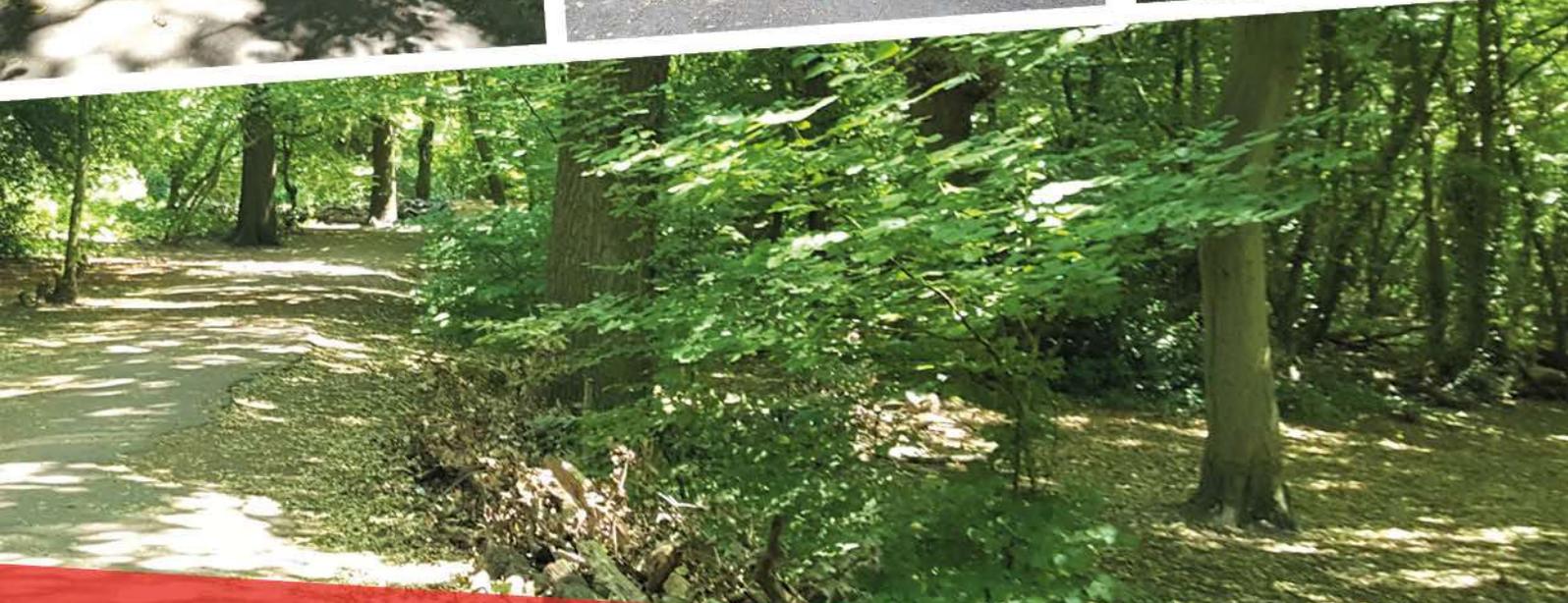


# QUEEN'S WOOD



**Park Management Plan 2020**  
(minor amendments January 2021)

**Haringey**  
LONDON

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## Foreword

Dear residents and park users,

I am pleased to share with you the management plan for Queen's Wood. This plan has been developed by Haringey Council, in partnership with the Friends of Queen's Wood stakeholders in and around the park and with input from your local ward councillors.

Residents have told us that our parks and green spaces are one of the things they love the most about Haringey, and as a council, we agree. We are proud of our green spaces and are committed to doing all we can to make our parks the very best they can be.

Most of Haringey's district and local parks have been nationally recognised through the Green Flag Award scheme, and we continue to work with Friends groups to maintain and improve our parks for our community and visitors alike. In a recent resident survey 80% of people told us they were satisfied with parks and greenspaces in the borough.

It is no secret that Haringey – like all local authorities – has been affected by austerity, but we continue to work hard to fund and maintain our parks, as well as bringing in external investment to provide a much-needed boost.

Green spaces in Haringey play so many different roles - from a retreat from the busy city, or a place for sport and play, to sites for nature conservation and world-renowned events. Each management plan seeks to balance the many competing demands for each park to allow our community to enjoy the park their way.

This management plan looks to show how the council is meeting and addressing the criteria of the Green Flag Award scheme and sets out the priorities for action and improvement of the park over the coming years.

I hope you find this document useful and I would encourage you to make the most of your local park. If you want to get more involved in the future management of the park why not consider joining a Friends group, attending an event or simply just send us some of your thoughts?

Thank you,



Cllr Kirsten Hearn  
Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Equalities & Leisure

## Open space vision in Haringey.

Our draft vision is that by 2023 Haringey's parks and green spaces will be places where:

- Residents' lives are being improved by access to quality green space.
- Communities take an active role in the decisions about the future of parks and green spaces.
- Civic pride and community ownership of parks are encouraged, through a diverse range of volunteering opportunities.
- A diverse range of events is offered, providing a backdrop for communities to celebrate together and enhance the borough's cultural offer.
- Wildlife flourishes and habitats are maintained, expanded and connected.
- Spaces are protected and future proofed for the next generation.
- Funding for parks is sustainable.

The strategy is in development and will be subject to consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders before the Council is asked to formally adopt it later in 2020. More details are set out in sections 10.4 and 10.5.

## Purpose of the Management Plan

This management plan details and guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of Queen's Wood.

In developing this management plan, we particularly want to stress the importance we place on our commitment to involve the whole community in shaping the future of Queen's Wood. This is because we recognise that open space affects the lives of almost everyone who lives and works nearby. We believe that the combination of effective management and community involvement of all our open spaces offers considerable potential for helping to make Haringey a thriving and more cohesive community.

This management plan should be treated as a living and evolving document. It is open to review and adaptation in an ever-changing environment.

This document is the primary location where all those with a connection to Queen's Wood - council staff and members, Friends and community groups, partners and residents - should be confident that everything about Queen's Wood can be found and is set out here.

It also tells a little of the history of the park, how it is today and details future plans and aspirations and how these are to be achieved.

## 1 Setting the scene

### 1.1 Haringey in a nutshell

Haringey is one of 33 London boroughs, and is located to the north of the capital covering 11 square miles (28km<sup>2</sup>) in total. The borough population in 2020 is estimated to be 289,000 which is 15% more than ten years ago.



Overall Haringey is the seventh most deprived borough in London (out of 32). However, the borough has extreme contrasts. Areas such as the high hilly communities of Highgate, Muswell Hill and Crouch End in the west are some of the most prosperous locations to live in London, while some wards in the east are classified as being amongst the more deprived in the country.

### 1.2 The demographics of Haringey

The population is very diverse and very youthful. Around a quarter of the borough population is aged 0-19 and only a tenth of residents are over 65. Nearly two fifths of the borough population are from black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) groups and 26% identify as “white other”.

Queen’s Wood is in Highgate ward and Muswell Hill ward. The population density in Highgate ward is 5,276 residents per km<sup>2</sup> and that of Muswell Hill ward is 7,482/km<sup>2</sup> (compared to an average of 10,264 in Haringey and 8,697 in London).

The Haringey website has detailed information about the population of the borough and individual wards within the borough. This can be found at <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/state-of-the-borough>

### 1.3 Open space provision in Haringey

Haringey Council manages most of the public open space within the borough, except for Alexandra Park, Highgate Woods and Tottenham Marshes.

Although much greener than some other London boroughs, Haringey is deficient in all types of open space, including public parks. This fact underlines the importance of improving and maintaining sites like Queen's Wood to enable more intense and diverse use.

In 2014, 41.8% of Highgate ward and 30.7% of Muswell Hill ward (in which Queen's Wood is located) was described as open space. This is above the average open space across Haringey (28%) and London (39%) and demonstrates the difference in population density in the west of the borough compared to the east.

Furthermore, 22.1% of the land area of Highgate ward and 24.7% of Muswell Hill ward is **public** open space compared to nearly 17% across the whole of Haringey and nearly 20% across London. Again this demonstrates the difference between the west and east of the borough in terms of access to public open space.

## 2. About Queen's Wood Local Nature Reserve

### 2.1 Site Location and description

The coordinates of Queen's Wood are 528787 / 188610 and grid reference TQ288885.

Queen's Wood covers an area of 21.54ha. It is in the wards of both Muswell Hill and Highgate, two of 19 wards within the London Borough of Haringey.

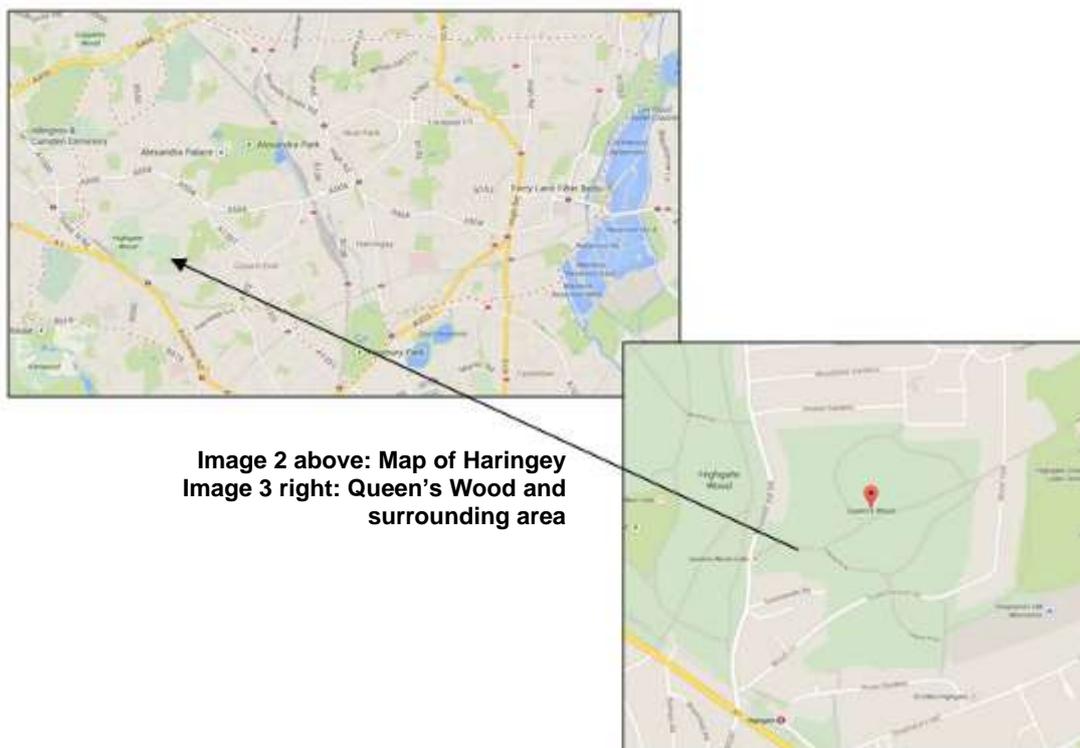


Image 2 above: Map of Haringey  
Image 3 right: Queen's Wood and surrounding area

Queen's Wood was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1990. It is an area of ancient woodland, abutting Highgate Wood to the west and Crouch End Open Space to the east.

It was originally part of the ancient Forest of Middlesex which covered much of London, Hertfordshire and Essex and was mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is now one of four Local Nature Reserves in Haringey (Railway Fields, Parkland Walk and Coldfall Wood) and one of four ancient woodlands (Highgate, Coldfall and Bluebell Woods).

Muswell Hill Road runs to the west of the Wood creating the western boundary and the divide between Queen's Wood and Highgate Wood.

Queen's Wood Road cuts through the Wood, dividing the northern and southern sections and to the south west corner lies a builders' supply yard.

All other boundaries of the Wood are created by residential gardens from large houses in the surrounding roads.

## 2.2 Facilities

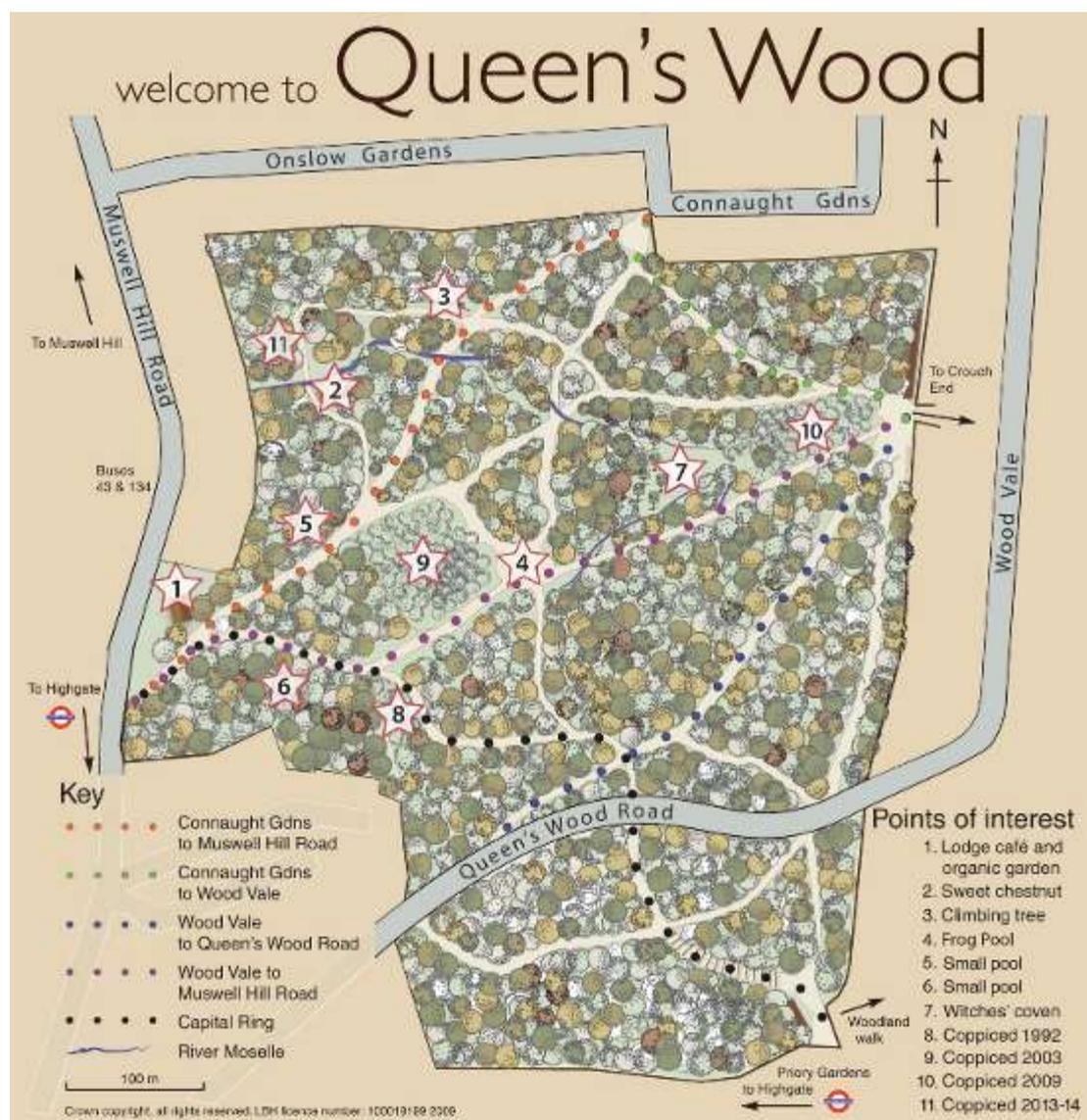


Image 4: Map of Queen's Wood

### 2.2.1 Queen's Wood Lodge Cafe

Queen's Wood Café is a non-profit café within Queen's Wood.

The facility offers a great selection of delicious, organic, seasonal food and drinks with plenty of vegetarian options, in a child and dog-friendly environment.

The building is owned by Haringey Council and was used to house the Wood Keeper until the early nineties.

The current twenty-year lease was renegotiated in 2019.



**Image 5 & 6: The Queen's Wood Café and Jungle Walkway**

The area to the left of the Café contains a jungle walkway, an aerial play facility made of ropes and nets for children of all ages to enjoy.

### **2.2.2 Organic Garden**

Behind Queen's Wood Cafe is an organic garden. It is surrounded by trees and has a tranquil quality with flowers, fruit and vegetables growing side by side and bees from the hives gathering pollen.

The garden was started in 1998 when the derelict Lodge building was reclaimed and restored. It was the original garden for the Lodge Keeper, and so the soil had been well nurtured in the past but had become overgrown with trees and shrubs.

Now it is a thriving example of what can be achieved in a small space with apple and quince trees, red, black currant and gooseberry bushes interspersed with vegetable plots. Among these grow forget-me-knots and a variety of companion planting flowers to attract pollinators and pest predators. Around the edge the ivy, bluebells, teasels, wood avens, and herb robert create a woodland edge effect.



**Image 7: Queen's Wood Organic Community Garden**

The garden is maintained by volunteers on Mondays and Thursdays, from 9.30am to 1pm. Plants are for sale during cafe opening times.

The garden also holds workshops on food growing and compost making for schools and other groups in the local area, and offer Corporate Team Building days in the garden.



Image 8: Bird box on back of Cafe sign

### **2.2.3 Friends storage hut (former public toilet)**

The Friends secured a grant in 2011/12 to enable them to convert the former men's toilet into a storage space for tools. The building is made of brick and matches the Lodge Café in style. The Friends also obtained money from the National Heritage Lottery Fund in 2014/15, with matched funding from the Council, to make major improvements in a prominent area of the Wood close to the boundary line with the Café/Garden. This funding enabled them to create an attractive gabion retaining wall, plant a new hedge, re-landscape the whole surrounding area and install a bench and two magnifying posts to encourage children to explore the woodland habitat.

### **2.2.4 Old paddling pool frog pond**

The clay lined pond was created by the Friends of Queen's Wood and Froglife in 2010 as a habitat for wildlife. Money from the Council and BIFFA Awards was used to provide this vital water body, as a small step to offsetting the loss of three quarters of Britain's ponds over the last one hundred years.



Images 9a and 9b: Frog pond in Queen's Wood, before and after

The pond is particularly aimed at frogs, toads and dragonflies, but also supports an array of underwater life such as water beetles, pond snails and dragonfly larvae. The ponds dipping platform offers a place for local schoolchildren to view these underwater creatures.

The pond is also used by birds and mammals such as bats and foxes to drink, bathe and feed. However ducks and fish are less welcome visitors as they eat other pond life and reduce biodiversity. Visitors are discouraged to feed ducks, release fish into the water or allow their dogs into the water.

There has been a pond in this location since at least since 1894. It was originally an ornamental feature when the Woods were landscaped as a 'park' and opened to the public in 1898.

In 1935 the then Hornsey Council replaced the pond with a much larger concrete paddling pool, surrounded by paving and enclosed with a fence which generations of children enjoyed playing in until the mid 1970s when it became derelict.

Local archaeologists observed the demolition of the paddling pool and the excavations for the new pond. Among their discoveries was confirmation that the base of the original Victorian pond did not use modern Portland cement but waterproof cement, made with coal ash and lime.

They also found that this concrete base covered three meters of sandy silt, overlaying a bed of gravel. The sandy silt contains pollen from plants that once flourished in the Wood, some of which no longer grow there.

The Friends of Queen's Wood manage the pond by once every year removing invasive plants and leaves from the pond's surface to allow animals to grow and feed. This takes place in winter, when most of the wildlife that uses the pond is elsewhere in the Wood.



**Image 10: Frog Pool interpretation panel**

Since the pond was created, certain dog walkers had persisted in encouraging their dogs to access the pond despite signage clearly stating this was not permitted. The wooden fencing had been regularly broken down, with resultant disturbance to pond-life and the surrounding vegetation, leaving the area of the pond looking run-down and neglected. In 1028 the wooden fencing was replaced by more secure and Attractive wire fencing, coupled with the planting of a new hedge in the most prominent area at the edge of the pond and though dogs are discouraged from entering the pond there are means by which this is made possible, improved in 2019. This work has led to the new fencing remaining intact and the hedged developing, making the whole area much more attractive.

### **2.2.5 Other pools**

Two more pools were created in 2010 as part of the same project as the Frog Pool.

The top pool close to the Lodge was created in an area where water from a spring line regularly ran across the adjacent footpath. The pond now captures most of this water and an overflow pipe running beneath the path redirects any excess further down the slope away from pedestrians.



**Image 11: Pool near Cafe**

The lower pool, also created in a traditionally wet area, is located adjacent to the Capital Ring path. This pond captures water from a French drain designed to protect the path.



**Image 12: Lower pool in Queen's Wood (photo courtesy of Stephen Middleton)**

Both pools are designed to benefit wildlife but unlike the Frog Pool they are not fenced. Dogs are allowed to access these ponds although not encouraged. Dead hedging offers the pond some protection and acts as a visual and physical barrier helping to prevent accidents.

However both pools get cluttered up with sticks thrown in by children and have to be periodically cleared to keep them looking reasonably tidy.

In 2018 a small ornamental pool in the valley floor, traditionally known as the 'Dogpool, which had been overgrown by a thicket of brambles and saplings following the coppicing in the 2,000's, was opened up and restored.

### **2.2.6 Pathways**

Path improvements in Queen's Wood took place phased over a two-year period in 2008 and 2009, however further works are now much needed. A programme of phased planned path repairs will be undertaken as budgets allow over the next 3-5 years based on a prioritisation exercise to be undertaken with the Friends.



**Image 13 & 14: Paths before and after the 2008/09 improvement works**



Image 15 & 16: Improved paths, 2009

Led by the Friends and undertaken by TCV, sleeper bridges were installed across two streams to improve accessibility.

### 2.2.7 Path edging

Key paths in the western part of the Wood have benefited from works carried out by the Friends and The Conservation Volunteers, to install path edging.

This has utilised some of the spare wood generated from the coppicing which took place in 2014, and has added some varied habitat for wildlife, while protecting some of the delicate coppiced areas.



Image 17 & 18: Path edging

## 2.3 Trees

Haringey's parks and open spaces are of significant arboricultural importance as they contain some of the largest and oldest trees in the borough. Trees are an essential feature in parks providing shade and structure, making them a more attractive environment to visit.

There is a planned inspection programme for which we aim to inspect each tree every four years. Trees in parks usually only require maintenance to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties. Over 150 new trees were planted in Haringey's parks and green spaces on 2017 and 2018, funded in part by the GLA.

We will be reviewing and updating policies on tree management as part of the new Parks Strategy, with likely changes to inspection regimes and details on a more planned approach to new tree planting. This will also include how we aim to mitigate existing pests and diseases, such as Oak Processionary Moth, along with future risks to Haringey's tree stock.

The wood is an ancient oak-hornbeam woodland, which features English oak and occasional beech which provide a canopy above cherry, field maple, hazel, holly, hornbeam, midland hawthorn, mountain ash and both species of lowland birch. The scarce Wild Service Tree (which is evidence of the Woods's ancient origin) is scattered throughout the wood.

Other specific issues affecting individual sites can be discussed with the Nature Conservation Officer.



Image 19 & 20: Trees in Queen's Wood

### 3. A welcoming place

#### 3.1 Visiting Queen's Wood

Queen's Wood is a 52-acre (21.54 hectare) area of ancient woodland in the London Borough of Haringey, abutting Highgate Wood and lying between East Finchley, Highgate, Muswell Hill and Crouch End. It was originally part of the ancient Forest of Middlesex which covered much of London, Hertfordshire and Essex and was mentioned in the Domesday Book and is now one of three Local Nature Reserves in the London Borough of Haringey. It is situated a few minutes' walk away from Highgate tube station.

##### 3.1.1 Public transport

Queen's Wood is approximately a couple of hundred metres from Highgate tube station, on the Northern line.



Image 21: Map of closest tube station to Queen's Wood

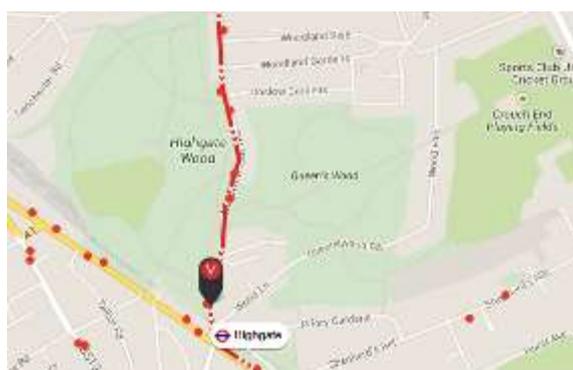


Image 21: Bus stops around Queen's Wood

A number of buses stop in the roads surrounding Queen's Wood including:  
134 – Tottenham Court Road to High Barnet, stopping on Muswell Hill Road  
43 – London Bridge to Muswell Hill, stopping on Muswell Hill Road  
263 – Barnet to Archway, stopping on Archway Road

### 3.1.2 Vehicles

There are no parking facilities within Queen's Wood and due to its nature conservation status any driving within the site is kept to a minimum.

Parking is allowed in the surrounding roads including Queen's Wood Road.

A small part of the Highgate Station CPZ touches the south western corner of the Wood along Wood Lane. This is in operation Monday to Friday, between the hours of 10am and 12pm.

In 2018 the part of Queen's Wood Road bounded by double yellow lines was substantially increased, reducing the number of cars parked on the road and reducing congestion, and thereby improving the appearance of the Wood in this area.

### 3.1.3 Bicycles

Bicycles are banned from Queen's Wood as set out in its byelaws.

In 2014 following requests from the Friends of Queen's Wood and local residents no cycling signs were installed at all entrances to the Wood.

Floor stencils were painted on paths where suitable. Where these couldn't be painted, symbols were added to existing signs and new wooden posts installed.

The floor stencils were repainted in 2019.



Image 23 & 24: Floor stencil template and on path



**Image 25: Sign on wooden post**

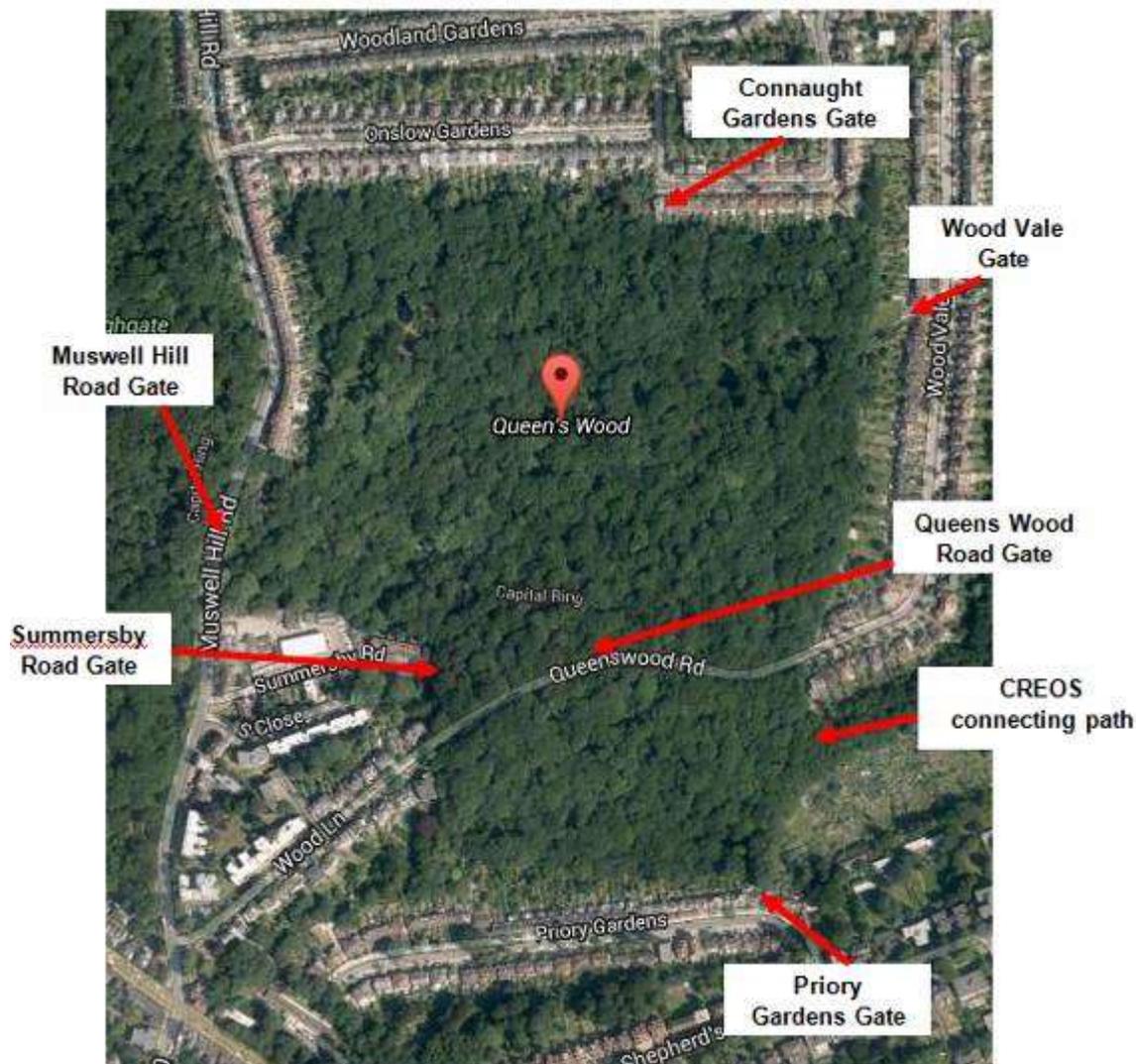


**Image 26: Bike stands at Muswell Hill Road gate**

There are two bicycle stands at the Muswell Hill Road gate, encouraging users of the Wood to leave their bikes there.

### 3.2 Entrances

Access into the Woods can be gained from a number of pathways along Queen's Wood Road. In addition to these there are six other entrances.



**Image 27: Map of Queen's Wood and the gate names**

The 'main' entrance is the one located on Muswell Hill Road. Just within here to the right is the Cafe and Community Garden.

#### 3.2.1 Vehicle access

Operations staff in vehicles, such as the Hygiene Team and contractors' access the Wood through the Muswell Road Gate.



Image 28: Muswell Hill Road Gate

### 3.3 Access for all

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone with ‘a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal, day-to-day activities’.

Haringey Council and its partners are required by law to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against with regard to access to public places, such as Queen’s Wood. The council is also committed to meeting its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty with regard to ensuring that those with and without protected characteristics under the Equality Act are able to enjoy the park’s facilities.

This commitment is considered whenever changes or improvements are made to the park. This not only benefits disabled users of the parks and their carers/companions, but also benefits those with small children and older people.

All entrances to Queen’s Wood are step-free, although there are some sets of stairs within the wood, along the steeper paths. Due to the nature of the existing paths and terrain, people in wheelchairs and with pushchairs should be cautious when using Queen’s Wood.

Haringey’s Parks team are currently looking into the feasibility of installing a Changing Places accessible welfare facility at Queen’s Wood along with welfare facilities for groups such as forest schools. This project will be linked to wider accessibility options for the site and the proposed natural flood management scheme which also addresses accessibility issues.

### 3.4 Signage

The welcome signs at each entrance to the park show an individual gate name for ease of identification as well as contact numbers for the council, police emergency and non-emergency numbers and for the Friends of Queen’s Wood.

Symbols are also shown to highlight initiatives and make users aware of restrictions in place. These include:

- Shared use walking / cycling symbols (with pedestrian priority)

- no unauthorised vehicles
- keep your park tidy
- three dog control orders with potential penalty for failing to adhere to these orders.

The entrance signs also include the Neighbourhood Watch logo to show the partnership the Council has with the Haringey Neighbourhood Watch Association (see section 5.7).

As well as the entrance gate signs, the play areas have signs which include:

- contact details for the council
- any relevant age restrictions
- no alcohol symbol
- no smoking symbol
- no dogs allowed
- no glass bottles
- a message that children must be accompanied at all times.

### 3.4.1 Interpretation panels

In 2011 interpretation boards were installed at three locations within the Wood, showing a map of the site and with key features marked. These maps also show the viewer where they standing.

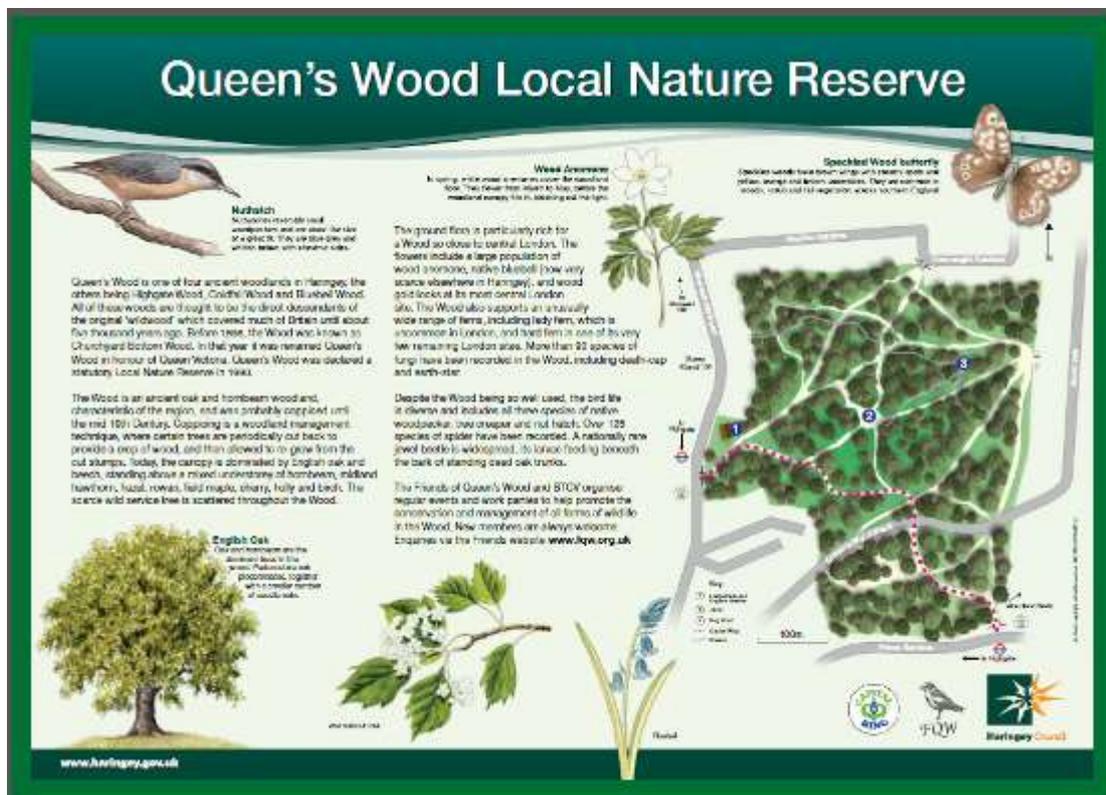


Image 29: Interpretation signage installed within Queen's Wood

Since then two further interpretation boards have been installed, funded by the friends, one on bats and the other on medieval banks.

### 3.4.2 Directional finger posts

Finger posts are found at a number of locations pointing people in all directions, vital for a large area like Queen's Wood, with access points all around.

Many of these are historic and have been in their current locations for many years. Others are more recent and were installed as part of the Capital Ring improvements and point the way of the Capital Ring Walk.



Image 30: Directional finger posts

### 3.5 Toilet facilities and refreshments

Toilet facilities and refreshments are available within the cafe, which is open daily.

### 3.6 Events

The council welcomes and encourages events put on for the community in all its parks, however for Queen's Wood, any such events would have to be sympathetic to the special nature of the site and special procedures would be in place to determine the appropriateness of events. Events at Queen's Wood in the past have mainly been small scale community focused events hosted by the Friends.

The [outdoor events policy](#) sets out the types of events that are encouraged and those we do not allow.

Those interested in holding an event of any size can refer to the [Events Brochure](#).

Small community events and activities are particularly encouraged so we have made the application process easier and events for under 100 people are free of any charge.

Money generated from major events contributes to providing support for community events to take place in parks. This includes more than £20,000 from the [Parks and Open Spaces Small Grants](#) 'community events' theme which is available for anyone to apply for.

An Environmental Impact Fee is set out within the events fees and charges. This is charged to hirers on a sliding scale with the price dependent on the size and scale of the event. This is specifically set aside for the Friends and recognised stakeholders of the park the event took place in, to bid for.

Event management training is also held each year for groups who want to learn how to put on a safe and exciting event in a park.

Particularly popular have been Family Fun Days run each summer in the Wood attracting up to some 100 younger children. The Friends also run a series of walks around the Wood each year on themes such as trees And other flora, fungi, bats, birdlife and invertebrates.

## 4. Clean and Well Maintained

### 4.1 Operational and management responsibility for parks

Responsibility for the management of maintenance of all the borough's parks is split between three council teams.

The Parks Operations team is responsible for the grounds maintenance and management of litter and hygiene within the park, while the Commissioning and Client Team is responsible for the physical assets within parks, arboriculture, allotments, nature conservation and the management of projects within parks.

The Active Communities Team is responsible for the management of events in parks, activation of parks through cycling, walking, and other fitness initiatives. The team is also responsible for the management of the council's small grant scheme and its partnerships with Neighbourhood Watch and the Conservation Volunteers.

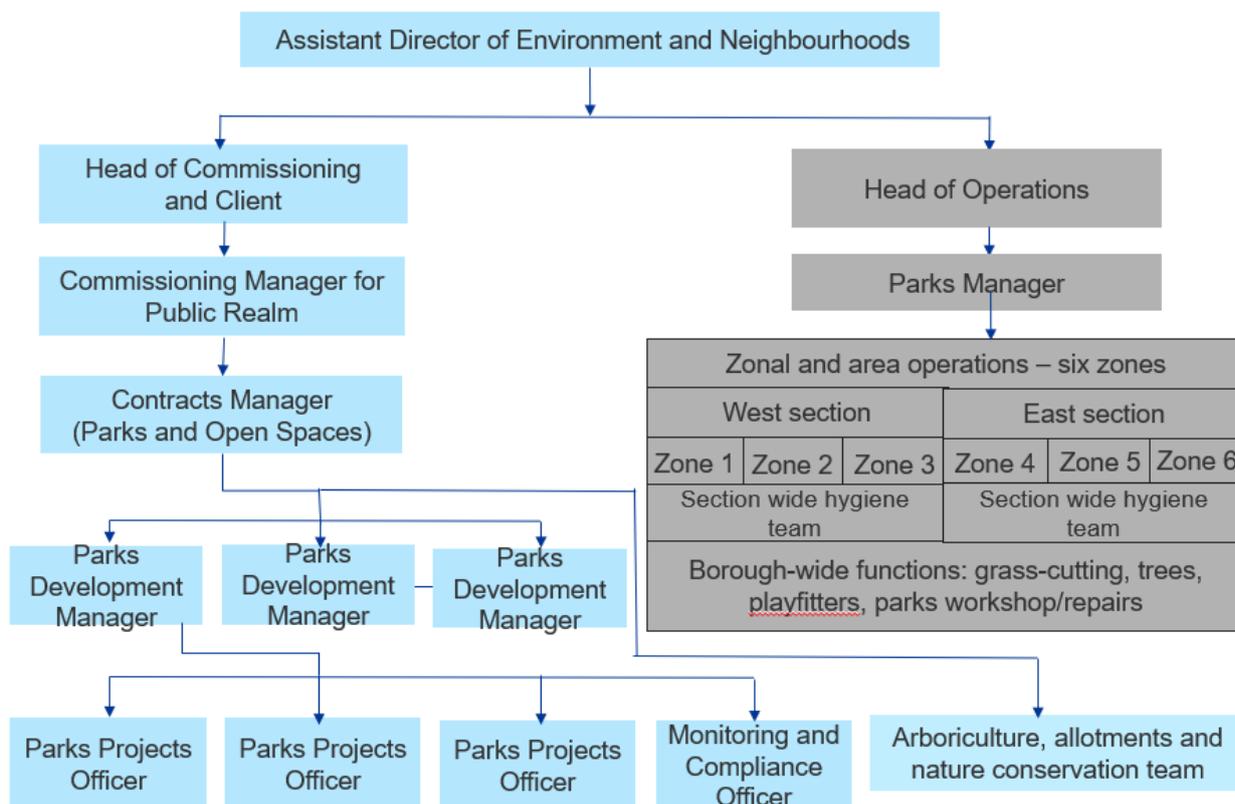


Image 31: Simplified parks structure chart

### 4.2 Current maintenance by Park Operations

The structure chart in section 4.1 shows a simplified overview of the work of the Park Operations Team (shaded in grey).

As shown, the borough is divided into two geographic sections (east and west), each of which is divided into three zones, giving a total of six zones across the borough. The zones are shown in the map overleaf.

Each zone has a six grounds maintenance staff: a team leader, a senior operative and four gardeners, but team sizes are altered to meet operational demands by transferring staff between zones and by bringing in seasonal agency resource as necessary. Queen's Wood is in operational zone 2.

The Parks Operations structure is the total resource available for all parks and open spaces. This not only includes council parks and open spaces, but also all the Homes for Haringey sites across the borough.

In addition to the zonal operations, the hygiene function is organised at a section-wide basis, one team operating in the east section of the borough and the other in the west. The hygiene teams empty litter bins across all parks and open spaces to an agreed schedule. They also respond to emergency cleansing and hygiene requests.

At a borough-wide level there are also two play fitters who undertake maintenance and repair of playground equipment and outdoor gyms, and a team of two in-house arboricultural staff who carry out tree planting and supplement the use of external contractors for tree maintenance and responsive arboricultural work. Tractor-based mowing of larger areas of grass is also carried out as a borough-wide activity.

There are also two parks workshop fitters who carry out regular servicing of equipment and reactive repairs to parks machinery. They are based in dedicated parks workshop at Ashley Road depot.

Most park operatives work Monday – Thursday 7.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 7.30 to 1.30pm. However, limited weekend work also takes place with pitch marking and hygiene activities for example.



Image 32: Map showing zones for operational management of parks in Haringey

### 4.3 Asset management and management of projects in parks

The Parks and Open Spaces team now works to the same six zones as the Operations team. One officer has been allocated to lead on projects, asset management and community liaison in each zone. Each zonal officer has responsibility for:

- Regular asset inspections
- Asset related enquiries
- Non-emergency asset repairs
- Management Plan input
- Project identification
- Friends Groups liaison
- Support for Friends-led development work
- Councillor liaison
- Identification of volunteering opportunities

The allocated officer for Zone 2, in which Queen's Wood sits, is David Theakston.

A Nature Conservation Officer and a Monitoring and Compliance Officer have responsibility for parks and open spaces across the whole borough, including Queen's Wood.

### 4.3.1 Park asset inspections and Spotlight visits

In 2018 the council adopted the Mayor of London's typology for parks. Under this typology Queen's Wood is described as a local park site (A3) as it is between 2-20 hectares in area.

Since January 2019 the council has also instigated a programme of park asset inspections with the frequency dependent on the type of park. As a local park Queen's Wood is inspected every quarter.

The inspections cover hard assets, including:

- Bins, benches, bollards, lighting columns
- Signage, noticeboards, interpretation
- Paths, steps, handrails, areas of hardstanding, car parking and roadways
- Railings, fencing, gates, walls
- Play area safety surfacing and minor repairs
- Outdoor gyms
- MUGAs, tennis courts, hard sports courts
- Football goalposts
- Paddling pools
- Historic/heritage features/War memorials
- Fountains, artworks, structures, pergolas
- Waterbodies, SUDs, water leaks, drain covers
- Cycle stands, raised beds
- Bird & bat boxes

Parks assets are inspected and rated according to their condition, as follows:

A: Excellent: No action required

B: Good: No action required

C: Acceptable: No action required

D: Improvement required: Defects will be addressed as budgets allow

E: Emergency repair required: Make-safe within 24 hours. Full repair within 28 days.

From 2019-20 we will use the Confirm database system to record the outcomes of all inspections, defects and customer enquiries. Confirm Connect handheld devices will be the main tool for recording site inspections.

Defects can also be reported by the public, Friends, councillors and stakeholders online via the Council's website at [www.haringey.gov.uk/park-problem](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/park-problem) or by using the Love Clean Streets smart phone app or by calling the council.

As part of our zonal approach we have also started to hold 'Spotlight meetings' with Councillors, Friends and key stakeholders of Queen's Wood every quarter. The spotlight meetings have been developed to focus on specific Queen's Wood issues within a small group and to communicate through a "face-to-face" contact with a Haringey Parks Officer. This is in contrast to both the Haringey Friends of Parks

Forum and The Friends of Queen's Wood meetings, both of which have a much broader remit and audience.

### 4.3.2 Capital projects

A parks capital project commences once a project brief has been approved by the council's Commissioning and Client Board and a capital budget and project manager has been allocated. The project manager is usually but not always the zonal lead.

Capital projects for Queen's Wood are listed in the Action Plan at Section 12.

## 4.4 Scheduled Maintenance

The following table provides a summary of the maintenance regime within Queen's Wood.

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<b>Bins, Litter and Dog Fouling</b>	Twice weekly	Dog fouling dealt with when reported.
<b>Fly tips and other hygiene issues</b>	Reactive	In response to emergency call-outs

Image 33: Scheduled maintenance in Queen's Wood

## 4.5 Setting and measuring service standards

The quality of grounds maintenance and cleanliness of parks and open spaces is assessed via a simple four-point assessment system, called the Parks Quality Scoring system. The scoring categories are:

- A – Excellent
- B – Good
- C – Acceptable
- D – Unacceptable

These service standards are set out in a booklet that is made available to all grounds maintenance and hygiene operatives. The aim of the booklet is to clearly and visually illustrate the different standards. Photographs, alongside brief and simple text, provide staff with a clear means of assessing the standards they are expected to achieve.

This system has since been adopted by the London Parks Benchmarking Group who have updated the manual and are working hard to get this recognised as an industry standard within the grounds maintenance trade both on a London-wide and on a national level.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) within this scoring system are for three main areas of activity and a fourth more seasonal category:

- Grass (which includes the grass cut height, follow up and final finish)
- Shrubs (which includes pruning, weeding of beds and general appearance)

- Hygiene (which is made up of 3 separate scores of litter and bins, detritus and graffiti)
- Seasonal and other categories (horticultural seasonal work such as hedges, leaf clearance, rose bed maintenance and seasonal bedding as well as nature conservation and some infrastructure points such as pathways).

The Monitoring and Compliance Officer visits each park and open space on a regular basis to assess these aspects of the park against the service standards.

An overall score is calculated based on the percentage of A (Excellent) and B (Good) scores achieved across all categories.



Image 34: Illustrative service standards for grass cutting

Category	Target A/B	Achieved 2018-19
Grass	90%	61%
Shrubs	90%	83%
Hygiene	60%	71%
Seasonal and other	55%	65%

Image 35: The boroughwide targets and performance for the above KPIs

#### 4.6 Monitoring the condition of equipment and physical assets

Since January 2019 a Parks Project Officer also carries out a quarterly site inspection of the physical assets in Queen's Wood. The condition of each item is noted and where applicable repairs (or replacements) are requested. Any grounds maintenance or hygiene issues that are observed, such as overflowing bins or dumped rubbish are raised with the appropriate officer within Parks Operations.

#### **4.7 Tree maintenance programme**

Tree works in parks, open spaces and woodlands are usually undertaken to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties. For example works to trees in Queen's Wood have in the past been carried out to improve security on site by raising the canopies of the trees to increase sight levels and reducing overhanging branches into adjacent roads.

#### **4.8 Graffiti**

All graffiti of an obscene or offensive nature is removed within 24 hours of being reported. We aim to remove all other graffiti within three working days. Small bits of graffiti can be removed by parks operatives who have access to specialised graffiti removal kits.

Park users can report graffiti using the Love Clean Streets smart phone app, and the council website. The Council also has a 'hotline' number (020 8885 7700) direct to Veolia (the council's waste management contractor) to report obscene or offensive graffiti in parks and other public places.

#### **4.9 Maintenance of buildings, equipment and landscape**

Building maintenance in parks is shared between lease holders and the council. Most modern leases in the parks have been let on a full repairing and insuring basis relieving the council of this ongoing obligation.

Older leases are internal repairs only and along with the operational buildings in parks are maintained by the council's facilities management service. The budget for building maintenance is held by them and they are responsible for maintaining the buildings and ensuring compliance with legislation.

Equipment maintenance is carried out internally by the parks service for all types of equipment. Play inspections are undertaken internally and through external specialist on a quarterly basis.

Landscape maintenance is carried out by the parks service.

#### **4.10 Hygiene**

The Hygiene Team is managed by Parks Operations, covering borough wide hygiene responsibilities. Within Queen's Wood waste bins are emptied on a twice weekly basis, and any dumped rubbish that is reported to the service will be removed. New Council policy is for the removal of all dog bins from parks.

## **5. Healthy, Safe and Secure**

### **5.1 No smoking**

Smoking is permitted (though discouraged) in Queen's Wood although priority 2 of the council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies smoking as a key factor in reducing life expectancy.

However, there is a borough wide smoking ban in place in all children's playgrounds and signage at playground entrances highlights this.

### **5.2 Alcohol**

Alcohol is permitted in Queen's Wood.

PSPOs are intended to deal with "nuisance or anti-social behaviour in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life". Failure to comply with a request from an authorised person to cease drinking or surrender alcohol within the boundary of the PSPO can result in a fine. An authorised person is a police officer, a police community support officer or an authorised member of council staff.

There is currently no PSPO covering Queen's Wood.

Further details of areas in Haringey where PSPOs are in operation can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/community/community-safety-and-engagement/anti-social-behaviour/public-spaces-protection-orders-pspos>

### **5.3 Walking routes**

Walking is an excellent way to adopt a more active lifestyle and the health benefits can really make a difference. It's also a great way to get out and meet people

The Capital Ring Walk offers walkers the chance to see some of London's finest scenery. Divided into 15, easy-to-walk sections, it covers 78 miles (126km) of open space, nature reserves, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest and more.

Queen's Wood is part of number 11 of the 15 walking routes covered by the Capital Ring, running between Hendon and Highgate tube station.

The Capital Ring runs through Queen's Wood, between the entrances off Muswell Hill Road and Priory Gardens, and is marked on the interpretation signs.



**Image 36: Capital Ring walk through Queen's Wood**

The parks service in partnership with other agencies such as NHS Haringey offer regular organised walks in many of the borough's parks.

In 2018 a booklet called *A Walk in the Park* showcases several walks through Haringey parks including The Linear Walk Trail which passes through Bruce Castle Park.



**Image 37: Walking trail**

Further details on walks and walking groups can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking>

## 5.4 Health and safety

The health and safety of visitors to the parks, and staff and contractors working in Queen's Wood is given the highest priority. Health and safety within the wood is managed by ensuring that:

- infrastructure items (including games areas, water features and so on) are inspected regularly as detailed elsewhere in this document.
- planting and landscaping is designed to minimise the risk to park users, and the operational maintenance programme keeps these risks manage

### **5.4.1 Raising health and safety concerns**

Anyone visiting a park, and everyone involved in the parks maintenance and management are encouraged to report any health and safety concerns.

Contact phone, email and web details for the Council appear on all welcome signage, as well as the police emergency and non-emergency numbers.

When people call the Council with a concern, these are logged, assessed and assigned to a relevant team/member of staff to deal with and respond to in an appropriate timescale, using the Confirm system.

### **5.4.2 Friends**

Members of the Friends of Queen's Wood are able to report issues within the park in exactly the same way as members of the public, but they also have close links with the Parks Project Officer and with Operations staff, so will usually approach them directly.

Through a joint Management Committee representatives of the Friends and Council meet 2-3 times a year, when matters of concern can be raised and discussed.

Friends are also encouraged to report issues of anti-social behaviour and other issues through the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator who will direct these to the most relevant person within the police to deal with them.

### **5.4.3 Risk assessments**

The Parks & Open Spaces team ensures that prior to any works being undertaken on Council land, its consultants, contractors and other organisations prepare for approval all necessary Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) covering all proposed works operations. In addition to the usual operations, the Council requires consultants and contractors to provide specific RAMS covering potentially contaminated land, underground services and other unforeseen underground matters, such as UXO (unexploded ordinance), and measures to protect the public during any works. Contractors are further required to undertake CAT scans prior to excavations to identify underground services.

The Parks & Open Spaces team ensures that, where excavations are to take place, underground services information is obtained from utility providers and the Council's Pollution team prepares contaminated land desk studies.

### **5.4.4 Safety representatives**

The parks operations service holds a quarterly Health and Safety Working Group, which is chaired by a council health and safety specialist. It is attended by representatives of operational management, staff from both east and west areas, and trades unions. These quarterly meetings provide the opportunity to raise issues that have not been fully addressed elsewhere. The group is also a place to discuss health and safety issues and legislation, and their implications on working practices

and plays a key role in generating continual improvement in health and safety standards.

#### **5.4.5 Staff reporting**

All staff are encouraged to raise health and safety issues with their manager or with the health and safety representative who can raise concerns at the quarterly Health and Safety Working Group.

#### **5.5 Reporting issues with the 'Love Clean Streets' app**

The 'Love Clean Street' app makes it quick and easy to report problems when people are out and about in the borough. Once the app has been downloaded to a Smartphone, the public can take photos of the problem and send it directly to the team responsible for fixing it using the Confirm system. They will then receive progress updates and will be told when the reported issue has been fixed.

Unlike other 'report it' style apps, 'Love Clean Streets' asks the user to choose from a list of Haringey specific categories for the problem, which ensures the report goes to the right team, first time and will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

#### **5.6 Community safety and policing**

Parks in Haringey remain relatively safe places, especially during the hours of daylight. Over the whole of 2019 there were 728 reported crime or incidents reported to the police across all the parks and open spaces in Haringey.

The most commonly reported crime in parks in 2019 was robbery, which accounted for about 40% of reported crimes in parks. Three in five of these robberies took place after dark. There were also over 80 reported thefts and over 60 cases of possession of cannabis.

About two thirds of crimes in parks were reported during British Summer Time (April to October) when the evenings are longer, and the parks are more heavily used. Over two in five of all reported crimes took place when it was dark and a fifth happened late at night (between 10pm and 5am)."

In Queen's Wood there were 4 reported crimes in 2019, representing only 0.5% of all reported crimes in Haringey parks.

Over the years there have been a number of initiatives the Council has implemented to make the parks safer for all who use them. However, reductions in budgets in the last decade have limited these initiatives.

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams for Highgate and Muswell Hill wards have strong links with Queen's Wood. Police officers are in regular contact with council officers and often attend Friends meetings.

## **5.7 Extending Neighbourhood Watch into parks**

Neighbourhood Watch groups across the borough are encouraged to adopt a local park or green space.

The Neighbourhood Watch Officer is proactive in helping to reduce crime in our parks through interventions such as asking all Neighbourhood Watch Groups to include their local park or green space in the Watch and report any issues of concern, organising a monthly dog walk in a different park every month, where dog walkers are asked about how safe they feel and encourage ongoing engagement with the police, regular communication with Friends of Parks Groups and the Friends Forum, including attending their meetings when invited, and providing monthly crime statistics to the Council and senior police officers showing crime trends and where resources are required.

## **5.8 Designing out crime**

It is widely recognised that key factors in ensuring park safety and the perception of safety are to ensure high usage, adequate onsite staffing presence, good maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and a high level of community involvement and 'ownership'. These matters are dealt with in other sections.

Sensitive landscape management can also assist in reducing crime. Assessing accessibility and potential crime spots, known as 'designing out crime' may result in the removal of inappropriate tall shrubs and their replacement with a more suitable low growing species. In other instances, entrances may be redesigned, or lighting installed.

## **5.9 24-hour access**

Some park sites in the borough are locked at dusk and opened at dawn, due to historical issues or having private houses or gardens backing onto the site. Queen's Wood however is not a locked site.

## **5.10 Dogs**

Dogs and dog walking are a valuable part of the park scene, and dog carers are probably the main daily user group in many green spaces. Their collective presence is a key ingredient of green spaces being populated and safe to use, especially at quieter times of the day and year. Dog walkers are often described as 'eyes and ears' of a green space.

### **5.10.1 Control of dogs**

We recognise that the vast majority of dog owners are, responsible and respectful to their local community. However, we receive complaints from residents about dog fouling and the behaviour of some dogs (and their owners).

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is in place across the borough to control the behaviour of dog owners. The prohibitions have been designed to be as simple as possible, giving clarity and outlining expectations.

Well behaved dogs can be walked or exercised freely off lead in all large parks (over half a hectare) including Queen's Wood. This promotes healthy exercise for dogs and takes into consideration the needs of the borough's dog owners and the welfare of dogs.

In addition, the tennis courts are allowed to be used by dogs when not in use for tennis.

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covers five areas of dog control:

- Dog fouling
- Keeping dogs under control
- Putting dogs on a lead if directed
- Keeping dogs out of designated areas (such as playgrounds)
- Limiting to six the number of dogs that one person can bring to the park

Failure to comply with the requirements of the order can result in a fine or to court if the fine is not paid within a specified timeframe.

The PSPO is in force for three years from October 2017 and can be extended for a further three years. Full details can be found at [www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/pspo - dog control - \\_with\\_seal\\_0.pdf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/pspo_-_dog_control_-_with_seal_0.pdf)

These powers came into effect on the 20 October 2017, introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

**The Public Space Protection Order will remain in force for three years.**

Matters relating to dangerous dogs and dog attacks on people or other dogs should be reported to the Police rather than to the Council.

## **6. Sustainability**

### **6.1 Greenest borough strategy**

Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy was adopted in 2008 in response to growing concerns around climate change.

The Strategy sets out the Council's and its partners commitment to tackle climate change under seven environmental policies to ensure achievement of their 'green' vision over a ten-year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute.

- Improving the urban environment
- Protecting the natural environment
- Managing environmental resources efficiently
- Leading by example
- Encouraging sustainable design and construction
- Promoting sustainable travel
- Raising awareness and involvement

The management and maintenance of parks and how they are used relate back to many of the individual targets within the strategy. Where possible these have been instilled in everyday working practices in and relation to Queen's Wood.

### **6.2 Pesticide use**

The council uses a range of herbicides to control weeds in parks. It remains the most effective in terms of the required resources – with two treatments per year often sufficient to prevent weed growth, as opposed to regular treatment by hand or other means

Chemicals are stored, handled, used and disposed in accordance with manufacturer/supplier requirements, and a COSHH assessment is prepared for each of the substances used.

Reliance on mechanical methods of weed control (e.g. strimming) is reducing as this has an impact on both the operator and also does not address the weed at its roots.

The use of herbicides as a principal form of weed control is increasingly under scrutiny, and the parks department is routinely considering alternatives. This is particularly true of weedkillers containing the component glyphosate. This has received a lot of press coverage subsequent to court cases in the United States, but it remains licensed for use in the UK and Europe.

Officers of the council monitor developments in scientific findings. At this stage, glyphosate appears not to cause harm to humans or any animals larger than micro-organisms.

### **6.3 Sustainable use of materials**

The parks service refrains from the use of non-sustainable peat-based products and challenges nursery suppliers to provide alternative supplies. Where plants are obtained from private nurseries we request plants grown in a peat free environment.

Our infrastructure procurement policy is to use recycled materials where possible. We aim to acquire recycled plastic benches where possible; or where timber is required we seek to use those from sustainable sources.

### **6.4 Recycling**

Although some parks have dedicated onsite recycling bins, all waste collected from parks be it from standard waste bins, or recycling bins is taken to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) depot. Materials that can be recycled are extracted and processed accordingly.

Where possible green waste is recycled on-site; grass cuttings are left on the grass; and hedge cuttings are mulched and placed under the hedge or in other areas of the park.

In autumn when a large amount of green waste is generated, that which cannot be used or composted on site is taken to the NLWA depot for recycling. The resulting compost is then collected for use in the parks.

### **6.5 Pollution reduction**

All new machinery used in parks is required to have low vibration levels and low emissions. Machinery is serviced on a regular basis by our in-house parks workshop, helping to ensure low emission and pollution levels. Vehicles meet current emission requirements, and the fleet will comply with the requirements of the London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone when that is introduced in October 2021 to include Haringey.

We also aim to reduce vehicle emissions through increasing the amount of on-site composting; and through reducing downtime caused by excessive travelling.

Bonfires are not used for safety reasons as well as health concerns due to the smoke.

### **6.6 Water efficiency**

Drought resistant plants and trees are increasingly being chosen by managers to ensure that they survive the drier and warmer months and require less watering during these periods.

## **7. Community Involvement**

### **7.1 Volunteering in parks**

Haringey Council actively supports and encourages volunteering in our parks and green spaces. There are a range of mechanisms to support volunteering and community involvement.

#### **7.1.1 Community Volunteering**

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) are based at Railway Fields, N4. They deliver conservation volunteer days across the borough on behalf of Haringey Council. They also support delivery of training opportunities as well as development of site-specific conservation action plans.

During 2018-19, TCV delivered 155 conservation days across parks in Haringey, involving over 1,200 volunteers. In addition, 6 training days were provided for volunteers on the following subjects: leadership training, leading guided walks, winter tree identification, environmental education volunteers, wildlife garden design and hedgelaying.

TCV have 16 planned visits in 2019/20.

#### **7.1.2 Corporate volunteering**

Haringey Council actively supports companies and corporate volunteers within our parks and green spaces. Corporate volunteering provides an opportunity for employees to be involved in a different experience whilst supporting our management and improvement of green spaces.

During 2018-19, TCV supported 14 corporate volunteer days across the borough with tasks ranging from habitat creation and vegetation management, to creating countryside furniture and nature trails. Additional corporate volunteer days were delivered at parks across Haringey, facilitated by Friends groups.

Specific opportunities for corporate volunteers are included within site Conservation Action Plans (section 8.4) to ensure that the sessions support wider management of the site whilst providing an engaging and rewarding opportunity for the volunteers.

### **7.2 Haringey Friends of Parks Forum**

The borough-wide Haringey Friends of Parks Forum was set up by Friends groups as an independent network in 2002. It is a coalition of over 40 Friends of parks groups and is committed to protecting and improving open space within the borough. The Friends of Parks Forum meets six times a year.

The Forum provides an opportunity for Friends Groups to work together for the benefit of Haringey's green spaces and green space users. The Forum's ['What We](#)

[Do and How We Do It](#)' document describes the work of the forum and of individual friends' groups.

Amongst other things the Forum has been effective in lobbying and campaigning for

- better planning policies as they affect open spaces
- more ambitious and effective open space standards
- greater levels of on-site staffing
- giving support to individual Friends' groups

Friends Groups communicate and co-ordinate through the Forum's email list. The Friends Groups liaise closely with all council park services and have been key agents in helping to bring in millions of pounds in external funding to improve facilities for local people.

Over the years they have worked with the Council on achieving Green Flag status for many parks and open spaces. The Forum is supported by the Council and park officers attend a session during the Forum's meetings to take note of each local Friends group's issues, and to discuss wider issues of common concern. The Council is publicly committed to active partnership working with Friends groups and the Forum. Minutes of all Forum meetings are published on the Forum website.

The Forum also works with Haringey Federation of Residents Associations and the Haringey Allotments Forum. It also links up with similar grass-roots residents' Forums and networks throughout the UK through the London Friends Groups Network and the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces.

### **7.3 Friends of Queen's Wood**

The Friends of Queen's Wood (FQW) is a voluntary group which was set up to help look after the Wood and its trees, plants, birds, animals, fungi and other forms of wildlife. It has about 200 households in membership: members are mainly drawn from the surrounding areas in Haringey and Camden.

FQW began at the beginning of the 1990s as a small, informal group of very local residents who undertook some basic management tasks, such as sweeping paths of leaves and snow and picking litter, as the Council progressively withdrew its park keepers from the Wood.

In 1999 there was felt to be a need for a more formalised structure, for three reasons: to give more legitimacy and accountability for the actions of the Group; to take on more ambitious tasks, especially those entailing external funding; and to spread the net for members more widely. As a result a constitution was adopted and a more formal structure for running the Group was put in place. These have remained broadly unchanged since then.

#### **Specific aims and objectives**

1. To help look after the Wood, its plants, animal, fungi and other forms of wildlife in conformity with its status as an urban nature reserve

2. To improve the accessibility of the Wood, in keeping with its nature reserve status.
3. To improve the appearance and cleanliness of the Wood,
4. To educate and inform users of the Wood and the wider public about the value of the Wood and its various facets.
5. To enhance the value of the Wood as a place of enjoyment and entertainment

### **Activities**

The Group carries out a number of activities:

1. Maintenance of the Wood. Essentially it acts as the Council's 'eyes and ears', keeping a look out for, and reporting as necessary, disturbances such as the blockage of pathways by fallen trees and branches, instances of dangerous overhanging branches, acts of vandalism or nuisance. It also holds a group working party session on the last Sunday morning of each month for one and a half hours, which carries out maintenance and conservation tasks in accordance with the agreed Management Plan and helping to keep the Wood free of litter. TCV participate in these sessions from time to time.
2. Research and education. It monitors and undertakes specific surveys of the state of wildlife in the Wood. For example, it monitors the impact of coppicing undertaken at various stages over the last ten years and has undertaken surveys of the flora of the Wood, and its invertebrate and bird life.
3. Educating and informing. It organises walks around the Wood a number of times a year, with different themes e.g. spring flower walks, bird walks, herbal walks. It also arranges a talk at each AGM (and occasionally at other times) on issues of interest such as birdlife, the impact of coppicing on the flora of the Wood, the watercourses and geology of the Wood. It issues a monthly bulletin to members and a quarterly newsletter. It runs an informative website, which includes the posting of forthcoming events and its survey reports.
4. Recreation. Once a year it organises a family fun day aimed primarily at younger children.
5. Miscellaneous. As a principal point of reference for the users of the Wood and others more widely, the Group deals with a wide number of ad hoc issues as they arise. For example it has been active in lobbying over concerns about damage to the Wood from the neighbouring builders yard and the activities undertaken on adjoining properties which could have an impact; answering a wide range of questions from members of the public about the Wood; and advising schools and children's groups.

### **Governance and organisation**

The Group holds an Annual General Meeting, when elections are made to the Committee. The Committee carries the responsibility for undertaking the activities of the Group. The Committee has up to 9 members and meets about four times a year.

In addition, there is a joint Management Committee comprising several members of the Friends Committee and representatives of the Council, when issues relevant to the management of the Wood are discussed and decisions made. This meets about three times a year. The Committee holds consultations with its members (and more widely if there is interest) on major projects such as coppicing and the development of the wildlife ponds.

### **Finance**

The Group charges a small subscription: £5 per annum for individuals and £10 for households. It has an annual income of about £1.5k - £2k per annum excluding specific grants. Its expenditure varies from year depending on the particular projects and other activities being undertaken. In recent years it has been successful in winning external grants for a number of projects in cooperation with Haringey Council, these often substantially exceeding the income it generates itself.

### **Working with the Council**

The Group works closely with the Council in all its activities. The foundation of the cooperation between the FQW and the Council is the management plan for the Wood. The main forum for interaction is the joint Management Committee (see above). These meetings of the Committee are supplemented by liaison on a frequent basis with individual officers, especially on specific projects and dealing with day to day problems, such as fallen trees and vandalism, as they arise.

### **Links with other bodies**

The Group maintains links with a number of local bodies, in particular:

- The Superintendent and staff of the adjoining Highgate Wood
- Other Friends of Parks Groups, both bilaterally (particularly that covering Crouch End Open Space) and through the Friends of Parks Forum
- The local police Safer Neighbourhood team
- Residents Associations or other local representative bodies such as the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association and the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum
- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). They undertake work in the Wood several times a year and they have been of particular value in carrying out tasks which require a professional expertise or manpower input beyond the capability of the Group itself.
- Local educational bodies or groups such as Forest Schools

For further information - [www.fqw.org.uk](http://www.fqw.org.uk)

## **7.4 Other community involvement**

### **Queens Wood Lodge Café**

Queen's Cafe is open May to October; weekdays 9am – 5pm, weekends 9am – 6pm, and during November to April; weekdays 10am – 4pm, and weekends 9am – 5pm.

The cafe provides refreshments and toilet facilities to visitors to the Woods and puts on events and activities both within the Cafe and in the Wood.

For further information - [www.queenswoodcafe.co.uk](http://www.queenswoodcafe.co.uk)

### **Queen's Wood Organic Community Garden**

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to help maintain Queen's Wood Community Garden. No previous knowledge or experience is needed and all skill levels are catered for, especially as the organic garden depends on help from volunteers.

It's a great opportunity to learn or share vegetable and fruit growing skills and they even provide refreshments (and a share in the crop) in return for their hard work.

Activities include:

- planting, digging, harvesting
- basic DIY
- pruning and clearing
- sowing seeds and greenhouse work
- maintaining healthy compost piles
- help with some marketing, blog writing and Facebook updates

Volunteers work in the garden every week, all year round:

- Monday mornings, 9.30am – 1.30pm
- Thursday mornings, 9.30am – 1.30pm (April – September)

For further information - [www.queenswoodgarden.org](http://www.queenswoodgarden.org)

### **Local schools**

Local schools play an active part in the activities that take place in the Wood. It is often used as an extension to their classroom activities.

### **Forest Schools**

Forest School activities are becoming more popular across the country and take place regularly in Queen's Wood. These offer children, usually of nursery age, the opportunity to experience and learn about nature in the outside environment. The Council has given permission to such groups to use the woods for outdoor educational learning, however it is aware of increasing interest from other groups and a degree of unauthorised use:

### **Into the Woods**

Based on the Forest School approach, 'Into The Woods' was London's first full-time, fully outdoor nursery. The children spend the whole day outside enjoying a unique experience and education.

Into The Woods run their nursery at Queen's Wood all week during term time, for children 2½–5 years old. They also run a Forest School Club for home/flexi schooled children aged 5–7 years, all day Wednesday.

The children connect with nature; get the fresh air and exercise they need; develop their communication, imagination and thinking skills; build their confidence and resilience; and, most importantly, have lots of fun.



**Image 38: Into the Woods: Children connecting with nature (Reproduced with kind permission from Into the Woods)**

The children take part in a huge variety of activities, such as building dens, making leaf pictures, creating fantasy worlds, cooking in mud kitchens, and caring for the environment, as well as having plenty of opportunity for free exploration of the woodland alongside experienced child-centred staff. The teaching staff are very well qualified, with a passion for outdoor learning, and understand how to cover all areas of the Early Years curriculum in an exciting hands-on way that children love.

Permission is also granted to other schools, nurseries and forest school groups for adhoc use of the woods on a first come first served basis, however the fundamental guiding principle in deciding whether or not a group can use the woods for such activities is that such educational use must not compromise the nature conservation interests of this ancient woodland and the capacity of the woods to accommodate such usage is not exceeded.

## 8. Conservation and Heritage

### 8.1 Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

The term biodiversity refers to the variety of life around us, including plants, animals and the ecological interactions that take place in our environment. Haringey supports a wide diversity of wildlife and habitats ranging from woodland and wildflower meadows to ponds, streams and wetlands.

Haringey's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is currently under review. During 2019-20 a new BAP will be produced, aligned with the new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The new BAP will include detail on priority habitats, development of high value ecological corridors and the integration of biodiversity conservation into wider council initiatives.

Priorities within the BAP will help support updating or developing Conservation Action Plans for parks in Haringey including Queen's Wood. See section 8.4.

### 8.2 Habitat representation and nature conservation interests

Queen's Wood covers just over 21.5 ha of green space with a range of habitat types represented.

Table: Habitats in Queens Wood

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Percentage
Native woodland	21.54	100%

Image 39: Habitat types

Note: Habitat type defined as per the London Survey Methodology. Source [www.gigl.org.uk](http://www.gigl.org.uk). Total area surveyed may not exactly match the park area

Queen's Wood has a wonderful array of mature specimen trees and tree lined paths

### 8.3 Designation status

Natural England and Local Authorities have a system of designating greenspace depending on certain characteristics and their value - locally, regionally and nationally. Queen's Wood falls under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard and is designated as follows:

Designation	Information
Borough Grade II SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)	Ancient woodland
Local Nature Reserve	

Image 40: Designation status of Queen's Wood

There are additional designated sites close to Queen's Wood

Site	Area (ha)	Location	Designation
Highgate Woods	28ha	West	SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)
Parkland Walk	12.54ha	South east of site	Local Nature Reserve Metropolitan Open Lane

Image 41: Designation status of sites close to Queen's Wood

## 8.4 Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

Conservation Action Plans (CAP) provide a framework for ongoing management of sites for their biodiversity value. They provide guidance on conservation actions and activities that can be carried out throughout the year and form a basis for the conservation work of TCV, Friends groups and other community organisations.

CAPs detail site specific opportunities as well as supporting borough wide conservation efforts and requirements, such as contributing to habitat creation targets or demonstrating the positive management of SINCs.

With the development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan during 2020, existing CAPs for parks will be updated to ensure they are aligned with the new BAP. They will detail conservation actions and requirements, including maintenance, enhancement opportunities and potential future projects.

There is a CAP in place for Queen's Wood which can be found below. This continues to form the basis for conservation activities within the park and will be updated to reflect new priorities, actions and projects.

To date, key actions under the existing CAP at Queen's Wood have been implemented by TCV, volunteers and the friends of Queen's Wood and focused on works to the top pond and frog pool, works to path clearance, .

## **8.5 Site history and heritage**

Queen's Wood dates from at least 1600, possibly from pre-historic times.

In the nineteenth century the Wood was known as Churchyard Bottom Wood. It was purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by Hornsey Council in 1898 and renamed Queen's Wood in honour of Queen Victoria.

In November 1990 it was designated a Statutory Local Nature Reserve by the Council.

The London Ecology Unit list it (together with nearby Highgate Wood and Parkland Walk) as a Site of Metropolitan Importance; their highest grading.

## **9. Marketing**

### **9.1 The marketing approach**

Marketing Queen's Wood involves more than simply publicising and promoting the park, it also involves listening to the users of the park. A common phrase associated with marketing is 'putting the customer at the centre of business'.

This section outline how facilities and activities at Queen's Wood are promoted and publicised and secondly how users are positioned at the centre of the business.

### **9.2 Websites**

[www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces)

The Haringey website contains extensive information on the borough's parks and open spaces, including Queen's Wood. Information such as locations, facilities and transport links for all Haringey parks and open spaces is available.

Policy information such as the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which draws upon a range of information and seeks to establish a longer term vision for the borough's parks and open spaces is also available.

Information detailing the Council's partnerships with the Friends, TCV and the Metropolitan Police is available online along with links to their websites.

Detailed information on the Green Flag Award with clear links to the Green Flag park pages within the LBH site can be viewed.

22% of respondents to the last residents survey carried out in 09/10 prefer to find out information via the web.

Stakeholders within the Wood such as the Friends, Cafe and Community Garden all maintain websites:

[www.fqw.org.uk](http://www.fqw.org.uk)

[www.queenswoodcafe.co.uk](http://www.queenswoodcafe.co.uk)

[www.queenswoodcafe.co.uk/garden/](http://www.queenswoodcafe.co.uk/garden/)

### **9.3 Social media**

Social Media is now a regular way of communicating information between relevant parties and beyond. Haringey Council encourages all partners to use social media when communicating with communities.

#### [@haringeycouncil](#)

Haringey Council has a Twitter feed with just under 17,000 followers and is used as a two-fold approach: to proactively release live information to keep people informed and updated and respond to queries and complaints posted by others. This is checked throughout the day and provides residents and visitors with another communication channel.

The Council also uses other forms of communication such as Facebook and YouTube.

[www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil](http://www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil)

[www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil](http://www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil)

We also like to keep our resident's in the loop about the events that are taking place, and regularly ask that stakeholders and park hirers submit details about their event on the Council website for FREE, on our "What's On" listings section at

[www.haringey.gov.uk/add-event](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/add-event)

### **9.4 Publications**

Haringey People is the Council magazine, distributed six times a year by direct mail to all households within the borough. The magazine is produced by the Council's Central Communications Team which has editorial control over the content.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news-and-events/haringey-people-magazine>

Several articles are published each year promoting the borough's parks as well as the work and events that key stakeholders and partners organise in parks throughout the year.

### **9.5 Noticeboards**

There are notice boards at five different gates into the Wood. These are used to display information about the Friends and Council services and/or campaigns.

In 2014 a set of guidelines detailing how notice boards within parks should be used, maintained and what information can be displayed were issued with the expectation that all those with an interest and access to the notice boards will adhere to them.

In 2019 we developed a simple A2, updateable poster that gives key contact information for council and other public services.

### **9.6 Campaigns**

There are several national campaigns that Haringey Council support and promote via social media to highlight key issues affecting the borough's parks and open spaces. These include:

- Litter awareness campaign – encouraging users to dispose of their litter responsibly.
- Neighbourhood Watches – encouraging creation of new watches and increased membership
- Trees Awareness – aimed at highlighting tree planting, tree identification, maintenance and removal and why. Along with National Tree Week.
- Volunteering and Friends Groups – promoting the work groups do, the benefits they bring to communities and encouraging volunteering
- Love Parks Week – Encouraging stakeholders and Friends to promote and highlight the borough's parks and the events that they put on.
- The Big Lunch- supporting and promoting via social media the Big Lunch events happening across the borough, with focus on shared picnics in our parks and green spaces.
- The Great Get Together- supporting and promoting the national campaign to celebrate and promote community cohesion. We have streamlined the application form for this event to make it even easier for residents and park users to take part.
- Play Weekend- supporting the Play Streets initiative to encourage more active play within communities
- Playday- supporting the National Summer event to promote active play for children, young people and families. We work closely with our colleagues in the Active Communities Team to support community involvement and uptake.
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## 9.7 Awards

In 2018 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces.

Haringey Council is committed to managing its parks under the Green Flag criteria and aim for accreditation for all its parks and in 2016 entered into the Green Flag Group Award application.

In 2018 a total of 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces. Queen's Wood was one of these. However, a subsequent mystery shopping assessment found a number of concerns which jeopardised Queen's Wood's Green Flag status.

The council has responded by addressing the issues highlighted in the report and will submit a reapplication for a Green Flag assessment in the summer of 2019.

Haringey Council is committed to the Green Flag scheme and is seeking to secure Green Flag status for at least 22 parks in 2019.

Queen's Wood won a Gold Award and was placed first in category for large nature reserves in the London in Bloom awards of 2015.

## **9.8 Tree and bench sponsorship**

A sponsorship scheme is provided where members of the public can sponsor the planting of a tree or the installation of a bench in any Council run park and open space. This can be done to commemorate a loved one or an event.

The sponsor pays for the item and planting / installation, thereafter the Council maintains it subject to certain conditions. Should sponsors wish to, they can also help in maintaining their item.

The Friends of Queen's Wood have used their own funds to install benches within the Wood.

## **9.9 Consultation and market research**

Haringey is committed to listening to the views and ideas of our stakeholders, park users and residents. Council officers attend the Friends of Parks Forum on a bi-monthly basis and maintain open channels of communication with key stakeholders. This is a good way to listen to concerns and engage in a constructive dialogue about individual parks.

When planning any new project work within parks, we make sure that key stakeholders are included in discussions from the beginning of the process and where possible hold open engagement sessions so we can listen to the thoughts, needs and concerns of the wider park community.

Budget reductions have limited our capacity to undertake regular surveys of park users. We include a question about satisfaction with parks in a borough-wide survey about environmental and waste services. The survey is commissioned by Veolia.

In 2018, four in five respondents to the survey (80%) said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with parks. This is slightly down from 2016 (81%) but in 2018 parks was the service with the environmental and waste service with the highest satisfaction rating.

We are aware that we need more knowledge of user satisfaction with individual parks and local people's priorities for their local park. We are planning to survey park users in 2019-20 to ensure that we are working in the right direction for users and in line with the priorities and outcomes of the Borough Plan.

## 10. Management

### 10.1 Setting the financial scene

The parks service gross budget for 2017/18 was a total of £5.1m with a revenue income of £4.5m and operated a net deficit of £600k. According to a survey by Parks for London this represents the second lowest operating deficit in London.

Whilst the service has borne its share of austerity related budget reductions, in recent years the service has chosen to focus on generating additional income to mitigate these reductions rather than impact service delivery on the ground. The service has managed this by growing the amount of income generated through: -

- Increasing the number of park properties let
- Increasing the number paying a market rent,
- Growing the number of commercial events
- Growing the level of filming income
- Increasing the range of services offered to other organisations

A breakdown of the 2017/18 revenue budget is set out below: -

a) Revenue Expenditure – Employees, Premises, Transport, Supplies and Services, Third Party Payments, Support Services etc

Total Parks expenditure	£5,142,184
Employees	£2,665,995
Premises related expenditure	£534,054
Transport related expenditure	£144,885
Supplies and Services	£398,471
Third Party Payments	£662,463
Support Services	£583,987
Capital Charges	£152,330

b) Revenue Income - Customer and Client Receipts, Recharges etc

Total Revenue Income	£4,467,442
Customer and Client Receipts	£3,753,447
Recharges	£713,995

The council seeks to secure external investment from a number of sources. The council has its own ten-year capital strategy which currently includes over £11m of capital funding for park. The service seeks to add to this sum and has secured further investment from the following sources over recent years:

Section 106  
 Community Infrastructure Levy  
 National Lottery  
 London Marathon Charitable Trust  
 Environmental Funds

## Greater London Council Event Income

Another important part of the overall funding mix is the fundraising carried out by Friends Groups across the borough. A wide variety of groups have been able to secure funds to deliver the priorities they identified. In 2017/18 the council directly invested the following amounts: -

c) Capital Expenditure – names of Capital schemes and expenditure on each scheme.

Park Asset Management	£377,288
Active Life in Parks	£263,477
Parkland Walk Bridges	£126,780

The Council continues to face significant financial challenges with many millions of pounds of savings to find over the coming years. A goal therefore for the service over the coming years is to maintain a stable budget position and therefore continuing with a strategy to generate additional income will be an important financial focus for the service.

### **10.2 Management structure**

The Parks Service sits within the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate and is overseen by the Director and the Cabinet Member for Environment.

The service is organised across Commissioning and Client Services business unit.

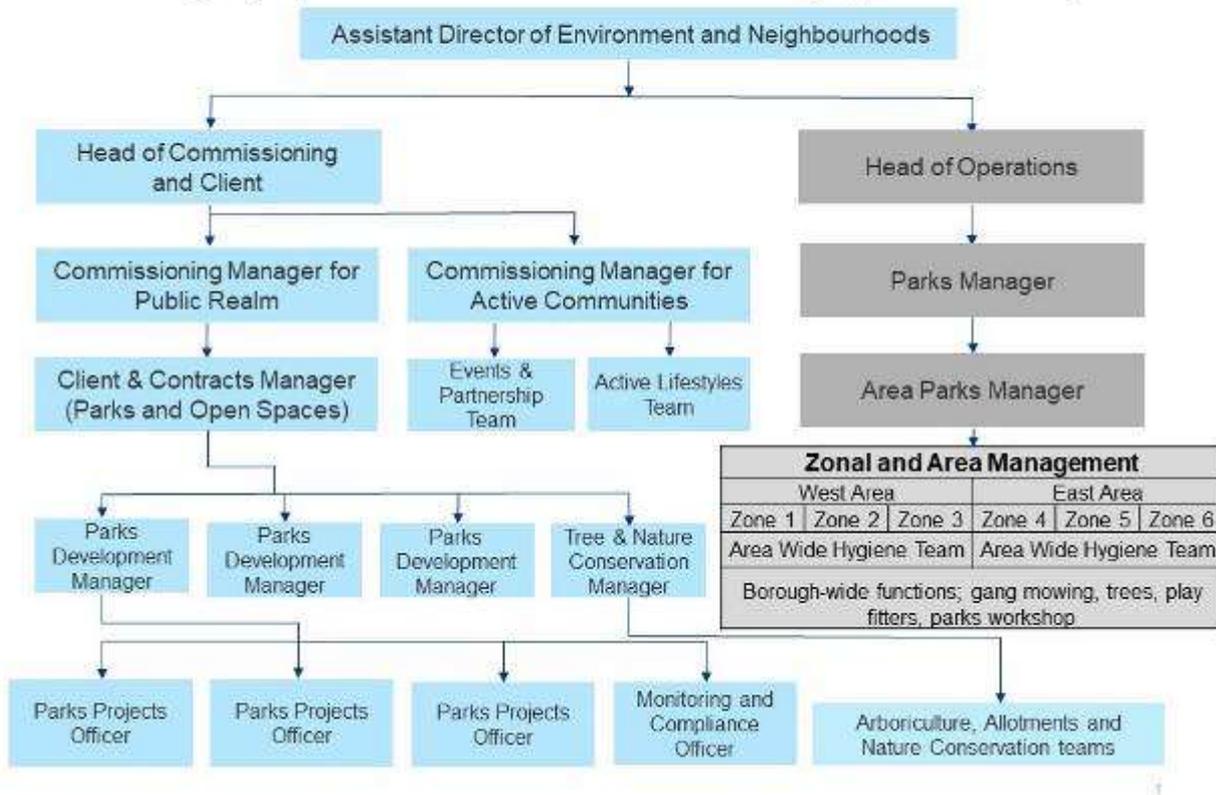
Responsibility for the service falls to the respective heads of each business unit and they are supported by two commissioning managers and a parks manager.

The structure chart (below) shows the three core strands of the parks service which are:

- Park Operations Team – this team takes the lead on all day to day operational aspects of maintaining each green flag park.
- Active Communities Team – this team takes the lead on all event management, community activation in the park, partnership working and small grant awards. This team also secures sport related external funding
- Public Realm Team – this team takes the lead on asset management, investment in parks, policy development, nature conservation and arboriculture.

**Image 42:**

## Haringey park structure chart (April 2019)



**Image 42: Haringey park structure chart**

These three core teams are supported internally by colleagues across Community Safety and Enforcement, Planning Services, Regeneration, Adults and Children’s services on a variety of issues from homelessness, to new cycle routes, to improvement in existing green spaces and access and activities for older and young people.

External support for the service comes through the Friends Forum, our partners within the Police and The Conservation Volunteers alongside organisations such as Parks for London, Keep Britain Tidy and APSE.

### 10.3 Borough Plan 2019-2023

Following the local elections in May 2018 the new council and its partners have developed a Borough Plan setting out their vision and priorities for the next four years. Following extensive public consultation, it was agreed by Cabinet in February 2019.

The plan sets out the council’s priorities and the outcomes it seeks to achieve. Outcome 10 of the plan is for “a healthier, active and greener place”. The plan places importance on the role of parks and open spaces in delivering this outcome through four objectives.

Objective 10a is to “Protect and improve parks, open space, and green space, promoting community use”.

The Plan identifies several ways in which this will be achieved:

- Continue with partners to invest in our parks with over £15 million of improvements planned over the next five years, including new playgrounds and sports facilities.
- Develop a new Parks and Open Spaces strategy and consult with partners and local communities about how we will work together to protect, enhance and, where possible, extend green and open space in Haringey.
- Promote the use of our parks for a wide range of events and activities, including more community use.
- Plant more trees to make our streets and open spaces greener.
- Work with partners, including Environmental Community Groups, to maintain the borough's watercourses, maximising their environmental and health benefits

Parks are also important in delivering Objective 10b of the plan. It is to “increase the levels of physical activity across the borough” by “creating healthier places, including parks and open spaces, in line with the Mayor of London’s Healthy Streets plan...”

However, we cannot achieve the priorities in the plan on our own. We trust that our partners locally and our residents will work together with us on achieving them.

The Borough Plan 2019-2023 can be found at:

[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough\\_plan\\_2019-23.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough_plan_2019-23.pdf)

#### **10.4 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**

The last open space strategy was adopted in 2006.

Work has begun on developing a new strategy for parks and open spaces. The importance of a new parks and open spaces strategy is underlined by the explicit reference to it in Borough Plan 2019-2023.

The new strategy will build on the Parks Scrutiny Review that took place in March 2018. It will be co-produced with Friends, residents and councillors. As part of the process there will be a series of workshops and a period of public consultation.

The strategy will set out the ambitions for the service over the next 10 years. It will set out approaches to the maintenance, management and usage of parks. It will also set out clear policy positions on issues relating to parks and open spaces. In some cases new policies will need to be developed (such as security in parks and licensable activity).

The strategy will also describe the funding landscape. One key element of this will be to balancing revenue funding for the service against the agreed service standards. It will also provide a context to inform the long-term capital strategy including mapping out the external funding opportunities that can be used to the benefit of the service

The timetable is for a draft strategy to have been agreed, following public consultation by summer of 2020 and for Cabinet to agree the document early in 2021.

## **10.5 The Greenest Borough Strategy**

Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy responds to growing concerns around climate change. The Strategy sets out the Council's and its partners commitment to tackle climate change under a number of key environmental policies to ensure achievement of their 'green' vision over a ten-year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough)

## **10.6 The Health & Wellbeing Strategy**

This strategy aims to reduce health inequalities through working with communities and residents to improve opportunities for adults and children to enjoy a healthy, safe and fulfilling life, through a number of key outcomes.

Those that specifically relate to parks include increasing physical activity and improving health and mental wellbeing.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy)

## **10.7 Finance and funding**

The revenue budget for Queen's Wood sits within the overall Parks Operations budget.

Capital expenditure on parks and open spaces is planned at a borough level rather than at an individual park level. Match funding and other sources of external funding are sought wherever possible.

### **10.7.1 Parks and open spaces Small Grant Scheme**

The Parks and Open Space Small Grant Scheme has been running for a number of years. The scheme offers community groups associated with parks and open spaces - such as Friends of Parks groups – to bid for funding of up to £1000. The funding is to support and develop community activity to help meet the council's aims and priorities for improving the borough's parks and open spaces. The budget available in 2018/19 was £40,000 and is expected to be again in 2019/20.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants)

### **10.7.2 Events income**

At the end of 2013 a review of the parks events policy was conducted to inform and guide changes of how events would take place in the borough's parks, and also realign and invest income from parks events back into park improvements.

Income generated from events in parks and open spaces will be used in the first instance to meet the parks event income target in each year.

The application and booking fees will be utilised to fund the staffing costs of the booking and event management process.

Surplus income will initially be used to support and develop community led festivals and events in parks across the borough and offer training opportunities for community event organisers. £20,000 additional funding will be made available as part of the small grants scheme, as detailed above.

Any additional income generated will be ring fenced to be reinvested back into parks maintenance across the borough. Where significant sums of money are generated in individual parks the reinvestment needs of that park will be addressed first before redistributing the remainder of any funds to other parks.

All applicants to hold event will be charged a flat rate fee dependent on their event to cover the cost of the environmental impact on the park.

The environmental impact income will be kept separate from other income received in respect of events. This additional income can be used by the Friends of the park in which the event was held to address their immediate priorities for the park.

## **11. Improving Queen's Wood**

### **11.1 Next Steps**

Section 12 contains an action plan that has been drawn up that sets out the actions to be taken over the next three years.

There are some aspirational one-off improvements that will require significant funding, such as refurbishing the paths, creating fenced areas, flood management scheme. These will be contingent on identifying suitable sources of funding or resources both from within the council and from external sources.

Other listed actions are more affordable: any will be at nil or negligible cost but will require the energy and contributions of local organisations and individuals.

The plan also identifies scheduled activities that will occur on a regular basis. One of these is to update the management plan on an annual basis. This plan will next be reviewed at the end of 2020.

### **11.2 Summary**

Queens Wood is in one of the more affluent areas of Haringey and it is also of lower density than most parts of Haringey, but the woods have a very high usage compared to similar sized parks and green spaces in the borough. The Friends group is very active and has the conservation of the woods at their heart and they have very clear ideas about how to achieve that.

## 12. Action Plan

### 12.1 Maintenance and scheduled work programme

Heading	Action	Frequency	Responsible	When?
Clean and well maintained	Site inspection: asset condition survey	Quarterly	Parks Project Officer	Quarterly
	Site inspection: grounds maintenance issues	Monthly	Parks Area Manager	Monthly
	Site inspection: performance monitoring of grounds maintenance works	Monthly	Parks Monitoring & Compliance Officer	Monthly
	Site inspection: annual boundary check	Annually	Parks Project Office	Annually
Healthy, safe and secure	Play Inspection Company to inspect and risk assess all play and outdoor gym equipment	Quarterly	Play Inspection Company	Jan/Apr/ Jul/Oct
Management	Review the Park Management Plan annually	Annually	Parks Project Officer	Dec/Jan
Community Involvement	Lead 'Spotlight' meetings in the park with councillors and Friends	Quarterly	Parks Project Officer	Quarterly

Image 44: Schedule of annual or routine tasks which are neither developmental nor fall within the remit of routine grounds maintenance or hygiene functions

## 12.2 Queen's Wood Action Plan

This plan shows the work we would like to carry out. Budget availability and more urgent unplanned work may mean that it cannot be fulfilled. Other repairs and general maintenance may have to take precedence. The content will be reviewed at least annually at the end of each calendar year.

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
A welcoming Place	Repair, repainting or replacement of railings at the Lodge café entrance and entire Muswell Hill boundary	M	Parks	tbc	Parks	As budgets allow
	Improvements to the Wood Vale entrance, subject to the Moselle project	M	Parks	Included within £100k overall project budget	Thames Water/Environment Agency	2020-2023
	Creation of a Changing Places fully accessible welfare facility, with toilets & welfare provision for groups and a possible staff office, near the Lodge Café	H	Parks	£200k	SEND Parks CIL Externals funding bids	As budgets and community engagement allow
A clean and well-maintained park	Bin and bench renewal, including creation of hard bases	M	Parks	£20k	Parks	As budgets allow
	Investigate natural surrounds for the new bins	L	PPO	tbc	Park capital and revenue	As budgets allow

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	Add signage to bins support litter campaign 'Bin it or Take it Home'	M	PPO	N/A	Parks capital and revenue	ongoing
	Removal of unauthorised tree swings etc		Parks Operations	Officer time	Parks/In-house tree team	Ongoing
	Remove BMX track and discourage further unauthorised structures	M	Parks Operations	tbc	Parks	January 2021
Healthy, safe and secure	Removing the tips of spikey railings along the whole length of the Muswell Hill boundary	H	Parks	tbc	Parks/CIL	As budgets allow
	Undertake repairs to make the wide steps down to Priory Gardens more accessible	M	Parks	tbc	Parks/CIL	As budgets allow
	Install removable bollards at the entrance to each of the main paths that lead into the Wood from the Lodge Café, to prevent unauthorised vehicle access	M	Parks	tbc	Parks/CIL	As budgets allow
	Install a bike rack (to match the one at the Muswell Hill entrance) at the Wood Vale entrance	M	Parks	tbc	Parks/CIL	As budgets allow
	Resurfacing around the frog pool		Parks or TCV	tbc	Parks/TCV	As budgets allow
A sustainable place	Explore whether the top pool by the lodge café is fed via a natural spring or a water leak	H	Parks/Flood and Drainage Team	tbc	Parks	March 2021

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	Resolving path erosion	M	Parks	tbc	Parks/CIL	As budgets allow
	Identify scope for encouraging recycling and reducing waste within the park	L	PPO, Park Operations	Nil	n/a	Ongoing
	Review use of chemicals as part of new parks and green spaces strategy	H	PPO, Park Operations	Nil	n/a	Ongoing
Community Involvement	Creation of an eco-centre or other such accessible facility served with water, foul drainage and electricity, providing toilets, water, washing facilities, storage and winter shelter. Such a facility to be financed externally and managed by one group on behalf of others	H	Parks	tbc	Mainly external funding, tbc	As budgets and community engagement allow
	TCV, volunteer and Friends workdays to carry out nature conversation and management tasks.	H	TCV, Friends, volunteers	Portion of overall contract and match funding	Parks/TCV/Volunteer time	16 visits a year
Conservation and Heritage	The Council's Drainage, Flood & Water team are developing a project in conjunction with the	M	Drainage, Flood & Water, Environment	£100k	Environment Agency, Thames Water	2022/23

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	<p>Environment Agency, Thames 21 and Thames Water to reconsider options for resolving local flooding issues, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Possible daylighting of the existing Thames Water sewer to divert surface water flows into an open watercourse, or a modified existing watercourse, across the site.</li> <li>2. The construction of instream NFM structures such as gully stuffing, and leaky dams constructed from large woody debris to create natural attenuation and flow control within existing and proposed watercourses.</li> <li>3. The formation of wet woodlands areas by installing earth berms</li> </ol>		<p>Agency, Thames 21 and Thames Water</p>			

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	<p>to provide a floodplain' for the watercourse to spill into during times of heavy flows.</p> <p>4. The installation of localised retention basins to create attenuation and settlement areas.</p> <p>The project will also address wider accessibility issues and links with the Changing Places project will be fully explored.</p>					
	Undertake a footpaths survey to understand which are the priority paths for resurfacing/closure etc	H	Parks/Friends	tbc	Parks/CIL	June 2021
	Programme of phased path repairs, to be agreed with Friends as budgets allow	H	Parks	As budgets allow (£500k?)	Parks/CIL	Phased 5 - year programme, as budgets allow
Marketing and communication	Updating site signage & interpretation	M	Parks	Officer Time	Parks	As budgets allow
	Install 'no unauthorised vehicles' signage at the Muswell	H	Parks	£2k	Parks	As budgets allow

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	Hill entrance and outside the Lodge café					
	Install 'keep to the paths' signage in areas where land needs protecting	M	Parks/Nature Conservation	£2k	Parks	As budgets allow
	Install signage to identify the Moselle tributaries	M	Parks	£2k	Parks/EA/Flood Defence team/T21	As budgets allow
Management	Take lead from Nature Conservation Officer on new 10 year Nature Conservation Plan		Parks/Trees	tbc	Officer time	April 2021
	Drafting, consultation & roll-out of the new Parks restructure	H	Head of Parks & Leisure	tbc	Officer time and revenue budget tbc	2021/22
	Drafting, consulting, writing and adopting of the new Parks & Green Spaces Strategy, including all its supporting documents such as the Parks Asset Management Plan, the Trees & Woodlands Plan, the Watercourse & Flood Risk Plan, the Biodiversity Action Plan, the Volunteer & Community Engagement Plan, the Workforce Development Plan plus a number of Policies and Service Standards.	H	Head of Parks & Leisure and all of the Parks & Open Spaces Team	?	Officer time and revenue funding	2021/22

Image 45: Queen's Wood Action Plan







# Queen's Wood

## Management Plan

### Report for Friends of Queen's Wood

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# 1. Introduction

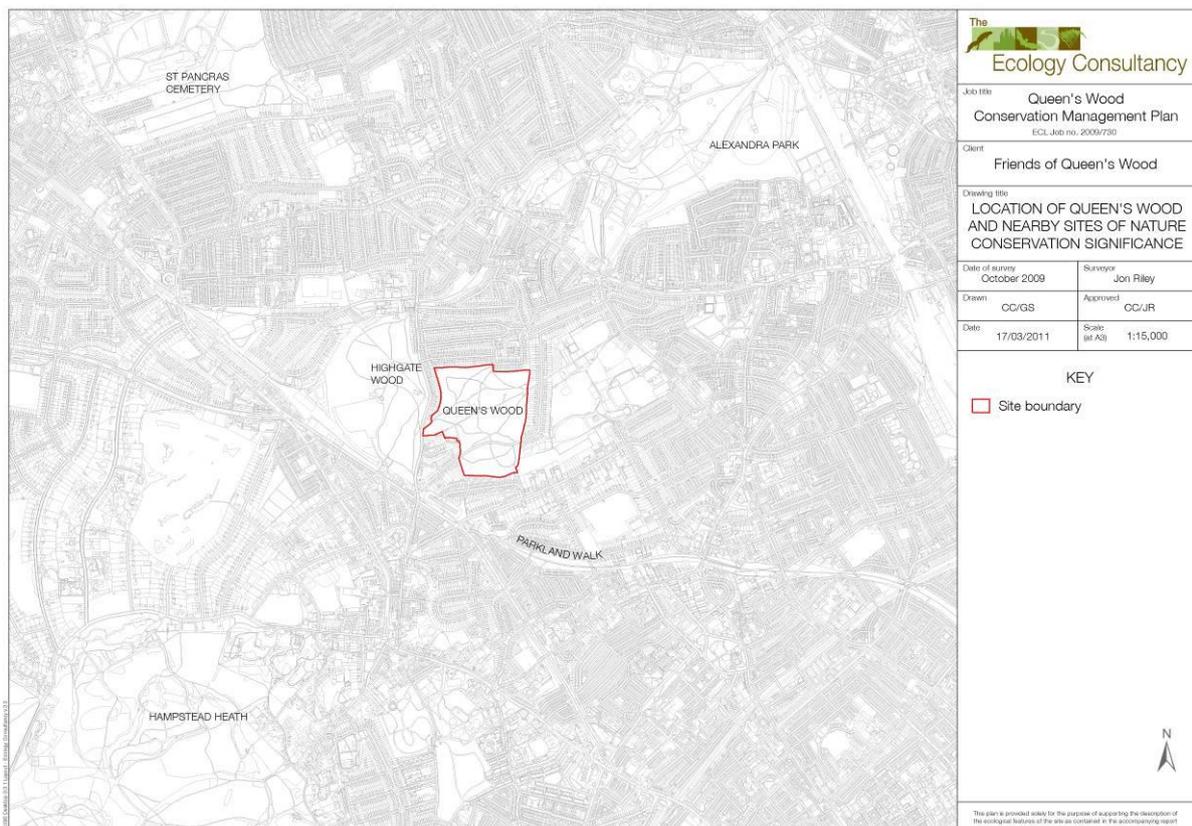
## 1.1 Name

Queen's Wood

## 1.2 Location

Queen's Wood is situated in the western part of the London Borough of Haringey. The B550 Muswell Hill Road is situated along the wood's western boundary, the A1 Archway Road lies to the south, the A504 Muswell Hill and the A1201 Park Road lie to the north and east. Most immediately adjacent land comprises the gardens of adjacent residential properties. Several sites of Metropolitan or Borough Importance for Nature Conservation are in close proximity to Queen's Wood. These include Highgate Wood on the opposite side of Muswell Hill Road, the Parkland Walk to the north and south and Crouch End playing fields to the east, while Hampstead Heath and Alexandra Park are within two kilometres. Figure 1a below shows the location of the site in relation to other nearby sites of nature conservation interest and Figure 1b shows the site in relation to roads and public transport.

**Figure 1a; Location of Queen's Wood and other sites of nature conservation interest.**



**Figure 1b; Location of Queen’s Wood showing nearby roads and London Underground station.**



### 1.3 Area

21 hectares (Game 2000)

### 1.4 Grid Reference

TQ 288 885

### 1.5 Access

The site is open to the public at all times with access points through the fenced perimeter on Muswell Hill Road, from Connaught Gardens, and short footpaths from Priory gardens and Wood Vale. There is open access from Wood Lane/Queen’s Wood Road which bisects the southern part of the wood. There are a number of footpaths within the wood, most of the principal paths are surfaced with asphalt and date from the late 19 century, a small section on a steep slope has been resurfaced with a hoggin type material. Queen’s Wood is readily accessible by public transport being close to Highgate underground station and the 43, 134, 143, 234, 263 and W5 bus routes.

## 1.6 Vice County

V21 Middlesex

## 1.7 Map Coverage

1:25000 Sheet 173 London North

## 1.8 Land Tenure

Queen's Wood is owned and managed by the London Borough of Haringey with the exception of Compartment M (see Figure 2 page 15) which is owned by Homes for Haringey, and the Lodge in Compartment L which is leased from the London Borough of Haringey and run privately as a cafe. The Council's Recreation Service is assisted in site management by the Friends of Queen's Wood.

## 1.9 Status

Queen's Wood is statutory Local Nature Reserve designated as such in 1990. Local Nature Reserve is a designation, made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act (1949). LNRs must be controlled by the local authority through ownership, lease or agreement with the owner. The main aim must be to care for the natural features which make the site special<sup>1</sup>.

Queen's Wood and Highgate Wood are designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation by LB Haringey and the Greater London Authority. The citation for the site is as follows:

*An extensive area of ancient woodland in the midst of suburban north London. Despite heavy visitor numbers, both Highgate and Queen's Woods support a diverse flora and fauna, and consist mainly of oak (Quercus spp.) and hornbeam (Carpinus betulus). The ground flora of both woods includes abundant bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) and wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa). Queen's Wood contains several rarer species, including thin-spiked wood-sedge (Carex strigosa), hard-fern (Blechnum spicant) and broad-leaved helleborine (Epipactis helleborine). Breeding birds include tawny owl and spotted flycatcher. Managed by the City of London, Highgate Wood has a ranger team and visitor centre with interpretive facilities, and is an important site for specially-protected bats. Highgate Wood won a Green Flag Award again for 2009/10. Queen's Wood is a Local Nature Reserve owned and managed by London Borough of Haringey. The two woods form a single composite Metropolitan site together with Parkland Walk and was*

*designated in 1990 as a statutory Local Nature Reserve.*

Queen's Wood is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory (Provisional) for England. Ancient woodland is defined as land that has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. Ancient woodland is a scarce and irreplaceable habitat which receives specific protection as Habitat of Principal Importance for Biodiversity under the The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). Ancient woodland is specifically mentioned in Planning Policy Guidance 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation and is included within the UK BAP (UK Biodiversity Action Plan) for Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.

Queen's Wood, Highgate Wood and the adjacent Crouch End Open Space form an area designated as Metropolitan Open Land in the Haringey Unitary Development Plan adopted July 2006.

Queen's Wood and Highgate Wood are listed as an Area of Archaeological Importance, the Haringey Unitary development Plan adopted July 2006 gives the following description:

*A large Roman pottery works is situated in Highgate Wood. This has been partially excavated, suggesting that the kilns (nine have been identified to date) were in production c.AD 50-160. The woods are full of unidentified earthworks and landscape features, suggesting that there may be further kiln sites and ancillary structures.*

Queen's Wood is also listed in the Register of Public Parks, Gardens, Squares, Cemeteries and Churchyards of Local Historic Interest.

Queen's Wood is also designated as Metropolitan Open Land, as a Borough Historic Park and as an Area of Archaeological Importance.

### **1.10 Public Rights of Way**

A largely disused public right of way runs north south along the eastern boundary of the Wood from the Wood Vale entrance to Queen's Wood Road.

### **1.11 Planning Authority**

London Boroughs of Haringey

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/lnr/default.aspx> accessed 080310

### 1.12 Sources of Information

The main source of ecological information for the site is Game, *A Queen's Wood Management Brief* London Ecology Unit 2000. The current management plan was written in the winter months so the description of compartments provided has been largely reproduced from earlier plan. Further information on the ecology, and past and current management of the site was provided by the Friends of Queen's Wood who carry out much of the conservation work in the wood, and the present and former Nature Conservation Officers for the London Borough of Haringey. Site visits with Friends and/or Conservation Officers were carried out on the 20<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009, and the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

### 1.13 Boundaries

Most of the boundaries of the site are formed by adjacent properties and are owned by the freeholders of these properties. These boundaries appear to have been erected by the adjoining residents and it is not known if in all cases that they exactly follow the legal boundary of the site. There is open access along most of Wood Lane/Queen's Wood Road. There are some defunct railings within the wood marking former property boundary in the south western part of the wood. Wood banks of considerable age and historical interest are present in the north western part of the wood.

## 2. Description

### 2.1 Physical

#### 2.1.1 Geology, topography and soils

Queen's Wood is largely on London Clay. Claygate beds overlying the clay are shown on the geological map as extending very close to the western edge of the wood, and in fact the high ground to the north-west is on very sandy clay. Otherwise the soils in the wood are largely heavy and impervious. Overall, the wood faces eastwards, but two valleys running roughly west to east, one to north and the other to the south of Queen's Wood Road, are the dominant topographical feature. The streams that formed these valleys are now often dry in the summer months; that in the northern valley formed one source of the River Moselle.

### 2.2 Biological

#### 2.2.1 Flora

**Flowering plants and ferns:** The most recent and comprehensive botanical survey of Queen' Wood was carried out by David Bevan in 2007. The survey report includes records from 2007 and from the largest and most recent are of coppicing carried out in 2009, as well as historical records as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The survey identified a total of 398 species of which 226 were recorded in 2007, 136 were historical records and 34 were additional species from the coppice area. A befits an urban wood a relatively high proportion of species (89 species, almost 40%) were neophytes (non-native species first recorded in England after 1500).

These included well established non-natives such as sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* as well as large number of less frequently naturalized species, including a number of garden escapes, which are most prevalent at the wood's margins. Some naturalized species such as Highclere holly *Ilex x altaclerensis* and cherry laurel *Prunus cerasifera*, along with native ivy *Hedera helix*, are regarded as invasive and are discussed in detail in later part of this plan.

By contract much of the wood retains its semi natural character and 38 ancient woodland indicator species<sup>2</sup> were recorded. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) stand type to which Queen's Wood is most likely to be attributed, W10 *Quercus robur* – *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* community, is the one of the most widespread ancient woodland types in the London area<sup>34</sup>.

In addition to its complement of ancient woodland indicator species, a large number of species considered rare in the London Area and the Vice County of Middlesex VC 21 are present. These species are noted in Table 1 below which lists the notable species reported in the most recent botanical survey, their status and the management compartments (described below) in which they occur. Note that table 1 excludes historical records, and garden escapes which may be of interest but do not have formal conservation status. Due to the presence of good numbers of ancient woodland indicator and locally rare species, Queen's Wood is judged to be of **Metropolitan Importance**<sup>5</sup> for its flora.

**Table 1: Notable plant species at Queen's Wood (excluding historic records and garden escapes)**

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status	Notes
<i>Acer campestre</i> Field maple	AWI <sup>6</sup>	Widespread at site, but few mature trees are present
<i>Allium ursinum</i> Wild garlic	AWI	Compartment C only
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> Wood anemone	AWI, declining nationally	Widespread at site
<i>Blechnum spicant</i> Hard fern	London Rare and Species of Conservation Concern <sup>7</sup> . AWI	Recently extinct at site. Formerly Compartment J but may reappear as it has in nearby woods
<i>Carex pendula</i> Pendulous sedge	AWI	Widespread at site
<i>Carex pilulifera</i> Pill sedge	Scarce in Haringey and Middlesex	Formerly recorded (1999), may reappear

<sup>2</sup> Ancient woodland indicators as listed by Rose (1999) includes 100 species believed to be characteristic of ancient woods in southeast England.

<sup>3</sup> [Rodwell, J. S. \(1991\) \*British Plant Communities Volume 1 - Woodlands and scrub\*](#)

<sup>4</sup> Greater London Council (undated) A Nature Conservation Strategy for London Woodland, Wasteland, the Tidal Thames and tow London Boroughs.

<sup>5</sup> Connecting with London's Nature The Mayors Biodiversity Strategy (Greater London Authority 2002) defines Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation those ...*which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species...*

<sup>6</sup> AWI = ancient woodland indicator species

<sup>7</sup> London Biodiversity Partnership <http://www.lbp.org.uk/londonpriority.html> (accessed 290610)

Table 1: Notable plant species at Queen's Wood (excluding historic records and garden escapes)

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status	Notes
<i>Carex remota</i> Remote sedge	AWI	Widespread at site
<i>Carex strigosa</i> Thin-spiked wood-sedge	London Rare and Species of Conservation Concern. Declining in southeast England. AWI. Rare in VC21 (Middlesex) <sup>8</sup>	Rare at site. Compartment Y (formerly part of Compartment N) only
<i>Carex sylvatica</i> Wood-sedge	AWI	Widespread at site
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> Hornbeam	AWI	Dominant and widespread at site
<i>Conopodium majus</i> Pignut	AWI	
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> Midland hawthorn	AWI	Widespread at site but predominantly as a hybrid <i>C x media</i>
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i> Broad-leaved helleborine	AWI, formerly London Notable	Rare at site Compartment Y (formerly part of Compartment N and P) only
<i>Festuca gigantea</i> Giant fescue	AWI	Widespread at site
<i>Galium odoratum</i> Sweet woodruff	AWI	Recently recorded (2001) possibly native
<i>Holcus mollis</i> Creeping soft grass	AWI	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> Bluebell	AWI	Scattered at site, <i>H. Hispanica</i> and <i>H x massartiana</i> more common
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i> Slender St John's-	AWI, formerly London Notable	Rare at site Compartment P only following coppicing in 2009
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i> Square-stemmed St. John's-wort	Formerly London Notable, rare and decreasing in Middlesex	Rare at site Compartment Y (formerly part of compartment P) only following coppicing in 2009
<i>Isolepis setacea</i> Bristle club rush	Very scarce in London and Middlesex	Compartment K only following coppicing in 1993, now gone likely to reappear with re-coppicing.
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> Yellow archangel	AWI	Rare at site Compartment U only

<sup>8</sup> Vice counties (VC) are used as boundaries for botanical recording in the UK

**Table 1: Notable plant species at Queen's Wood (excluding historic records and garden escapes)**

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status	Notes
<i>Luzula pilosa</i> hairy woodrush	AWI	Rare at site Compartment N only
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i> Great woodrush	AWI	Rare at site Compartments J and O only.
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i> Common cow-wheat	AWI, declining nationally	Possibly declining at site
<i>Melica uniflora</i> Wood melick	AWI	Localised colonies at site
<i>Milium effusum</i> Wood millet	AWI	Rare at site Compartment W only
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i> Three-nerved sandwort	AWI	Rare at site reappeared in Compartment P following coppicing in 2009
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> Wood sorrel	AWI	Uncommon at site Compartments P, T and U only
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	AWI	
<i>Poa nemoralis</i> Wood meadow grass	AWI	Not recorded in 2007 but present in 1997, possibly overlooked
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i> Soft shield fern	AWI	Possibly increasing locally and nationally
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	AWI	Rare at site Compartment Q only
<i>Prunus avium</i> Wild cherry	AWI	Common at site
<i>Quercus petraea</i> Sessile oak	AWI	Common at site
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i> Goldilocks buttercup	AWI, declining nationally	Rare at site Compartments P and W only where associated with stream.
<i>Rosa arvensis</i> Field rose	AWI	Rare at site. Compartment C and P only
<i>Sanicula europaea</i> Sanicle	AWI, rare in Middlesex, declining nationally	Rare at site, Compartment A only
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i> Goldenrod	AWI	Recently translocated to the site Compartment N
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i> Wild service tree	AWI	
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> Guelder rose	AWI	

**Table 1: Notable plant species at Queen’s Wood (excluding historic records and garden escapes)**

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status	Notes
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i> Early dog violet	AWI	Rare at site Compartment G only

**Fungi:** The zoned rosette fungus *Podoscopyha multizonata* has been recorded at Queen’s Wood and at other nearby woodland sites for a number of years. It is a UK and London BAP, near endemic, and rare in London and nationally, with London forming a centre of this species distribution in the UK. On the basis of the presence of this species the site is judged to be of **Metropolitan importance** for fungi. Apart from zoned rosette, cep *Boletus edulis* and the usual range of woodland fungi in good diversity are present and approximately eighty species of fungi have been recorded at the site.

**Bryophytes:** Thirty eight species of bryophyte, including *Rhizomnium punctatum* regarded as uncommon in north London have been recorded by Ken Adams/London Natural History Society at the site

### 2.2.2 Fauna

**Bats:** Queen’s Wood is included in the National Bat Monitoring Program and surveyed most years in June, with additional data gathered from bats walks. The site supports considerable pipistrelle *Pipistrellus spp.* activity, especially above the old paddling pool. Bats of the genus *Myotis*, which include species strongly associated with woodland environments have been recorded regularly along Queen’s Wood Road/Wood Lane, but have not been recorded since additional lighting has been provided. Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula* have been recorded occasionally, usually quite high above the wood. The large number of mature oak trees with woodpecker holes indicates that this species probably roosts at the site but the presence of roosts has not been confirmed. Bat boxes have been erected within the wood and are inspected, and have not been occupied to date. The limited diversity of the bat assemblage present indicates that Queen’s Wood is of **Borough importance**<sup>9</sup> for bats.

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<sup>9</sup> The Mayors Biodiversity Strategy (GLA 2002) defines Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation as being those where sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, but damage to these sites would mean a significant loss to the borough

**Birds:** A breeding bird survey was carried out in May to April 2008 (Darrell-Lambert 2008). A total of 28 species were breeding or probably breeding at the site. Of the breeding species two were red listed and five were amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC)<sup>10</sup>. Table 2 below listed red and amber listed birds of conservation concern recorded at the site. Of the red listed species, lesser spotted woodpecker occurs in the highest UK densities in Southeast England and its status in London is uncertain with possibly declines obscured by the difficulty in recording this species<sup>11</sup>. The second red-listed species, song thrush has declined most substantially in agricultural areas and to a variable extent across the UK<sup>12</sup>. Its decline in London has been moderate.

Fuller (1980)<sup>13</sup> provided a framework for evaluating the conservation importance of sites in the UK based on their breeding bird assemblage. Fuller gives the following breeding diversity criteria: National importance 85+ species, regional importance 70-84 species, county importance 50-69 species, and local importance 25-49 species. On this basis the breeding bird assemblage is local importance, and should therefore be regarded as being **important at Borough level**.

**Table 2: Red and amber listed breeding bird species at Queen's Wood**

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status at the site	BOCC/BAP status	Notes
Stock Dove ( <i>Columba oenas</i> )	Breeding	Amber	Up to seven males were heard singing and seen in display flight
Green Woodpecker ( <i>Picus viridis</i> )	Breeding	Amber	One or two territories were located
Willow Warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> )	Possible breeding	Amber	A single male was heard in April but not seen or heard on subsequent visits

<sup>10</sup> Eaton, M.A., Brown, A.F., Noble, D.G., Musgrove, A.J., Hearn, R., Aebischer, N.J., Gibbons, D.W., Evans, A. and Gregory, R.D. (2009). Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds*, **102**: 296-341. Red List species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has decline rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.

Amber List species are those with Unfavourable Conservation Status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has decline historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

<sup>11</sup> Hewlett, J. (ed) (2002). The breeding Birds of the London Area. LNHS.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.rspb.org.uk/> accessed 020310

<sup>13</sup> Fuller, R.J. (1980) A method for assessing the ornithological importance of sites for nature conservation. *Biological Conservation*, 17:229-239.

**Table 2: Red and amber listed breeding bird species at Queen's Wood**

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status at the site	BOCC/BAP status	Notes
Mistle Thrush ( <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> )	Breeding	Amber	One breeding pair were present
Dunnock ( <i>Prunella modularis</i> )	Breeding	Amber	Two singing males were located
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker ( <i>Dendrocopos minor</i> )	Breeding	Red	One male was heard during the February survey.
Song Thrush ( <i>Turdus philomelos</i> )	Breeding	Red	Up to nine territories were located

**Invertebrates:** There is a limited amount of data on invertebrates for the site with most data being for spiders of which 108 species including two Notable B<sup>14</sup> species *Coelotes terrestris* and *Philodromus praedatus* have been recorded. The spider assemblage is considered to be limited by the high level of disturbance at the wood. Other invertebrate species recorded are the Red data Book 2 (vulnerable)<sup>15</sup> jewel beetle *Agiljus pannonicus* which is widespread at the site and is now regarded as common or even a pest by some authorities<sup>16</sup>. The larvae of this species feed on rotting wood and it is likely that the site supports a notable assemblage of dead-wood dependent (saproxylic) invertebrates.

### 2.3 Description of compartments

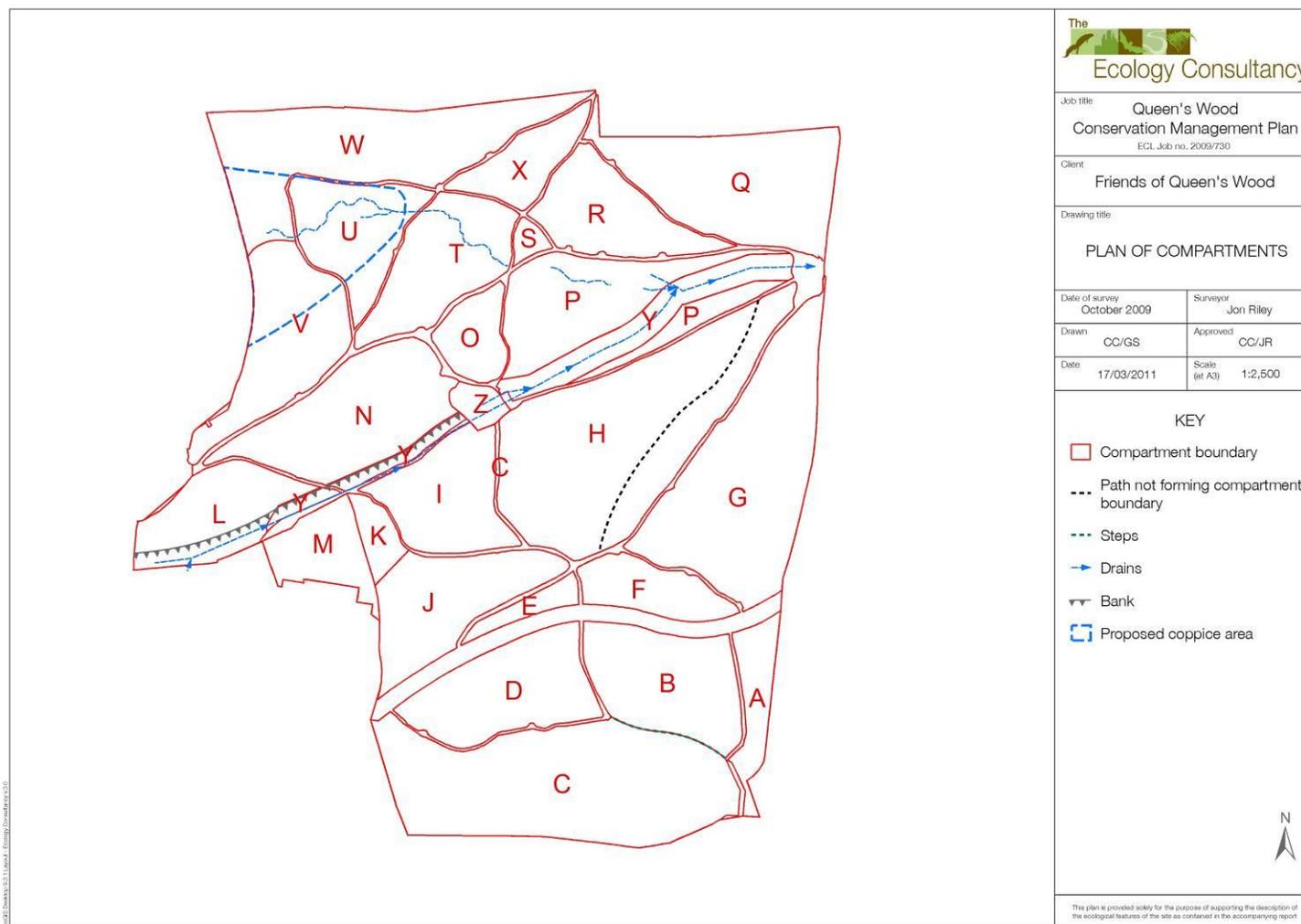
Compartments identified below are reproduced from Game 2000 with amendments (including Compartments Y & Z) to account for significant changes in current or proposed management, or to highlight areas where significant management issues exist. Figure 2 shows compartment boundaries which are based on the principal path network at the site, or in some cases on drainage features. A small number of additional paths have been created or become more prominent since 2000 and it is therefore necessary to map definitive compartment boundaries at the site.

<sup>14</sup> Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and are thought to occur in between 31 and 100 10 km squares of the National Grid or for less well recorded groups, between eight and twenty vice- counties. From Eversham (1983).

<sup>15</sup> Taxa *believed* likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating From Shirt (1987),

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/infid-7b3d3r> accessed 080310.

Figure 2: Map of compartments



**Compartment A:** This compartment is fairly typical of much of the wood. It contains trees of a good range of species, including fine mature oaks *Quercus ssp.* and hornbeams *Carpinus betulus*, and at least some understorey, composed predominantly of elder *Sambucus nigra*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and young trees. There is a group of dense young hornbeams near the road. When visited during this survey, the ground flora seemed sparse in the north and south ends of the compartment but better developed in the central third. However, sanicle *Sanicula europaea* is present near the southern end and is increasing through appropriate management. Wood anemone is relatively abundant in the north of the compartment and wood melick *Melica uniflora* is also found. A bank and ditch extends southwards from the road. A gate in the perimeter fence gives access to the 'Wooded Walk', an attractive linking path through secondary woodland to Crouch End Playing fields but which is outside the scope of this management plan. The compartment lies next to a frequently-used footpath leading from Queen's Wood Road to Priory Gardens and the tube station.

**Compartment B:** Much of the rest of this compartment is quite well structured and contains a good range of species, probably due to a combination of being further from major paths and possessing fewer large hornbeams. Here typically are found fine oaks above young hornbeams and beech *Fagus sylvatica*, holly, hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, with dense bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and ivy *Hedera helix* below. Wood melick *Melica uniflora* and wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* occur here, and common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense* grows in the north-west corner. There is a large patch of ivy covering the ground in this compartment. An old bank runs from the road roughly in a south-west direction.

**Compartment C:** This compartment slopes steeply down from the path along the northern edge to a valley on the southern perimeter. The land slopes more gradually down from the east to the west. The vegetation in the south of the compartment is very dense and the area is little visited.

A damp ditch passes along the bottom of the valley slope and forms the southern perimeter of the site, adjoining the boundaries of rear gardens of adjacent properties. In one section, towards the western end, the ditch had been dug out and two flexible pipes drain into it of which one drains water from an adjacent garden. Several entrances have been made into the wood from the adjacent gardens, and planks or other makeshift

bridges erected over the damp ditch and a limited amount of garden rubbish has been dumped. Large oak trees, hornbeams of various sizes and holly dominate much of the valley. There are several horse chestnuts *Aesculus hippocastanum* and common lime trees *Tilia x europaea* at the eastern end, and large sycamores *Acer pseudoplatanus* further west near the wooden garden fences. There tends to be little understorey apart from holly, and ground flora is apparently largely absent, although there are some patches of hybrid bluebells *Hyacinthoides x massartiana* and several clumps of ramsons *Allium ursinum* in the valley and particularly along the eastern section of the ditch. The woodland is much denser at the western end of the valley, and there is a mixture here of young wild cherry *Prunus avium*, beech and rowan, together with bramble, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, sycamore and hazel, and the ubiquitous holly, oak and some hornbeam. Holly is dense at the western end and there are dead boughs (e.g. of oak) lying on the floor here. A small English elm *Ulmus procera* tree grows near the southern boundary towards the western end

The northern part of the compartment is on higher ground and there tends to be a sparse understorey and either a grassy or little or no ground flora. A patch of dense tree regeneration at the extreme western end comprises hornbeam, wild cherry, sycamore, holly, rowan, beech, Norway maple *Acer platanoides* and oak. Adjacent to this a grassy clearing supports a population of common cow-wheat. Most of the path along the northern boundary of the compartment is bordered immediately by open woodland with grasses beneath, chiefly creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*. Further from the path, and on the steep slope, the canopy of oak, hornbeam and holly is denser, and the ground flora is correspondingly sparser. However there is a good deal of tree regeneration, especially towards the eastern end, including wild cherry, beech, ash, oak, rowan, hornbeam, sycamore, and non-native whitebeam (cf. Swedish whitebeam *Sorbus intermedia*); a patch of dense birch *Betula sp.* seedlings includes smaller quantities of rowan, sycamore and beech. Edward Milner reports that there is a seedling of native whitebeam *Sorbus aria* in the compartment. Evidence of bark stripping by grey squirrels is evident on several young beech and hornbeam in this compartment. Field rose *Rosa arvensis*, an ancient woodland indicator species which is rare at the site (also present in Compartment P) was recorded by David Bevan in 2007.

Following recommendations (Game 2000), holly removal was carried out in part of this compartment in 1999.

**Compartment D:** This compartment contains some well-structured woodland with useful regeneration.

Woodland along the eastern edge is generally well structured, containing large oak trees with canopy gaps which are filled with brambles, holly and young trees. Some of the woodland near the road is rather more open beneath the large oaks, and a thicket of oak seedlings (typically about a metre high) have grown up. However, these are badly mildewed and it is doubtful if they will survive. The western part of the compartment tends to be relatively open beneath the oak canopy, with little field layer apart from creeping soft-grass and patches of bramble, a few sapling rowans and a wild service *Sorbus torminalis* (recorded by Game 2000 but not Bevan 2009) and several large holly bushes. David Bevan recorded pill sedge *Carex pilulifera* here in 1995, and a specimen was found in or near here in 2009 during the survey for this report.

There is a patch of dense regeneration, chiefly of birch, hornbeam and oak, in the south-east corner. Further into the compartment here is some limited sycamore regeneration. Nearby is a rowan sapling which was planted as a memorial tree; this is partially shaded by a young beech behind it. There is a canopy gap a little further north, adjacent to the path with a thick cover of bramble on the ground. Other patches of regeneration occur further into the compartment. In one area oak, wild cherry, hazel and two holly bushes grow among bramble beneath a thin oak canopy or none. In another area, large holly bushes are competing with young wild cherry and a hazel stool. There is good tree regeneration at the western tip of the compartment, with beech, holly, rowan, hornbeam, birch, wild cherry, sycamore, ash, hazel and at least six oak saplings.

A population of common cow-wheat grew at the western tip but was not found in the 2007 survey, and there is a small English elm towards the western end. A small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* had been recorded in the western/centre of the compartment (by Game 2000 but not Bevan 2009); it may have been planted. A sweet chestnut tree grows in the eastern/centre of the compartment. Edward Milner reports that the tallest rowan in London, at 22m, grew in the compartment.

**Compartment E:** The canopy in this compartment, largely of oak, hornbeam and holly, is generally dense, and there is little in the way of understorey or ground flora. A fine beech tree stands at the western end. Holly is common, including both native holly, Highclere *Ilex x altaclarensis* and other hybrids; hybrid hollies are quite a feature of Queen's Wood. In at

least one area, in the north of the compartment, holly bushes will soon coalesce, to the detriment of rowan, beech and hornbeam regeneration. Numerous holly seedlings are present at the eastern end of the compartment.

**Compartment F:** This is a good area of oak, hornbeam and beech woodland, with plentiful young regeneration with a reasonable cover of bramble beneath. Limited sycamore and horse chestnut is present. Common cow-wheat occurs near the road at the eastern tip of the compartment. This is a more widespread population than some elsewhere in Queen's Wood, with outliers under the trees along the roadside. A healthy bush of guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* grows at the path intersection in the north of the compartment.

**Compartment G:** This is generally a well-structured compartment. A public right of way not shown on map in Figure 2 runs parallel and near to the eastern boundary of the wood. An old boundary bank runs a metre or so from the wooden back garden fences along this edge. Garden rubbish has been dumped here at intervals along the bank. This is mostly vegetation, but rubble has been dumped on the bank in one place. Several pollarded hornbeams grow on the boundary bank, together with large hazel stools and a few sycamores; at least one of the latter had been cut back.

There are several areas within this compartment with dense, hornbeam coppice shades out most shrubs and ground flora. However, the canopy is much lighter in much of the compartment (due largely to fewer hornbeams) and here the sub canopy layers are better developed, and tree regeneration of various ages is present. A large patch of dense young trees north of a grassy clearing is particularly evident. Early dog violet *Viola reichenbachiana* grows here: this is the only location it was recorded in the 2007 survey. There is also a large patch dominated by snowberry both *Symphoricarpos albus* and *S x chenaultii*; these reflect the history of the site being used for dumping garden material in the wood. The trees are up to 4m high and the great majority are hornbeam, but ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, rowan, oak, holly, sycamore, birch, whitebeam and hawthorn are also present. A nearby patch of regeneration further north on the northern edge of the compartment, is far less dense and set in a grassy sward. It is also dominated by hornbeam together with rowan, holly, wild cherry, wild service and oak in small quantities. Young trees are also present elsewhere in the compartment. There is a good population of cow-wheat not far from the southern tip of the compartment

**Compartment H:** This compartment lies on ground sloping generally down from the south-

west to the north-east.

The north-east end on this compartment is rather open, with a grassy sward beneath a canopy of large oak trees.

The lower slopes in the rest of the compartment, i.e. beside the path leading to the paddling pool (compartment Z), tend to be poorly-structured hornbeam coppice with oak standards, with a scattering of holly, a few weak hazel and hawthorn, but little else in the shrub or ground layers. However, there is another large grassy clearing roughly opposite the 'witch's coven' in the compartment to the north. Here oak standards are present but not hornbeam. There is some sparse tree regeneration, probably damaged by overuse of this area. A population of cow-wheat is present on the edge of the clearing.

The woodland further up the slope contains less hornbeam, and is generally nicely varied in structure, and containing canopy gaps with bramble and/or grasses beneath; young trees, mostly hornbeam but including other species also, large trees, mostly oaks, with fewer hornbeams and even fewer beeches; some holly; and some patches of overstood hornbeam coppice allowing little to grow beneath the canopy. A small colony of cow-wheat grows near the upper path, and a small quantity of remote sedge *Carex remota* near the western edge, near a fallen oak log (recorded by Game 2000 but not Bevan 2009).

**Compartment I:** Like compartment H, this compartment is also on steeply sloping ground. The woodland is well-structured on the upper slopes, and many young trees grow here, mostly hornbeam, but also including beech, rowan, sycamore, holly and wild cherry. Field maple *Acer campestre*, which is uncommon in the wood, grows near the upper edge.

The lower slopes are composed of hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Holly is quite frequent, but there is little other shrub layer and little ground flora. Small quantities of young sycamore and holly are present; some of the sycamore has been cut. Remote sedge grows by the lower edge of the compartment, near the western end.

There is an attractive grassy triangle with oak trees near the paddling pool (compartment Z), containing a limited amount of tree regeneration and a sapling common lime tree, presumably planted.

**Compartment J:** This compartment falls into three parts; a narrow flattish lower area along

the northern edge; a flattish upper area along the southern side; and a steep bank connecting the two

The lower edge is generally composed of poorly structured hornbeam coppice with oak and some beech standards, together with a good deal of holly. There is little ground flora. The steep slope is a mixture of paths, grassy slopes, and patches of dense young trees (mostly hornbeam, but also including beech, wild cherry, rowan and oak) below oak trees and at least one splendid beech. A single crown of hard fern *Blechnum spicant* grew among young holly near the western end but died during a series of dry summers (2005 etc).

The upper area is a mix of grassy clearings and woodland. The clearings contain some regeneration, including brown birch, hazel, ash, hornbeam and small oak seedlings. Some of the woodland areas are well structured, with standard oak, beech, hornbeam and dense tree regeneration. There is a large dead oak tree, and dead oak wood lies on the ground. Great wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica* grows close to the junction separating compartments I and H.

Holly is dense near the south-western lip of the compartment, beneath a thick hornbeam canopy. Several sycamore trees grow on the edge of the wood here, and there is some dumped garden debris.

Following recommendations (Game 2000) holly removal was carried out in this compartment in 1999.

**Compartment K:** This small compartment was coppiced in February 1992. It has since regrown to a dense area of regeneration, largely of hornbeam, but with a smaller quantity of other species, including hazel and rowan. A total of 86 species of plants have been recorded in the compartment since then, compared with 16 before management; these included slender St John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum* and bristle club-rush *Isolepis setacea*, the presence of both a result of the coppicing. Not all these species will be present now, but the flora will undoubtedly be richer than before the coppice was cut. There is a good patch of wood anemone at the edge of the coppice which has benefited from the coppicing.

When visited in January 2010 the regrowth of hornbeam coppice was relatively poor with

evidence of squirrel damage but there was considerably regrowth of wild cherry, which may excessively shade the hornbeam stools

**Compartment L:** This is an interestingly varied compartment, both in terms of structure and species. There is a good understorey, especially in the upper areas near the entrance to the wood. Lower down mature oaks and hornbeam coppice shade out the understorey, but even here there are patches of shrubs. The parts of the compartment away from the path are probably relatively little visited, being on the edge of the wood and with a forbidding boundary along the builder's yard.

Large common lime and plane trees grow near the road and nearby along the builder's yard boundary; there is a good deal of standing and lying dead wood. Oak and hornbeam coppice are common, but the shrub layer tends to be quite dense here, and includes a good deal of hazel. Towards the lower, eastern end of the compartment maiden hornbeams are present; although these are fine trees, they cause shading, and beneath them there is little in the way of shrub or ground layers.

The area of woodland between the entrance from Muswell Hill Road and the Lodge, north of the entrance path, contains plentiful lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria* and regenerating Indian horse-chestnut *Aesculus indica* - one of only two known British sites where this tree has been noted as regenerating.

Japanese knotweed is present in this compartment and is managed by pulling by the Friends of Queen's Wood on an ongoing basis, with material being removed to less sensitive infested areas in compartment M. Due to shade from the tree canopy it is not considered that the colony will spread and the current management is sufficient to achieve control and potentially removal of the colony.

A drain and wood bank along the southern boundary, close to the builders yard is now included in a new compartment (Y)

**Compartment M:** This compartment is separated from the rest of the wood by iron railings. These are mostly in good repair but at least one large section is missing, allowing easy access into the compartment. It lies outside the boundary of the ancient wood, demarcated by the ditch and bank along its edge, to the west of the old stubbed

hornbeams. It was once part of Highgate Common, previously (in the 17th century) Sow Wood Common.

Fine old hornbeam pollards line the northern and eastern edges of this compartment; one hornbeam has been re pollarded, and is re-growing. A stream-bed (compartment Y) runs along part of the northern boundary, it was damp and muddy at the time of visit (July 1999), but held no standing or running water. However, it does hold water in winter.

Immediately to the south is a mounded area dominated by Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*.

The south-eastern part of the compartment is characterised by dense bramble beneath ash and hornbeam; there is no Japanese knotweed here. Holly is abundant towards the south-eastern corner.

**Compartment N:** Much of this compartment consists of oak standards (both native species pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and sessile oak *Quercus petraea*) and overstood hornbeam coppice, with some holly and small quantities of hazel and hawthorn. The latter tend to be stressed, due to the shade cast by the oak and hornbeam. Towards the western edge there tends to be a dense carpet of ivy, with very little tree regeneration. In the east the ground tends to be bare apart from a few patches of bramble. Some of the hornbeam stools show severe damage from bark stripping by grey squirrels. A large windblown field maple is regenerating from the rootball.

An old bank passes through the compartment, and is used for a path (not marked on the map). This is a continuation of the boundary bank to the east of compartment M, and probably demarcates the boundary of the ancient woodland. Early maps suggest that much of the western edge of the wood was 'waste', and this may be where plague pits were dug (see Silver-town 1978). Holly is particularly abundant near this bank.

Fine wild cherries grow near the former changing rooms in the southeast corner of the compartment with box elder, bramble and birch. This area was coppiced in 2003.

Former changing facilities (now demolished) and a paddling pool adjoin the southernmost part of the compartment and are now described separately as compartment Z.

The bank of a defunct ditch (parallel to a more recent ditch) close to the path, forming the southern edge of this compartment, is now described as a new compartment (Y).

Hairy woodrush *Luzula pilosa* and translocated plants of goldenrod *Solidago virgaurea*, both ancient woodland indicator species were recorded only in Compartment N in the 2007 survey, but it is not known whether their location remains in Compartment N or if it is now in Compartment Y.

**Compartment O;** Much of this compartment consists of typical hornbeam coppice with holly and standard oak trees, and little else. However, there is a patch of dense hornbeam regeneration near the centre, not up to 5m high, together with very limited amounts of hazel, beech, rowan and holly. Saplings of ash, goat willow and wild cherry grow among bramble at the western corner.

Towards the south is an area which was previously fenced off when it enclosed the old wood-keeper's buildings; the fence is now broken in several sections. Cherry laurel, wild and garden privets (reflecting the wood-keeper's plantings) grow immediately to the east of this. Himalayan honeysuckle/ Pheasant berry *Leycesteria formosa* also grows here.

**Compartment P:** This compartment can be divided into three sections.

Towards the south-west corner is a large open, grassy clearing surrounded by large oak trees. A fallen oak branch has been made into an informal seat in the centre of the clearing. The area is an attractive and well-used amenity, but of limited interest for nature conservation. It is sometimes called the 'witches coven'. There is limited tree regeneration in the north-west corner. Due to ongoing visitor pressure the grassy flora of this area has been suppressed and it becomes bare in summer.

The woodland to the east of the Witches Coven is very poorly structured oak standards with hornbeam coppice and some holly, but otherwise containing little shrub layer. The ground is mostly bare. However, it is visually attractive and seems to be well used; it is opposite the main entrance on the eastern edge of the wood. The lack of understorey probably makes it appear 'safe' to visitors by allowing high visibility. This area was coppiced in 2009, mainly with the removal of hornbeam and with the timber used for dead-hedging around the coppiced area, and to create seats and log piles. Coppicing has been followed by a spectacular increase in plant diversity including some woodland species and

wetland species (close to the drain – compartment Y) as well as weedy species. Oak regeneration has not yet occurred but this may be linked to poor acorn production in the year following coppicing.

The best part of this compartment for nature conservation is to the west of the Witches Coven. A magnificent wild cherry tree grows near the paddling pool (compartment Z), and the better light conditions here have maintained a better-structured woodland here. However, as the Witches Coven is approached, there is an area of tall holly trees – interesting visually, but not of special note ecologically. A particularly interesting area lies at the north-west corner. Again, fine wild cherries grow near the corner, with a tall ash tree nearby – one of very few old ashes in Queen's Wood. The bed of the former stream enters the compartment here, and, crucially, this section and its surrounds are well-lit. It supports an excellent flora, including wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, remote and wood sedges, tutsan *Hypericum sp.*, common dog-violet *Viola riviniana*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* and guelder rose. The population of the latter spreads into the drier woodland to the south. Broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine* was recorded here as single plants in 1990, 1991 and 2008, but following coppicing 11 plants were recorded in 2009. Slender St. John's Wort, a locally rare and ancient woodland indicator species was also recorded following coppicing.

Following recommendations (Game 2000) holly removal was carried out in this compartment west of the witch's coven about 2 years ago.

The drain flowing through the small valley oriented southwest to east along the length of the compartment has been placed in a new compartment (Y). It is understood that most of the records for broad-leaved helleborine noted above are from this area.

**Compartment Q:** This is an excellent area of mixed woodland: mixed in species, tree age and structure. Wild service is relatively common. Much of the compartment is too dense with bramble and young trees to permit easy access and, combined with the fact that it lies in a corner of the wood, this makes much of it little visited and little disturbed. Several dead oaks have had their upper limbs removed and the wood placed in piles on the ground. It is the only compartment in which the ancient woodland indicator species barren strawberry was recorded in the 2007 survey.

There is a patch of Japanese knotweed on the northern edge of the wood, adjacent to the

garden of the second house from the east on Connaught Gardens. This is growing amongst other vegetation but in fairly well-lit conditions. Some sycamore regeneration is present, especially near the northern boundary.

There is a patch of dense tree regeneration adjacent to a path roughly in the centre of the compartment. This is mostly hornbeam, but oaks up to 2m high are present, as well as rowan and perhaps other species.

**Compartment R:** This compartment is a mixture of rather open and attractive oak woodland with grass beneath, and denser vegetation of bramble, young trees and holly. It is notable for the number of young oak trees it contains.

**Compartment S:** This is a small triangle of mostly dense woodland of hornbeam, oak, holly of mixed provenance, wild cherry, hawthorn, and a Norway maple sapling.

**Compartment T:** Much of this compartment consists of hornbeam coppice typical of Queen's Wood, with oak, holly, some hazel, but little else. There are several patches which are more varied, e.g. alongside the path on the south side of the compartment. The stream is more-or-less dry. Magnificent ash trees grow near it, but largely it is heavily shaded and supports little ground flora apart from mossy banks. David Bevan has recorded tutsan at the upper end of the stream (tutsan is in fact increasing in the wood and is now recorded from several places). The lowest 20m or so of the stream is also interesting, and supports wood sorrel, remote sedge, wavy bitter-cress *Cardamine flexuosa* and broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata*. Wood anemone is abundant, especially to the north and east of the former stream. There is a sapling sycamore, about 7m high, near the eastern side of the stream. Non-native Himalayan honeysuckle grows in this compartment, perhaps as a self sown garden escape.

Following recommendations (Game 2000) holly removal was carried out in this compartment about 5 years ago.

**Compartment U:** As with the previous compartment, much of this is overstood hornbeam coppice with the course of a former stream through it. There are magnificent hornbeam and wild cherry trees near the lower end of the stream. At the lower end the stream is heavily shaded, but the canopy becomes slightly lighter further upstream. The stream bed is split in two towards its upper end, and around here the ground flora is very interesting,

with guelder rose, three-nerved sandwort *Moehringia trinervia* (still present in 1999), wood sorrel (a good population), both remote and wood sedges, and a small population apparently of yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* (the native species, not the variegated form); the latter is on the southern side of the southern branch. Soft shield fern *Polystichum setiferum* was reported from this area, and its presence was confirmed by David Bevan in September 1999. Two wild pear *Pyrus sp.* trees grow near the western edge of this compartment.

Following recommendations (Game 2000) holly removal was carried out in this compartment about 10 years ago.

**Compartment V:** The western boundary of this compartment, bordered by housing, and was formerly an open area known as the 'Strawberry field'. It is dominated by fine plane *Platanus sp.*, silver maple *Acer saccharinum* and common lime *Tilia x europaea* trees. These and the edge of the wood let sufficient light for a good understorey to have developed, chiefly of bramble and holly. Elsewhere hornbeam is commoner. There is a band of dense young hornbeam and lime saplings near the centre of the compartment.

The stream, on the northern boundary of Compartment V/W, is a very important feature. It no longer flows although there was stagnant orange water near the edge of the wood when visited. It is surrounded by a dense growth of vegetation, including nettle *Urtica dioica*, bramble, elder *Sambucus nigra*, field maple, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, meadow-sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, dogwood *Cornus sanguineus*, and guelder rose, plus remote sedge, lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and goldilocks buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus* (the latter recorded by David Bevan). Some judicious cutting back of the canopy here was carried out in 1992 and in 2010.

**Compartment W:** On the northern edge of this compartment, there is a former small entrance to the wood which, being illegal, has been gated off. The compartment is relatively undisturbed, especially the north-west corner. There is some dumping of garden refuse along the boundaries.

Much of the compartment consists of hornbeam coppice with oak and holly, the latter dense in places. It is the only compartment in which the ancient woodland indicator grass wood millet was recorded in the 2007 survey. There are sycamore trees in the north-west corner; bluebell, possibly native (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), grows near here. West of the

entrance there is a better structure and mix of species, with breaks in the canopy and young wild cherry, elder and hazel. A large sycamore tree grows here, and there are fine large-leaved lime and silver maple near the north-east corner

An area adjoining compartment X is better structured, and includes seedling and sapling trees, with dead wood lying on the ground beneath bramble, as well as dead standing timber. The area forming the boundary with Compartment V supports a similar stream side assemblage as noted in Compartment V, and further plants of goldilocks buttercup were recorded in 2007 survey in this area.

Japanese knotweed appears from time to time in the north-east corner of this compartment near the Connaught Gardens entrance and notice board. It is removed by the Friends of Queen's Wood.

**Compartment X:** The north-eastern corner of this compartment is open, and contains coarse species such as nettle and hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*. Elsewhere the woodland is well-structured.

**Compartment Y:** This is a new compartment comprising the course of a drain (a tributary of the Moselle) that runs southwest to northeast through the centre of the wood, from the builder's yard on Muswell Hill Road to the access point on Wood Vale. The drain runs to the north of the path along the southern boundaries of compartments L and N and then flows through a valley in compartment P.

Possibly as long ago as the 19<sup>th</sup> century the drain was directed through ceramic pipes. These are now largely exposed, blocked and broken and the drain has reestablished a channel at the surface over much of its length.

Compartment Y has been isolated from these compartments because of the botanical and historical interest of the drain and bank, the potential for several projects at various points along its length, and vulnerability to adverse impacts from recreational use. The compartment does not include the branch of the drain further to the northwest, which is largely at the surface and is described in compartments P, T, U and V.

The following description of the compartment is based largely on information provided by Game (2000) and David Bevan

The drain or ditch runs alongside the boundary with the builder's yard. Initially dry, lower down from the corner of the yard it was wet with very brown water at the time of visit in July 1999. There is a good flora here, including guelder rose, remote sedge and wood sedge *Carex sylvatica*. There is an old bank and slight ditch parallel to the wall of the builder's yard, towards the lower end, and about 10m from it. Wood sedge grows on the bank and cut-leaved elder nearby.

Along the southern boundary of the compartment N the bank of a defunct ditch (parallel to a more recent ditch) close to the path supports broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine* and thin-spiked wood sedge *Carex strigosa*. Small quantities of wood sedge and remote sedge are also present.

Northeast of the paddling pool (compartment Z below) and running through compartment P the drain comprises two channels. The northern branch runs from Muswell Hill Road and was almost dry during the 1999 survey (and it was believed that flow had been cut off by works on Muswell Hill Road), but in full flow at various times during the winter of 2009/10. The southern stream leads from the paddling pool; its bed is very shallow at first but become more defined further down stream. It too is heavily shaded and vegetation was restricted to small amounts of the two sedges but broad-leaved helleborine have also been recorded.

The two drains meet at the Dog Pond. This is a concrete-lined and heavily shaded small pond which that does not retain water. However, conditions were sufficiently wet for a single plant of square-stemmed St. John's wort to appear following coppicing and it is likely that other wetland plants could reappear from the seed bank if wetter conditions can be provided. The outlet from this pond leads to a manhole a short distance down stream. Beyond the manhole the drain is an apparently deep drain to the access from Wood Vale where it passes through a grille and becomes part of the storm drainage system. A substantial flow of water could be heard at the grille in 2009/10. The grille or adjoining storm drain has become blocked in the past leading to flooding of an adjacent property on Wood Vale, but this has not occurred since works were carried out five or six years ago.

**Compartment Z:** The former paddling pool and the changing rooms (now demolished) and other facilities were previously in compartment N. These have been derelict for many years, and it is now the focus of a project proposed by Froglife to restore the area as a wildlife pond. The elements of the project are as follows:

- To redirect a proportion of water flowing in the drain (compartment Y) from under the existing damaged concrete liner to flow into the new pond, thereby providing a means of recharging water levels.
- To excavate and re-profile the pond to approximately 16m diameter and 1m deep.
- To reline the pond with a Geosynthetic Clay Liner
- To reduce overhanging tree canopy in order to increase light reaching the pond
- To plant with native wetland species with species chosen to reflect those recorded in the wood
- To provide a dipping platform large enough for a school educational visit.
- To record the geomorphology/archaeology of paddling pool site, which is believed to be of Holocene origin.
- Creation of amphibian hibernacula in the vicinity of the pond

## 3. Policy

The following section sets out general policies that inform the remainder of the management plan which is more site-specific. These policies were developed by the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) to inform the management of their reserves and have been adapted below. They include policies on ecological principles and amenity, as well as those on health and safety and volunteering. These policies may not reflect current LWT policy and it is anticipated that they will have to be reviewed and amended to reflect LB Haringey's requirements.

### 3.1 General principles on ecological issues

#### *3.1.1 Continuity of habitat and community assemblages*

The primary interest of Queen's Wood is as ancient woodland which is a highly valued and irreplaceable wildlife habitat. This means that the management proposed does not seek to alter the predominantly wooded nature of the site, rather to maintain various ecological and historic aspects of the wood, including the creation of areas of coppice as suitable locations. Management to maintain or reinstate non-woodland habitats maybe recommended in areas outside of the ancient woodland boundary (compartment M) where the target habitat would have greater value than the existing habitats.

#### *3.1.2 Prevention of local extinctions*

Management to prevent accidental local extinctions, particularly of plant species, and to encourage natural recolonisation, will be carried out.

#### *3.1.3 Survey and monitoring*

A survey is carried out to establish baseline ecological interest and monitoring to assess the effects of management. It is important that protocol adopted is designed to assess the effects of management rather than gather large amounts of species data. For example, moth surveys are of interest in establishing the value of the site and the management requirements for important species, but are too specialised and expensive to be carried out on a regular basis. Conversely bird or butterfly transects carried out regularly over a number of years will yield information on the effectiveness of management and can be carried out cheaply by non-specialists. Bird and bat monitoring should be carried out on an annual basis and vegetation surveys regularly but less frequently. Records should be sent to the local

biodiversity records centre (BRC) - Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL). Of equal or greater importance to species survey and monitoring is monitoring the quality and timeliness of management and the condition of features such as bird and bat boxes.

### 3.1.5 Invasive species

Queen's Wood has retained a largely native flora dominated by species such as oak, hornbeam, bramble, ivy and holly.

The holly at Queen's Wood comprises a range of hybrids involving the native species and Highclere holly *Ilex x altaclerensis* (and *Ilex aquifolium* x *Ilex perado*), and possibly other species. The overall abundance of holly has been identified as a management issue through out-competing native shrub and ground flora and inhibiting tree regeneration. By blocking views, particularly near paths, it can reduce the amenity attractiveness of the wood and lead to a sense of insecurity. On the positive side it helps to reduce access thereby limiting damage to soils and ground flora, as an evergreen it is attractive, and it provides habitat structure for birds. There is uncertainty over the degree to which it suppresses other vegetation. Holly can grow in dry shaded locations (characteristic of much of the wood), and these areas probably naturally support a limited amount and variety of vegetation below the canopy. For these reasons further holly removal is recommended only in areas where this is likely to result in improvements to the ecology or amenity value of the wood.

Ivy is dominant in parts of the wood and its abundance may be due to ground disturbance or to heavily shaded conditions beneath areas of hornbeam dominated canopy. There appears to be potential for ivy to suppress other ground flora species because it is evergreen and can overtop smaller species, such as wood anemone. It has been suggested that ivy may inhibit recruitment of ground flora species in secondary woodland<sup>17</sup>. Non-native species of ivy have been noted being among the few non-native species that can colonise the interior of ancient woodland, where they may form dense carpets<sup>18</sup>. No published information on the effectiveness of control of ivy in woodland is available. However, in areas where

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<sup>17</sup> Biological Conservation Volume 101, Issue 3, October 2001, Pages 291-304 Vegetation changes during 100 years of development of two secondary woodlands on abandoned arable land Ralph Harmer, George Peterken b, Gary Kerra and Paul Poulton

<sup>18</sup> British Wildlife Volume 8, number 4, April 1997 The effects of urbanisation on urban woodlands David Bevan, Oliver Gilbert.

ground flora may be adversely affected by excessive shading from outgrown coppice, it seems possible that control of ivy may have a beneficial effect on vernal species. Experimental control of ivy through mechanical removal, or even through herbicide treatment, when native ground flora is dormant, could be considered.

Non-native species such as snowberry, pheasant berry and cherry laurel are present in limited amounts and are unlikely to aggressively colonise, and therefore require management rather than removal. Other horticultural species as present in such low numbers that their presence is of interest as examples of colonisation and management is not currently required.

Japanese knotweed is present in limited amounts in compartment L where it is managed by pulling and compartment M where treatment with glyphosate has been proposed. Due to shading it is not considered a significant issue in compartment L, which is ancient woodland, and continuing management will provide adequate control. Eradication from compartment M is recommended as a precursor for future management of the site. Japanese knotweed is included in Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect to Section 14(2) which makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild, although it is **not** an offence to have it on your land per se. Care must be taken that management activities do not cause it to spread either on or off site.

Grey squirrels are native to North America and were introduced to the UK in the late 19th century. They are well documented as causing damage to trees and woodland through eating buds and stripping bark. They were once shot in the wood, presumably because of the damage they caused. In Southeast England grey squirrels cause very conspicuous bark damage to hornbeam. They also damage a wide range of other species, including sycamore, beech, oak, sweet chestnut, pine, larch and Norway spruce.

Trees younger than 10 years are not normally damaged because their stem and branches are too small (<50 mm diameter) to support a grey squirrel. Bark on the main stem of trees older than 40 years is normally too thick to strip, but grey squirrels will strip the thinner bark on the larger branches in the crown. Trees from which the bark is most easily stripped by squirrels are generally the fastest growing

and those with the most sap<sup>19</sup>. A study at Lady Park Wood found that squirrels preferentially debarked intermediate sized (10–25 cm d.b.h.) and stems in stands aged 40–50 years. Other species and stand areas of <100 years' growth remained largely unscathed. Within the 10-year period squirrels had critically affected the successional development of the wood<sup>20</sup>. Other reports note that intermediate sized stems to 40cm diameter at breast height (d.b.h.) are most severely damaged, with most damage occurring at around 4 metres.

Bark stripping results in the death of only 5% of trees, but significant damage occurs through reduced growth rate, snapped stems, crown die back and reduced seed production (Forestry Commission 2007).

The prevalence of damage to rapidly growing stems of intermediate size suggests that maturing coppice regrowth, particularly of hornbeam will be significantly affected. The potential for grey squirrels to affect successional development within woodlands suggests that near permanent changes in habitat structure and species composition could arise in coppice areas.

Control measures frequently employed are shooting, live trapping (both single and multiple animal traps) and Warfarin poisoning (Forestry Commission 2007). Trapping can achieve up to 90% capture but should be carried out collaboratively with adjacent landowners for best effects. This is potentially possible here with City of London, LB Haringey (at Parkland Walk) and LUL but not with private landowners. The welfare of animals would be a difficult issue to resolve if culling was implemented as the site is heavily used by the public. The cost of implementing any of the above measures is unlikely to be met by any of the organisations that would need to be involved.

For reasons above it is considered unrealistic to recommend squirrel control at Queen's Wood. Rather, management proposals should take account of squirrel damage, and in particular coppicing and pollarding should be on a small scale and with proposals to compensate for squirrel damage, should it occur, if necessary though planting or selection of seedlings of less susceptible species such as silver

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<sup>19</sup> Controlling Grey Squirrel Damage to Woodlands Forestry Commission August 2007

birch, wild cherry or ash..

### *3.1.6 Planting and other introductions*

Natural regeneration and colonisation is the preferred option for conserving and enhancing woodland habitat. However, Froglife has proposed planting in the scheme to create a wildlife pond at the paddling pool site, which is necessary to hasten its development as an educational resource.

### *3.1.7 Ivy*

Mature, arboreal ivy should always be retained because of its value to birds, bats and invertebrates. Ivy is occasionally perceived as a threat to trees but rarely damages healthy specimens. While ivy removal is not recommended, arboricultural inspections should include monitoring trees with heavy ivy cover close to the pathways and site boundaries.

### *3.1.8 Dead wood*

This is an essential habitat for many species of birds, invertebrates, bats, bryophytes and fungi. Removal of dead wood and 'tidying-up' leads to relatively sterile conditions and takes away an essential part of the woodland ecology. The aim is to provide as much standing and fallen dead-wood as possible without compromising other management aims or safety. Currently there is a limited amount of deadwood in Queen's Wood, as such, all timber produced through woodland management should be retained on site in order to build up a supply of deadwood in varying stages of decay.

There are good quantities of standing deadwood throughout the site ranging from entirely dead trees to those with small areas of rot and a number of trees are likely to have internal cavities of value to birds and bats. All standing deadwood should be retained and ideally the amount should be increased. Where it is necessary to thin the canopy, for instance to favour a particular species, consideration should be given to killing selected trees in a standing position by ring-barking (i.e. removing a strip of bark around the trunk, which kills the tree but leaves it standing). If this is not appropriate trees should be felled leaving a long stump to provide nesting sites for some species. However, public safety must always take precedence in areas of high public use, consequently any trees which are in a demonstrably unsafe

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<sup>20</sup> UK Forestry Volume 70, Number 1 Pp. 17-29 1995 A decade of grey squirrel bark-stripping damage to beech in Lady Park Wood, P. MOUNTFORD

condition must be made safe (though not necessarily felled) especially where they are near boundaries or footpaths - although a precautionary approach erring on the side of minimising habitat damage must be taken. Information should be provided for visitors about the role of dead wood in the reserve and that they should be aware of the potential hazard that it may pose to those who stray off the designated paths.

### ***3.1.9 Use of herbicides***

Herbicides are damaging to the environment to a greater or lesser extent, and can be a danger to the public. Consequently their use should be restricted to necessary tasks, and only if other management methods are inappropriate or have failed. Use must be in accordance with the relevant pesticide policy.

### ***3.1.10 Climate change***

Appropriate future management of the wood could, to a limited extent, mitigate the predicted effects of climate that could affect the wood. These are broadly, an increase in summer droughts, increased winter rainfall, and the potential for new plant pathogens, both due increased climate stress to trees and the possibility that altered climate may favour new pest species. These issues are reflecting in later sections of the plan in a number of ways. Recommendations for reinstating surface drainage and reducing runoff would enable damp habitats a moisture loving species to be retained, if drought becomes more prevalent. The design of new drainage features would have to accommodate the potential for very wet weather and the intense runoff and erosion associated with it. A cautious approach to coppicing had been recommended in terms of extent of additional areas. Maintaining the majority of existing woodland cover is likely to minimise the potential for any invasive and pathogen species to alter the species composition of the wood.

### ***3.1.11 Review of Management Plan***

This management plan is written to cover the next 5 years and should be reviewed at the end of this period. In addition, the plan should be reviewed annually by the site staff and the Friends of Queen's Wood to ensure that the work is being carried out and that it is having the desired effect.

## 3.2 General principles on amenity issues

### 3.2.1 General safety

Safety is a priority as there is free public access to the site. All boundaries, steps, bridges, footpaths and other visitor facilities need to be inspected regularly and any necessary remedial action taken immediately. Regular inspections must also be carried out of all trees near boundaries and footpaths, to ensure they are in a safe condition, i.e. not about to fall over or shed dead branches onto an area frequently used by the public. Appropriate action should be taken but in recognition that standing dead wood is an essential feature of the woodland ecosystem. Vegetation should be regularly cleared to maintain sightlines in areas which may become very enclosed and create a real or perceived threat to the public. This is most likely to be the case at access points which are often quite narrow and bordered by dense vegetation.

### 3.2.2 Access

The reserve has pedestrian access to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Consequently the local authority has a responsibility to ensure that all footpaths and other visitor facilities are in good condition. There is currently a byelaw prohibiting cycling in the wood. The existence of the byelaw is appropriate given the high levels of pedestrian use, the steepness and narrowness of the paths, and the damage to the site that would arise from any increase in off-path access. Any proposals to alter current access must take account of the site's designation as an LNR, as management of LNRs must be based principally on the site's nature conservation interest.

There is evidence of informal access, with alternative routes to the main path present in much of the site. Off-path access is causing soil compaction and damage to ground flora at a number of locations and measures to reduce damage, such as dead hedging or the formalisation of access with steps or paths, should be implemented.

A small number of residents whose back gardens adjoin Queen's Wood have created access points into the wood directly from their properties. These encroachments can be detrimental to the wood by creating additional footpaths which cause damage to the ground flora. Additionally informal access is unsightly and detracts from the wood's value as a public space. The Friend's of Queen's

Wood are already engaged with adjoining residents and seek to resolve these issues on a case by case basis. Such an approach is likely to be the most effective, and is most efficiently carried out by The Friends as they work in the wood on a regular (almost weekly) basis. The Local Authority should provide additional support where necessary by issuing letters to adjoining residents requiring all unofficial access points to be removed and by carrying out enforcement action if required.

### ***3.2.3 Litter***

Litter makes a site look untidy and uncared for and can spoil the enjoyment of visitors. Some litter can also be unsafe, or lethal to small mammals and some invertebrates. Litter will be cleared on a regular basis. Hazardous waste (syringes) must be removed from the site regularly and safely by an approved contractor.

The wood also suffers from fly tipping by some adjoining residents who have tipped garden and building waste into the wood, and by the public along Queen's Wood Road. Fly tipping damages the wood by smothering ground flora and potentially introducing invasive species and hazardous substances, as well as reducing the aesthetic value of the wood and being a possible health hazard. As noted in Section 3.2.2 above, when requested, the Friends already engage with residents on management issues and should be supported by the Local Authority. Fly tipping along public highways should be removed by the Local Authority as soon as it is reported.

### ***3.2 4 Dogs***

Dog walking is likely to be among the main recreational activities at the site but the associated issue of fouling is also evident, and disturbance to wildlife and the threat of uncontrolled dogs to people, may also be an issue on occasion. The ancient woodland ground flora at the site is likely to be adversely affected by soil nutrient enrichment caused by dog fouling. It is important that existing dog bins are regularly emptied and well maintained to ensure that dog owners can dispose of dog waste in a responsible manner as easily as possible. Relevant byelaws and information on responsible dog walking at the site should be included on information boards.

### ***3.2.5 Fires***

Fires are not likely to a major issue at the site except in drought conditions. Fires should be tackled only by the fire service.

### ***3.2.6 Firearms***

All incidents of people carrying firearms should be immediately reported to the police; no action should be taken by staff or volunteers against individuals carrying firearms.

### ***3.2.7 Signs and interpretation boards***

There is a need for more interpretation of the wood both on site and through written material and the website. Interpretation should be addressed by a separate strategy and is not covered in this management plan.

### ***3.2.8 Lighting***

Queen's Wood is of borough-level interest for bats. Bat boxes have been provided to increase the numbers roosting at the site, the creation of the wildlife pond in the former paddling pool is likely to further increase the numbers present, and additional recommendations for bats are provided below. Lighting is known to deter some species of bat and some woodland species are particularly sensitive to increased light<sup>21</sup>.

Night time illumination is currently present on the path from Queen's Wood Road to Priory Gardens and at the Lodge where there are also security lights. Any replacement or refurbishment of lighting in these areas should aim to minimise light spillage, for instance by directing light downwards and using hoods to reduce glare. Additional lighting within the woodland should not be provided under any circumstances, in accordance with the site's designation as an LNR. Any severe light spillage from adjacent properties should be addressed if possible through contacting the owner (in some cases this may be achieved simply by lowering the angle of security halogen lamps). It is understood that lighting along Queen's Wood Road has deterred bats from using the woodland edge (C. Blaney pers. com.). The highways department should investigate ways of reducing light spillage with advice from an experienced bat worker.

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<sup>21</sup> Refs Jones 2000 and BCT 2009 for woodland bats

### **3.3 General principles on management practice**

The following policies relate to management activities carried out by staff or volunteers and are included for guidance only. They will need to be updated and expanded to reflect LB Haringey policy.

#### ***3.3.1 Health, safety and risk assessment***

It is essential that all activities take place with adequate consideration of health and safety. Management of the sites for nature conservation poses a number of potential risks, which anyone working there must be aware of. All tasks must be carried out with a specific risk assessment to highlight any particular dangers, which must be reviewed bi-annually. All tools must be use only after an initial safety induction. Works must be led by an individual with authority to ensure that all health and safety measures are implemented and with the ability and recourses to deal with any accidents.

#### ***3.3.2 Tools***

All tools should be of good quality. They should be regularly and properly maintained and they should be securely stored in good dry conditions. Training should be given in the safe use of tools for all new volunteers or where unfamiliar tools are being used. Volunteers using tools should be made aware, or reminded of, safe practice every time they are used. Appropriate tools should be used at all times.

#### ***3.3.3 Use of powered tools***

There are occasions when use of powered tools is necessary, e.g. strimmers, chainsaws, etc. Powered tools must only be used by a certificated operator having all due regard for health and safety. All power tools must be kept in good working order and stored appropriately when not in use. Vegetable-based chain oils, such as BioSafe, should be used in their operation.

#### ***3.3.4 Use of herbicides***

There will be a presumption against the use herbicides, although exceptions will be made. Herbicide use must accord to all relevant Health & Safety and COSHH guidelines, and LB Haringey Policy and the person administering it need to be qualified and properly equipped.

### ***3.3.5 Tree-felling***

Tree felling must only be done in accordance with the legislation relating to tree felling licences which are issued by the Forestry Authority. Tree felling is a specialist activity and can be very dangerous. Any felling should only be carried out by experienced persons and only if there is no danger to people or property. If there is any doubt the work should be carried out by specialised contractors. Chainsaws should only be used by fully qualified operators.

### ***3.3.6 Movement of felled trees***

Felled or windblown trees should be left in situ unless they cross official paths. If large trunks need to be moved this should be usually be carried out through human effort – aided with a mechanical winch if necessary.

### ***3.3.7 Burning***

There is a presumption against burning in the site's management plan.

### ***3.3.8 Working with volunteers***

Much of the practical management work of the site could potentially be undertaken by volunteers and there is an active voluntary interest in the site through the Friends of Queen's Wood and BTCV. If volunteer involvement is to be encouraged at the site it should take place in accordance with LB Haringey equal opportunities, health and safety, and volunteer policies and with reference to current best practice provided in the NCVO's Management of Volunteers: National Occupational Standards 2008.

## 4. Aims

### 4.1 Aims

The principal aims of site management are set out below. They deliberately broad cover both the ecological and recreation aspects of the site. They reflect the policy preceding section and form a basis for the more detailed information on conservation features, management objectives and management procedures provided in the following sections.

- To preserve the largely ancient semi-natural woodland habitats and informal 'rural' atmosphere of Queen's Wood
- To promote the structural and plant species diversity of woodland where appropriate
- To provide additional opportunities for faunal species (birds and bats) where appropriate
- To ensure that that high standards of amenity management are maintained and to enhance amenity value
- To maintain improve aspects of public safety and security where possible
- To maintain the volunteer led management of the wood and increase the involvement of local schools and community groups to maintain and enhance the educational value of the woods.
- To record and monitor wildlife at Queen's Wood in sufficient detail to inform the management of the site.
- To increase public understanding of the site and its value through talks and walks in the wood
- To attain UKWAS status

### 4.2 Analysis

Table 3 below provides an overview of the issues and trends that should be addressed in the management plan for Queen's Wood. Rather than the broad management aims stated in 4.1 above, the aims stated in Table 3 below are intended to address more specific management issues. They are also reflected in the management prescriptions in the following section.

**Table 3: Analysis of the main issues affecting management of Queen's Wood**

Issue	Trend (+ or -)	Aim
<i>Regeneration:</i> there is limited regeneration of oak and patchy regeneration of hornbeam in the wood	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect existing regeneration of desirable tree species</li> <li>To encourage greater regeneration</li> </ul>
<i>Invasive species:</i> certain species notably holly and ivy are over abundant	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue management of holly and other invasive species in appropriate areas (defined above see invasive species)</li> <li>To initiate experimental control of ivy</li> </ul>
<i>Coppicing:</i> the wood was formerly managed as coppice with standards but coppicing lapsed until reinstated in the 1990's	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To extend coppicing in appropriate areas taking account of issues such as squirrel damage</li> <li>To manage existing coppice</li> </ul>
<i>Visitors:</i> visitors are welcomed to enjoy the wood, but create problems in managing the ecology of the wood	-/+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage greater use of the wood</li> <li>To manage damage from excessive recreational use</li> <li>To continue to use volunteers and increase voluntary involvement</li> <li>To increase onsite interpretation</li> <li>To continue providing educational walks and talks</li> <li>To consider providing an education/visitor centre.</li> </ul>
<i>Climatic conditions:</i> the wood is vulnerable to unpredictable weather, particularly drought	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that management doesn't exacerbate climate effects</li> </ul>
<i>Size:</i> in management terms the wood is small	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that management is of the correct scale for the wood</li> </ul>
<i>Connectivity:</i> although in an urban area the wood is in close proximity to other woodland and open space	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote complementary management with nearby sites</li> </ul>
<i>Rare species:</i> The wood is of metropolitan importance for plants and possibly fungi. Some species that are not currently found may remain in the seed bank	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue management aimed at preserving locally rare species</li> <li>To develop new management projects to retain or re-establish rare species through natural regeneration</li> </ul>
<i>Drainage:</i> the wood's drainage has been heavily modified and is now in poor condition	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To restore the paddling pool as a wildlife pond</li> <li>To restore surface drainage and increase wetland habitat in the wood</li> </ul>

# 5. Projects

## 5.1 Access maintenance

Most of the formal paths in Queen's Wood are surfaced in asphalt, much of which is in poor condition and in need of repair. In some areas steep slopes would benefit from being replaced by steps either to provide better access for visitors or to channel informal access to a particular location to reduce damage to the wood. Timber steps constructed from sleepers or similar are recommended as they are fit for purpose, easy to maintain and replace, and can be built by volunteers. Information on how to build timber steps is provided in Footpaths a practical handbook (BTCV 2001) which can be downloaded from <http://handbooks.btcv.org.uk/handbooks/content/section/2352?keywords=steps>.

Possible projects to improve access could be considered:

- A survey of the condition of paths is needed prior to scheduling work on specific paths: for example, in Compartment P - provide steps to direct access down slope from path at boundary with compartment H to Witches' Coven to reduce trampling and compaction of drain-side habitat (compartment Y).
- Paths should be inspected regularly and any cracking in asphalt repaired promptly. Steps should be inspected to check if the tread has become muddy and uneven and if the tops of the railway sleepers or other timber forming the risers have become slippery. Any muddy or uneven areas should be scraped clean and refilled with hoggin in the early winter. Tops of risers should be covered in chicken wire or staples as necessary.
- Many of the entrances to the wood are overgrown and uninviting to new visitors. Consideration should be given to improving sightlines and making them more welcoming.

## 5.2 Arboricultural inspection

A walk over inspection of the entire site should be carried out annually by the borough's arboricultural officer, so that there is an up to date risk assessment of potentially hazardous trees near the path and boundaries.

### 5.3 Bat boxes

There are already bat boxes in the wood but the creation of a new pond and coppicing of part of compartment P will improve foraging habitat and increase the chance of occupancy of new boxes.

Schwegler 'woodcrete' bat boxes offer considerable advantages over wooden boxes as they are long lasting and, due to the density of materials, provide relatively stable temperatures favoured by bats. The following models are recommended: 2F for smaller bats including brown long-eared bat, 1FS large colony box especially suitable for brown long-eared and Nathusius bats, 1FF – for inaccessible places as droppings fall from the opening, and also suitable for hanging on walls.

Boxes should be situated on a tall mature trees at least four metres above the ground (five or six metres or even higher for noctule bats) with the access facing south west or south east. Six boxes over a 20 by 20 metre square area, facing differing aspects, should be provided at each location to increase the chance of occupancy. Boxes should be sited in sheltered woodland edge locations, away from possible frost pockets and areas where they are unlikely to attract vandals. Boxes should be monitored for evidence of use and cleaned annually by a licensed bat worker. If they are not occupied in two years they should be moved to a new location. Inspection and maintenance of bat boxes should be carried out in April and October, when they are least likely to be in use.

Bat boxes are recommended at the following locations but numbers and location should be confirmed with an experienced bat ecologist

- Compartment H – close to Paddling Pool wildlife pond
- Compartment I – close to Paddling Pool wildlife pond
- Compartment N - close to Paddling Pool wildlife pond
- Compartment P - close to paddling pool Wildlife Pond and on trees at edge of newly coppiced area.

## 5.4 Bird boxes

Several types of boxes should be used and all (where required) should have protective metal plates to stop woodpeckers or squirrels breaking into them to steal young birds or eggs.

Small hole-entrance nest boxes should be used to encourage Coal Tits and Nuthatches. Medium hole-entrance nest boxes should be used for Starlings and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Large hole-entrance nest boxes are suitable for Stock Dove and Tawny Owl and small open-fronted nest boxes should be used that could potentially attract Spotted Flycatchers. Providing nest sites will help to contribute to and improve the success rate of the breeding species and must be maintained. It is recommended approximately 1/3 of nest boxes are inspected in late winter (on a rotational basis) and any repairs carried out. After they have been used they should be cleaned out with the nesting material removed and any parasites larva/eggs present. A useful source of information is The British Trust for Ornithology Nest box Guide by Chris du Feu. ISBN 1- 902576-81-0 (copied from Darrel – Lambert 2008)

## 5.5 Coppicing and coppice management

Game (2000) provides a rationale for forest management of Queen's Wood, which remains relevant to the current plan. Historically Queen's Wood was managed as hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Coppicing probably ceased in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the wood became enclosed by suburban development and took on an amenity role. Subsequently hornbeam coppice formed a dense canopy, creating heavily shaded conditions on the woodland floor for much of the year. Excessive shade is the main contributing factor to the poor development of the shrub layer, dominance of holly and poor tree regeneration in the wood

The wood could be allowed to develop to high forest consisting mostly of tall standard trees that develop naturally or can be selected from over-mature coppice stools. Over decades canopy gaps would develop due to wind throw, squirrel damage or other causes, and this would light to the woodland floor, allowing regeneration of ground flora and shrub layer, and the establishment of young trees. The creation of natural gaps would be slow and unpredictable process, and may not be sufficient create the conditions to diversify age structure or promote development of woodland ground flora in areas where they are needed. Due to the

wood's small size this could result in the loss of some species, and, at some point, a lack of mature and over mature trees.

Coppicing enables open areas to be created where they will have the greatest benefit. However, it is dependent on re-growth from coppice stools or seed to re-establish a canopy of trees and shrubs to create conditions favouring shade bearing species and unfavourable to light demanding species. The vulnerability of coppice re-growth discussed above (*3.1.5 Invasive species*) and various issues affecting oak regeneration mean that coppicing should be carried out cautiously to avoid changes to the site that may be difficult to remedy.

Recommendations for further coppicing have been made with the following considerations:

- The creation of coppice areas in keeping with the site, the area coppiced in 2009 is sufficiently large to be of benefit.
- Establishing an overall area of coppice that can be managed by volunteers
- The generally negative attitude of the public to tree felling
- The potential for using other management methods such as holly or ivy removal or felling individual or small numbers of trees to achieve beneficial effect, with less risk, effort and expense than coppicing.
- Particular opportunities or constraints in different locations, for instance a lack of regeneration would favour coppicing but the presence of a well-developed ground flora may not.

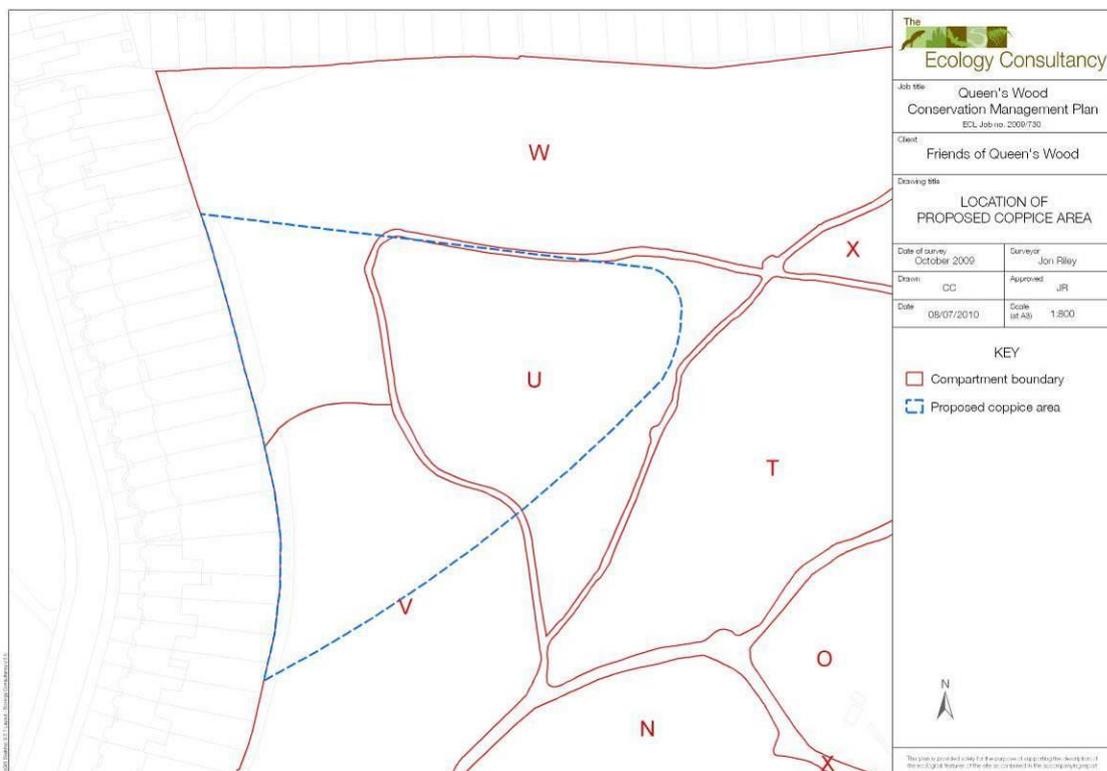
Details on how to carry out coppicing are provided in the BTCV handbook on woodlands <http://handbooks.btcv.org.uk/handbooks/content/section/3758>. This includes basic and more specialised techniques for restoring over-grown coppice, with the key issues being to carry out the work in the winter months, to cut as low as possible and angle the cut outwards to avoid water collecting around the stems. Coppice areas should be periodically weeded to remove unwanted species that may affect re-growth, and select the best-positioned and strongest seedlings. An abundance of fast growing species such as wild cherry, which could out-compete target species (oak and hornbeam), should be heavily thinned. As soon as they fall acorns from the wood should be heeled into the ground in new coppice areas. It may also be necessary to consider restocking of oak in the coppices, in which case stock of local (SE England) provenance should be used.

Information on bats and felling licenses that may be a consideration if felling some trees is provided in Section *5.17 Tree felling below*.

Coppicing or coppice management is proposed in the following compartments:

- Compartment K – assess coppicing and thin wild cherry to promote re-growth of hornbeam, which is badly affected by squirrel damage.
- Compartment K – if there is significant re-growth by 2015 this compartment should be considered for re-coppicing.
- Compartment N – monitor coppice re-growth from 2003, carry out selective management of regeneration if required
- Compartment P – monitor coppice re-growth from 2009, carry out selective management of regeneration if required
- Compartment V – Coppice the full extent of wet woodland
- Compartment W – Coppice the full extent of wet woodland
- Compartment U – Coppice 50% of stream-side woodland i.e. that adjoining Compartments V and W.
- Figure 3 below shows the approximate extent of proposed coppicing of wet woodland in Compartments V, U and W

**Figure 3: Approximate location of proposed coppicing of wet woodland**



## 5.6 Dead hedging

Dead hedging is already used extensively and effectively in the wood to control access and protect uncommon species or vulnerable areas, including new coppice.

Dead hedging is proposed in the following compartments, either to protect existing features or as management associated with other projects described later in the plan. The extent of dead hedging that can be carried out may be limited by the amount of material produced by management activities elsewhere at the site. If this is the case chestnut paling could be used as alternative or work can be prioritised according to need (to be determined during the course of the plan)

- Compartment A – dead hedge to continue to protect and encourage expansion of sanicle
- Compartment C – dead hedge to protect common cow-wheat and young oaks in north west of the compartment near the road
- Compartment H - dead hedge to protect cow-wheat and any tree regeneration of note
- Compartment N - provide dead hedging between foot path and drain (compartment Y) to reduce human and dog access to drain-side flora
- Compartment P - provide dead hedging close to drain (compartment Y) to ensure that activities associated with the Paddling Pool wildlife pond does not damage wet habitat in compartment Y, as may arise if large numbers of school children using the pool for educational visits spread out from its immediate vicinity.
- Compartment P - provide dead hedging close to path at boundary with compartment H to Witches' Coven to channel informal access to reduce trampling and compaction of drain-side habitat (compartment Y)
- Compartment T – create dead hedges at 90° to the drain, up and down stream of areas of good ground flora to deter walkers from following stream and damaging ground flora
- Compartment U – create dead hedges at 90° to the drain, up and down stream of areas of good ground flora to deter walkers from following stream and damaging ground flora

## 5.7 Deadwood and hibernacula

The provision of deadwood is among the general projects described at the end of the management plan. The proposal to convert the Paddling Pool into a wildlife

pond includes the provision of hibernacula. It is recommended that these are placed within disturbed areas and former garden planting in compartment O, and the area of the former changing rooms in compartment Z.

## 5.8 Drainage

As described above (Section 3), Queen's Wood is drained by two small channels that meet at the Dog Pond in northeast part of the wood and flow into a storm drain on Wood Vale. Compartment Y comprises the main channel flowing out to Wood Vale and southerly branch of the drain in the southwest of the wood. Parts of the southern drain are piped below ground, but some sections flow above the surface where pipes have broken or become blocked. The main part of the drain is entirely below ground.

These drainage features are heavily modified and damaged by excessive public access, but have historical and nature conservation interest. In the upstream section a surface channel should be recreated by removing sections of redundant piping, to provide bank-side habitat for a range of characteristic sedges. Down stream of the Dog Pond wet woodland habitat should be created through re-establishing the surface channel of the drain and damming its flow to create a series of wetland areas. Such management will complement the proposal to replace the disused paddling pool with a wildlife pond, and will assist in delivering the London Biodiversity Action Plan for wet woodland.

The implementation of these projects is beyond the scope of volunteers or a nature conservation NGO and should be designed by engineers, hydrologists and ecologists. The depth of the pipe from paddling pool to Wood Vale is not known and a key issue will be to provide a surface channel with the correct gradient to provide conditions for habitat creation and storm water storage, and avoid any potential for flooding on Wood Vale. There is some potential for increased siltation with the removal of pipe work from the channel upstream of the Dog Pond, but current storm water runoff is not very silty, and as such any increase in siltation is likely to be short term only.

The main tasks associated with the above drainage works are as follows:

- Compartment Y – remove remaining sections of ceramic pipe where appropriate (adjacent to compartment N and in compartment P)

- Compartment Y – restore and reline Dog Pond and direct overflow from Paddling Pool wildlife pond to it.
- Compartment Y – investigate potential to re-establish surface drainage downstream of Dog Pond to grille at Wood Vale access. Dam the course to reduce runoff.
- Compartment Y – carry out any drainage works necessary at the grille and drains at Wood Vale to facilitate the proposal to restore surface drainage.
- Consult Richard Barnes (GLA) re possible funding for the works from the London Biodiversity Action Plan for wet woodland.

### 5.9 Education and interpretation

The Friends of Queen's Wood, in cooperation with Haringey Council, have recently renewed the interpretation boards at the entrances to the wood. The Friends also hold public meetings to increase awareness and understanding of the work being done in the wood and run regular guided walks on the history and ecology of the wood both for the public and for specific groups such as BTCV.

School groups are encouraged to visit the woods. Two groups are currently using the woods for educational purposes. They are the Rudolf Steiner Schools and the Forest Schools organisation. Both groups involve the children in woodland activities and nature education and simple craft activities that do not harm the wood's resources. In addition the RS schools have musical activities, such as songs and dances, in the woodland setting. These groups have had permission from the wood manager and the Conservation Officer. Other school groups seem to use the woods informally from time to time for walks and woodland activities such as tree climbing and building dens. As Highgate Wood is so near and has better resources they cream off the formal activities for local schools. We hope that the Frogpond will provide a resource for local schools and other groups in the future.

Although accessible to huge numbers of people, the potential for involving schools and the general public is limited by a lack of teaching and associated welfare facilities. A resource centre at the wood would be readily accessible by residents and schools in the west of the borough, and could complement the ecology centre at Railway Fields in the east.

A resource centre cannot easily be added to an ancient wood. One possibility might be compartment M, which is not part of the ancient woodland or possibly the Lodge should its lease come up for renewal. Any centre could be used as a classroom and meeting room, office space, storage, loos etc.

It is beyond the scope of a conservation management plan to consider how this proposal could be funded or implemented and any proposals should take into account the possible impacts it might have on the funding and sustainability of other environmental education within the borough such as at Railway Fields and Wolves Lane.

### 5.10 Holly, cherry laurel, snowberry removal

The potentially adverse effects of holly and some other non native species through shading and competition with native plants have been discussed above (*Section 3.1.5 Invasive species*), and *Section 2.3 Description of compartments* noted where holly removal has already been carried out in accordance with the 2000 management plan. The following recommendations for clearance refer to additional areas in the 2000 plan where holly was noted as an issue, to features described in the plan that would be particularly vulnerable to dense shade, and to areas recorded during site visits in 2009/10. It is recommended that holly is removed by coppicing i.e., cut to ground level in the winter months (see section 5.5), and grubbing up of smaller plants, with arisings used for dead hedging as described in Section 5.6

- Compartment A – remove holly (by coppicing ideally followed by stump treatment) from bank running southwards from road - of potential value for flowering plants and bryophytes
- Compartment B – remove holly from bank running southwest from road - of potential value for flowering plants and bryophytes
- Compartment C – remove cherry laurel and any holly encroaching on to bluebell or other native ground flora (carry out a spring survey)
- Compartment D – remove holly within and competing with regeneration in the centre, east and west of the compartment and in the vicinity of wild service trees in the west (protect and open up habitat around pill sedge during clearance)
- Compartment E – remove holly affecting tree regeneration

- Compartment F – monitor holly and remove any competing with tree regeneration/guelder rose or shading common cow-wheat.
- Compartment G – monitor snowberry, grub out any affecting vernal ground flora
- Compartment J – remove holly around site of hard fern (now gone) to provide more open habitat that may favour development of young plants. Remove holly close to fallen wild service tree in the southwest of the compartment
- Compartment N – thin holly from wood bank (running northwards from the eastern boundary of compartment M) – of potential value for flowering plants and bryophytes

### 5.11 Ivy control/monitoring

The potential for ivy to have an adverse effect on ground flora, was discussed above (*Section 3.1.5 Invasive species*). In some parts of the wood the control of ivy may be a means of maintaining or improving ground flora without the risk of coppicing old hornbeam, which may result in poor regeneration and invasion of weedy species.

There is no information on the value of ivy removal in managing ancient woodland ground flora, or on how to remove it. As such an experimental approach should be developed and only small areas should be attempted initially. Due to variation in the wood there would be little value in attempting to assess effects through comparison with a control plot. Rather a before and after comparison should be made, which will require a baseline survey and comparison with abundance of ivy and ground flora species in subsequent years. Management activities and recording must be standardised to allow comparison of data in different years. Findings should be distributed through Conservation Evidence [www.conservationevidence.com/](http://www.conservationevidence.com/) and at some stage could be published.

Ivy control is likely to be labour intensive but could readily be carried out by volunteers if manual control is carried out, the possible control options are as follows:

- Manual control by pulling/surface digging which is likely to rapidly decrease ivy cover and allow easy removal or arisings, but would involve soil compaction and disturbance

- Manual control by strimming or cutting with shears which is likely to have slower effects than pulling and will spread propagules, but would result in limited soil compaction and disturbance
- Chemical control would be possible as ivy is evergreen and could be treated with a systemic herbicide when ground flora is dormant, however some species such as yellow archangel are present during the summer and chemical control is therefore problematic.

It is considered that careful manual control through pulling is likely to be the most effective method of control. If carried out in the late summer or early autumn when vernal species are fully dormant, it may not result in damaging levels of disturbance.

Experimental ivy control should be carried out in the following compartments

- Compartment B – survey extent of ivy and whether encroaching on vernal ground flora
- Compartment T - carry out experimental ivy control in areas with good ground flora
- Compartment U - carry out experimental ivy control in areas with good ground flora

### 5.12 Japanese knotweed management

Japanese knotweed management is already being carried out or is proposed in the compartments listed below and should be continued

- Compartment L – continue to manage Japanese knotweed by pulling stems during the summer and removing arisings to the colony present in compartment M
- Compartment M – remove Japanese knotweed (spray with glyphosate for three years +) in advance of improving the nature conservation value of this area.
- Compartment Q - manage Japanese knotweed by pulling stems during the summer and leaving arisings on top of the colony

### 5.13 Litter and dog bins

Litter and dog bins are already present in areas where LB Haringey staff can regularly empty them.

- Compartment A –path from Queen’s Wood Road
- Compartment E –path from Queen’s Wood Road
- Compartment L –close to path to Muswell Hill Road
- Compartment P –at the exit to Wood Vale

Bins should be inspected four times yearly and requirements for repairs or replacement reported to LB Haringey’s Recreation Services Department.

#### 5.14 Logs and brash

All trunks and branches from tree felling should be retained on site. They should be left as large timbers that cannot be readily moved or rolled down slopes, and in partially shaded areas where they can provide the best conditions for invertebrates. Where possible, twiggy material (brash) should be retained on-site and used for site management (screening, blocking informal access points and paths etc. However, excessive amounts could be unsightly and a fire risk and should be chipped and removed from site.

#### 5.15 Ownership

Compartment M is the responsibility of Homes for Haringey. Responsibility is to be transferred to LB Haringey Recreation Service. The change in control would reflect the compartment’s designation as part of the LNR, consolidate responsibilities in a single, more appropriate department.

#### 5.16 Pond management

Manage Compartment Z and other wildlife ponds in accordance with Froglife management notes in Appendix 2 of their project plan (01.08.09).

#### 5.17 Private properties - access from

A number of owners of properties backing on to the wood have created illegal access points from their back gardens to the wood through which they have dumped garden and building waste. This is potentially damaging as it can smother small woodland plants, introduce invasive species and cause local changes to soil chemistry, as well as affecting people’s enjoyment of the wood. The Friends of Queen’s Wood should monitor access or dumping and where sufficiently severe the council’s Enforcement Department should write owners and charge them for any remedial work carried out. Current issues of illegal access and/or dumping are present in the following locations

- Compartment C
- Compartment G
- Compartment V
- Compartment W

### 5.18 Sight lines maintenance

Dense holly can obscure sightlines and should be removed to enhance the public's sense of security and safety. Currently holly growth either side of the path from Queen's Wood Road between compartments A and B needs to be cut back considerably. More generally, the Friends of Queen's Wood should carry out an audit to identify if there are any other areas where sight lines should be improved

### 5.19 Surveys and monitoring

Monitoring is proposed for species groups that can be identified by non-specialists and that are considered most likely to provide information on the effects of management if carried out regularly and over the entire period of the plan. In all cases the inferences drawn from management can only be indicative as there are a great number of additional variables that will affect the distribution of species at the site.

***Birds:*** Bird monitoring is proposed in order to assess the effects of woodland management. The presence of nest boxes may also result in a positive change in the numbers and diversity of breeding species. It is recommended that an approach based on the discontinued Common Bird Census is adopted.

A territory-mapping approach should be used to estimate the number and positions of territories of each species present at the site during the breeding season. Eight to ten visits should be made between late March and early July and all contacts with birds, either by sight or sound plotted on 1:2500 maps. Each bird's species, with sex and age where possible, and also activity such as song or nest-building should be noted. It should then be possible to match the distribution of bird territories with habitat features.

***Plants:*** Plant surveys should be carried out in all compartments where management is proposed the year before management is implemented and annually thereafter, ideally by the same recorder. Surveys of particular populations should record the whole compartment using the DAFOR scale and fixed point photography. The

extent, number and condition of rare species or those that reflect management aims should be recorded species. A list of notable species at the wood is provided in Table 1 above. Key species to be considered for monitoring, because they are ancient woodland indicators or associated with specific conditions such as damp areas are listed below. Species which are very rare at the wood have been omitted as they may naturally be of sporadic occurrence, or may decline for reasons unrelated to management.

- *Anemone nemorosa* Wood anemone
- *Carex remota* Remote sedge
- *Carex sylvatica* Wood-sedge
- *Conopodium majus* Pignut
- *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* Bluebell
- *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* Yellow archangel
- *Melampyrum pratense* Common cow-wheat
- *Melica uniflora* Wood melick
- *Milium effusum* Wood millet
- *Oxalis acetosella* Wood sorrel
- *Ranunculus auricomus* Goldilocks buttercup

**Bats:** Bat activity may also provide additional information on the effects of management and provide an indication of good positions for erecting bat boxes. A protocol based on the National Bat Monitoring Programme should be adopted. The location of 12 marked stopping points along the site should be identified, reflecting habitat type, the location of management activities (including bat boxes), and off site commuting routes. Monitoring visits should be carried out on two evenings in July. At each of the 12 stopping points heterodyne ultrasonic detectors should be used to listen for common and soprano pipistrelles for two minutes then re-tuned for noctule, natterer's and serotine bats whilst walking to the next stopping point. The survey should start twenty minutes post sunset.

## 5.20 Tree regeneration management

As discussed throughout Parts 2 and 3 of this plan there is poor regeneration of dominant tree species – oak and hornbeam – in most of the wood. The surveys carried out in 2000 and 2009/10 were not sufficiently detailed to assess the condition and management needs of regeneration patches and they should be

revisited in the summer months to determine their viability and management needs. Areas requiring consideration are listed below.

- Compartment C – assess and thin tree regeneration to favour oak at both eastern and western end of the northern part of the compartment
- Compartment D – assess oak regeneration the east, centre and west of the compartment and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote saplings, or restocking is warranted
- Compartment F – thin tree regeneration to favour oak if sufficiently vigorous to warrant selection, otherwise thin generally.
- Compartment G – assess oak regeneration the northern part of the compartment and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote saplings is warranted
- Compartment I – assess tree regeneration and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote saplings is warranted
- Compartment L – assess hornbeam regeneration in the lower and eastern end of the compartment and thin if required
- Compartment Q - assess oak regeneration close to the paths between compartments Q and R and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote oak saplings is warranted
- Compartment R - – assess oak regeneration and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote oak saplings is warranted

### 5.21 Tree felling

Based on the information provided in Section 2.3 and recommendations in 5.16 above, recommendations for felling to improve light levels to notable trees, areas of tree regeneration or to shrub or ground layers are made below. These are initial recommendations made on the basis of a review of the 2000 management plan and site visits carried out in the winter. Recommendations should be confirmed or revised on the basis of a spring/summer site inspection/

- Compartment B – remove 3 hornbeam in southern part of the compartment
- Compartment C – remove sufficient overhanging trees in the vicinity of oak regeneration at both eastern and western end of the northern part of the compartment (protect grassy clearing with cow-wheat in the west)
- Compartment M – remove all trees (including any low-quality trees in adjacent compartments) encroaching on old hornbeam pollards and wood banks along the northern and eastern edges of the compartment.

- Compartment N – subject to extent of squirrel damage thin hornbeam regrowth shading areas of hawthorn and hazel shrub layer.
- Compartment N – remove 1 or 2 hornbeam close to compartment Y that are excessively shading ground flora (thin spiked wood sedge etc.

Tree work should be carried out following advice from the borough's arboricultural officer, as to whether the work can be carried out by parks maintenance staff/volunteers, or requires a trained arborist. If the former, then adequate training, PPE and health and safety precautions will be required. Long stump (1-1.5m) should be left to increase the amount of standing dead wood at the site.

Depending on the numbers, size and species of trees involved a felling license may be required. Further information is available in the Forestry Authority leaflet "Tree felling: getting permission" (July 1997)  
[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/wgsfell.pdf/\\$FILE/wgsfell.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/wgsfell.pdf/$FILE/wgsfell.pdf)

All trees to be felled should be assessed for their potential to support roosting bats. Any tree considered to have value for bats, due to the presence of holes, splits or heavy ivy cover, or considered to be of notable value for nesting birds, should not be felled for reasons other than safety. Any tree with roost potential should be felled only after the presence of bats has been determined<sup>22</sup>. If bats are present, work may require a European Protected Species (EPS) License from Natural England. In other cases, where the risk of bats being present is sufficiently low, section felling may be necessary to avoid killing bats in the process of tree removal. Tree felling should be carried out in the winter, outside of the bird nesting season. Refer to Appendix 1 for legislation pertaining to bats and nesting birds.

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<sup>22</sup> Trees posing an immediate risk to public safety can be felled immediately, ideally in sections

## 6. Ten-year work programme

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule														
Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
<b>Access maintenance</b>														
Carry out condition survey of paths to confirm need for maintenance and upgrading	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carry out repairs to paths and steps as required.	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Compartment P - provide steps to direct access down slope from path at boundary with compartment H to Witches' Coven		✓				✓								
<b>Bat boxes</b>														
Compartment H – provide 1 or 2 bat boxes close to Paddling Pool Wildlife Pond (TBC by bat ecologist)		✓			✓									
Compartment I – provide 1 or 2 bat boxes close to Paddling Pool Wildlife Pond (TBC by bat ecologist)		✓			✓									
Compartment N - provide 1 or 2 bat boxes close to Paddling Pool Wildlife Pond (TBC by bat ecologist)		✓			✓									
Compartment P - provide 1 or 2 bat boxes close to Paddling Pool Wildlife Pond (TBC by bat ecologist)		✓			✓									

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule														
Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
bat ecologist), and 4 or 5 boxes on trees at edge of newly coppiced area.														
All compartments – monitor and bat boxes and consider moving if there is no evidence of use				✓				✓			✓			✓
<b>Bird boxes</b>														
Erect birds boxes throughout wood, initially at 10/ha and type (Darrel Lambert 2008) with more subsequently if there are high levels of occupancy				✓	✓				✓					✓
Clear and repair approximately 1/3 of boxes per year (subject to access)														
<b>Coppicing and coppice management.</b>														
Compartment K – assess coppicing and thin wild cherry to promote regrowth of hornbeam, which is badly affected by squirrel damage.	✓			✓		✓						✓		
Compartment K – if there is significant regrowth by 2015 this compartment should be considered for recoppicing.	✓			✓					✓					
Compartment N – monitor coppice regrowth from 2003, carry out selective management of regeneration if required (year TBC by monitoring)	✓			✓	✓									
Compartment P – monitor coppice regrowth from 2003, carry out selective management of	✓			✓	✓									

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule

Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
regeneration if required (year TBC by monitoring)														
Compartment V – Coppice the full extent of wet woodland	✓			✓		✓	✓							
Compartment W – Coppice the full extent of wet woodland	✓			✓				✓	✓					
<b>Dead hedging</b>														
Compartment A – dead hedge to continue to protect and encourage expansion of sanicle	✓	✓				✓			✓					
Compartment H - dead hedge to protect cow-wheat and any tree regeneration of note	✓	✓				✓				✓			✓	
Compartment N - provide dead hedging between foot path and drain (compartment Y) to reduce human and dog access to drain-side flora	✓	✓			✓					✓			✓	
Compartment P - provide dead hedging close to drain (compartment Y) to ensure that activities associated with the Paddling Pool wildlife pond does not damage wet habitat in compartment Y	✓	✓				✓			✓				✓	
Compartment P - provide dead hedging close to path at boundary with compartment H to Witches' Coven to reduce trampling and compaction of drain-side habitat	✓	✓			✓				✓				✓	

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule

Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
Compartment T – create dead hedges at 90o to the stream, up and down stream of areas of good ground flora to deter walkers from following stream and damaging ground flora	✓	✓			✓				✓				✓	
Compartment U – create dead hedges at 90o to the stream, up and down stream of areas of good ground flora to deter walkers from following stream and damaging ground flora	✓	✓			✓				✓				✓	
<b>Deadwood and hibernacula</b>														
Compartment O – create hibernacula associated with wildlife pond at the disused paddling pool site within disturbed areas and former garden planting in this compartment.			✓				✓						✓	
<b>Drainage/Siltation</b>														
Compartment Y – remove remaining sections of ceramic pipe where appropriate (adjacent to compartment N and in compartment P)			✓				✓							
Compartment Y – restore and reline Dog Pond and direct overflow from Paddling Pool wildlife pond to it.			✓				✓							
Compartment Y – investigate potential re-establish surface drainage downstream of Dog Pond to grille at Wood Vale access. Dam the course to reduce runoff.	✓			✓		✓								

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule														
Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
Compartment Y – carry out any drainage works necessary to grille and drains at Wood Vale access to facilitate proposal to restore surface drainage.		✓	✓						✓					
<b>Education and interpretation</b>														
Compartment M – develop proposal for educational building to provide resources for activities in the wood and habitats (pond etc primarily for education rather than conservation)	✓			✓					✓					
<b>Holly, cherry laurel, snowberry removal</b>														
Compartment A – remove holly from bank running southwards from road - of potential value for flowering plants and bryophytes	✓			✓	✓						✓			
Compartment B – remove holly from bank running southwest from road - of potential value for flowering plants and bryophytes	✓			✓	✓						✓			
Compartment C – remove cherry laurel and any holly encroaching on to bluebell or other native ground flora (carry out a spring survey)	✓			✓	✓						✓			
Compartment D – remove holly within and competing with regeneration in the centre, east and west of the compartment and in the vicinity of wild service trees in the west (protect and open up habitat around pill sedge during	✓			✓		✓						✓		

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule														
Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
clearance)														
Compartment E – remove holly affecting tree regeneration	✓			✓		✓						✓		
Compartment F – monitor holly and remove any competing with tree regeneration/guelder rose or shading common cow-wheat.	✓			✓		✓						✓		
Compartment G – monitor snowberry, grub out any affecting vernal ground flora	✓			✓			✓						✓	
Compartment J – remove holly around site of hard fern (now gone) to provide more open habitat that may favour development of young plants. Remove holly close to fallen wild service tree in the southwest of the compartment	✓			✓			✓						✓	
Compartment N – thin holly from wood bank (running northwards from the eastern boundary of compartment M?) - of potential value for flowering plants and bryophytes	✓			✓			✓						✓	
<b>Ivy control/monitoring</b>														
Compartment B – survey extent of ivy and whether encroaching on vernal ground flora				✓	✓									
Compartment T - carry out experimental ivy control in areas with good ground flora				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Compartment U - carry out experimental ivy				✓		✓		✓						

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule														
Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
control in areas with good ground flora														
<b>Japanese knotweed management</b>														
Compartment L – continue to manage Japanese knotweed by pulling stems during the summer and removing arisings to the colony present in compartment M			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Compartment M – remove Japanese knotweed (spray with glyphosate for three years +) in advance of improving the nature conservation value of this area.			✓		✓	✓	✓							
Compartment Q - manage Japanese knotweed by pulling stems during the summer and leaving arisings on top of the colony			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Ownership</b>														
Compartment M - investigate transfer of ownership of this area from LB Haringey Housing Department Recreation Services	✓						✓							
<b>Pond management</b>														
Compartment X – Froglife/Groundwork to provide management proposals for Paddling Pool wildlife pond to be incorporated into this plan														
<b>Private properties - access from</b>														
Compartment C – monitor access and any	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule														
Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
dumping or damage from adjacent properties. LB Haringey to write to resident if damage is being caused														
Compartment G – monitor access and any dumping or damage from adjacent properties. LB Haringey to write to resident if damage is being caused	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
<b>Sight lines maintenance</b>														
Compartment A – maintain clear sightlines along path from Queen's Wood Road forming the western boundary of the compartment				✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
General audit and improvements		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
<b>Tree regeneration management</b>														
Compartment C – assess and thin tree regeneration to favour oak at both eastern and western end of the northern part of the compartment	✓			✓		✓					✓			
Compartment D – assess oak regeneration the east, centre and west of the compartment and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote saplings is warranted			✓			✓					✓			
Compartment F – thin tree regeneration to favour oak if sufficiently vigorous to warrant selection, otherwise thin generally.			✓			✓						✓		

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule

Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
Compartment G – assess oak regeneration the northern part of the compartment and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote saplings is warranted			✓				✓					✓		
Compartment I – assess tree regeneration and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote saplings is warranted			✓				✓					✓		
Compartment L – assess hornbeam regeneration and in the lower and eastern end of the compartment and thin if required			✓					✓					✓	
Compartment Q - – assess oak regeneration close to the paths between compartments Q and R and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote oak saplings is warranted			✓					✓					✓	
Compartment R - – assess oak regeneration and whether thinning and/or felling of mature trees to promote oak saplings is warranted			✓					✓					✓	
<b>Tree thinning</b>														
Compartment B – remove 3 hornbeam in southern part of the compartment	✓			✓				✓						
Compartment C – remove sufficient hornbeam in vicinity of tree regeneration at both eastern and western end of the northern part of the compartment	✓			✓			✓							

Queen's Wood management plan 2010 - 10 year management schedule

Management tasks	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
Compartment M – remove all trees (including any low-quality trees in adjacent compartments) encroaching on old hornbeam pollards and wood banks along the northern and eastern edges of the compartment	✓			✓		✓								
Compartment N – remove 1 or 2 hornbeam close to compartment Y that are excessively shading ground flora (thin spiked wood sedge etc.	✓			✓		✓								
Compartment U – remove 1 or 2 hornbeam close to ditch that are excessively shading ground flora.	✓			✓		✓								

# Appendix 1 Breeding Birds of Queen's Wood 2008

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status at the site	BOCC/BAP status	Notes
Blackcap ( <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to eleven territories were located
Great Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )	Non-breeding	Amber	Seen flying over the site
Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> )	Non-breeding	Amber	Seen flying over the site
Stock Dove ( <i>Columba oenas</i> )	Breeding	Amber	Up to seven males were heard singing and seen in display flight
Green Woodpecker ( <i>Picus viridis</i> )	Breeding	Amber	One or two territories were located
Willow Warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> )	Possible breeding	Amber	A single male was heard in April but not seen or heard on subsequent visits
Redwing ( <i>Turdus iliacus</i> )	Winter visitor	Amber	Up to ten birds present during February and March.
Mistle Thrush ( <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> )	Breeding	Amber	One breeding pair were present
Dunnock ( <i>Prunella modularis</i> )	Breeding	Amber	Two singing males were located
Sparrowhawk ( <i>Accipiter nisus</i> )	Breeding	Green	Mewing heard and a male seen hunting
Feral Pigeon ( <i>Columba livia 'feral'</i> )	Non-breeding	Green	Seen flying over the site
Woodpigeon ( <i>Columba palumbus</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to thirty singing males were located
Tawny Owl ( <i>Strix aluco</i> )	Breeding	Green	One male was heard, an adult was seen in May and a young bird was rescued.
Great Spotted Woodpecker ( <i>Dendrocopos major</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to ten territories were located
Eurasian Jay ( <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to five pairs were located
Common Magpie ( <i>Pica pica</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to five pairs bred
Carrion Crow ( <i>Corvus corone</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to four territories were located
Great Tit ( <i>Parus major</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to thirty two territories were located

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status at the site	BOCC/BAP status	Notes
Blue Tit ( <i>Parus caeruleus</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to thirty eight territories were located
Coal Tit ( <i>Parus ater</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to three territories were located
Long-tailed Tit ( <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> )	Breeding	Green	Two pairs were located
Chiffchaff ( <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> )	Breeding	Green	Four territories were located
Goldcrest ( <i>Regulus regulus</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to three territories were located
Winter Wren ( <i>Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to forty two territories were located
Eurasian Treecreeper ( <i>Certhia familiaris</i> )	Breeding	Green	Two territories were located
Eurasian Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta europaea</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to five territories were located
Eurasian Blackbird ( <i>Turdus merula</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to thirty six territories were located
European Robin ( <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to forty territories were present
Chaffinch ( <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> )	Breeding	Green	Up to five territories were located
European Greenfinch ( <i>Carduelis chloris</i> )	Breeding	Green	One singing male was located
Eurasian Siskin ( <i>Carduelis spinus</i> )	Non-breeding	Green	Heard flying over the site
European Goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> )	Non-breeding	Green	Heard flying over the site
Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> )	Non-breeding	Green / London BAP	Seen flying over the site
Canada Goose ( <i>Branta canadensis</i> )	Non-breeding	No status	Heard flying over the site
Harris's Hawk ( <i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i> )	Non-breeding	No status	An escaped falconers bird was seen on two dates

Species ( <i>Latin name</i> )	Status at the site	BOCC/BAP status	Notes
Ring-necked Parakeet ( <i>Psittacula krameri</i> )	Non-breeding	No status	Seen flying over the site
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker ( <i>Dendrocopos minor</i> )	Breeding	Red	One male was heard during the February survey.
Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )	Non-breeding	Red	Family groups were seen in May but no evidence of breeding on site was discovered
Song Thrush ( <i>Turdus philomelos</i> )	Breeding	Red	Up to nine territories were located



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