



Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site Management Plan

2027 – 2031



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Appendix 1: London Borough of Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan

Appendix 2: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Nature Conservation Policy

Appendix 3: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Tree Policy

Appendix 4: Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation designation

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1.0 Introduction

This management plan has been written by Richmond Councils' Ecology Officer as part of the Councils' commitment to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Each site is managed in accordance with the habitat and species action plans of the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy, general good habitat management practice and current legislation.

1.1 Caveat

The implementation of prescriptions in this management plan will be subject to available budget.

2.0 Terms of Reference

This management plan is designed to inform the restoration and maintenance of Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site from nature conservation, landscape and visitor perspectives. This will be achieved by Richmond Council working in conjunction with Council contractors and community organisations.

Throughout this management plan our goals are to:

1. Restore the site to make it an attractive leisure and environmental asset for residents and visitors.
2. Protect and enhance the ecology of the mixed habitats with appropriate management and planting.
3. Enhance the visitor experience by creating an attractive natural space which invites exploration and food production.
4. With the support of Habitats and Heritage (H&H) explore the potential to develop a Friends group and engage with a wide cross-section of the community.



To deliver these goals, this plan considers the sites' history, ecology and visitor use; drawing on existing data, it sets out refined objectives and the prescriptions to deliver and maintain the site over the next five years.

The management plan should not be regarded as fixed; the prescriptions provide a framework and guidance that enable reaction to changing conditions. Reviewing progress and monitoring key features on a regular basis is important in ensuring the site is managed appropriately and in a sustainable way, as such as a management review will be carried out by the Council annually.



3.0 Site Description

3.1 Site details

Location	Upper Sunbury Road, Hampton, TW12 2HP
Grid Reference	TQ 12741 69570
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (# RiL60)
Area	0.65 ha
Key habitats	Meadow grassland, mixed native hedgerow, mature trees
Key species	Bats, stag beetle, pollinators, dragonflies and damselflies

3.2 Site description

Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site is a neutral grassland meadow to the south of St Marys Hampton Church of England Primary School. Historically, the site formed part of the school grounds, but was relinquished from the lease and reverted to Local Authority responsibility.

Since that time, the field has been managed as a wildflower meadow by undertaking a bi-annual hay-cut, however for many years, the site has been inaccessible to the public, accessible only via a vehicle gate in the school grounds. However, following the installation of new pedestrian gates and a vehicular access gate from the public highways, Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site has been officially opened to the public since July 2026.

3.3 Designation

The site is designated as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation, full details can be found in *Appendix 4*.



3.4 Ecological interest and features

Semi-improved neutral grassland covers the majority of the site, dominated by False oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* with abundant red fescue *Festuca rubra*, common couch *Elymus repens* and soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*).

The most frequent forbs recorded are field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, cut-leaved crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum*, dove's-foot crane's-bill *G. molle*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, spotted medick *Medicago arabica*, black medick *Medicago lupulina*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, meadow buttercup *R. acris*, germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratensis*.

A number of mature trees are present along the northern boundary of the site including a mature beech *Fagus sylvatica*, lime *Tilia x europaea*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, London plane *Platanus x hispanica*. A significant piece of standing deadwood exists along this tree line in the form of a retained stump of a failed horse-chestnut tree.

Immature hedgerows are present along the northern and southern boundaries of the site, with some additional planting to the western edge. Species include hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and plum *Prunus domestica*.

The site is valuable for invertebrates, with a number of species recorded including seven-spot ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*), two-spot ladybird *Adalia bipunctata*, 16-spot ladybird *Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata*, 24-spot ladybird *Subcoccinella vigintiquatuorpunctata* (*Adalia bipunctata*), European beewolf *Philathus triangulum*, red-tailed bumble bee *Bombus lapidarius*, yellow-legged mining bee *Andrena flavipes*, European nursery-webbed spider *Pisaura mirabilis*, wasp spider *Argiope bruennichi*, cinnabar moth *Tyria jacobaeae*, Essex skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*), brown argus *Aricia agestis*, marbled white butterfly *Melanargia galathea*, common blue butterfly *Polyommatus icarus*, meadow grasshopper *Pseudochorthippus parallelus*, lesser marsh grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus* and broad-bodied chaser dragonfly *Libellula depressa*. The



deadwood habitats on site provide habitat for stag beetle *Lucarnus cervus*. Some of the mature trees on the site's northern boundaries contain large cavities and could support roosting bats or nesting birds.

3.5 Community involvement

Community involvement is actively encouraged at this newly opened site. Habitats and Heritage are co-ordinating all aspects of community engagement with aspirations to establish a 'Friends of' or supporters group.

St Marys Hampton Church of England Primary School are also a key stakeholder at Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site, and make use of the site for educational activities.

3.6 Access and visitor experience

Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site is open at all times. The site is on the north side of Upper Sunbury Road, to the west of Hampton Care Home and south of St Marys Hampton School. The nearest train station is Hampton, and the 216 bus also stops close to the site on Upper Sunbury Road. Pedestrian access is via two gates located along Oldfield Path, which links Upper Sunbury Road with Oldfield Road.

At the time of writing this management plan, there is no surfaced footpath at Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site. A mown path is maintained for visitor access. However, there are plans for the installation of a self-binding gravel footpath in the near future.

3.7 Constraints

The site suffers from significant litter accumulation from the main road. It's location away from a residential street likely limits the accessibility and discoverability of this site.



3.8 Evaluation

The key feature of the site is the meadow grassland, which is bordered by native mixed hedgerow and mature trees. Due to its location close to the River Thames and the Hampton Water Treatment Works, riparian wildlife can sometimes be encountered, in particular dragonflies and damselflies during the summer months. Since its opening, community recognition and engagement with the site remains a high priority.



4.0 Policies

4.1 Strategic Principles for Parks and Open Spaces

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

1. Our parks and open space management will have biodiversity, climate change and sustainability at the forefront.
2. Community participation with our Friends and Community Groups will continue to be encouraged and supported.
3. Our parks will promote active, healthy living and social inclusion for people of all ages and abilities.
4. The management of Parks and Open Spaces will create a sustainable legacy for future generations.
5. The quality of our Parks and open spaces will continue to define LBRuT.
6. Richmond will lead in the delivery of excellent parks and open spaces services.
7. Through innovation, the future development of the parks will be ensured.
8. Richmond's Parks will offer positive experiences to all visitors.

All Council owned and managed parks and open spaces are controlled by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). These orders impose various restrictions to dog control and other activities in our parks and open spaces, these can be found here.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_enforcement_and_legislation#pspo.



4.2 Nature Conservation Policy

During 2019, Richmond Council adopted a Nature Conservation Policy in which the Council recognises the special and diverse wildlife found within its Borough and its' duty to protect and preserve biodiversity. The Policy outlines the ways the Council will achieve this through management of its land, planning obligations and monitoring. The policy can be found in *Appendix 2*.

4.3 Tree Policy

Richmond Council has a tree management policy which recognises the benefits of trees and outlines a responsible management approach towards trees within the Borough. This can be found at *Appendix 3*.



5.0 Site Vision and Objectives

5.1 Site vision

To conserve, maintain and improve the quality of the scrub, meadow grassland and woodland habitats, whilst improving the visitor experience on site.

5.2 Objectives

From the site goals (*Section 2.0*) and informed by the site description and research into key areas, the following objectives have been developed to cover every aspect of the work to be done:

5.2.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

Maintain and improve the habitat quality on site to ensure key species are in optimum conditions.

5.2.2 Objective 2: Visitor access

Maintain the amenity grass, pathways, boundaries, infrastructure and cleanliness.

5.2.3 Objective 3: Publicity, communication, and community involvement

With support from Habitats and Heritage (H&H), raise the profile of Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site and communicate with residents and interested parties.

Ensure volunteering work parties are available and tasks are wide ranging to cater for different abilities.

5.2.4 Objective 4: Monitoring and Management planning

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

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

6.0 Maintenance Prescriptions

The following detailed prescriptions are designed to manage the site features to deliver the site vision and objectives. The management is not set in stone and must be reviewed and updated based on evidence observed on site, so that management is in response to the observed condition or any environmental change.

Key to terms used within the prescriptions and work programme

AC	Arboricultural Contractor
GMC	Greenspace Management Contractor
LBRuT	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
H&H	Habitats and Heritage
NCC	Nature Conservation Contractor
Minor trees	Trunks and limbs with a diameter of 10cm or less at 1.3m height off ground (Diameter at Breast Height)

6.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

Prescription details	Description
<u>1. Scrub and minor tree maintenance</u> Responsibility: NCC	<u>Tasks</u> - Prevent bramble leaders or scrub encroachment onto meadow and amenity grasslands. - Remove any exotic species present and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth. <u>Considerations</u> - Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season unless a pre-works bird nesting survey has been conducted by an Ecologist. - All stems must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards. - Any cordwood should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value; small brash piles should be created.
<u>2. Management of trees over 10cm DBH (diameter at breast height/1.3m)</u>	<u>Tasks</u> - Survey and manage tree stock in accordance with LBRuT policy. <u>Considerations</u>

Responsibility: AC	- AC to liaise with Appropriate Council Officer and NCC before undertaking any works on site.
<u>3. Meadow grassland maintenance</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
Responsibility: NCC	- Grassland to be cut twice a year, during April and September, to a sward height of 10cm. - Remove all cuttings from the site or add to designated composting area on site. - Remove undesirable weeds such as burdock and creeping thistle during mid-summer, and top off seedheads of other vigorous species such as hemlock prior to grassland cutting. <u>Considerations</u> - 10% of meadow habitat should be left uncut each year, alternating between areas. - A litter pick must be undertaken before cutting grass. - Meadow cutting must not be carried out during high winds or extreme wet weather.
<u>4. Hedgerow management</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
Responsibility: NCC	- Manually trim all hedgerows annually to promote dense, bushy growth.

	<u>Considerations</u> - Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season.
5. <u>Habitat creation and enhancement</u> Responsibility: NCC/H&H	<u>Tasks</u> - Explore opportunities for further enhancement of the site, including the planting of a Miyawaki/microforest and the development of bee banks, bug hotels and a pond. <u>Considerations</u> Community involvement should be a core principle of any new ecological enhancement initiatives on site.

6.2 Objective 2: Visitor Experience

Prescription details	Description
6. <u>Amenity grassland and pathside maintenance</u> Responsibility: GMC	<u>Tasks</u> - Amenity grass and 0.5m pathside strips to be maintained as per the standard specifications of the Greenspace Management Contract.



	- Cut back overhanging vegetation along pathways and around the edges of amenity grassland area up to a height of 2.4m, as specified in the Greenspace Management Contract. - Benches and park furniture to be neatly strimmed round. - Maintain access to the site from the school entrance gate. <u>Considerations</u> - Issues involving larger branches or the necessity to work at height will need to be referred to the Appropriate Council Officer for liaison with the Arboriculture Contractor.
<u>7. Maintain pathways, boundaries, check site and structures</u> Responsibility: NCC	<u>Tasks</u> - Keep paths clear of overhanging obstructions. - Carry out weeding along pathways. <u>Considerations</u> - Infrastructure and signage should be checked regularly, and any defects reported to the Appropriate Council Officer within 7 days unless urgent.

<u>8. Litter collection</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
Responsibility: GMC, NCC	- Litter picks to be carried out on a regular basis, any large / hazardous items or fly tip to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours. - Bins will be emptied by the Parks Cleansing Team.

6.3 Objective 3: Publicity, communication, and community Involvement

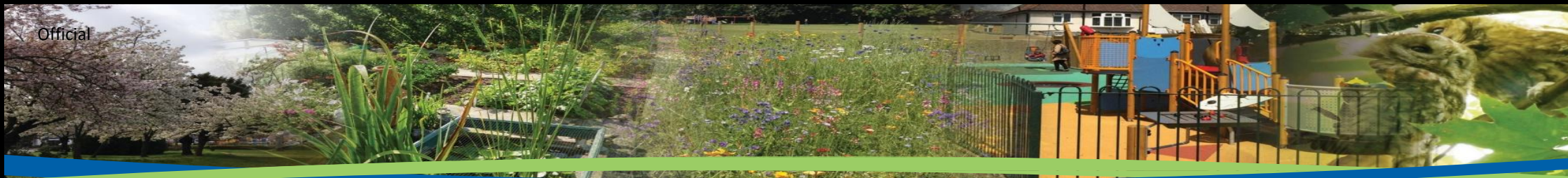
Prescription details	Description
<u>9. Publicity and communication</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
Responsibility: H&H	- H&H to advertise volunteering opportunities and other events through social media and on-site posters.
<u>10. Community involvement</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
Responsibility: H&H	- H&H and LBRuT to explore the establishment of a <i>Friends of Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site</i>.

6.4 Objective 4: Monitoring and Management Planning

Prescription details	Description
<u>11. Habitat and species monitoring</u> Responsibility: LBRuT	<u>Tasks</u> - Every year identify a key ecological community or species group to monitor to inform management success. Expert help should be sought where required. <u>Considerations</u> - Report any incidental sightings of species to H&H. - Where a sighting is imminently important to the management of a site (such as bird nesting or badger setts), the NCC must inform the Appropriate Council Officer prior to continuation of work.
<u>12. Review management and work plans</u> Responsibility: LBRuT	<u>Tasks</u> - Twice yearly site visits will be undertaken with all stakeholders to assess progress and any issues encountered. - At the end of each calendar year, the Management Plan and Work Programme will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

6.5 Table 1 – Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site Work programme 2027 – 2031

Prescription	Priority	Year					Usual Timing	Lead resource	Prescription details	Comments
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031				
P1: Scrub and minor tree maintenance	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct - Feb	NCC	Cut back encroaching bramble from meadow. Remove exotic species.	Consider impacts to nesting birds
P2: Trees over 10cm DBH	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required	AC	Carry out tree safety works as required, in liaison with Appropriate Council Officer and NCC.	Consider impacts to bats and nesting birds
P3: Meadow grassland maintenance	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apr – Sep	NCC	Undertake bi-annual hay cut in spring and autumn months.	Leave 10% of meadow uncut.



P4: Hedgerow management	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct – Feb	NCC	Manually trim all hedgerows annually to promote dense, bushy growth.	Consider impacts to nesting birds
P5: Habitat creation and enhancement	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All year	NCC/H&H	Explore opportunities for further enhancement of the site.	Local community involvement to be considered
P6: Amenity grassland and pathside maintenance.	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	April - Nov	GMC	Amenity grass, 0.5m pathside strips and overhanging vegetation along pathways to be cut as per GM contract specification. Ensure benches and park furniture are neatly cut round. Maintain access to the site from the school entrance gate.	
P7: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All year	NCC	Keep paths clear of overhanging obstructions, keep borders clear of weeds.	
P8: Litter collection	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All year	NCC GMC	Litter pick when on site, any sharps/inappropriate/ large/bulky litter and fly tipping	

									to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer.	
P9: Publicity and communication	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All year	H&H	Advertise volunteering events and raise profile of Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site through social media and on-site posters.	Work with LBRuT
P10: Community involvement	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All year	H&H	Explore the feasibility of establishing a <i>Friends of Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site</i> community group.	Work with LBRuT
P11: Habitat and species monitoring	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	As appropriate	LBRuT	Monitor key ecological communities and species groups to inform management.	H&H to provide support where necessary
P12: Review management plan and work programme	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Nov	LBRuT	Biannual site meeting to discuss progress. Annual review of management plan prescriptions.	



6.6 Priority levels

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

7.0 Management Map





8.0 References

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Richmond Biodiversity Partnership (2025) Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan. Richmond upon Thames: LB Richmond.

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Sutherland, W.J. and Hill, D.A. (2008) Managing Habitats for Conservation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



9.0 Appendices

Appendix 1

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, habitats and species relevant to Oldfield Meadow Wildlife Site, [online] available at - [FINAL-RBAP-2025-2_compressed-2.pdf](#)

Appendix 2

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

Appendix 3

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

Appendix 4

Oldfield Road Meadow SINC Citation

Site Reference: RiL60

Site Name: Oldfield Road Meadow

Summary: A large meadow supporting species-rich semi-improved neutral grassland with mature boundary trees and a newly planted hedgerow

Grid ref: TQ12746957

Area (ha): 0.65

Borough(s): Richmond

Habitat(s): Semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees and hedgerow

Access: No public access ***This citation was last updated prior to the opening of the site*

Ownership: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames



Site Description: Unmown semi-improved neutral grassland covers the majority of the site. False oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* dominates much of the sward with abundant red fescue *Festuca rubra* and common couch *Elymus repens*. Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* is frequent and smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis* occasional. Wall barley *Hordeum murinum* is frequent at the edges of the site and meadow barley *H. secalinum* rare within the sward.

The most frequent forbs recorded are field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, cut-leaved crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum*, dove's-foot crane's-bill *G. molle*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, spotted medick *Medicago arabica*, black medick *Medicago lupulina*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, meadow buttercup *R. acris*, germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratensis*.

There are scattered trees along the northern boundary of the site including a mature beech *Fagus sylvatica*, lime *Tilia x europaea*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, London plane *Platanus x hispanica*.

There is a line of trees along the eastern boundary of the site. Many of these trees were Leyland cypress overhanging from the adjacent property. Other species were mainly young trees including wild cherry *Prunus avium*, hybrid black poplar *Populus x canadensis*, apple *Malus domestica*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and field maple *Acer campestre*. There is also a mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior* at the north-eastern corner of the site.

A newly planted hedgerow runs along the northern boundary. Species included hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and plum *Prunus domestica*.

Site first notified:

Boundary last changed:

Citation last edited: 21/9/23

Mayor Agreed:

Defunct:

Last Updated: N