural features.	Ensure all maintenance is carried out according to the maintenance schedule. Train maintenance staff in specialist historic planting/conservation skills.	1-4	As required by the schedule Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance contractor	CWEB
C.3	Conserve important views from the site and inform the public of their historic significance.	Manage vegetation in accordance with the maintenance schedule. Information provision on views.	1-4	As required by the schedule Medium term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance contractor	CWEB
C.4	Raise awareness of the cultural and natural heritage value of the park.	Develop an interpretation strategy to ensure visitors are aware of the park's heritage and social history.	N/A	Long Term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Wandsworth Council Leisure Contract Manager	Medium-High
C.5	Conserve the fabric and historical integrity of the park.	Carry out maintenance in accordance with the maintenance schedule and recommendations as set out in this Management and Maintenance Plan.	N/A	As required.	Principal Parks Officer Wandsworth Council Property Services	CWEB
Ecology						
C.6	Conserve the nature conservation values of the park.	The park contains diverse wildlife habitats including a pond/lake, neutral grassland, standard trees and broadleaved semi-natural woodland habitats. Management should seek to contribute towards London and Wandsworth Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) objectives.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	CWEB
C.7	Extend areas of naturalised grassland, edge habitats and ecotones.	Manage the naturalised grasslands with appropriate cutting regimes, removal of arisings and removal of encroaching scrub/tree species including potential removal of inappropriate planted species. Seek opportunities to create diverse edge habitats and ecotones.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance team	CWEB
C.8	Create areas of neutral grassland.	Identify areas of neutral grassland to be created through adopting appropriate cutting regimes, and scarification.	2-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	CWEB

					Grounds maintenance team	
C.9	Manage tree and scrub planting for the benefit of wildlife.	Increase tree and scrub cover in strategic areas, such as along Kimber Road and the eastern boundary in parcel two, to improve connectivity through the park, whilst also improving screening.	2-3	Medium term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	CWEB
C.10	Monitor ecological value of the park.	Develop a targeted and realistic Ecological Monitoring Strateg to collect data on the nature conservation value of the park. Target species could include birds, bats, grassland invertebrate surveys (neutral), aquatic invertebrate surveys, and lepidoptera (butterflies and moths). Seek opportunities to work with community groups to carry out surveys. This would build on existing monitoring activities.	1-4	Long term	Biodiversity and Development Manager	Medium
C.11	Upgrade designation for River Wandle in Wandsworth SINC.	Consider implementation recommendation within the Review of Metropolitan SINC for the Greater London Authority (GLA) ⁵⁷ which recommends upgrading the River Wandle in Wandsworth SINC to the Metropolitan level.	N/A	Long term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Wandle Valley Regional Park	Medium
C.12	Re-naturalise the Lake.	Continue to maintain and establish re-naturalising enhancements to the Lake.	1	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance team	Medium
C.13	Encourage dead wood habitat within the park.	Retain standing dead wood and dead wood piles where it does not conflict with health and safety concerns and does not form part of formal designed areas including tree avenues. This will help to encourage invertebrates, fungi and birds and conform with the proposed more naturalised areas of the park. For further information see English Heritage landscape advice note document <i>The Treatment of Dead Wood in Historic Parks and Gardens (2011)</i> ⁵⁸ .	1-4	Ongoing	Arboricultural Officer Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance team	CWEB
C.14	Control and reduce invasive vegetation species.	Sensitively manage and control the spread of invasive non-native species including sycamore via Contractor (Idverde). Further support is provided at the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (GBNNS).	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Arboricultural Officer Grounds maintenance team	CWEB
C.15	Enhance the biodiversity value of woodland compartments.	Manage woodland and scrub through rotational coppicing and cutting back. Maintain and create further glades with scalloped edges. Protect self-sown native trees during scrub management as the preferred method of woodland renewal. If new planting is required native species of local provenance will be used which are in keeping with the existing woodland character.	4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Arboricultural Officer Grounds maintenance team	CWEB, Volunteer support
C.16	Maintain ecologically diverse grasslands.	Sensitive grassland areas should receive specified treatment according to specialist ecological advice.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	CWEB
C.17	Carry out regular biodiversity monitoring.	Conduct regular monitoring of habitats and flora and fauna by specialists, in-house staff and with supervised volunteers.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Specialist fees

⁵⁷ LUC (2016). *Greater London Authority: Review of Metropolitan SINC*

⁵⁸ English Heritage, 2011. *Landscape Advice Note: The Treatment of Dead Wood in Historic Parks and Gardens* [pdf] Available at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN_-_the_treatment_of_deadwood.pdf> [Accessed 18 April 2018]

C.18	Address deficiencies in pollen and nectar sources.	Develop a long term programme to identify and address deficiencies of pollen and nectar sources at the park. Consider areas for scarification, seeding and plug planting.	1-4	Long term	Biodiversity and Development Manager	Specialist fees
Historic and landscape						
C.19	Ensure park management complies with legislation.	Ensure that changes to the park or its component parts are informed by detailed surveys including archaeology, history, ecology (including protected species) and an assessment of the impact of the change on the site and its significance.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Specialists on potential impacts
C.20	Review decision to remove the park from Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.	With improvements to the understanding of the park's historic features and landscape consider reviewing the decision to remove the park from the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.	1-4	Short Term	Wandsworth Council Planning Department Historic England	Medium, specialists on range of appropriate legislation, professional fees
C.21	Provide further heritage protection and understanding of King George's Park, its built structures and layout.	Local heritage listing should be considered for a range of historic structures within the park on account of their special architectural or historic interest including gate piers and entrances.	1-4	Ongoing	Wandsworth Council Planning Department	Medium, specialists on range of appropriate legislation, professional fees
C.22	Secure additional resources and funds for conservation of features of cultural heritage importance.	Investigate other potential funding sources to support restoration and conservation of features of cultural heritage significance. Sources could include the Heritage Alliance funding directory and utilising GRANTfinder.	N/A	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager	N/A
C.23	Seek additional resources and funds for tree planting	Investigate opportunities for funding of tree planting including through the Forestry Commission, the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund and community tree planting grants.	N/A	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager	N/A
C.24	Provide a long term strategy for trees and their planting within the park.	Develop a planting and tree strategy linked to maintenance contract and volunteer programme of works.	N/A	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Arboricultural Manager	High, Arboricultural consultants fees
C.25	Restore the ornamental drinking fountain.	Restore the ornamental drinking fountain following research into original design.	2	Medium term	Biodiversity and Development Manager	Medium
C.26	Introduce drinking fountains around the park.	Conduct feasibility study to assess appropriate locations for drinking fountains in and around sports grounds.	N/A	Medium term	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Development Manager	Medium to high
C.27	Enhance ornamental entrance gates.	Repaint, restore and enhance main gates including painted crests.	1-4	Short term	Principal Parks Officer (Biodiversity and Parks Development)	Specialist fees
C.28	Maintain sightlines to historic buildings and landscape features.	Carry out grounds maintenance to areas surrounding prominent features and structures. Vegetation to the River Wandle from key junctions and bridges should be managed to maintain sightlines. Consideration should be given to ecological impact before carrying out works.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Arboricultural Officer Grounds maintenance team	CWEB
C.29	Seek opportunity to move or screen visually intrusive structures.	Remove or screen inappropriate and unsympathetic late C20 buildings and structure accretions.	1-4	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	CWEB
C.30	Enhance existing lighting provision.	Consider lower level lighting and/or ornamental traditional style lighting columns in place of existing utilitarian lighting columns.	1-4	Long term	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Specialist fees

C.31	Consider zoning of sport facilities.	Aim to amalgamate sports provision in a portion of the park, removing widely distributed and poorly maintained trim trail equipment.	1-4	Long term	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Specialist fees
C.32	Ensure buildings are fully operational.	Carry out a detailed review of existing buildings to identify any buildings which could be removed, where new space could be provided, or an alternate use considered. The overall footprint of buildings should not increase.	1-4	Short Term	Principal Parks Officer Borough Valuer Wandsworth Council Property Services	TBC
C.33	Ensure new buildings are of a high design quality.	New buildings should be of a high architectural quality which is sustainable, relates to the locality, has stylistic integrity and meets current and future functional needs.	1-4	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Borough Valuer Wandsworth Council Property Services	TBC
C.34	Ensure all areas of the park are well-used.	Investigate and implement opportunities for the redesign of the bowling green area and associated building. Commission a landscape architect to redesign elements of the wider park.	1-4	Medium Term	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Wandsworth Council, landscape consultants and contractors, civil engineers and contractors. Capital costs
C.35	Conserve all historic structures.	Conserve and where applicable restore historic structures, allowing them to be visible and enjoyed by all.	1-4	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer Borough Valuer Wandsworth Council Property Services	Capital costs
C.36	Implement a cyclical programme of repairs/ renewals for the built structures.	Develop a 20 year plan for maintaining buildings and infrastructure.	1-4	Ongoing	Borough Valuer Wandsworth Council Property Services	Professional fees
C.37	Increase the archaeological baseline knowledge on King George's Park.	Carry out further research to fully understand the potential for the park to contain underground archaeology. The research project could include mapping of known archaeological sites, the use of geophysics and a review of archival material.	1-4	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Medium
C.38	Develop a heritage and interpretation project to reveal the park's connections with King George's Park Estate.	Work with the Wandsworth Heritage Centre to develop an oral history project with former residents to gather information and images for use in future interpretation material. Consider incorporating material within the annual Heritage Festival.	N/A	Short term	Strategy and Information Officer Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Medium

Aim: Provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement, particularly through events, education, interpretation and building partnerships

Ref.	Objective	Implementation/ task	Character area	Timescale/ frequency	Responsibility	Resources
D.1	Provide readily accessible and widely distributed interactive information on King George's Park.	Explore technical vehicles for delivering site interpretation such as PDA/ smart-phone/ tablet Apps to provide visitors with a greater understanding of the park's history and importance.	N/A	Medium term	Strategy and Information Officer	Medium

D.2	Increase the involvement of the park in the national curriculum and school use.	Increase the educational opportunities of the park through supporting and establishing a teacher's pack.	N/A	Short term	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	CWEB
D.3	Promote the use of the park for formal recreation.	Promote sporting facilities within the park as a mechanism to encourage good health, community cohesion, social inclusion and quality of life.	1-3	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Wandsworth Council Leisure and Sports department	CWEB
D.4	Establish a Sports Advisory Forum to advise Wandsworth Council on sporting matters.	Set up a sports stakeholder group at King George's Park and integrate with a newly established Friends of King George's Park group.	N/A	Medium term	Executive Director - Parks & Leisure Services	Low-Medium
D.5	Promote tennis facilities within the park.	Promote the use of tennis courts and investigate funding opportunities to provide a tennis pavilion and associated changing rooms via the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). Plans were drawn up previously by All Star tennis.	N/A	Medium term	Executive Director - Parks & Leisure Services	Low-Medium
D.6	Encourage greater use of the all-weather pitch by members of the public.	Liaise with Southfields Academy to consider opportunities for the all-weather pitch to be available for use by the public/park users more frequently.	N/A	Ongoing	Executive Director - Parks & Leisure Services Wandsworth Council Leisure and Sports department	CWEB
D.7	Encourage community and volunteer support.	Expand the scale and operations of the community and volunteer groups through recruitment and training programmes so they become long-term stakeholders.	N/A	Medium term	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Medium
D.8	Support a Friends of King George's Park group.	Develop and involve a Friends of King George's Park group to champion the park and provide a local community resource.	N/A	Medium Term	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Medium
D.9	Develop the programme of events and activities held within the park.	Promote the use of the park for events and activities to attract visitors. Delivery will be according to the Open Spaces Events Policy. Consider need for additional infrastructure to support events (e.g. vehicle gates and water stand pipes). Ensure there is no long-term damage to the landscape fabric of the park and disruption to local communities is minimised. Pre-event and post-event condition surveys are suggested to assess damage and allow appropriate remedial works. Income from events should be invested back into park.	1-4	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer Events Operations Manager	CWEB
D.10	Ensure control of invasive species.	Action is required for the management and treatment of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed. The Wandle Trust Project Officer is responsible for the implementation of the River Wandle Invasive Non-Native Species Action Plan ⁵⁹ . Further support is provided at the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (GBNNS).	N/A	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Medium
D.11	Strengthen relationship with the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust.	Work with the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust to provide a consistent and informative palette of signage along the Wandle Trail.	N/A	Medium term	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Low-Medium
D.12	Promote stakeholder partnerships.	Strengthen partnerships with local organisations such as the Business Improvement District.	N/A	Medium term	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Low-Medium

⁵⁹ The Wandle Trust, 2017. *Wandle Invasive Species Action Plan* [pdf] Available at: <<http://www.wandletrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/1.-Wandle-Invasive-Species-Action-Plan.pdf>> [Accessed 22 March 2018]

D.13	Regular communication regarding Thames Tideway.	Continue regular communication with the Community Liaison Working Group regarding Thames Tideway and its impact upon King George's Park.	N/A	Short term	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Principal Parks Officer	Low-Medium
D.14	Improve allotment provision.	Investigate opportunities for the enhancement and extension of the allotments, including providing better access by reconnecting the site with the path adjoining Burr Road.	3-4	Ongoing	Allotments Officer Horticultural and Infrastructure Officer Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager Parks Development and Fundraising Officer	Medium- High
D.15	Adopt an Activity Plan.	Commission and implement an Activity Plan, setting out aims and objectives to encourage new audiences to visit the park.	N/A	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Medium
D.16	Obtain visitor feedback.	Establish a regular programme of visitor surveys and develop methods of providing feedback on actions taken.	N/A	Ongoing	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Medium, Volunteer support
D.17	Involve local community in archaeological research.	Involve local community in the research of the park's history and any archaeological investigations.	1-4	Medium term	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Medium
D.18	Strengthen links with similar sites.	Promote links between the park and other assets in the borough.	N/A	Long Term	Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Medium

Aim: Develop the park as a local amenity, a source of pride, which realises the full potential of its historic and natural attributes and ensures effective promotion of the park as a community resource within the centre of Wandsworth.

Ref.	Objective	Implementation/ task	Character area	Timescale/ frequency	Responsibility	Resources
E.1	Promote King George's Park through the use of online material.	Increase the amount of information provided about King George's Park on the Wandsworth Council website. Details about the park's natural and cultural heritage should be provided along with details of events and activities.	N/A	Medium term	Strategy and Information Officer Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Low-Medium
E.2	Increase information available within the park.	Consider upgrading the kiosk with a leaflet dispenser space for information regarding the park.	1	Medium term	Strategy and Information Officer Principal Parks Officer Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	Low-Medium
E.3	Provide regular updates on the park through various media.	Improve the way the park is promoted through a new website, social media and newsletter.	N/A	Long term	Strategy and Information Officer Principal Parks Officer	Medium

					Biodiversity and Parks Development Manager	
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Aim: Ensure all those involved (including the local community) in the management and maintenance of King George's Park effectively use the Management and Maintenance Plan as a working document

Ref	Objective	Implementation/Task	Character area	Timescale/frequency	Responsibility	Resources
F.1	Implement the Management and Maintenance Plan and make available to staff and park user groups.	Copy of Management and Maintenance Plan to be available in staff office and shared with stakeholder groups.	N/A	Ongoing	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance team	CWEB
F.2	Ensure effective monitoring of the Management and Maintenance Plan	Implement monitoring process between Council officers, Enable, grounds maintenance contractor and stakeholder groups. Review Management and Maintenance Plan annually, update after 5 years and re-write after 10 years.	N/A	Annually	Biodiversity and Development Manager Principal Parks Officer Grounds maintenance team	CWEB
F.3	Ensure management is financially sound.	Provide necessary funding to maintain park to required standard. Follow Best Value aims to provide excellent quality of service and relevance to local people.	N/A	Ongoing	Wandsworth Council	CWEB

10 Review

- 10.1 The Management and Maintenance Plan will be continually reviewed, revised and re-written. The cycle for the Management and Maintenance Plan is to:
- Write and adopt the plan
 - Operate according to the aims and objectives held within the plan
 - Monitor the operation of the plan
 - Review the working of the plan
 - Revise and improve the plan where necessary to reflect on-going developments such as visitor survey feedback and revised financial projections.
- 10.2 Wandsworth Council will be responsible for carrying out monitoring to ensure that maintenance work has been carried out satisfactorily. The Principal Parks Officer will be responsible for the day to day implementation of the MMP and will monitor maintenance standards within the park. (S)he will also ensure that all other relevant council officers are involved in monitoring and review of management and maintenance work and the plan itself as necessary.
- 10.3 In addition the following methods of monitoring and review will be implemented:
- Site user surveys will be used to monitor the success of the plan.
 - The Green Flag Award annual feedback will be used to guide review of the plan if an application for the award is implemented.
- 10.4 The MMP covers a period of 10 years following the completion of the restoration works. It will be subject to continual review as it is used and Wandsworth Council will carry out a full review annually to enable any improvements and alterations to be made as necessary. The Management and Maintenance Plan will be formally rewritten in the 5th and 10th year after completion of the restoration works.

Appendix 1
Relevant planning policy

The national and local policy context relating to King George's Park is set out below.

National Planning Policy Framework

The overarching aim of the NPPF is to achieve sustainable development, which is the mutual integration of economic, social, and environmental concerns.

Promoting Healthy Communities⁶⁰

Local planning authorities should aim to involve all sections of the community in the development of Local Plans and in planning decisions. Specific to open spaces, Local Authorities should:

- Promote safe and accessible environments, which encourage active and continual uses.
- Seek to ensure that open spaces are of high quality; promote opportunities to engage in sport and recreation for health and well-being.
- Existing open space, sports and recreational land, should not be built on unless the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- Protect and enhance public rights of way and access, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
- Managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

Green Belts⁶¹

The essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. Local Authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of them by supporting opportunities to provide access, opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation, enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity and improve damaged and derelict land.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment⁶²

Local planning decisions should ensure the protection of wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape which is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance. Local planning authorities should:

- Plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure
- Promote the preservation, restoration, and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks, and the protection and recovery of priority species populations.
- Avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life.
- Identify and protect areas of tranquillity, which are prized for their recreational and amenity value.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment⁶³

Local Authorities should take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place. In addition Local authorities should seek to:

- Avoid substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden as well as notably scheduled monuments.

⁶⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) [National Planning Policy Framework](#), Ch8

⁶¹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) [National Planning Policy Framework](#), Ch9

⁶² Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) [National Planning Policy Framework](#), Ch11

⁶³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) [National Planning Policy Framework](#), Ch12

- Assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the dis-benefits of Local planning.

Infrastructure

Local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to:

- assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, waste, health, social care, education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands; and
- take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

NPPG is a web-based resource providing practical guidance on how to implement of the NPPF.

Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space⁶⁴

Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. Local Authorities should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area. In managing designated green spaces, Local Authorities are required to consider how they conserve the features that make a green area special and locally significance.

Natural Environment⁶⁵

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, places a duty on all public authorities to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible. They should consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to enhance biodiversity and contribute to wildlife and habitat connectivity in the wider area.

Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment⁶⁶

The conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle. The risks of neglect and decay of heritage assets are best addressed through ensuring that they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation.

Historic England planning advice

Historic England have prepared detailed written advice to support owners, developers and local planning authorities considering proposed changes to historic buildings and places. Historic England's Good Practice Advice (GPAs) address plan-making and decision-taking, and other issues which are important in good decision-making affecting heritage assets.

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans⁶⁷

Requires a plan for the maintenance to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. They should also seek to conserve heritage assets potentially engages all aspects of planning.

⁶⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government (2014) [National Planning Practice Guidance](#), Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space

⁶⁵ Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) [National Planning Practice Guidance](#), Natural Environment

⁶⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) [National Planning Practice Guidance](#), Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

⁶⁷ Historic England (2015) [Historic Environment Good Practice Advice In Planning Note 1: The Historic Environment In Local Plans](#)

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment⁶⁸

Provides a good practice guide for structuring and assembling relevant information to support an application affecting a heritage asset. The guide highlights the need for developers and decision makers to understand the significance of any affected heritage asset and, if relevant, the contribution to its setting of its significance. The guide highlights the need to access expert information including sources of information held by local interest groups and societies.

Local Authorities are encouraged to ensure that new development takes appropriate opportunities to improve the character of an area.

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets⁶⁹

The purpose of this Historic England's Good Practice Advice note is to provide information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the NPPF and PPG in relation to assessing the setting, curtilage, character and context of the heritage asset.

Regional Planning Context

Greater London Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces bye-laws⁷⁰

Governs the access to parks, use and management of facilities (including biodiversity), building and obstructions, traffic, control of animals, nuisances, sales and exhibitions and permitted recreational activities.

London Plan

The replacement London Plan was adopted in July 2011 and sets out the spatial development strategy for Greater London, providing a framework for the development and use of land over the next 20-25 years. The current London Plan was published in March 2014. It provides a strategic, London-wide policy context within which boroughs should set their local planning policies. Revised Early Minor Alterations were published in 2013. In 2015, Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALPs) and Minor Alterations to the London Plan (MALPS) were published⁷¹.

Policy 2.18 – Green Infrastructure: the network of open green spaces⁷²

The policy encourages a more integrated approach to the management of the parks and green space network such that it delivers a wider range of functions, which are identified in the All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance⁷³.

The Borough is required to:

- undertake qualitative and quantitative assessments of green and open space need;
- produce open space/green space strategies, based on best practice guidance⁷⁴; to
- realise the current and potential value of open space and support delivery of the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits.
- Developments must incorporate enhanced green infrastructure integrated into the wider network and public realm to improve accessibility for all.

⁶⁸ Historic England (2015) [Historic Environment Good Practice Advice In Planning Note 2: Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment](#).

⁶⁹ Historic England (2015) [Historic Environment Good Practice Advice In Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets](#).

⁷⁰ Greater London Council (1965) [Greater London Council parks, Gardens and Open Spaces Bye Laws](#)

⁷¹ Greater London Authority (2015) [Further Alterations to the London Plan](#)

⁷² Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) 2016, Policy 2.18

⁷³ Greater London Authority (2012) [All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)

⁷⁴ Greater London Authority and CABE (2009) [Best Practice Guidance](#)

Policy 7.4 – Local Character⁷⁵

The policy requires the Borough to characterise local natural and cultural heritage to conserve and enhance notable landscapes, buildings and places.

Developments must improve an area's visual or physical connection with natural features and if possible contribute to establishing an enhanced character. Buildings, streets and open space designs should:

- Have regard to the form, function, structure and heritage of a place, including the scale, mass, orientation, pattern and grain of surrounding buildings, streets and spaces
- Have a positive impact on the relationship between urban and natural features;
- Be human in scale to maintain and create a positive relationship between buildings and street level activity and
- Maintain the positive contributions to character of existing buildings and structures.
- The Mayor's Shaping Neighbourhoods: Character and Context Supplementary Planning Guidance⁷⁶ provides additional information.

Policy 7.6 – Heritage Assets and Archaeology⁷⁷

The policy requires the Borough to work with statutory organisations, such as English Heritage and Natural England, and developers to identify, protect, enhance and improve access to built, landscaped and buried heritage assets, their character and settings.

Developments should identify, record, value, protect, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate, being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

Policy 7.8 Heritage Assets and Archaeology⁷⁸

The policy requires Local Authorities and developers to incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

Policy 7.17 – Metropolitan Open Land⁷⁹

The policy requires the Borough to provide protection, equivalent to the provisions provided by Green Belt policy, to large blocks or corridors of open space which form distinctive landscapes that either:

- Contribute to the physical structure of London as a clearly distinguishable spaces
- Include open air facilities, especially for leisure, recreation, sport, the arts and cultural activities, which serve a significant proportion of London
- Contains historic, recreational, biodiversity features or landscapes of national or metropolitan value and
- Form a link in the City's network of green infrastructure and meet one of the above criteria.

Policy 7.18 Protecting Open Space and Addressing Deficiency⁸⁰

The policy requires the Borough to provide all residents with access to open space, consistent with audits of all forms of open space and assessments of need. These should be both qualitative and quantitative, and have regard to the cross-borough nature and use of many of these open spaces.

Loss of local protected open spaces must be resisted unless equivalent or better quality provision is made within the local catchment area.

⁷⁵ Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) 2016, Policy 7.4

⁷⁶ Greater London Authority (2013) [Supplementary Planning Guidance: Shaping Neighbourhoods: Character and Context](#)

⁷⁷ Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) 2016, Policy 7.6

⁷⁸ Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) 2016, Policy 7.8

⁷⁹ Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) 2016, Policy 7.17

⁸⁰ Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) 2016, Policy 7.18

Policy 7.19 – Biodiversity and Access to Nature⁸¹

The policy requires the Borough to use the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy⁸² to identify, protect and manage statutory nature designations, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites described in the London Plan Implementation Report 'Improving Londoners Access to Nature'⁸³ and green and blue corridors of movement for species.

Furthermore, the Borough should publish policies and proposals to protect species and habitats in line with regional BAP targets. The Mayor and the London Biodiversity Partnership have identified targets for the re-creation and restoration of priority habitats outlined in Table 7.3 of the London Plan⁸⁴.

Developments adversely affecting protected species, priority species or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation should be resisted on the basis of the following hierarchy:

- Avoid adverse impact to the biodiversity interest
- Minimize impact and seek mitigation and
- Seek appropriate compensation only in exceptional cases where the benefits of the proposal clearly outweigh the biodiversity impacts.

Policy 7.21 Trees and Woodlands

The policy requires the Borough to protect and manage tree and woodland enhancement in accordance with the London Tree and Woodland Framework Guidance⁸⁵ implementing a tree and woodland strategy⁸⁶ that retains existing trees of value, including 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland outside of designated sites, replacing lost trees and appropriately planting additional trees, such as large-canopied species, in new developments.

Draft London Plan 2017

The Mayor published a consultation draft of a new London Plan in November 2017. The new London Plan is due to be published in autumn 2019. The current 2016 consolidation Plan is still the adopted Development Plan. However, the Draft London Plan is a material consideration in planning decisions. It gains more weight as it moves through the process to adoption. Relevant policies within the draft London Plan are outlined below.

Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities

This policy seeks to deliver strong and inclusive communities. It requires development to ensure that streets and public spaces are planned for people to move around and spend time in comfort and safety, creating places where everyone is welcome, which foster a sense of belonging and community ownership, and where communities can develop and flourish.

Policy GG2 Making the best use of land

This policy requires developers to protect London's open spaces, including the Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, designated nature conservation sites and local spaces, and promote the creation of new green infrastructure and urban greening.

Policy GG3 Creating a healthy city

This policy requires developers to plan for improved access to green spaces and the provision of new green infrastructure.

Policy D3 Inclusive design

This policy requires development to deliver an inclusive environment and meet the needs of all Londoners. Development proposals are required to achieve the highest standards of accessible and inclusive design, ensuring they:

⁸¹ Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) 2016, Policy 7.19

⁸² Greater London Authority, (2002) [Connecting with Nature – the Mayors Biodiversity Strategy](#)

⁸³ Greater London Authority, (2008) [Improving Londoners Access to Nature – London plan Implementation Report](#). (Consolidated with Alterations since 2004)

⁸⁴ Greater London Authority (2016) [London Plan](#) Table 7.3

⁸⁵ Greater London Authority, (2005) [A Tree and Woodland Framework for London](#).

⁸⁶ Greater London Authority (2012) [Green Infrastructure and Open Environments Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)

- can be entered and used safely, easily and with dignity by all
- are convenient and welcoming with no disabling barriers, providing independent access without additional undue effort, separation or special treatment.
- are designed to incorporate safe and dignified emergency evacuation for all building users. In developments where lifts are installed, as a minimum at least one lift per core (or more subject to capacity assessments) should be a fire evacuation lift suitable to be used to evacuate people who require level access from the building.

Policy D7 Public realm

This policy seeks to ensure good design within the public realm and outlines a number of requirements including:

- Ensure the public realm is safe, accessible, inclusive, attractive, well connected, easy to understand and maintain, and that it relates to the local and historic context, and incorporates the highest quality design, landscaping, planting, street furniture and surfaces.
- Ensure appropriate management and maintenance arrangements are in place for the public realm, which maximise public access and minimise rules governing the space to those required for its safe management in accordance with the Public London Charter.
- Incorporate green infrastructure into the public realm to support rainwater management through sustainable drainage, reduce exposure to air pollution, manage heat and increase biodiversity.
- Ensure that shade and shelter are provided with appropriate types and amounts of seating to encourage people to spend time in a place, where appropriate
- Ensure the provision and future management of free drinking water at appropriate locations in new or redeveloped public realm.

Policy S1 Developing London's social infrastructure

This policy states development proposals that would result in a loss of social infrastructure in an area of defined need should be refused unless:

- there are realistic proposals for re-provision that continue to serve the needs of the neighbourhood, or;
- the loss is part of a wider public service transformation plan which requires investment in modern, fit for purpose infrastructure and facilities in order to meet future population needs or to sustain and improve services.

The policy also states redundant social infrastructure should be considered for full or partial use as other forms of social infrastructure before alternative developments are considered.

Policy S4 Play and informal recreation

This policy requires development proposals to increase opportunities for play and informal recreation and enable children and young people to be independently mobile. It also requires proposals to incorporate accessible routes for children and young people to existing play provision, schools and youth centres, within the local area, that enable them to play and move around their local neighbourhood safely and independently.

Policy S5 Sports and recreation facilities

This policy requires development proposals for sports and recreational facilities to:

- increase or enhance the provision of facilities in accessible locations, well-connected to public transport and link to networks for walking and cycling
- maximise the multiple use of facilities, and encourage the co-location of services between sports providers, schools, colleges and other community facilities

- support the provision of sports lighting within reasonable hours where there is an identified need for sports facilities and lighting is required to increase their potential usage, unless the lighting gives rise to demonstrable harm to the local community or biodiversity
- ensure that there is no net loss of facilities, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand.

Policy HC1 Heritage conservation and growth

This policy notes development proposals affecting heritage assets, and their settings, should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to the assets' significance and appreciation within their surroundings. The cumulative impacts of incremental change from development on heritage assets and their settings, should also be actively managed. Development proposals should seek to avoid harm and identify enhancement opportunities by integrating heritage considerations early on in the design process.

This policy also requires development proposals to identify assets of archaeological significance and use this information to avoid harm or minimise it through design and appropriate mitigation.

Policy G1 Green infrastructure

This policy states London's network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment such as green roofs and street trees, should be protected, planned, designed and managed as integrated features of green infrastructure.

Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land

This policy seeks to protect the Metropolitan Open Land from inappropriate development. The policy states:

- development proposals that would harm MOL should be refused
- boroughs should work with partners to enhance the quality and range of uses of MOL.

Policy G4 Local green and open space

This policy requires local developers to protect local green and open spaces. The policy states the loss of green and open spaces should be resisted in areas of deficiency. If losses are proposed outside of areas of deficiency, equivalent or better quality provision should be made within the local catchment area unless an up-to-date needs assessment demonstrates this is unnecessary.

Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature

This policy seeks to enhance biodiversity and access to nature. It notes Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be protected. Where harm to SINCs is unavoidable measures should be taken to:

- avoid adverse impact to the special biodiversity interest of the site
- minimise the spatial impact and mitigate it by improving the quality or management of the rest of the site
- seek appropriate off-site compensation only in exceptional cases
- where the benefits of the development proposal clearly outweigh the biodiversity impacts.

The policy also states Biodiversity enhancement should be considered from the start of the development process.

Policy G7 Trees and woodlands

This policy requires development proposals to ensure that, wherever possible, existing trees of quality are retained.

Draft London Plan 2017

The Mayor published a consultation draft of a new London Plan in November 2017. The new London Plan is due to be published in autumn 2019. The current 2016 consolidation Plan is still the adopted Development Plan. However, the Draft London Plan is a material consideration in planning decisions. It

gains more weight as it moves through the process to adoption. Relevant policies within the draft London Plan are outlined below.

Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities

This policy seeks to deliver strong and inclusive communities. It requires development to ensure that streets and public spaces are planned for people to move around and spend time in comfort and safety, creating places where everyone is welcome, which foster a sense of belonging and community ownership, and where communities can develop and flourish.

Policy GG2 Making the best use of land

This policy requires developers to protect London's open spaces, including the Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, designated nature conservation sites and local spaces, and promote the creation of new green infrastructure and urban greening.

Policy GG3 Creating a healthy city

This policy requires developers to plan for improved access to green spaces and the provision of new green infrastructure.

Policy D3 Inclusive design

This policy requires development to deliver an inclusive environment and meet the needs of all Londoners. Development proposals are required to achieve the highest standards of accessible and inclusive design, ensuring they:

- can be entered and used safely, easily and with dignity by all
- are convenient and welcoming with no disabling barriers, providing independent access without additional undue effort, separation or special treatment.
- are designed to incorporate safe and dignified emergency evacuation for all building users. In developments where lifts are installed, as a minimum at least one lift per core (or more subject to capacity assessments) should be a fire evacuation lift suitable to be used to evacuate people who require level access from the building.

Policy D7 Public realm

This policy seeks to ensure good design within the public realm and outlines a number of requirements including:

- Ensure the public realm is safe, accessible, inclusive, attractive, well connected, easy to understand and maintain, and that it relates to the local and historic context, and incorporates the highest quality design, landscaping, planting, street furniture and surfaces.
- Ensure appropriate management and maintenance arrangements are in place for the public realm, which maximise public access and minimise rules governing the space to those required for its safe management in accordance with the Public London Charter.
- Incorporate green infrastructure into the public realm to support rainwater management through sustainable drainage, reduce exposure to air pollution, manage heat and increase biodiversity.
- Ensure that shade and shelter are provided with appropriate types and amounts of seating to encourage people to spend time in a place, where appropriate
- Ensure the provision and future management of free drinking water at appropriate locations in new or redeveloped public realm.

Policy S1 Developing London's social infrastructure

This policy states development proposals that would result in a loss of social infrastructure in an area of defined need should be refused unless:

- there are realistic proposals for re-provision that continue to serve the needs of the neighbourhood, or;

- the loss is part of a wider public service transformation plan which requires investment in modern, fit for purpose infrastructure and facilities in order to meet future population needs or to sustain and improve services.

The policy also states redundant social infrastructure should be considered for full or partial use as other forms of social infrastructure before alternative developments are considered.

Policy S4 Play and informal recreation

This policy requires development proposals to increase opportunities for play and informal recreation and enable children and young people to be independently mobile. It also requires proposals to incorporate accessible routes for children and young people to existing play provision, schools and youth centres, within the local area, that enable them to play and move around their local neighbourhood safely and independently.

Policy S5 Sports and recreation facilities

This policy requires development proposals for sports and recreational facilities to:

- increase or enhance the provision of facilities in accessible locations, well-connected to public transport and link to networks for walking and cycling
- maximise the multiple use of facilities, and encourage the co-location of services between sports providers, schools, colleges and other community facilities
- support the provision of sports lighting within reasonable hours where there is an identified need for sports facilities and lighting is required to increase their potential usage, unless the lighting gives rise to demonstrable harm to the local community or biodiversity
- ensure that there is no net loss of facilities, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand.

Policy HC1 Heritage conservation and growth

This policy notes development proposals affecting heritage assets, and their settings, should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to the assets' significance and appreciation within their surroundings. The cumulative impacts of incremental change from development on heritage assets and their settings, should also be actively managed. Development proposals should seek to avoid harm and identify enhancement opportunities by integrating heritage considerations early on in the design process.

This policy also requires development proposals to identify assets of archaeological significance and use this information to avoid harm or minimise it through design and appropriate mitigation.

Policy G1 Green infrastructure

This policy states London's network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment such as green roofs and street trees, should be protected, planned, designed and managed as integrated features of green infrastructure.

Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land

This policy seeks to protect the Metropolitan Open Land from inappropriate development. The policy states:

- development proposals that would harm MOL should be refused
- boroughs should work with partners to enhance the quality and range of uses of MOL.

Policy G4 Local green and open space

This policy requires local developers to protect local green and open spaces. The policy states the loss of green and open spaces should be resisted in areas of deficiency. If losses are proposed outside of areas of deficiency, equivalent or better quality provision should be made within the local catchment area unless an up-to-date needs assessment demonstrates this is unnecessary.

Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature

This policy seeks to enhance biodiversity and access to nature. It notes Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be protected. Where harm to SINCs is unavoidable measures should taken to:

- avoid adverse impact to the special biodiversity interest of the site
- minimise the spatial impact and mitigate it by improving the quality or management of the rest of the site
- seek appropriate off-site compensation only in exceptional cases
- where the benefits of the development proposal clearly outweigh the biodiversity impacts.

The policy also states Biodiversity enhancement should be considered from the start of the development process.

Policy G7 Trees and woodlands

This policy requires development proposals to ensure that, wherever possible, existing trees of quality are retained.

All London Green Grid: The Wandle Valley Area Framework⁸⁷

The document sets out a number of programmes for the creation of the All London Green Grid, Wandle Valley Area. This includes:

- **Ram Brewery** - Proposal for redevelopment of the Ram Brewery which will provide 1 ha of high quality public realm, which incorporates a series of public open squares adjacent to the refurbished listed brewery buildings and riverside walkways. The development will also deliver improved flood defences, creation and improvement of tidal habitat through the creation of intertidal terraces, and additional new habitat creation and biodiversity enhancements. A new riverside walkway with three pedestrian bridges to create walkways will provide connectivity to upstream and downstream parts of the river, continuing the Wandle Trail.
- **King George's Park management plan** - The creation of a Management Plan for King George's Park to identify future landscape and facility enhancements. The Management Plan would identify landscape enhancements, including; river restoration; creating improvement in public access to the nature and habitats associated with the River Wandle; creation of additional allotment space; improvement of sports provision, with improved tennis courts and associated changing rooms; additional play provision and improvements to walking and cycling links to, through and within the park.
- **Earlsfield Missing Link** - This scheme will address a major barrier to the continuity of the Wandle Trail, part of the National Cycle Network. At present, travelling north from Plough Lane, the Trail follows the alignment of the river until Summerley Street. At this point access to the river is restricted by development. Pedestrian and cyclists are forced to continue to Garratt Lane, before linking into Penwith Road and following residential roads to King George's Park. This is particularly challenging for younger and less confident cyclists, Garratt Lane is busy and narrows underneath the railway bridge adjacent to the station entrance. While the station does provide access to the Trail, a new link along the river would continue the quiet and traffic free nature of much of the route. The scheme would increase access to the river and surrounding nature, and improve sustainable travel connections.

Wandsworth Local Plan and Development management documents

The London Borough of Wandsworth has adopted a Local Plan which sets out the spatial development for the Borough until 2030. The following provides a summary of the most relevant policy concerning King George's Park.

CS Policy IS1: Sustainable Development

The Council will support measures that mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, and will promote a sustainable relationship between development and transport so as to minimise the need to travel.

⁸⁷Greater London Authority (2011) [All London Green Grid: The Wandle Valley Area Framework](#)

CS Policy IS3: Good Quality Design and Townscape

The Council is committed to championing good quality design within the borough in order to create safe, accessible and attractive environments that meet the needs the local people whilst protecting and reinforcing the existing varied character and heritage of the borough. The council will be sensitive to the placement of tall buildings ensuring that their location respects local context and the historic environment. Tall buildings may be appropriate in town centres, including the Wandle Delta.

CS Policy IS4: Protecting and enhancing environmental quality

The Council will support measures to protect and enhance the environmental quality of the borough and work with partner agencies to help deliver this. In particular, measures will be taken to:

- Mitigate the impact of flood risk in line with the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- Improve air quality in line with the Council's Air Quality Action Plan and minimise the emissions of air pollution from development, in line with the approach set out in the Mayor of London's Sustainable Design & Construction Supplementary Planning Guidance, ensuring that new major developments are air quality neutral in line with the London Plan.
- Reduce the impact of noise, in line with the approach set out in London Plan 2015 Policy 7.15.
- Ensure development is safe regarding the re-use of contaminated land, in relation to proposals involving hazardous processes and materials and development located close to hazardous installations.
- Ensure efficient water management to reduce the impact of water take on the Wandle Catchment.

CS PL4: Open Space and the natural environment

The Council will protect and improve Metropolitan Open Land, such as parks.

Playing fields will be protected and opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and children's play will be promoted. Where there is no future demand for playing fields or other outdoor sports use, other open space uses will be sought

The Council will support developments which make a positive contribution to the wider network of open spaces, playing fields for participation in sport, recreation and children's play.

The borough's green chains and the open spaces along them will be protected and enhanced taking into account opportunities identified in the ALGG Area Frameworks.

The biodiversity value of the borough will be protected and enhanced including that of the River Thames, River Wandle and Beverley Brook and species and habitats identified in the London Biodiversity Action Plan and through Local Nature Partnerships.

The Council will work with partners to develop and implement proposals for the Wandle Valley Regional park.

CS PL10: The Wandle Valley⁸⁸

The council is committed to improving the accessibility within the corridor and to the riverside will be pursued including the provision of pedestrian and cycle ways. In addition, they will support opportunities for formal and informal recreation that support the concept of the Wandle Valley Regional park.

The council will support measures taken to protect and enhance the River Wandle as a valuable resource for wildlife and biodiversity, including wildlife corridors and green chains.

CS PL 12 Central Wandsworth and the Wandle Delta

- The council seeks to enhance Wandsworth Town Centre safe and attractive place in which to live, work and shop. Proposals to achieve this include:

⁸⁸ London Borough of Wandsworth (2010) [Core Strategy](#). CS PL10: The Wandle Valley

- Development on the Ram Brewery site should deliver a high quality public realm, good quality housing accommodation and retailing that complements the retail offer within the Southside Centre and provides an opportunity to create a new public space of civic significance at the High Street to connect with an enhanced entrance to the north mall of the Southside Centre
- Links between the town centre and the Thames Riverside will be focused on the River Wandle. The banks of the Wandle will be improved to enhance their potential as a resource for wildlife and passive recreation consistent with the aspirations for the Regional park in partnership with the Wandle Valley Regional park Trust, Environment Agency and the Wandle Forum.
- Mixed use development on the former employment sites containing the Wandsworth Business Village and former Young and Co's offices and warehouse at Buckhold Road. These should provide pedestrian and cycle links to the south via a new park side promenade at Neville Gill Close. This will connect with a new route through the Hardwicks Square quarter and facilitate access to King George's Park and the town centre.

SSAD 3.2 Area Spatial Strategy for Land between Armoury Way and the Railway

The council will deliver development proposals on three sites between Armoury Way and the Railway. Key strategic north-south and east-west links will be delivered through development, which will enable creation of a quieter ecological corridor and riverside walkway along the Wandle with connections to Wandsworth High Street via the Ram Brewery site. This development will therefore enhance overall pedestrian connectivity between the River Thames and King George's Park.

SSAD 3.12 Ram Brewery/Capital Studios/Former Dexion/Duvall site, Ram Street/Armoury Way/Wandsworth, SW18

Plans are in progress to redevelop the former brewery site into a mix use development including replacement employment floorspace; retail, restaurants, business space, residential, cultural, and entertainment uses. The development will open up access to the River Wandle improving pedestrian connectivity between the River Thames, the Southside Centre and King George's Park beyond. The site is in a sensitive conservation area location containing important listed buildings and adjacent to many other equally important listed buildings. Planning permission was approved for a mixed-used development comprised of new buildings 2-12 storeys in height and a tower 36 storeys in height. It is noted any new buildings will be visible from the local area and higher buildings are likely to be visible from much wider areas.

SSAD 3.1.1 Wandsworth Business Village, Buckhold Road/Broomhill Road, SW18

The council intends to deliver a mixed-use development including replacement employment floorspace, residential and improved links with the town centre. The site forms part of the backdrop to the northern end of King George's Park and views from within the park are important considerations. In particular, views from areas of the park south of the Lake are sensitive and any higher elements will need to be carefully considered, as these will form noticeable skyline features.

SSAD 3.1.3 Southside Shopping Centre (northern end), Wandsworth High Street, SW18

The Council seeks to make improvements to the Southside Shopping Centre through refurbishment and where possible, redevelopment, to provide improved and additional retail space and residential, including improved links to the High Street, Garratt Lane and Buckhold Road. New buildings on the Neville Gill Close/ Buckhold Road frontages and visible from King George's Park should be similarly sensitive to preserving the visual amenity of this open space and also the residential amenities enjoyed by residents of adjoining flats.

SSAD 9.2 Army Forms Depot (Westfield House), 30 Knaresborough Drive, SW18

The Council will seek to deliver a residential development providing a riverside walk along the Wandle. The site is located at the end of Knaresborough Drive and Riverdale Drive. To the north and west is King George's Park and to the east is the River Wandle. Development must have an acceptable impact on the setting of the River Wandle and Metropolitan Open Land of King George's Park.

Policy DMS 2: Managing the historic environment⁸⁹

The council seek to ensure that applications affecting a heritage asset or its setting are consistent with the NPPF, the London Plan and relevant English Heritage guidance alongside any Conservation Area Appraisals and management strategies and where appropriate a Heritage Statement.

The council will support applications which sustain, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the significance, appearance, character and setting of the heritage asset itself, and the surrounding historic environment.

Proposals for development involving ground disturbance in Archaeological Priority Areas will need a desk based archaeological assessment and may also require field evaluation. The recording and publication of results will be required and in appropriate cases, the Council may also require preservation in situ, or excavation.

Policy DMO1: Protection and enhancement of open spaces⁹⁰

The council will protect MOL from inappropriate development in accordance with the London Plan and National Planning Policy. Development will only be permitted where it is linked to the functional use of the open space and it does not harm the character, appearance or function of the open space. Cumulative impacts of development will be taken into account in this assessment. Where the net loss of open space is proposed, replacement provision of equivalent or improved quantity and quality that suits current and future needs will be required in an appropriate location.

Policy DMO 2: Playing fields and pitches, sport, play and informal recreation⁹¹

The council will resist proposals which leads to the loss of sports pitches, playing fields, or land last used for outdoor sport, or which would prejudice the land's use for sport in terms of quality or quantity of facilities.

The council will resist loss of indoor sports facilities and recreation facilities, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no current or future need or demand for the facility or replacement provision of equivalent or better quantity and quality that suits current and future needs is provided in an appropriate location.

The council will support improvements such as floodlighting which will improve access to or use of facilities provided there are no unacceptable impacts upon open space, local amenity or biodiversity.

Proposals involving a loss of children's play facilities will only be permitted where there is no identified need for the facilities or if the site is replaced by equivalent facilities in an appropriate location.

Policy DMO 4: Nature conservation⁹²

The council will resist development that will cause harm to any protected species unless any damaging impacts can be prevented by appropriate mitigation measures or conditions.

The council will support proposals which aim to support net gains for biodiversity, particularly new habitats and biodiversity features should consider native and priority species, taking into account species' adaptability to climate change. Proposals in areas deficient in access to nature, (defined by GiGL), will be required to incorporate enhancements to nature conservation.

Policy DMO 5: Trees⁹³

The council will seek to protect trees of amenity value from development and support proposals which provide adequate replacement planting or in accordance with good arboricultural practice.

⁸⁹ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMS 2

⁹⁰ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMO1

⁹¹ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMO 2

⁹² London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Policy DMO 4

⁹³ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Wandsworth Development Management Policies Document](#), Adopted Version, pp111-112

Other relevant Local planning policy Documents

Historic Environment SPD⁹⁴

The Historic Environment SPD. provides further guidance on existing planning policy included in the Core Strategy and DMPD. It details criteria that are material in determining planning and listed building applications related to heritage matters and the evidence that justifies the Council's approach. As such, the SPD positively contributes towards achieving sustainable and balanced communities and vibrant town centres, whilst meeting the needs of local residents. The SPD includes supplementary guidance on Archaeological Priority Areas.

Surrounding conservation areas

There are no Conservation Areas located directly adjacent to the park.

Local listing

The existing Local List of buildings of architectural or historic interest contains around 520 buildings and may be accessed from the web link below:

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/3847/local_list_of_buildings_of_architectural_or_historic_interest> [Accessed 22 November 2017]

London Parks and Gardens Trust

King George's Park is noted on the Inventory of London's Green Spaces of Local Historic Interest prepared by the London Parks and Gardens Trust. Further information at London Gardens Online Website, 2015. Available at: <<http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.php?ID=WND025>> [Accessed 22 November 2017]

⁹⁴ London Borough of Wandsworth (2016) [Historic Environment SPD](#)

Appendix 2

Ecology Policy and Legal Considerations

General legislation protecting rare and notable species

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transpose the requirements of the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC) into UK law, enabling the designation of protected sites and species at a European level.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) forms the key piece of UK legislation relating to the protection of habitats and species.

The Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 provides additional support to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; for example, increasing the level of protection for certain species of reptiles.

The Protection of Badger Act 1992 provides specific protection for this species.

The Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 sets out the welfare framework in respect to wild mammals, prohibiting a range of activities that may cause unnecessary suffering.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation in England and Wales are species which are targeted for conservation. The government has a duty to ensure that involved parties take reasonable practice steps to further the conservation of such species and habitats under **Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill 2006**. In addition, the Act places a **biodiversity duty on public authorities** who 'must, in exercising their functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity' (Section 40 [1]). Criteria for selection of national priority habitats and species in the UK include international threat and marked national decline.

The National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) states (Section 11), that the planning system should minimise impacts on biodiversity, providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. It also states that local planning authorities and planning policies should:

- Plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- Take account of the need to plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including: international, national and local sites of importance for biodiversity, and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation.
- Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan.

Wandsworth Local Plan

The **London Borough of Wandsworth Local Plan - Core Strategy (adopted March 2016)** includes the following policies of relevance to nature conservation:

Core Policies for Places: Policy PL 4 Open space and the natural environment

a. The Council will protect and improve public and private open space and Green Infrastructure in the borough, including Metropolitan Open Land, such as the major commons, parks, allotments, trees and playing fields as well as the smaller spaces, including play spaces, as identified in the Open Space Study and Play Strategy.

b. Playing fields will be protected and opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and children's play will be promoted. Where there is no future demand for playing fields or other outdoor sports use, other open space uses will be sought.

c. The Council will require the provision of open space and/or secure public access to private facilities, in appropriate developments, and as a priority in areas identified as deficient in open space, play space or sport and recreation facilities and/or to meet priorities identified in the Council's Play Strategy, Active Wandsworth Strategy, parks Management Strategy and All London Green Grid (ALGG) Area Frameworks. The requirements for open space provision are set out in the Planning Obligations SPD.

d. The borough's green chains and the open spaces along them will be protected and enhanced taking into account opportunities identified in the ALGG Area Frameworks.

e. The biodiversity value of the borough will be protected and enhanced including that of the River Thames, River Wandle and Beverley Brook and species and habitats identified in the London Biodiversity Action Plan and through Local Nature Partnerships.

f. New development should avoid causing ecological damage and propose full mitigation and compensation measures for ecological impacts which do occur. Where appropriate new development should include new or enhanced habitat or design and landscaping which promotes biodiversity, and provision for management, particularly in areas identified as deficient in nature conservation.

g. The Council will work with partners to develop and implement proposals for the Wandle Valley Regional park.

The London Plan (biodiversity commitments)

Appendix 3

Wandsworth Council's open spaces events policy

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
27TH NOVEMBER 2014

EXECUTIVE – 1ST DECEMBER 2014

Report by the Director of Housing and Community Services on the proposed Events Policy for the Borough's parks, commons and open spaces (excluding Battersea Park).

SUMMARY

In July 2014 (Paper No. 14-365), the Executive approved a consultation exercise on proposals to introduce an Events Policy for the management of events in/on the Borough's parks, commons and open spaces, excluding Battersea Park which already has an agreed policy in place (Paper No. 11-850). This Paper contains the results of the consultation and the proposals for the introduction of the policy.

The Executive are recommended to approve the Events Policy for the Borough's parks, commons and open spaces.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to support the recommendation.

The Director of Finance comments that income generated by normal activities and events held in the open spaces will accrue to the planned Leisure and Culture Staff Mutual. If any new 'exceptional' events take place, income will be shared 30% to the Staff Mutual, 70% to the Council after taking account of any additional costs incurred by either party.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to support the recommendation in paragraph 3.
2. If the Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve any views, comments or recommendations on this report, these will be submitted to the Executive for their consideration.
3. The Executive are recommended to approve the Events Policy for the Borough's parks, commons and open spaces as described in paragraphs 14 and 15.

INTRODUCTION

4. Whilst Battersea Park has been the principal venue in the Borough for outdoor events for many years, other parks, commons and open spaces have historically hosted a variety of events of differing sizes. These have ranged from very large events such as the Wandsworth Borough Show (Tooting Common, Putney Lower

Open Spaces Events Policy

Common and King George's Park) and annual Fireworks Displays (Tooting Common, King George's Park and Wandsworth Park), to less extensive annual events such as funfairs, circuses, outdoor cinemas, community-based events, sporting events, and cultural or social events linked with the Tooting Bec Lido.

5. More recently, Tooting Common hosted the London 2012 Games Olympic Torch Relay Evening Celebration event which attracted a ticketed audience of 10,000 people, and a number of 'street parties' linked with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee took place in/on parks and open spaces across the Borough.
6. Whilst the hosting of small community events is possible in the vast majority of the Borough's parks and open spaces, only the following spaces have been, are or could be used to host events for more than 200 people. As such, this policy primarily relates to:-
 - (a) King George's Park, SW18 (Southfields);
 - (b) Tooting Common, SW17 (Bedford and Furzedown);
 - (c) Wandsworth Common, SW18 (Wandsworth Common and Northcote);
 - (d) Wandsworth Park, SW15 (Thamesfield); and
 - (e) Barn Elms Sports Centre, SW13 (London Borough of Richmond).

EXISTING DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT OF EVENTS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

7. The responsibility for the day-to-day management of events in/on parks, commons and open spaces, including compliance with relevant legislation and the Terms and Conditions, rests with the Council's Events Team, which since 1st April 2014, operates within the Shadow Staff Mutual for Leisure and Culture Services.
8. The responsibility for policing events in/on parks, commons and open spaces, including the enforcement of relevant bye-laws, rests with the Attested Constables of the Council's Events Support Service (ESS). It should also be noted that it is the Head of the ESS who determines what level of policing is required for any given event, and this is non-negotiable by event organisers.
9. All event enquiries are subject to the submission of a formal application form by event organisers, and a requirement to submit both an event management plan and risk assessment for approval, before an event may go ahead.
10. For larger events, organisers are required to attend detailed planning meetings (Safety Advisory Groups) with the following agencies (where relevant):-
 - (a) The Council's Events Team;
 - (b) The Council's Events Support Service;
 - (c) The Council's Parks Service;
 - (d) The Council's Leisure and Sports Service;
 - (e) The Council's Environmental Services Division (Health and Safety, Licensing, Noise and Food Teams);
 - (f) The Council's Highways and On-street Service;
 - (g) Metropolitan Police Service;
 - (h) London Ambulance Service;
 - (i) London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority; and

- (j) Transport for London.

GENERAL CONTROLS AND EVENT RESTRICTIONS

- 11. A number of general controls and event restrictions apply to all events in/on parks, commons and open spaces, and these are as follows:-
 - (a) specific park, common and open space legislation;
 - (b) Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
 - (c) Licensing Act 2003; and
 - (d) relevant Wandsworth and GLC park and open space bye-laws.

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED EVENTS POLICY

- 12. Officers have consulted with the following user groups and stakeholder organisations regarding these proposals and their full responses are attached as appendices. A breakdown of specific points that have been raised by each of the consultative groups is provided in Appendix 1, together with relevant officer comments and the following copies of the responses are provided:-
 - (a) Tooting Common Management Advisory Committee (Appendix 2);
 - (b) Friends of Tooting Common (Appendix 3); and
 - (c) Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee (Appendix 4).
- 13. As part of their submission, the Friends of Tooting Common made a suggestion to change the original wording of the proposed Events Policy, relating to a proposed amendment to the paragraph on the frequency of different categories of events. The original wording is as follows in italics, and the suggested wording provided has been reflected in the Proposed Events Policy section (see paragraph 14 (i) below):

Frequency. Recognising that there needs to be a balance between the hosting of events and other uses of parks, commons and open spaces, no individual site shall be used for Category C events (between 5,000 and 10,000 people) on more than two consecutive weekends throughout the year or more than twice in any month.

PROPOSED EVENTS POLICY

- 14. A number of specific controls and event restrictions formed the basis for the proposed draft Events Policy for consultation, and would apply to all events in/on parks, commons and open spaces, as follows:-
 - (a) The Council's Terms and Conditions for Events. The Council already has in place extensive Terms and Conditions (regulations) for the use of parks and open spaces for events.
 - (b) Premises Licenses. For events involving the sale of alcohol or certain forms of entertainment, a separate licence would also be required via an application to the Council's Environmental Services Division.
 - (c) Grass Areas. Grass areas shall not be used for events over the winter months between 30th September and 1st April, with the exception of Barn Elms Sports Centre for events directly linked with winter sports or the annual Boat Race.

Open Spaces Events Policy

- (d) Ecological Sites. Events shall not be located on any sites of specific ecological importance.
- (e) Sports Pitches. Events shall not be permitted to compromise the maintenance and operation of sports pitches.
- (f) Care of Grass, Trees and Infrastructure. Care of grass, trees and the general infrastructure of parks, commons and open spaces shall be subject to the rigorous enforcement of the Terms and Conditions.
- (g) Time Limits. A time limit of 10.00pm shall be imposed on all events. It should be noted that most events normally end by 8.00pm, but some sporting and public events may require an extension to the later time.
- (h) Maximum Audience Size. Events shall not exceed a maximum audience size of 10,000 people and event organisers shall be required to produce control measures for the Council's approval, to ensure this.
- (i) Frequency. Recognising that there needs to be a balance between the hosting of events and other uses of parks, commons and open spaces, the following restrictions on event frequencies shall apply for Category B (between 2500 and 5000 people) and Category C events (between 5,000 and 10,000 people):
- there will not be a Category C or B event at any site on the same park, common or open space on consecutive weekends;
 - there will not be more than four Category C events on the same park, common or open space in any six month period; and
 - there will not be more than six Category B events on the same park, common or open space in any 6 month period.
- (j) Noise Limits. Noise shall be regulated by the specific limitations contained within the Terms and Conditions, including but not limited to, noise shall not exceed 75 db (A), when 10 metres from an Event site.
- (k) Weekend Events. Weekend events shall be limited to those that are open to the general public including ticketed events (e.g. music events), or events to which there is an open application for participation (e.g. charity fun runs). Weekend events within stand alone facilities (e.g. Bowling Greens), or areas with existing fenced or gated access shall also be permitted, subject to there being minimal disruption of the primary purpose of the site.
- (l) Variations to Event Restrictions. Variations to the Events Policy shall only be possible if they have been consulted upon and approved by the Council's Executive.

PROPOSED PROCESSES FOR CONSULTATION ON EVENTS

15. In order to ensure the right balance between the use of parks and open spaces for events and normal use by members of the public, it is proposed that the following processes for routine consultation on events, are adopted:-

Category A Events up to 2,500 people

Events Team	Parks Service	MACS / Friends
Events Team manage applications as per existing arrangements → Current level of applications = 14 / annum across all parks, commons and open spaces.	Notified of event enquiries to ensure no clashes with planned works and updated Events Diaries distributed to Parks Management →	Updated Events Diaries distributed to MACs / Friends groups.

Category B Events from 2,500 – 5,000 people

Events Team	Parks Service	MACS / Friends
Events Team consider application → Current level of applications = 1 / annum across all parks, commons and open spaces.	Event application discussed with Parks Service →	Relevant MACs / Friends groups consulted on event proposals.

Category C Events from 5,000 – 10,000 people

Events Team	Parks Service	MACS / Friends
Events Team consider application → Current level of applications = 0 / annum across all parks, commons and open spaces.	Event application discussed with Parks Service →	Relevant MACs / Friends groups consulted on event proposals.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

16. The Director of Finance comments that income generated by normal activities and events held in the open spaces will accrue to the planned Leisure and Culture Staff Mutual. If any new 'exceptional' events take place, income will be shared 30% to the Staff Mutual, 70% to the Council after taking account of any additional costs incurred by either party. It is considered that this arrangement will incentivise the Staff Mutual and provide a fair return to the Council. These arrangements were outlined and agreed in Paper No. 14-152 to the Executive in February 2014.

Open Spaces Events Policy

CONCLUSION

17. The current level of event applications across all parks, commons and open spaces (excluding Battersea Park) is extremely low and the above policy seeks to confirm and bring together existing arrangements and restrictions into a single document, with the added proposal for how events will be consulted upon in future. The policy is designed to give clarity to the public and stakeholders in respect of controls relating to events.

The Town Hall
Wandsworth
SW18 2PU

BRIAN REILLY
Director of Housing and Community Services

19th November 2014

Background papers

There are no background papers to this report.

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Committee Secretary (David Jones-Owen tel: 020 8871 7032 or email djones-owen@wandsworth.gov.uk) can supply it if required.

Appendix 4

Landscape materials palette



Traditional wooden and metal style bench in a fair condition with some graffiti.



Weathered metal mesh bench.



Wooden memorial tree seat.



Large green litter bin.



Metal mesh basket bin for events next to green litter bin.



Green litter bin and red dog bin in a fair condition.



Small green litter bin.



Children's Centre notice board.



Rats information sign by lake in good condition.



Good quality and attractive welcome sign and notice board, located in the north of the park.



King George's Park play space sign with some deterioration.



Indicative litter temporary signage.



Weathered Wandle Trail sign.



Wandle Trail blue plaque in fair condition.



Advisory notice tied to railings.



Memorial plaque for the opening of the King George's Park extension with some deterioration.



Ornamental painted metal crest requires some restoration at the main gates.



Ornamental painted metal crest requires some restoration at the park extension gates.



Memorial plaque in good condition.



Concrete paving around the bowls green.



Desire lines forming between two paths.



Wear to line markings along off road cycle route.



Steps and brick path are in a poor condition (weedy and uneven) in places.



Traditional style bow top railings and metal post and rail fencing located in the north of the park in a fair condition.



Metal boundary security fencing.



Weathered bollard and rail and chestnut paling fencing.



Gates around Children's Centre and play areas.



Deterioration to metal railings along the River Wandle.



Traditional metal post and rail fencing.



Multi-coloured security fencing surrounding the skate park.



Indicative deterioration of tarmac path.



Uneven granite setts and paving due to tree roots.



Bollards located along the edge of amenity grass.



Vandalised street lamp requires replacement.

Appendix 5

Dog control order map



Home • Pests, pollution and antisocial behaviour • Dog control and animal welfare
Dog control

Dog control

Dog Control Orders

The council's Dog Control Orders (introduced in 2010) ensure that all open spaces and the borough's highways and pavements are regulated properly using a single piece of legislation. Bye-laws relating to council housing estates remain unchanged.

Dogs on the public highway and associated pavements:

1. Owners are required to pick up after their dogs whenever or wherever they foul.
2. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.
3. A maximum of four dogs may be walked by any individual.

The following aspects of dog control are covered by the orders:

- **Fouling of land by dogs** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog fails to remove faeces deposited by the dog. This will apply borough-wide.
- **Areas where dogs are required to be on leads** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog fails to keep the dog on a lead. This will apply on all public highways including pavements, tree bases, grass verges, grass amenity areas adjacent to highways and road gutters, and will also apply to car parks and café outdoor eating areas within parks and open spaces.
- **The requirement for a dog to be put on a lead at the direction of an authorised officer** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog fails to put and keep the dog on a lead when instructed to do so by a Park Police or Dog Control Officer. Enforcement in this area will be both pragmatic and appropriate.
- **The exclusion of dogs from specified areas** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog takes it onto or permits it to enter or remain in an area where dogs are excluded. This will apply to children's playgrounds, sports facilities, lakes, ponds, water features and to some very small parks.
- **The maximum number of dogs that an individual may take onto specified areas** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of more than one dog takes more dogs into an area than is permitted by the maximum limit. The maximum limit of four dogs will apply borough-wide with the exception of licensed multiple dog walkers in certain parks and open spaces.

[View the directory of parks and open spaces](#) to which these orders apply.

Give us your feedback

Pages in Dog control

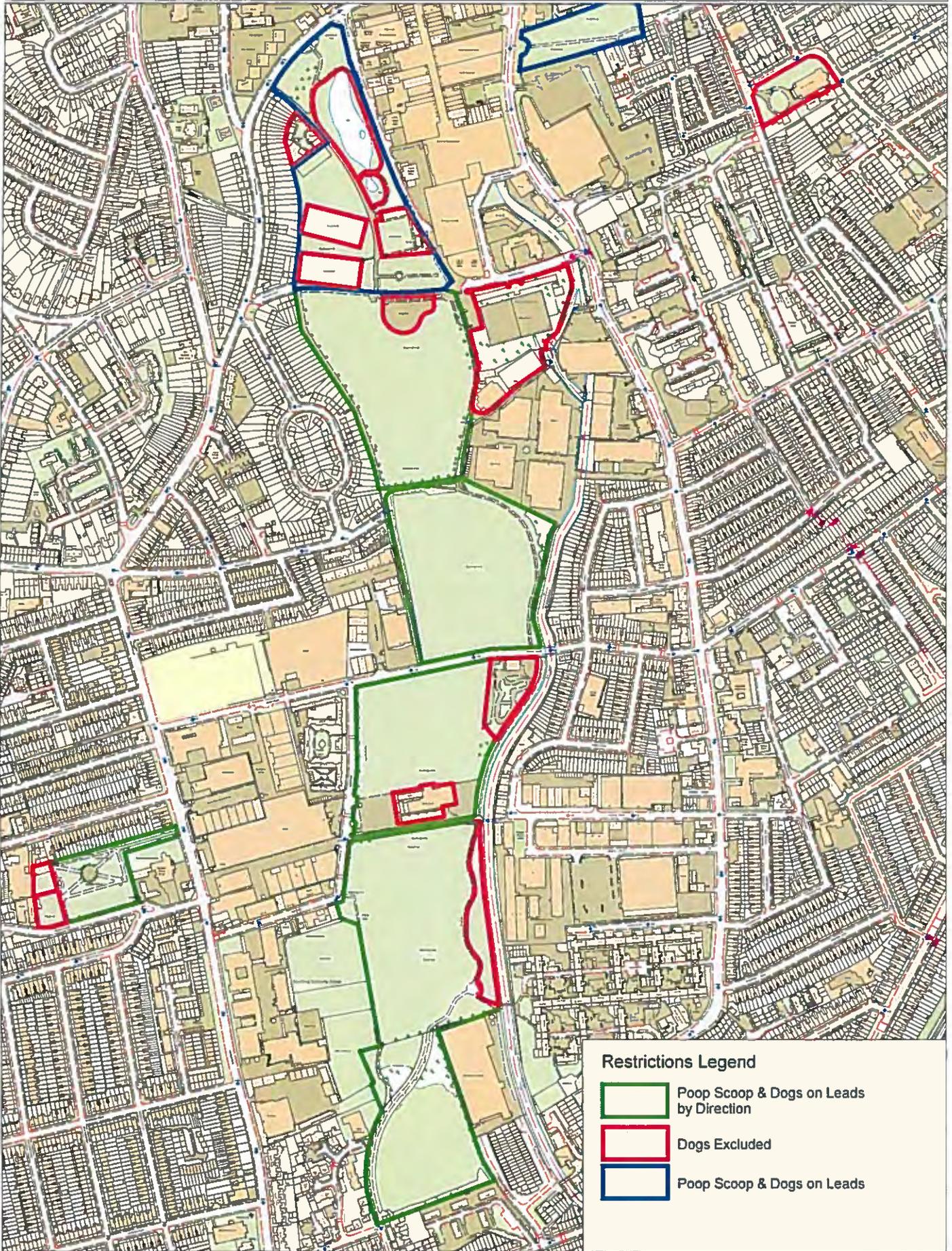
- **Dog Control Orders**
- Dogs and the law
- Dangerous or stray dogs
- Schools work experience programme
- Dog microchipping and neutering Programme
- Dogs and the disabled

Wandsworth Council

The Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU

Give us your feedback

King George's Park

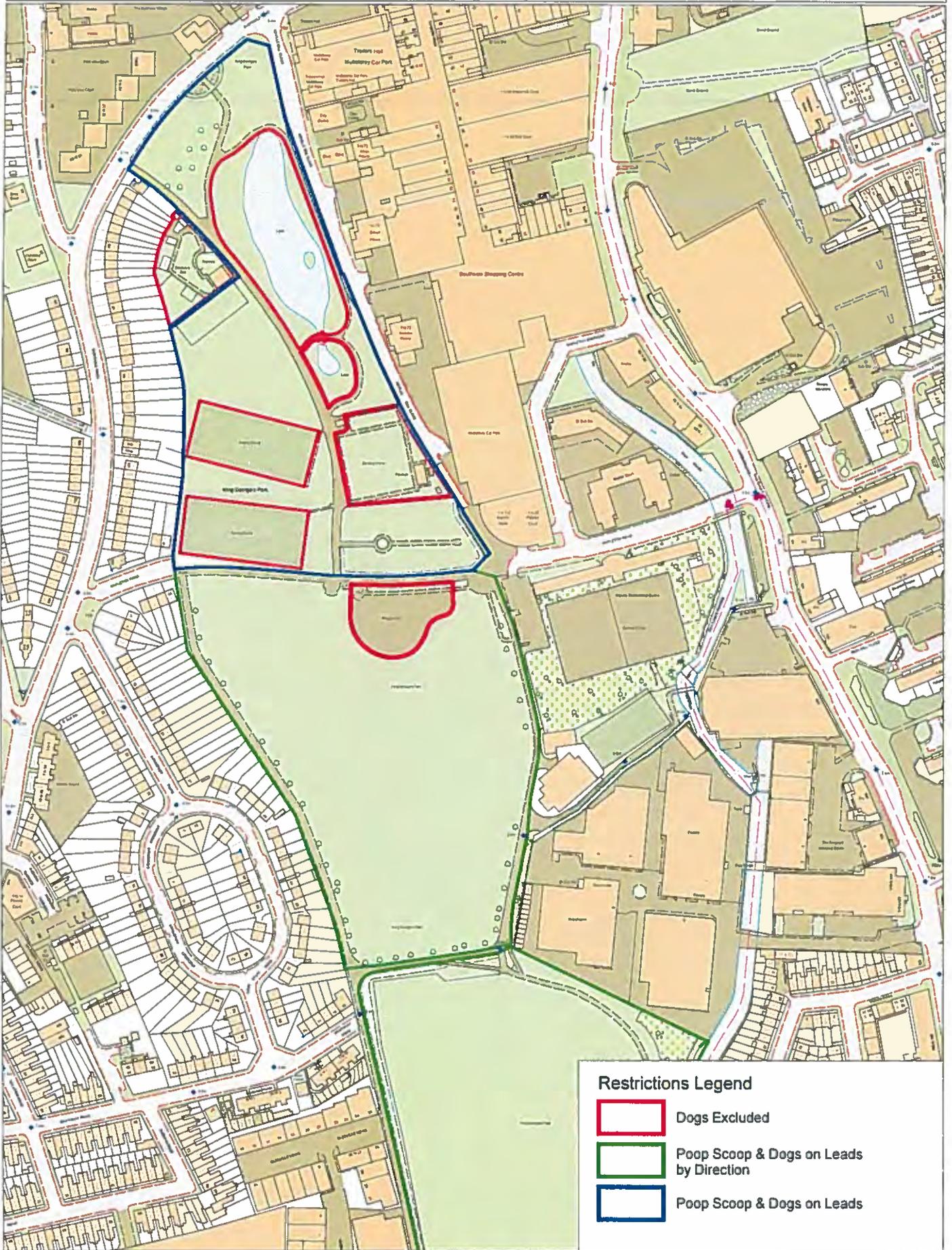


Restrictions Legend

-  Poop Scoop & Dogs on Leads by Direction
-  Dogs Excluded
-  Poop Scoop & Dogs on Leads



King George's Park



Restrictions Legend

-  Dogs Excluded
-  Poop Scoop & Dogs on Leads by Direction
-  Poop Scoop & Dogs on Leads

