

Railway Fields Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2020 – 2023



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Vision and Objectives

Our vision for Railway Fields is that of a diverse, flourishing nature reserve that acts as an important local component in the drive against biodiversity loss and climate change, as well as being a hub that enriches local communities through volunteering and nature education. As managers of the site, TCV's mission is to connect people and green spaces, to deliver lasting outcomes for both.

Railway Fields is a site in which existing assemblages of species, habitats and cultural features are conserved, reflecting the history of the site, and maintaining the best of what we have inherited. This principally involves influencing the succession and physical structure of vegetation to maintain habitats such as meadows and ponds, and to benefit rare or other highly valued species. Otherwise, the level of intervention is kept low. At the same time, we seek to make the most of future opportunities and manage inevitable changes in the current climate and ecological emergency.

Due to its location in a busy urban neighbourhood, Railway Fields provides valuable opportunities for connecting with, and learning about nature for a diverse audience. Local people benefit from the wide range of activities and events organised by TCV Haringey and Friends of Railway Fields on site.

1 Introduction

1.1 Railway Fields Local Nature Reserve

Railway Fields is an educational nature reserve tucked between a residential street and the Gospel Oak to Barking branch of the London Overground railway line. Granite setts, coal waste and a short length of railway line, testify to the site's former use as a British Rail goods depot.

In 1967, it ceased to serve this function. After a spell as a community facility for Haringey's social services, in 1986 the Borough set it up as a Nature Park and educational nature reserve. Four years later, it was declared a statutory Local Nature Reserve.

From the apparently unpromising starting point of an abandoned goods yard – less than a hectare in area, largely bare, and perhaps contaminated in parts – the site has developed into a diverse mosaic of habitats in what is, for most ecosystems, quite a short time. This is the result both of deliberate habitat creation, and of natural colonisation and other ecological processes. It is a powerful demonstration of how biodiversity can be promoted and enabled on brownfield sites. In some respects, moreover, this diversity is because of (not despite) the urban and industrial origins. Thus, as well as its ecological value, there is a sense in which Railway Fields lends local distinctiveness to Haringey.

Much of the site is wooded. Open birch woodland runs along part of the boundary with the railway. Denser woodland, of several broad-leaved tree species, and scrub occupies much of the rest of the site. Many of the trees, other than sycamores, have been planted. Areas of grassland are maintained for their wildflower value, and there are several small ponds. The last two habitats illustrate the importance of active management. Without it, both would become overtaken by scrub, and then eventually woodland.

At the centre of the reserve is the site office: a wooden cabin with a meeting room, kitchenette, an office area, and toilets including an accessible toilet. A recent addition to Railway Fields is the Education Centre, adjoining the site office. It acts as a hub for primary school education activities, organised and ran by TCV Haringey's Education Officer. It is also a place to conduct indoor activities, events, and training sessions.

2 Description

2.1 Location and Access

Railway Fields lies near the southern boundary of the Borough. The site has roughly the shape of a long rectangle, running east-west, and has an area of 0.9 hectare.

The London Overground runs the whole length of the long southern boundary. The northern boundary forms the ends of the back gardens of the houses on Umfreville Road.

The site backs onto the New River along its short western boundary. On the even shorter eastern boundary, a set of metal gates opens onto Green Lanes. These gates are the main access to the site. There is another gate on Umfreville Road, but, because the access is too close to adjoining houses, it is kept locked at present.

Railway Fields is currently open Mondays to Fridays, and at least one weekend day per month.

2.2 Land Use History

Table 1: Railway Fields key dates and events

Key dates	Event(s)
pre-1967:	British Rail goods yard. It is evident from the substrate that coal was the main commodity, but the presence of chalk waste suggests that other goods were also handled. The granite-sett track surviving from this period is still in excellent condition. Another surviving artefact, also in current use, is a brick tower, some 8m tall, at the end of the entrance pathway from Umfreville Road. This is a stench pipe (presumably Victorian), used to take the smells of the sewer below out of range of noses
1975:	Purchased by London Borough of Haringey
1975 – 1986:	Community centre
1986 – 1990:	Opened as a 'Nature Park'
1986 – present:	Used as educational nature reserve
1990:	Declared as a statutory Local Nature Reserve by London Borough of Haringey
2004:	Site awarded its first Green Flag

2.3 Ownership, Management and Conservation Status

London Borough of Haringey owns this site whilst TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) manage it.

It is a statutory Local Nature Reserve (one of the smallest in London), designated by the Borough under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949).

Conservation charity TCV currently manages the site, working closely with the Parks Operations Manager (West) and the council's Project Officer for Nature Conservation.

Table 2: Railway Fields local management

Job Title	Telephone
TCV Senior Project Officer: Mat Pendergast Cassandra Li	020 8348 6005 m.pendergast@tcv.org.uk cassandra.li@tcv.org.uk
Parks and Greenspace Operations Manager: Lewis Taylor	07870 157647 lewis.taylor@haringey.gov.uk
Assistant Parks Operations Manager West: Anthony Healey	07870 157646 anthony.healey@haringey.gov.uk
Nature Conservation Officer: Annabel Foskett	Annabel.foskett@haringey.gov.uk

2.4 The Conservation Volunteers Activities

TCV (formally BTCV) have worked in the borough for many years and have been based at Railway Fields.

Between 2009 and 2011 three full time TCV officers worked in Haringey providing green outreach work on behalf of the Council, formalised through a grant agreement, specifically under the umbrella of the previous Parkforce model.

In 2011 funding provided by the council was reduced by nearly two thirds, resulting in a reduction of provision and posts.

Haringey and TCV have always been committed to working together through the tough times and the council recognises that TCV are a vital partner in supporting community groups in helping to deliver services that the council can't currently provide.

Formalised through a grant agreement, the Council have agreed to continue funding TCV's work in the borough until 2015, with their main base continuing to be Railway Fields, but offering outreach work within other parks and open spaces.

TCV has turned Railway Fields into their first London based Green Hub, providing a focal point for their London wide activities as well as their local Haringey staff.

The direction of their work is now more aligned with helping community groups to become much more self-enabled and sufficient. A TCV Senior Project Officer has responsibility of working with the Friends groups identifying potential conservation activities, in close partnership with the Council's Nature Conservation Officer, and developing action plans to implement these identified tasks.

The Senior Project Officer is also working with the groups, carrying out vital 'health checks' to see where the groups strengths and weaknesses are with the aim of building up their strengths to fulfil future ambitions and targets. Part of this is encouraging membership to TCV Community Network which provides help, support, and financial benefits such as access to discounted public liability insurance.

Other TCV project officers work with groups such as Friends, schools and volunteers providing practical conservation tasks within green spaces.

Over the past year TCV has worked closely with the Friends of Railway Fields and has developed a Conservation Action Plan for the site. (See page 21)

2.5 Geology, Topography and Soils

The underlying geology of Railway Fields is London Clay, but this is probably irrelevant in view of the site's history as a coal yard. It is therefore artificial substrates that primarily affect the ecology of the site.

Granite setts are exposed on the main track leading from Green Lanes to the cabin at the centre of the reserve, and in some other places on the paths. A concrete platform, about a metre wide, runs at the base of the western half of the railway fence, and bricks and concrete rubble are in evidence in several other places.

The topography is partly a product of the site's history, and the fact that the railway line crosses Green Lanes at a height of about six metres. The site therefore slopes from south to north, from the level of the railway to that of the eastern end of Umfreville Road and Green Lanes, a fall of some four to six metres, down a bank which is steep in places. A fox has, helpfully, provided a sample of the substrate by building its earth in a bank. The excavated material is a skeletal soil containing a large proportion of coal dust. A less predictable component of the substrate is chalk. Quite a lot of debris has been found, presumably from the site's days as a goods yard, and perhaps associated with a local industry.

A low bank near the southern (railway) boundary comprises imported soil, which has been laid over hard surfaces, to allow the planting of birches. Additional subsoil and/ or topsoil has presumably been imported at some time, at least to some parts of the site.

2.6 Habitats, Flora and Fauna

2.6.1 Sources of Information

The information used here was gathered in 2022 and during visits to the site in August 2005, together with data supplied by David Bevan. Published leaflets about Railway Fields by David Bevan and Will Farmer were also used. David Bevan provided most of the plant records given in Appendix 1.

2.6.2 Habitat Descriptions

The boundaries of the compartments described are chosen for convenience of sub-dividing the site for management purposes, rather than for their ecological distinctiveness. Their locations are indicated on Figure 1 below.

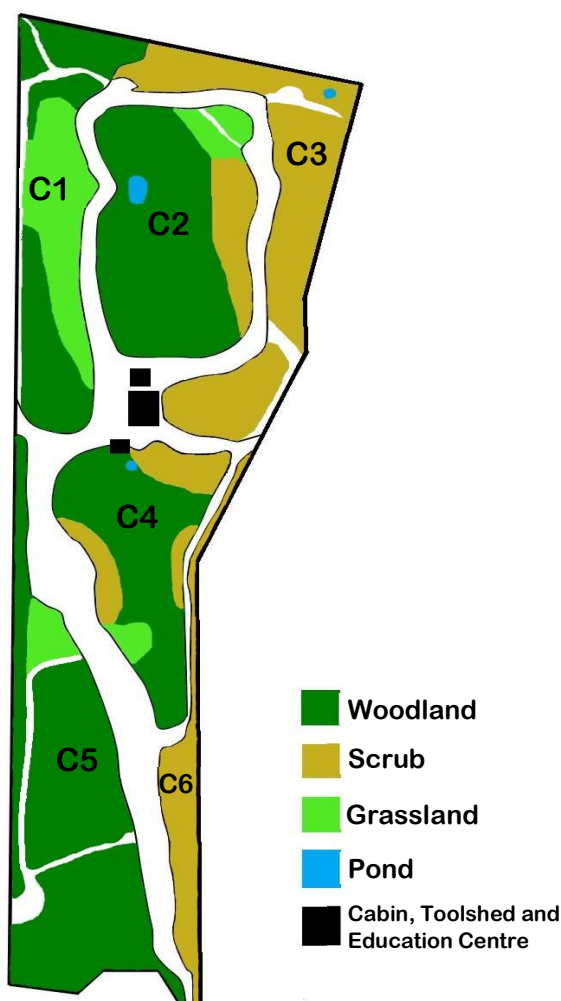


Figure 1: Railway Fields Management Compartments

Compartment 1

Woodland 1 (W1) - A small area of woodland and scrub, with several large sycamore and an understorey of Japanese knotweed, and a ground flora predominantly of cow parsley. A seat and bench lie in a very small clearing with rosebay willowherb, surrounded by sycamore.

Woodland 2 (W2) - Soil was laid over the hard surface near the railway (around the time when the site became a nature reserve), to form a long bank about half a metre in height. Silver birches were planted in the early 1980s, and now form an open belt with an understorey consisting of rowan and yew. The trees cast shade on the wildflower meadow G1.

Hedgerow 1 (H1) - A strip of concrete, about a metre wide and colonised by mosses, runs on the reserve side of the chain-link railway fence for much of the length of the southern boundary. There is sycamore and bracken on the railway side.

Grassland 1 (G1) - The main area of "summer meadow", largely comprising false oat-grass, cock's-foot with forbs including common bird's-foot-trefoil, creeping thistle, hogweed, Canadian goldenrod, ragwort, red clover, common St John's-wort, sainfoin, lucerne, fodder vetch and ribwort plantain. Yellow rattle was introduced to control grass and increase species diversity.

Compartment 2

Woodland 3 (W3) - Woodland of silver birch and sycamore, and along the edge, guelder-rose, Japanese knotweed and maple. A notable species is the Chinese Mugwort (*Artemisia verlotiorum*) growing to the left side of G2.

Scrub 1 (S1) - A bank, sloping upwards south of the path, supports bramble scrub with field rose and elder, overgrown in places by large bindweed. Some nettle is present, but ground elder is the most obvious component of the ground flora near the path. There is also an area dominated by Japanese knotweed and a glade dominated by bindweed.

Pond 1 (P1) - The pond was first created in 1985 using butyl liner, and again in 1999/2000. Due to natural degradation of the liner the pond was relined for the third time in January 2010 by Froglife in partnership with TCV, using funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The pond is lined with Bentonite powdered clay mixed with sand. A tree root barrier has been installed around the pond approximately a meter deep to prevent roots penetrating the liner. The dipping platform was also extended at this time and treated. Native aquatic plants were planted in natural Hessian sacks around the edges. Butterfly Bush is present in some areas around the pond and requires management to prevent encroachment.

Grassland 2 (G2) –The grassy slope is dominated by perennial rye-grass, with just a few other species, including white clover, white dead-nettle, annual meadow-grass and teasel. There are also a bench and a swing in this area.

Compartment 3

Scrub 2 (S2) - Between the open part of the play area and the boundary, Japanese knotweed is abundant, and, in places, dominant. The area has been underplanted with primrose, lesser celandine, wood anemone and bluebell. Sycamore and silver birch are also present.

Scrub 3 (S3) - This compartment lies to the north-west of the site, bordering the back gardens of several houses in Umfreville Road. The path passes through it. Formerly this was a large area of dense scrub. One of the main components was bullace, but elder was also abundant. This area was cleared and coppiced in early 2003 and now contains a significant area of cow parsley. Alder buckthorn has been planted on the edge of the compartment towards the west, and some traveller's-joy, elder and lilac towards the east.

Scrub 4 (S4) - A large area of bramble scrub, draped in places with large bindweed. A broad set of railway-sleeper steps leads up the bank. There is a Soft Shield Fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) growing by the path, which requires management.

Pond 2 (P2) - In a tiny area in the far north-western corner of the site, a small pond was created in 2000 with the aid of a pond liner and water from a downpipe belonging to an adjacent off-site building. Water Avens and Meadowsweet were planted and Celery-Leaved Buttercup has colonised. The conservation management requirement is to maintain a diverse marshland flora. Nettle, Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), and winter heliotrope are abundant. A True Service Tree (*Sorbus domestica*) was planted here in c.2001).

Hedgerow 2 (H2) - This includes a boundary fence with Umfreville Road gardens. A great deal of rubble (probably the remnants of a building which once stood here) formerly lay on the ground nearby, this has since been cleared.

Hedgerow 3 (H3) - A metal fence (probably dating from coal-yard days) separates the reserve from a path that connects the ends of several of the Umfreville Road back gardens.

Compartment 4

Woodland 4 (W4) - Grey willow, sycamore and ash. White poplar, originally planted, is now spreading widely by suckers. The northern part of this area is a bank sloping down to the level of Umfreville Road. Sycamore has been cleared from this bank to create a glade, particularly for the speckled wood, a butterfly associated with woodland-edge and glade habitats. This area is currently a minibeast habitat, with log and habitat piles. It is used a space for primary school education sessions.

Grassland 3 (G3) - A bank of tall grasses (false oat-grass and cock's-foot), creeping thistle and twiggly spurge (*Euphorbia x pseudovirgata*), with brambles, firethorn and planted blackthorn and dogwood. It is well-lit, south-facing and reasonably well-protected to the east and west by tall vegetation. The bank is therefore suitable for thermophilic invertebrates. There is a bug scraper near the main pathway and a bird watching hide.

Scrub 5 (S5) - A large area of bramble scrub, draped in places with large bindweed. A broad set of railway-sleeper steps leads up the bank, and another narrower set to the east.

Scrub 6 (S6) - The most notable species in this area is the patch of Haringey knotweed (*Fallopia x conollyana*), a hybrid arising from seed produced by Japanese knotweed (*F. japonica*) and pollen from Russian vine (*F. baldschuanica*). Bailey (1992) gives a plausible explanation of both its extreme rarity, and also why – if it should exist anywhere – an abandoned urban railway yard is a good candidate as a site. Sweet briar, white melilot, twiggly (or Hungarian) spurge and suckering white poplar are also prominent on the edge of the track.

Pond 3 (P3) - A still smaller marshy area, no more than one square metre, lies near the top of a set of steps constructed of sleepers. It holds water for part of the year and supports pendulous sedge.

Hedgerow 4 (H4) - Wooden board fencing, ivy-clad, forms the ends of more of Umfreville Road's back gardens. Near the north of this section, the path makes a slight detour round a gnarled veteran field maple. Though not particularly large, it is by far the oldest tree on the reserve, and probably the oldest field maple in Haringey, and may possibly be a survivor of an old field boundary. An oak and an ash have been planted to replace it. Snowberry is located along this hedgerow and requires management to prevent further spread.

Compartment 5

Woodland 5 (W5) - Woodland of mostly sessile oak (or pedunculate-sessile hybrids), extending from the upper slopes of the bank to the south of the track from the main gates, and some way towards the railway, where it borders the grassland area G4. Birch, beech, rowan and holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) are also present and sycamore increases as the road is approached. Bat boxes have been fixed to the larger sycamores. The oak woodland is invading the rough grassland area G4.

Grassland 4 (G4) – A small patch of grassland lies at the western edge of woodland W1 and comprises tall grasses (mainly false oat-grass, with cock's-foot and some sweet vernal grass), together with a few forb species such as teasel, ribwort plantain, rosebay willowherb and perforate St John's-wort. Invading sycamore seedlings need to be removed. The grassland is suitable habitat for skippers and the woodland edge for speckled wood butterflies.

Hedgerow 5 (H5) - The boundary with the railway is a chain-link fence. A hedge, mainly a double row of hawthorn, but also with some dogwood and maple, extending from the south-eastern corner of the reserve to the eastern end of the birch belt (W2). Although the whole length was planted at the same time in 1986, it varies in height and thickness. In some places, growth has been poor. These differences, one assumes, are due to the artificial nature of the substrate resulting in varying degrees of stress for plants during the establishment phase. A key section of the hedge was laid in February 2001 on the western edge to reduce the shading of Haringey knotweed. A True Service Tree is growing at the Western Edge of the hedgerow on the grass verge.

Compartment 6

Hedgerow 6 (H6) - In the mid-1990s, building took place adjacent to the site, along part of the boundary on its north-west. In 1996, when this was completed, trees and shrubs were planted in the cleared soil, with taller (12 - 15 m) existing sycamore nearby. Woody species include guelder rose, hazel, and hawthorn. Hazels and guelder roses are managed as coppice. Musk-mallow and hoary mustard are among the ground flora. There is a Common Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*) growing at the base of Hazel in this area which requires monitoring. Woodchips are usually stored in this section next to the entrance of the northern path – a popular foraging area for birds, such as wrens, robins and blackbirds.

Raised Beds and Bike-rack Planters around Buildings

Three raised beds filled with soil are in front of the education centre. We plan to cultivate plants of particular value for teaching purposes, such as sensory and pollinator-friendly plants. Examples are rosemary, lavender, marjoram, lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*), demonstrating the "doctrine of signatures", rock crane's-bill (*Geranium macrorrhizum* "Bevan's Variety"), and mousetail plant (*Arisarum proboscideum*).

There are also three bike-rack planters near the office site. Ornamental and scented plants such as cyclamen, daffodil and rosemary are present in them for people to enjoy.

Heritage Interest

The main heritage feature at Railway Fields is the stench pipe (which resembles a brick chimney) which is located between, and to the rear of, 52 and 54 Umfreville Road. The tower is listed in the Greater London Industrial Archaeological Society database as a 'sewage surge tower' that was erected in 1892. According to the entry: 'Presumably this structure relates to either the Hornsey Treatment Works or the Stoke Newington Pumping Station, which were both built by the New

River Company. The main pumping station at the former site was built in 1903, making it the last building to be built by the New River Company before London-wide control was passed to the Metropolitan Water Board in 1904. Speculatively, therefore, this has significance as one of the last generation of Victorian public health engineering structures erected by private enterprise.'

Tracks and Paths

Tracks and paths would normally be better included as edges of other habitats (such as woodland edge), or as ecotones between, say, grassland and scrub. In a site such as this, however, where most of the public access is on tracks and paths, it is convenient to list them separately since their management requires special measures.

The track from the road to the Site office, of granite setts, is a historical feature in its own right. Granite is a difficult surface for anything to colonise, even crustose lichens. Yet some have done so – only, however, between the rails of the old track, but not elsewhere. Presumably, small differences in the chemistry of the substrate account for this – an interesting teaching point about microhabitats. A suggestion is that nitrogenous soot from coal trucks facilitated colonisation (Oliver Gilbert via D. Bevan, pers. comm.). The lichen concerned is *Lecanora muralis* (determined by Dr William Purvis in 1998).

There are unmade paths in the rest of the reserve. There is a need to periodically cut back the vegetation on either side of them to maintain access.

Surrounding Habitat

The New River lies outside the western boundary, being separated from the concrete-post boundary fence by a narrow verge approximately two metres wide.

'Railway Fields management compartments' in Section 5 of Management Recommendations where conservation work required in each compartment is detailed.

2.6.3 Birds

Sixty-nine species have been recorded, a good total for such a small area, with an additional three from the adjacent length of the New River. Most species are, of course, woodland birds. There are no rarities, but, especially, perhaps, in an educational reserve, it is the diversity of common species that is the greatest asset. Bird transects were carried out in the period October 1986 to September 1987, and again between October 1996 and June 1998, with over 200 walks in each case (Farmer, 1998). The results suggest some interesting population changes. Those which were very highly significant (based on c2 tests applied to counts of sightings) are listed below.

Table 3: Bird sightings. Sightings 1986/7 (203 walks)

Sightings 1986/7 (203 walks) Species	Sightings 1986/7 (203 walks)	Relative frequency (%)	Sightings 1996/7 (207 walks)	Relative frequency (%)	% change in relative req. cf.1986/7	Significance	Change in numbers
Greenfinch	74	36	18	9	-76	***	decline
Willow warbler	36	18	10	5	-72	***	decline
House sparrow	200	99	61	29	-70	***	decline
Song thrush	102	50	45	22	-56	***	decline
Blackbird	193	95	116	56	-40	***	decline
Starling	88	43	54	26	-40	***	decline
Blue tit	169	83	137	66	-19	***	decline
Magpie	32	16	103	50	222	***	gain
Chiffchaff	6	3	25	12	317	***	gain
Blackcap	3	1	23	11	667	***	gain
G S woodpecker	0	0	28	14	-	***	gain
Sparrowhawk	0	0	35	17	-	***	gain
Long-tailed tit	0	0	37	18	-	***	gain

Since bird populations fluctuate naturally, statistical significance does not necessarily equate to ecological meaning. (The counts for blue tit, above, may be a case in point). Moreover, conditions at Railway Fields at the time of the first transects might have altered noticeably by the time of the second. However, it is at the very least interesting that many of the gains and losses above broadly coincide with national trends over the last few decades. The decline of the house sparrow, particularly in London (Branson, 1999; Summers-Smith, 1999), is becoming increasingly evident.

Casual observations in 2022 recorded three species with Red List Status in Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BOCC5)– the Common Swift, Herring Gull and Greenfinch. Nine species with Amber List Status were also recorded – the Tawny Owl, Wren, Dunnock, Redwing, Song thrush, Sparrowhawk, Woodpigeon, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Mallard. The bird transects were resumed in January 2023.

2.6.4 Butterflies

Holly blue, which requires both holly and ivy in its development, has been recorded on the bank adjacent to the gardens of Umfreville Road, as has brimstone. Gatekeeper has been seen near the site office.

The picture for butterflies is dynamic, and is monitored by means of transects, carried out weekly during the flight season. Results are reported by the Hertfordshire and Middlesex branch of Butterfly Conservation and are summarised in 7.2. New species are being found (e.g. brimstone, first male recorded in 1995, first female in 2002, and breeding (on alder buckthorn) from 2004; and ringlet in 2005), whilst others disappear (wall brown - last seen 1990).

2.6.5 Molluscs

One of the elusive shelled slugs, the shield shelled slug (*Testacella scutulum*), was recorded in 1992. National records for shelled slugs – nocturnal carnivores that live below ground during the day – are few and scattered (e.g. Kerney (1976) has UK records from just 17 10-kilometre squares from 1950 to 1976), and this was only the third London record for the species in the last twenty years.

Roman (or edible) snails (*Helix pomatia*) have been recorded on the site. They were introduced to this country and are normally associated with very lime-rich soils; most British records are from the North Downs and Chilterns. How they reached Railway Fields is a matter of conjecture. Conceivably, one of them survived the journey from a chalk quarry in the Chilterns or Bedfordshire and was dumped with chalk rubble that was spilled on the site (see Section 2.4). More realistically, perhaps, they might have escaped from a neighbouring garden, where, perhaps, they were bred for culinary use

Other records are of Kentish snail (*Monacha cantiana*), recorded by Bantock (1984) and still widespread, and brown-lipped banded snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*) (1994). Doubtless, several common woodland molluscs are also present.

2.6.6 Mammals

There is an active fox den in the western Herb Rich Meadow, with resident foxes seen on a regular basis. There are occasional records of brown rat, and a wood mouse was Longworth trapped in 1993. Pipistrelle bats are regularly recorded, hedgehogs recorded occasionally, and grey squirrels are resident. A muntjac was seen in the summer of 2004.

2.6.7 Reptiles

In late October 2005, 27 slow worms and 12 common lizards were released at Railway Fields. These reptiles were rescued from a site in Hampshire that was about to be developed. A solitary slow worm was recorded on site on 27 April 2006.

3 Analysis

3.1 Nature Conservation Evaluation

For its size, less than a hectare, Railway Fields includes a very good range of habitats.

As well as the intrinsic value of the habitats, their proximity to one another results in a variety of ecotones (boundary regions between different habitats) which enhances opportunities for wildlife.

The wildlife value is probably still further enhanced by the fact that the reserve is adjacent to two green corridors: the railway and the New River. The New River has been designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance and connects other nearby wildlife sites, notably Finsbury Park and Stoke Newington Reservoirs.

The presence of “Haringey knotweed” illustrates the unusual wildlife to be found in some wasteland sites, reflecting a combination of environmental conditions and availability of suitable species that would be unlikely elsewhere. As noted in the Introduction, this is both a mark of local distinctiveness and a contribution to London’s biodiversity.

3.2 Amenity and Education

The responsibility of delivering Environmental Education activities to schools in Haringey is permanently based with the Education Officer at Railway Fields.

Practical conservation tasks are also carried out at several Haringey sites including Railway Fields. The reserve is used as a base for tool storage, vehicles, and preparation for conservation activities to take place every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at parks and green spaces across Haringey and every Monday across London.

The location of the site in a highly built-up area, with its entrance on a main thoroughfare, is important in making wildlife visible and accessible to the local community. Local people drop in at lunchtimes, for example.

However, resource limitations mean that the site is usually closed at weekends; and whilst open gates may present a strong positive message, there is the obvious risk that the converse may also be true.

The continuing value of the site for primary schools is demonstrated by the high level of usage (1,500 children per year), by the large numbers of schools which visit year after year, and by the fact that demand for visits exceeds availability. The additional of the Education Centre at Railway Fields will enhance and expand TCV's primary school outreach.

Adult and all-age events (e.g. dawn chorus walks, Species ID Workshops, hedgelaying, drawing group and tree festivals) meet a demand for nature education and wellbeing events. TCV also runs many of its London-wide training from Railway Fields such as health & safety, and project leadership, which are open to staff, volunteers, and community groups.

Table 4: 10-12/2022 Event Calendar of Railway Fields

01/10/2022 Railway Fields Autumn Open Day	Autumn Tree ID Workshop
	Introduction to Volunteering
	Black History Month Trail
	Railway Fields Drawing Group
15/10/2022	Railway Fields Drawing Group
20-21/10/2022	TCV Day Leadership Training
10/11/2022	Bird ID Workshop
20/11/2022	Railway Fields Drawing Group
03/12/2022 Railway Fields Tree Fest	Tree Planting Workshop
	Winter Tree ID Walk
	Tree Dressing
	Cosy Cabin
	Carol Singing
	Lantern Making and Parade
17/12/2022	Railway Fields Drawing Group

Vandalism has not been a significant problem. Residents of houses to the north of the reserve may help to deter it by their presence. Nevertheless, children can easily scale the gate to Umfreville Road and do enter the site at weekends. Moreover, if the site were to be targeted, then the Site office would be very vulnerable as it is hidden from view and constructed of timber.

3.3 Potential

The site's potential is already being realised to a high degree. There is no scope for any habitat creation on a large scale (without drastically changing the nature of the reserve). Most management will therefore consist of the maintenance of existing habitats.

The main potential of the site lies in further extending its educational value through an expansion in the range of nature/wildlife-related activities and training offered, helping to reach a more diverse audience.

4 Management

4.1 Management History

The main management tasks that have been undertaken since the site was acquired in 1976 are:

- Creation of bank and planting of birch woodland (W2) on it (ca. 1981).
- Planting the hedge along the southern boundary (ca. 1986).
- Creation of pond (1986). A new, slightly bigger pond with a butyl liner protected by geotextile, was installed in February 2001 because the old pond was leaking.
- Creation of marsh in north-west of site. This was carried out in 1998. Another very small damp area, using runoff from the garage nearby was also created.
- Building raised beds (ca. 1990).
- Planting trees and shrubs to north of main track near entrance. This took place in 1996, shortly after the completion of a new building on Green Lanes, adjacent to Railway Fields. Construction work disturbed the land and removed the vegetation that was present at the time.
- Creation of new pond and dipping platform in 2010
- Installation of beehive in south-western corner in 2011

Many of the changes in recent years have arisen from natural regeneration and colonisation. A 1981 aerial photograph shows a much higher proportion of open ground, with most trees confined to near the northern boundary and on the bank at the east of the site.

There is an active group of volunteers that meets periodically to carry out work on the reserve.

The Friends of Railway Fields was re-launched in November 2010 and they contribute to the maintenance of the reserve as part of their monthly meets.

Management objectives

The management objectives are:

- Manage the site to enhance wildlife habitat and demonstrate good practice in conservation management.
- Increase the use of the site by primary schools, to a level that satisfies the demand as far as possible whilst not exceeding its ecological carrying capacity.
- Seek to increase the use of the site for informal quiet recreation and nature study at evenings and weekends by local people without compromising its quiet and secluded character.
- Maintain local participation in the management of the site.
- Maintain records of wildlife and conservation management. Monitor the effects of management.
- Ensure safety of visitors; maintain site security; discourage inappropriate use of the site.
- Raise the status and awareness of the site through improved publicity and interpretation.
- Preserve the sites heritage value with particular regard to the Victorian Stench Pipe and railway features.
- Manage the site in line with Haringey Parks Service Environmental Policy.
- Actively engage the local community in the management of Railway Fields LNR through the involvement of the Friends Group.

4.2 Constraints on Management

The small size of the site, and the desirability to maintain a range of habitats, limits the possibilities for developing any single habitat.

The artificial substrate is both a constraint and an asset. A constraint, because it creates a stressed environment for many species of plant (e.g. the hawthorns in the hedge H1), and

because of the physical barrier it creates in some places (e.g. the concrete strip alongside the railway). However, it is also an asset because the same stressed conditions can favour some less common and competitive wasteland species at the expense of (for example) coarse grasses. More importantly in this context, the artificial nature of the site demonstrates the great potential of “wasteland” for nature conservation and adds considerable interest.

4.3 Management Rationale

4.3.1 Maintaining a Variety of Habitats and Ecotones

The educational use of a nature reserve requires a variety of habitats within a small space. It is logistically difficult for young children to have to walk far to experience such a variety in the short time available, and they need to be within easy range of toilets, shelter and classroom facilities. Variety is also important to support a range of different community wildlife-related events. For casual adult users, it is also appropriate that the variety is on a small scale, since typical casual visitors are mothers with young children, or employees on their lunch break with limited time to spare.

4.3.2 Education

Environmental education in a context such as Railway Fields has always offered a dimension of learning that is distinctly different from that in the classroom. Whilst increasing efforts are being given to developing areas of school grounds for wildlife, the situation remains patchy. Even where great efforts have been made by schools, the area available in small urban premises is necessarily limited.

Railway Fields offers a good range of wildlife habitats for hands-on learning and discovery of the natural world for children in a safe environment.

4.3.3 Amenity, Access, and Public Safety

Opportunities for quiet recreation offered by urban wildlife sites differ in kind from most other amenity facilities on offer.

The character and aims for the site make it important that as much of the site as possible should be as accessible as possible to all people including those with disabilities. As such measures have been undertaken to improve accessibility within the limitations imposed by the need to retain the sites natural character. These measures comprise an access ramp at the front of the resource centre, and an accessible toilet.

The site is staffed most of the time during opening hours.

4.3.4 Treatment of Non-native Species

Japanese Knotweed, an Invasive Non-native species, has become dominant in some parts of the reserve and is beginning to spread. The management of Japanese Knotweed requires control and eradication.

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii* and cultivars) and Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rivularis*) are also invasive Non-native species, present in multiple locations at Railway Fields. Management and control of these two species is required, however, eradication is not necessary as they do provide some wildlife value.

Sycamore and Holm Oak have also been identified as needing to be controlled in order to prevent them from becoming dominant and to maintain species and habitat diversity.

Management of invasive species will wherever possible be through mechanical means without the use of chemicals.

4.3.5 Boundaries

There are health, safety, security, and liability issues related to the boundaries. The first three of these give obvious grounds for needing to maintain effective boundaries. The last should also be considered, as it may be necessary to maintain secure boundaries to ensure that public liability insurance applies. All boundaries are intact but should be inspected regularly.

4.3.6 Training

The reserve provides opportunities for informal training in practical conservation through regular conservation volunteer task days. Whilst the scale of management may limit opportunities for the training of a large group, the fact that the habitats are small means that more is achievable by people who are learning skills and demands labour-intensive and intricate conservation work to be done.

The office site has been developed into a valuable training resource for adults and 'Friends of' groups. TCV runs courses such as project leadership, hedge-laying and Tree ID which are open to everyone.

4.3.7 Interpretative Material

There are web pages dedicated to Railway Fields on both the LB Haringey website and on the TCV website to give key information about the nature reserve. Both TCV Haringey and the Friends of Railway Fields regularly post updates on wildlife and activities on popular social media platforms, event websites and local websites.

An interpretation board with a map is located at the entrance to the site. General information and event posters are displayed in the notice board by the gate. Recent bird sightings are updated regularly on a chalk board near the big pond. Temporary signage identifying species of note, such as the recent location of the Salmon-eggs Slime Mold, and self-led trails, such as the Autumn Tree ID Trail, are displayed at a range of locations around the site. Signs for features and habitats are placed in situ, such as at the entrance to the fox den. Visitors can also pick up seasonal leaflets of Railway Fields outside the office site.

4.3.8 Monitoring and Evaluation of Site Management

Monitoring scrub encroachment onto grassland, or the age structure of a woodland compartment, serves as a guide to the timing and extent of management tasks. Likewise, evaluation of management should help to decide whether to persist, extend or abandon them.

Wildlife records, such as butterfly transects, are used as one source of information for evaluating management.

Two extensive sets of bird transect data, separated by ten years (Farmer, 1998; see also Appendix 4.2) have suggested conjectures about population changes in a number of species. These are particularly interesting in the light of national trends.

4.3.9 Monitoring and Evaluation of Visitor Experience

Feedback forms for teachers and those attending courses are used to help assess the effectiveness of the education provided and to help enhance the educational offer provided.

There is an opportunity for visitors to record their perceptions of the site in events and the Friends Group help to steer site management.

4.3.10 Biological Recording

The site is well studied, particularly with regard to vascular plants, and has some good monitoring data for birds and butterflies. There is always scope for further work in biological recording, particularly for the less popular groups of wildlife. Railway Fields offers many opportunities for productive long-term recording because of its small size, its existing database, and its security as a protected site. It is hoped that volunteers will take on a greater role in biological recording such as the annual butterfly survey. The Senior Project Officer (Haringey Conservation Development Officer) aims to increase biodiversity monitoring of the site.

A reptile survey would be desirable in order to see if the slow-worm and common lizards released in 2005 have successfully colonised the site.

All records should be submitted to the local biological records centre 'Greenspace Information for Greater London'.

4.4 Prescription Overview

No large-scale management is required, but ongoing work is needed on several fronts:

- arresting succession (a) to maintain the current proportion of grassland, (b) to ensure the pond retains open water
- reversing succession to reduce the proportion of dense scrub with limited ground flora.
- maintenance of paths, steps and other structures for visitor access and safety
- enhancement, maintenance, and construction of certain small-scale habitat features, mainly for educational purposes.
- Children's play equipment to be regularly inspected and maintained for safety. Vegetation around the children's play equipment to be cut back on a regular basis to maintain sightlines.

5. Summary of Management Recommendations

5.1 Conservation Action Plan

Railway Fields

Conservation Action Plan

Jan 2021 – Jan 2026



Reclaiming green spaces since 1959

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is a trading name of BTCV
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How to use a Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

Overview

- The overview section provides a summary of the conservation actions for each compartment.

Maps

Map 1 = This map shows the compartments that Railway Fields has been divided into.

Map 2= This map shows the compartments along with the habitat types across Railway Fields.

Compartment Habitats

- Each compartment has a section in the plan titled 'Compartment X Habitats'.
- In this section, all the habitat types in that compartment are identified.
- The conservation actions to be completed within each habitat are outlined in detail.
- The compartment habitat sections can be used to identify the compartment you wish to complete work in. This can then be narrowed down to a particular habitat within that compartment, and finally the conservation action you wish to complete within that habitat.

Compartment timeline

- After each Compartment Habitat section, there is an individual compartment management timeline.
- The compartment management timelines provide the months of which each conservation action should be completed.
- Once you have chosen the compartment of which you are going to complete work in, the individual compartment management timelines can be used to identify what conservation actions should be completed for each month.

Compartments' management timeline

- The overall compartments' management timeline is a table summary of all the main conservation actions across all compartments, and the months of which each action should be completed.
- This table can be used to provide an overall view of Railway Fields' conservation action plan.

Notable species

- Notable species are identified by a red dot on compartment maps. They are labelled in the key.
- Notable species: Species which are nationally or locally scarce.
- The Notable species table outlines the location, population status and management work for each species.
- The Notable species table should be used to identify any notable species within a compartment before completing any conservation works.

Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)

- Invasive Non-native Species are identified by a yellow dot with the species number inside on compartment maps.

- **Invasive Non-native Species:** Species which cause unwanted environmental or social impacts by spreading rapidly and becoming very abundant in the environment.
- The INNS table outlines the location, London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI) priority category and management works for each species.
- The INNS table should be used to identify any INNS species within a compartment before completing any conservation works.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The monitoring and evaluation section outlines where to record monitoring and evaluation data, how frequently this information should be recorded and what key aspects should to be monitored and evaluated within each compartment.
- The monitoring and evaluation section should be used in conjunction with the compartment habitats' section. Once it has been decided which compartment conservation works are going to be carried out in, it is then important to identify what needs to be monitored or evaluated within that compartment.

Overview

Compartment 1:

Compartment 1 contains 2 woodland, 1 grassland and 1 hedgerow. Crown lifting trees to allow in more light is a focus in the woodland areas, whilst reducing the spread of Ivy and other invasive species. The grassland area is a wildflower meadow which requires multiple maintenance tasks to be carried out, including cutting the grass and control of crouch-grass. Other maintenance tasks in the grassland include maintenance of the paths and dead hedges. The Hedgerow requires little maintenance but will require Ivy and Bramble removal.

Compartment 2:

Compartment 2 contains 1 woodland, 1 scrub, 1 grassland and 1 pond. Whilst the woodland habitat requires trimming back overhanging vegetation and other species-specific maintenance tasks, the woodland is to remain a rewilding area. The scrub habitat requires the removal of various invasive species. The pond requires several maintenance tasks, the main ones being the removal of overhanging branches, leaf raking and removal of accumulated silt. The grassland is to be cut after perennial flowering has died back, maintaining existing grass patches.

Compartment 3:

Compartment 3 contains 3 scrubs, 1 pond and 1 hedgerow. The focus in the scrub habitats is the control and remove of encroaching Ivy, as well as the removal of saplings. The pond requires maintenance tasks such as keeping dominant species under control, cutting back overhanging trees and monitoring water levels. The hedgerow habitat requires invasive species to be kept under control, and paths to be kept clear of encroaching vegetation.

Compartment 4:

Compartment 4 contains 1 woodland, 1 grassland, 3 scrubs, 1 pond and 1 hedgerow. The woodland is to be maintained as a minibeast habitat with the pathways and stag beetle loggery kept clear of Ivy. The grassland needs to be kept clear of encroaching vegetation and Ivy. The scrub habitats require dead hedge repair and maintenance. The pond's water levels need monitoring, and encroaching species, such as nettles, need to be kept under control. The hedgerow habitat requires invasive species to be monitored and controlled.

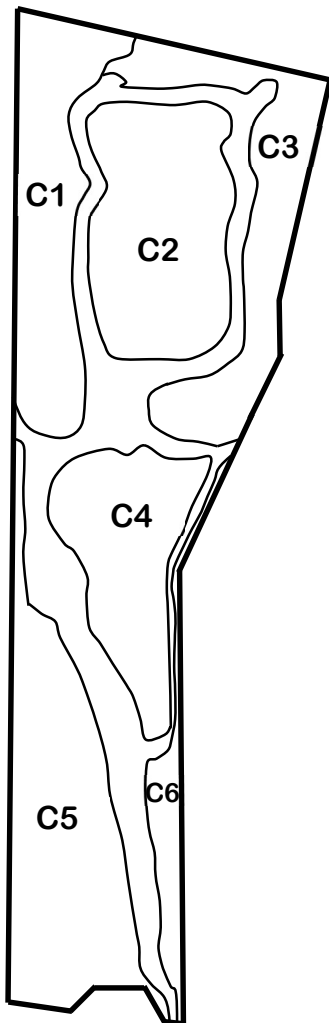
Compartment 5:

Compartment 5 contains 1 woodland, 1 grassland and 1 hedgerow. Allow thorny species to grow in the fenced off woodland habitat, clearing some of the Ivy where necessary. Maintenance of bramble and saplings is required in the grassland habitat. The hedgerow requires trimming.

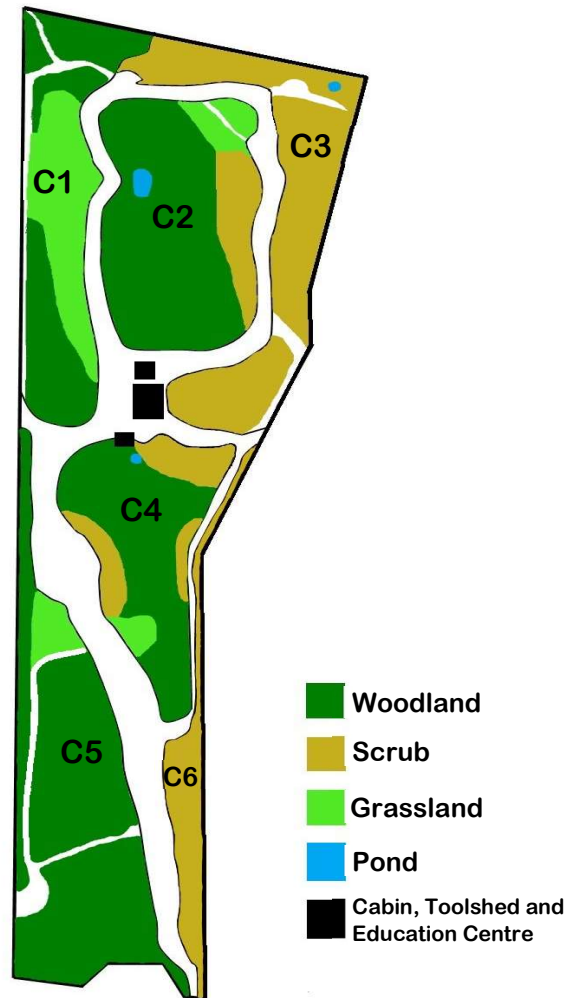
Compartment 6:

Compartment 6 contains 1 Scrub habitat. Removal of encroaching species such as Bramble and shrubs is required. Maintenance of stag beetle loggery is also needed.

Railway Fields Maps



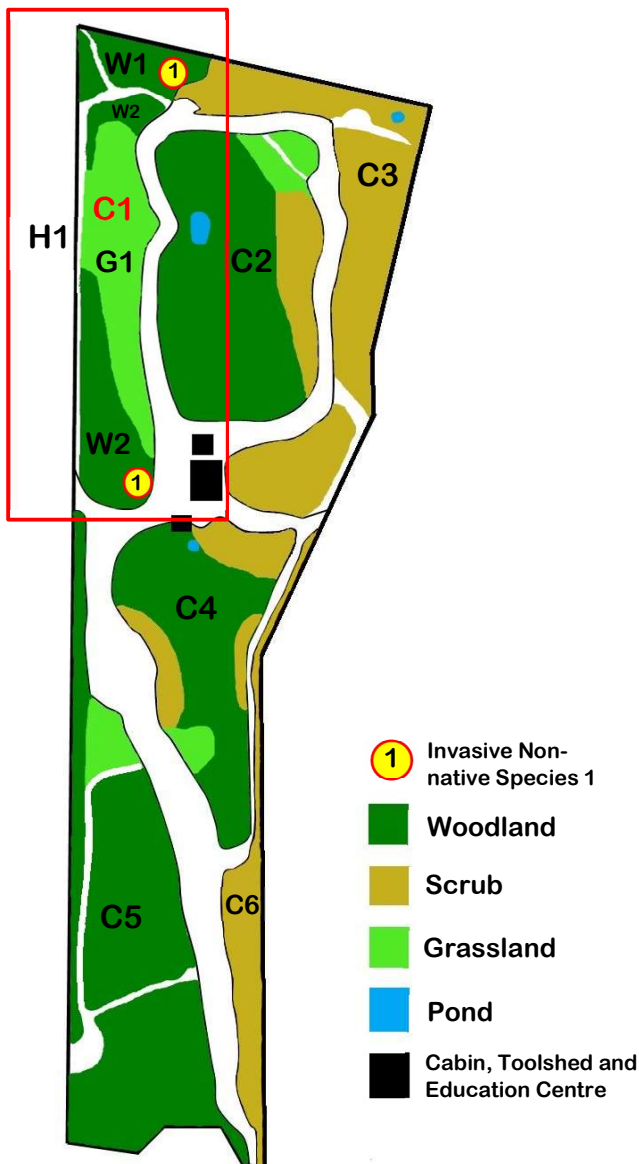
Map 1: Compartments



Map 2: Compartments with Habitats

Compartment 1

Habitats



W1 = Woodland 1. 'South West Corner'

- Crown lift trees to allow more light in.
- Strengthen and regularly maintain the dead hedge.
- Remove Ivy, Bramble and Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Non-native Species 1 (1)).
- Cut back Sycamore and Ash regrowth.

W2 = Woodland 2. 'Sunny Raised Banks'

- Crown lift trees along the meadow to allow more light in.
- Reduce spread of Holm Oak.
- Maintain the Reptile and Amphibian hibernaculum including entrance/exit tubes and information signage.
- Encourage wildflower growth to cover the main structure of the hibernaculum.
- Keep Ivy off the Silver Birch.
- Lightly prune the Orange-Ball- Tree, removing the old flowering heads.
- Trim back and reduce dead material from the Bramble mound at the eastern end of the path.
- Keep any regrowth of Japanese Knotweed cut back from the stand opposite the cabin (Invasive Non-native species 1 (1)).
- Build Solitary Bee bank, situated along the Railway path.

H1 = Hedgerow 1. 'Railway Hedgerow'

- Cut back Sycamore along the chain link fence.
- Keep the Bramble and Ivy clear of the grass boarder along the inside of the path.
- Maintain and monitor Reptilian Hibernaculum.

G1 = Grassland 1. 'Wildflower Meadow'

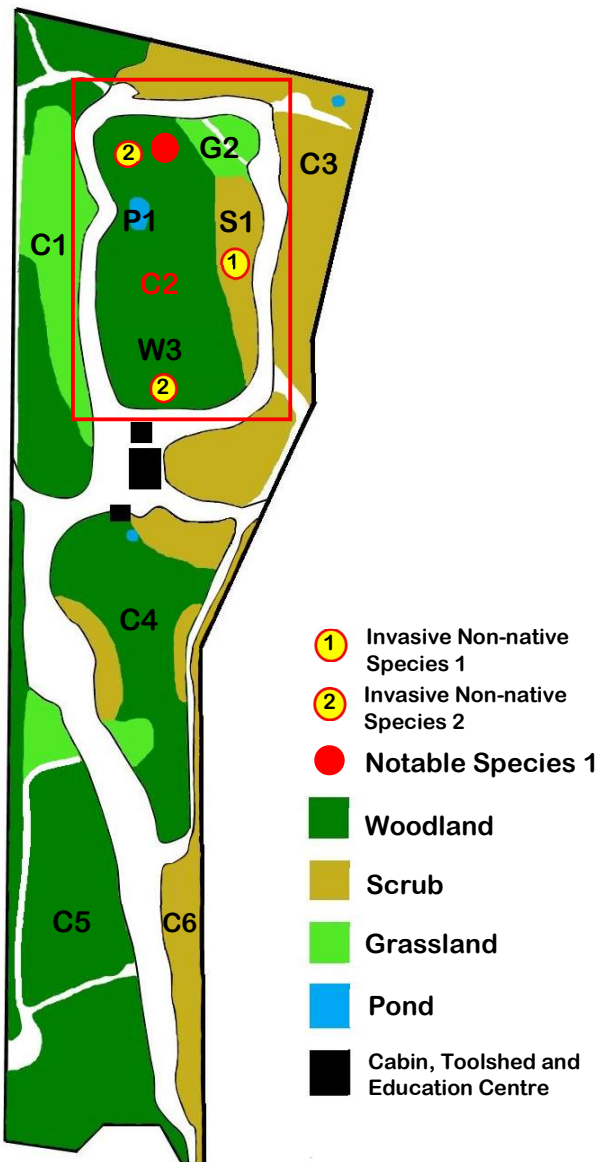
- Cut 75% of meadow in Autumn after the perennial flowering has died back.
- The remaining 25% cut back early spring. Rotate this pattern over the 5-year cycle. The cuttings to go in dead hedges.
- Remove shrub and tree encroachment.
- Reduce Hogweed by digging out roots before seeding.
- Control Couch-Grass; forking up its stolons early spring and then again in dry conditions.
- Sow Yellow Rattle seed.
- Rake off moss layer mostly in western side of the meadow.
- Repair and maintain dead hedges along the path.
- Rake leaf fall and place on dead hedge.

Compartment 1: Management Timeline

Activity	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crown lift trees	W1 W2	W1 W2		W2						W2	W1 W2	W1 W2
Control and reduce spread of Ivy and Bramble	W1 W2 H1	W1 W2 H1								W1 W2 H1	W1 W2 H1	W1 H1
Cut back Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Non-native Species 1)		W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W1 W2	W1 W2	W1
Strengthen and maintain dead hedges	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1	W1 G1
Reduce spread of Holm Oak	W2	W2									W2	W2
Maintain Reptilian hibernaculum	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1	W2 H1
Clear Ivy off the Silver Birch	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2
Lightly prune the Orange-Ball- Tree										W2		
Cut meadow and remove cuttings to habitat piles										G1	G1	
Remove Shrub encroachment, Bramble, Ivy and tree saplings	G1	G1	G1								G1	G1
Reduce Hogweed and moss	G1	G1	G1					G1		G1	G1	G1
Control Couch-Grass			G1	G1	G1							
Sow Yellow Rattle			G1	G1	G1				G1	G1		
Rake leaf fall and place on dead hedge										G1	G1	G1
Rake off moss layer on western side of the meadow	G1	G1	G1								G1	G1
Thin out and prune Sycamore and Ash	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1	W1 H1
Build (and maintain) Bee bank	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2	W2

Compartment 2

Habitats



W3 = Woodland 3. 'West Woodland'

- Monitor trees and trim back overhang and vegetation from paths and pond.
- Block off central path behind pond to allow rewilding.
- Cut back hard the Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) to produce strong flowering growth (Invasive Non-native species 2 (2)).
- Carry out Hazel Coppicing.
- Reduce Ivy ground cover along the eastern grassy bank and at the location of the Chinese Mugwort: Notable Species 1 (red circle).

G2 = Grassland 2: 'Fox Den'

- Cut back and remove Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Non-native species 1 (1)) and Bindweed from the top glade, put the dried-out Bindweed on the dead-hedges, and J. Knotweed in specified box.
- Clear Ivy mounds and establish habitat piles under the Sycamores behind the pond.
- Monitor and control spread of Ground Elder.
- Expand the meadow, moving the dead hedge outwards.
- Maintain existing grass patches.
- Cut 75% of meadow after perennial flowering had died.
- The remaining 25% cut back early spring. Rotate this pattern over 5-year cycle. The cuttings to go in dead hedges.

P1 = Pond 1. 'Large Pond'

- Remove any rubbish/logs from the pond and overhanging branches if shading the pond.
- Clear marginal plants spreading into the centre of the pond from its 'invading front', in the inner side of the margin.
- Rake off floating autumn leaf fall.
- Check dipping platforms weekly, to make sure it remains safe. Keep gate and fence in good repair.
- Maintain the dead hedge around the sides and back of the pond.
- Accumulated silt should be dug out, clearing only a part of the pond in one season.
- Cut Butterfly Bush (Invasive Non-native species 2 (2)) back hard and cut back overhang from trees and shrubs.

S1 = Scrub 1: 'Mud Kitchen'

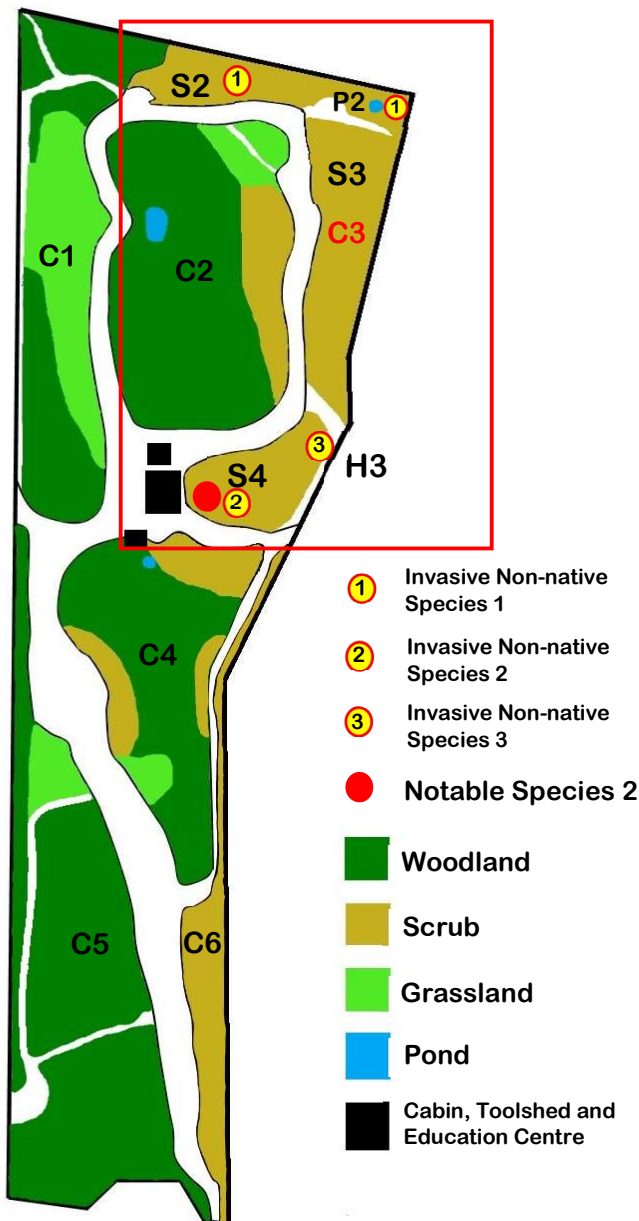
- Develop natural play area, maintain equipment, and rubber matting.
- Construct and maintain an edged path / steps down the slope.
- Maintenance of dead hedge around the mud kitchen area.
- Hazel tunnel construction and maintenance.

Compartment 2: Management Timeline

Activity	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Control & reduce the spread of Ivy, Bramble and Bindweed	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	W3 G2	W3 G2	W3 G2
Monitor trees and trim back overhanging vegetation	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3
Cut back and prune Butterfly Bush (Invasive Non-native Species 2)	P1	W3 P1								W3	W3	
Hazel Coppicing	W3	W3									W3	W3
Maintain rewilding area behind pond	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3	W3
Maintain existing grass patches	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2
Develop natural play area; Maintain equipment and rubber matting; Hazel tunnel maintenance	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1
Construct and maintain an edged path / steps down the slope				S1	S1							
Expand the meadow, moving dead hedge outwards	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2
Cut meadow and remove cuttings to habitat piles	G2	G2								G2	G2	G2
Cut back Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Non-native Species 1)	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2
Monitor and control spread of Ground Elder	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2
Clear Ivy mounds and create habitat piles						G2	G2	G2	G2	SG2		
Remove overhanging tree branches if shading pond and fallen leaves in pond	P1	P1									P1	P1
Remove excess floating plant growth						P1	P1	P1				
Clear marginal plants from spreading	P1	P1									P1	P1
Dig out accumulated silt	P1										P1	P1
Maintain dipping platform and fence	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
Construct and maintain dead hedge	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1	P1 S1
Reduce Ivy cover at Chinese Mugwort location (Notable species 1)										W3	W3	W3

Compartment 3

Habitats



S2 = Scrub 2.

- Cut back Japanese Knotweed and put in specified box (Invasive Non-native Species 1 ①).
- Reduce Ivy, Bramble and Bindweed.
- Remove Ash, Sycamore and Cherry

S3 = Scrub 3. 'Plum Orchard / Story Den'

- Regular surveys of trees' condition.
- Trim back, monitor and remove deadwood from the overhanging canopy in the children's den area.
- Thin wild plum.
- Establish a design and plan for the story den area.

S4 = Scrub 4. 'Back of the Cabin'

- Keep the Ivy away from the Soft Shield Fern (Notable Species 2 ●) growing by the path directly below the Cabin.
- Cut back hard the Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) by the steps to produce strong flowering growth (Invasive Non-native species 2 ②).
- Remove Ash and Sycamore growth next to the tool shed and clear back the bramble next to the steps.
- Clear and control climbing Ivy.

H3 = Hedgerow 3.

- Cut back and remove overhanging deadwood from shrub and tree layers.
- Remove Ground Elder from fence side of path.
- Trim back Snowberry (Invasive Non-native species 3 ③) and Bamboo to reduce spread.
- Keep ground layer along fence line clear of Ivy to encourage perennial and annual flora.

P2 = Pond 2. 'Small Western Pond'

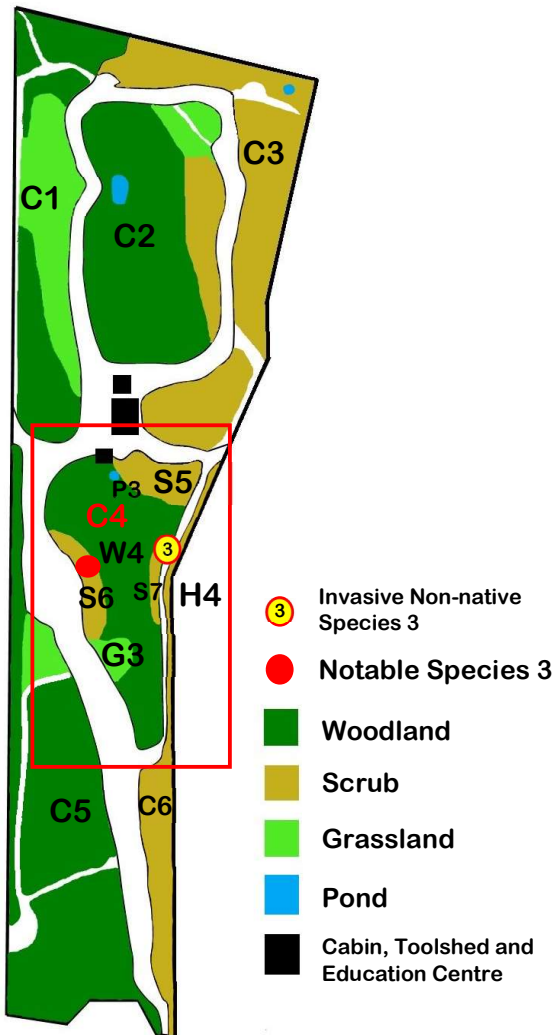
- Remove excess soil, sedge and level off the marsh area.
- Monitor downpipe watering level.
- Cut back overhang from trees.
- Maintain gate, signs, dead hedge and stag beetle loggery around the small pond.
- Cut back Japanese Knotweed and put in specified box (Invasive Non-Native Species 1 ①).

Compartment 3: Management Timeline

Activity	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cut back Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Non-native Species 1)	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2	S2 P2
Reduce Ivy, Bindweed, Bramble and Russian Vine	S2 S4	S4	S4					S4	S2 S4	S2 S4	S2 S4	S2 S4
Clear Ivy away from the Soft Shield Fern (Notable Species 2)	S4	S4	S4					S4	S4	S4	S4	S4
Remove Ash, Sycamore and Cherry Saplings	S2 S4	S2 S4	S4								S2 S4	S2 S4
Selectively thin wild plum	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3
Trim back/remove deadwood from the overhanging canopy	S3 H3	S3 H3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3 H3	S3 H3
Monitor and control spread of ground elder	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3	S4 H3
Cut back hard the Butterfly Bush (Invasive Non-native Species 2)	S4	S4									S4	S4
Remove overhanging tree branches if shading the pond	P2	P2										P2
Remove excess soil, sedge and level off marsh area	P2	P2								P2	P2	P2
Monitor water levels				P2	P2	P2	P2	P2				
Construct and maintain gate/signs and dead hedge	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2 S3	P2 S3
Control spread of snowberry (Invasive Non-native Species 3)						H3	H3	H3				

Compartment 4

Habitats



P3 = Pond 3. 'Small Central Pond'

- Keep surrounding dominant plant species under control, e.g., nettles.
- Reduce Pendulous Sedge growth.
- Cut back overhang from trees.

H4 = Hedgerow 4.

- Thin out sycamore to allow more light onto the slope.
- Cut back Snowberry (Invasive Non-native Species 3) and Ivy from path.

W4 = Woodland 4. 'Minibeast Woodland'

- Monitor trees and trim back overhang and vegetation.
- Reduce and control spread of Ivy ground cover.
- Maintain minibeast trail habitats and increase labelling for engagement.
- Maintain Stag beetle loggery.
- Produce final design for minibeast habitat.

G3 = Grassland 3. 'Bird Reserve'

- Plant native bird friendly scrub species and manage vegetation.
- Keep Bug skyscraper clear of Bramble and other encroaching vegetation.
- Gently clean, paint and varnish Bug skyscraper.
- Complete bird watching screen.
- Maintain signs.

S5 = Scrub 5. 'Back of the Tool Shed'

- Control the spread of Ground Elder.
- Remove Ash and Sycamore growth next to the tool shed and clear back the bramble next to the steps.
- Clear and control climbing Ivy.
- Maintain dead hedge next to tool shed.
- Clear Vegetation around young trees; Rose and Hazel.

S6 = Scrub 6. 'Haringey Knotweed Area'

- Clear Ivy and Bramble around Haringey Knotweed (Notable Species 3) as well as other vegetation.
- Lightly prune back the sweet briar.
- Construct/repair and maintain a protective dead hedge around the area.
- Monitor overhang from white poplars and cut back if required.

S7 = Scrub 7. 'Nettle Bank'

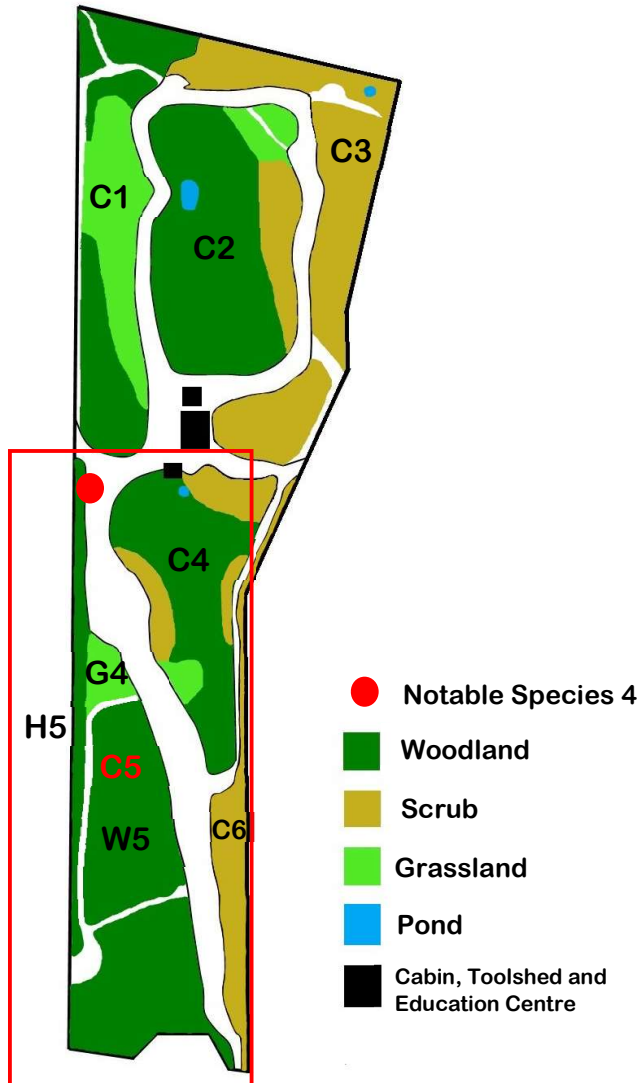
- Cut back encroaching nettles spilling onto the path.
- Reduce ground Ivy cover.
- Cut down small tree saplings.
- Reduce bramble.

Compartment 4: Management Timeline

Activity	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Control spread of Ivy, Bramble, Bindweed and Russian Vine	W4 G3 S5 S6 S7	W4 G3 S5 S6 S7	W4 G3 S5 S6 S7					S5 S7	S5 S7	W4 S5 S7	W4 G3 S5 S6 S7	W4 G3 S5 S6 S7
Control Ivy cover around Haringey Knotweed (Notable Species 3)	S5	S5	S5					S5	S5	S5	S5	S5
Trim back trees and vegetation	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4	S7 W4
Build stag beetle loggeries	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4
Clear Bramble back from Bug skyscraper	G3	G3	G3	G3						G3	G3	G3
Control Scrub and tree sapling encroachment	G3	G3	G3								G3	G3
Plant native bird friendly scrub species	G3	G3								G3	G3	G3
Control the spread of Ground Elder	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5
Remove Ash, Sycamore and Cherry saplings	S5	S5	S5								S5	S5
Prune sweet Briar Rose			S6								S6	
Maintain a protective dead hedge	S5 S6	S5 S6	S5 S6						S5 S6	S5 S6	S5 S6	S5 S6
Remove overhanging tree branches	S6 P3	S6 P3									S6	S6 P3
Clear Vegetation around young tree saplings	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5	S5
Thin out and prune Sycamore	H4	H4										H4
Cut back snowberry from path (Invasive Non-native Species 3)			H4	H4								
Reduce Pendulous Sedge growth	P3	P3									P3	P3
Keep path clear of encroaching nettles	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7	S7

Compartment 5

Habitats



W5 = Woodland 5. 'Thorny Woodland'

- Monitor trees and trim back overhanging vegetation.
- Reduce number of cherry suckers.
- Allow thorny tree species to grow in fenced-off area.
- Clear some of the Ivy in small patches and monitor what comes through.
- Monitor Ivy growth in trees and reduce where necessary.
- Maintain the Reptile and Amphibian hibernaculum entrance / exit tube and signs.

G4 = Grassland 4. 'Grassy Glade'

- Clear back Bramble and tree saplings.
- Remove evergreen Oaks.
- Lay hedgerow alternate years along fence line to allow in more light.
- Maintain encroachment of Ivy.
- Maintain dead hedge surrounding G4.

H5 = Hedgerow 5.

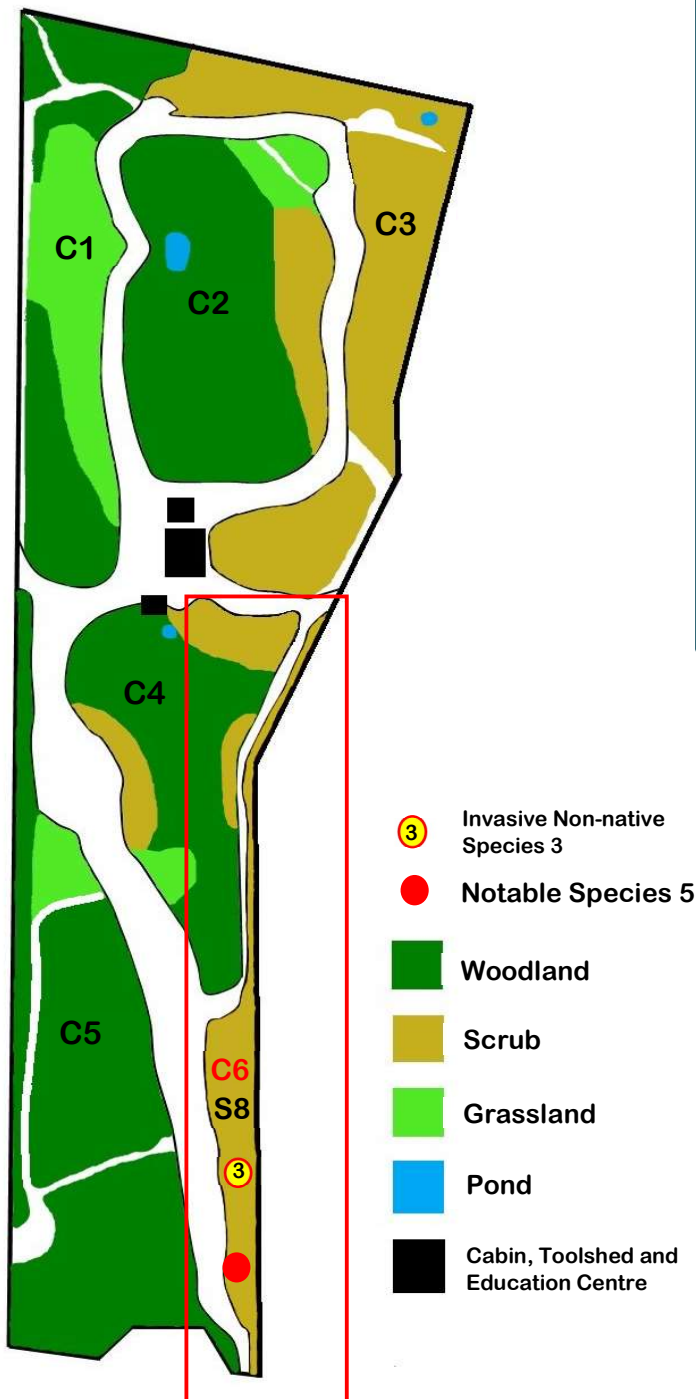
- Lay hedgerow alternate years to allow more light. Put clippings into habitat piles and dead hedges.
- Keep grass verge clear of encroaching shrubs, Bramble and Ivy.
- Protect the True Service Tree (Notable Species 4 ●) growing at the Western Edge of the hedgerow on the grass verge.
- Trim back encroaching hedge on the pathway.

Compartment 5: Management Timeline

Activity	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cut selected branches from canopy trees	W5										W5	W5
Reduce number of Cherry Suckers	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5
Monitor trees and trim back overhang vegetation	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5
Build Stag beetle loggeries and maintain Reptilian hibernaculum	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5	W5
Clear Ivy in small patches	W5							W5	W5	W5	W5	W5
Remove scrub encroachment, Bramble, Ivy, and tree saplings	G4	G4	G4								G4	G4
Lay hedgerow alternate years.	G4 H5	G4 H5										G4 H5
Remove evergreen oaks	G4	G4									G4	G4
Maintain dead hedge	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4	G4
Protect the True Service Tree (Notable Species 4) growing at the Western Edge.	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5
Trim back encroaching vegetation on the pathway.	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5	H5

Compartment 6

Habitats



S8 = Scrub 8.

- Remove suckers from Snowberry (Invasive Non-native Species 3 (3)) patch to prevent spreading. Reduce the size of the patch.
- Reduce bramble.
- Cut back shrubs and coppice from path by the main gates.
- Monitor toothwort growth (Notable species 5 (●)), flowering at the base of Hazel.
- Keep ground flora clear of scrub in a 2m strip along path edge.
- Clear ground vegetation around stag beetle loggery.
- Control spread of Green Alkanet.
- Coppice shrubs from path by the main gate.

Compartment 6: Management Timeline

Activity	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clear ground vegetation around stag beetle loggery	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8
Trim back and control spread of Snowberry (Invasive Non-native Species 3)						S8	S8	S8				
Keep ground flora clear of scrub encroachment	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8
Monitor toothwort growth (Notable species 5), flowering at the base of Hazel					S8							
Reduce Bramble	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8
Control spread of Green Alkanet			S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8				
Coppice shrubs from path by the main gate	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8	S8

Compartments' Management Timeline: Railway Fields

**Please see individual compartment timelines for the location and habitat at which these actions should be carried out*.*

Activity	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Control and reduce spread of Ivy and Bramble	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6	C1 C2 C2 C4 C5 C6	C2 C3 C4 C5 C6	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6
Control and Reduce spread of scrub encroachment and tree saplings	C1 C3 C4 C5	C1 C3 C4 C5	C1 C3 C4 C5								C1 C3 C4 C5	C1 C3 C4 C5
Clear Bindweed and Russian Vine	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5
Cut back Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Non-native Species 1)	C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C2 C3
Strengthen and maintain dead hedges	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3	C1 C2 C3 C4	C1 C2 C3 C4	C1 C2 C3 C4	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5
Cut meadow	C2	C2								C1 C2	C1 C2	C2
Maintain dipping platform and/or fence / signs	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3	C2 C3
Maintain equipment / natural play area	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Maintain (or build) Stag Beetle Loggery / Reptilian Hibernaculum	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6	C1 C4 C5 C6
Monitor and control spread of Holm Oak	C1	C1									C1	C1
Monitor and control spread of Sycamore Saplings	C1 C3 C4	C1 C3 C4	C1 C3 C4	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1 C3 C4	C1 C3 C4
Monitor and control spread of Ground Elder	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4
Monitor and control Ash and Cherry Saplings	C3 C4	C3 C4	C3 C4								C3 C4	C3 C4

Monitor and control spread of Snowberry (Invasive Non-native Species 3)			C4	C4		C3 C6	C3 C6	C3 C6				
Remove fallen leaves from pond & Remove overhanging tree branches if shading pond	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4									C2	C2 C3 C4
Monitor water levels in pond				C3	C3	C3	C3	C3				
Keep informal paths clear	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3
Rake leaf fall and place on dead hedge										C1	C1	C1
Monitor trees and trim back overhanging vegetation	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C4	C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5
Cut back and prune Butterfly Bush (Invasive Non-native Species 2)	C2 C3 C4	C2 C3 C4 C6								C2	C2 C3 C4 C6	C3 C4
Selectively thin Wild Plum	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3
Coppice (near the main gate)	C6	C6									C6	C6
Hazel Coppicing	C2	C2									C2	C2
Expand the meadow	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Lay hedge	C5	C5										C5

Notable Species

Notable Species Number	Species	Location: Compartment and Habitat	DAFOR Site-specific category	Population Status	Management works: 2021 – 2026
1	Chinese Mugwort <i>(Artemisia argy)</i>	Compartment 2, Woodland 3	Rare	Common throughout lowland UK.	Reduce Ivy cover around the Chinese Mugwort.
2	Soft Shield Fern <i>(Polystichum setiferum)</i>	Compartment 3, Scrub 4	Rare	Considered widespread in Britain.	Ensure that the fern remains under a shaded area. Ensure that the soil is not too dry, as the soft shield fern prefers moist soil. Water on a regular basis during the dry, summer months.
3	Haringey Knotweed <i>(Reyloppia conollyana)</i>	Compartment 4, Scrub 6	Rare	The only known wild British population is found at Railway Fields.	Reduce Ivy and Bramble cover around the Haringey Knotweed area.
4	True Service Tree <i>(Sorbus Domestica)</i>	Compartment 5, Hedgerow 5	Rare	The True Service Tree is considered 'Critically Endangered' in the UK (IUCN).	Ensure that the tree has sunlight; remove any overhanging branches preventing sunlight from reaching the True Service Tree. Remove Ivy and Scrub encroachment around the base of the tree.
5	Common Toothwort <i>(Lathraea squamaria)</i>	Compartment 6, Scrub 8	Rare	Considered widespread in Europe.	Toothwort will only flower during April and May, before disappearing below ground for another year. Monitor the Toothworts growth during flowering months.

Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)

Invasive Non-native species Number	Species	Location: Compartment and Habitat	Concern	London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI): Priority Category	Management works: 2021-2026
1	Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compartment 1: Woodland 1 and Woodland 2 • Compartment 2: Scrub 1 • Compartment 3: Scrub 2 • Compartment 3: Pond 2 	It spreads very quickly and outcompetes native species, contributes to riverbank erosion and grows through surfaces, leading to structural damaged and increased costs.	Category 3: <i>Species of high impact or concern which are widespread in London and require concerted, coordinated, and extensive action to control / eradicate.</i>	Eradication: Eradication by cutting (Jan-Dec). Put cuttings in specified container on site.
2	Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compartment 2: Pond 1 • Compartment 2: Woodland 3 • Compartment 3: Hedgerow 3 • Compartment 3: Scrub 4 	It grows vigorously and can form dense stands that eliminate other plants.	Category 3: <i>Species of high impact or concern which are widespread in London and require concerted, coordinated, and extensive action to control / eradicate.</i>	Management: Cut back throughout certain times of the year (Nov-Feb). Aim is to control and minimise the spread, not to eradicate.
3	Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compartment 3: Hedgerow 3 • Compartment 4: Hedgerow 4 • Compartment 6: Scrub 8 	It grows to form a dense thicket, which inhibits the growth of native species	Category 2: <i>Species of high impact or concern present at specific sites that require attention (control, management, eradication etc).</i>	Management: Cut back throughout certain times of the year (June-Aug). Aim is to control and minimise the spread, but not to eradicate.


Monitoring and Evaluation

Any data collected is used to help form GiGL, records, London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI), Park Management Plans and Conservation Action Plans.

What are the benefits of monitoring and evaluating?

1. Data collected will impact on future Conservation Action Plans.
2. Data collected will inform future actions.
3. Recording data creates a sustainable future for green spaces.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation enhances current biological records.

Recording Monitoring and Evaluation Data (2021-2026)

Objective	Action	Body responsible	Frequency of Action
Record and monitor species data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out site surveys. Record data using survey sheets. Submit data to GiGL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers Users of the Park Friends' Groups Community groups 	Continuous
Evaluation of Conservation Action Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use recorded data to help inform future conservation actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haringey Council TCV Friends' Groups 	Once every 5 years.
Evaluation of Park Management Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use recorded data to inform annual conservation actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haringey Council TCV Friends' Groups 	Once a year.
Use the iNaturalist App as an informal way of recording species' data. 	Record species' data using the iNaturalist app. Record data within the 'Railway Fields' project on the iNaturalist app, created by TCV.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers Users of the Park TCV Friends' Groups Community groups 	Continuous

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation: General Tasks (2021-2026)				
Compartment	Habitat	What to Monitor / Evaluate in this location.	Why Monitor and Evaluate.	When to Monitor and Evaluate.
Compartment 1	Woodland 2	Monitor the invertebrate species at the Stag beetle loggery location.	To find out whether the location of this habitat is attracting invertebrates.	Jan – Dec
Compartment 1	Grassland 1	Monitor Hogweed abundance.	To know how much maintenance work is needed to reduce Hogweed abundance.	Jan - March. Oct – Dec.
Compartment 1	All habitats	Monitor any new emerging flora or fauna.	To improve understanding of the biodiversity at Railway Fields.	Jan - Dec
Compartment 2	Grassland 2	Monitor and record the abundance of Ground Elder.	Ground Elder needs monitoring and controlling when necessary, as it can become dominant.	Jan – Dec
Compartment 2	Pond 1	Monitor frogspawn, toad spawn, and adult amphibians that are present in the pond.	To improve understanding of wildlife and biodiversity present at the pond.	Feb-May
Compartment 2	Pond 1	Monitor the amount of free-floating and floating-leaved rooted plants covering the pond.	To improve understanding of wildlife and biodiversity present at the pond. Excessive growth may need to be removed.	June - Aug
Compartment 2	All habitats	Monitor and record any new emerging flora or fauna.	To improve understanding of the biodiversity at Railway Fields.	Jan-Dec
Compartment 3	Scrub 3	Monitor Trees' condition.	The trees in this habitat are overrun with Ivy. Deadwood may need removal if posing a danger.	Jan-Dec
Compartment 3	All habitats	Monitor and record any new emerging flora and fauna.	To improve understanding of the biodiversity at Railway Fields.	Jan-Dec
Compartment 4	Woodland 4	Monitor the invertebrate species at the Stag beetle loggery location.	To find out whether the location of this habitat is attracting invertebrates.	Jan-Dec

Compartment 4	Scrub 6	Monitor the overhang of the White Poplars.	The White poplars need monitoring as they may need cutting back if creating too much shade over the scrub habitat.	Nov-Feb
Compartment 4	All habitats	Monitor and record any new emerging flora and fauna.	To improve understanding of the biodiversity at Railway Fields.	Jan-Dec
Compartment 5	Grassland 4	Monitor tree encroachment into grassland area, from woodland 5.	It is important that the grassland does not gradually become smaller due to tree encroachment. Tree saplings may need to be removed.	Jan-March. Nov-Dec.
Compartment 5	All habitats	Monitor and record any new emerging flora and fauna.	To improve understanding of the biodiversity at Railway Fields.	Jan-Dec

Monitoring and Evaluation: Notable Species

Compartment 2	Woodland 3	Monitor and Evaluate the effect of reducing Ivy cover at the location of the Chinese Mugwort (Notable Species 1).	To find out whether reducing Ivy is beneficial to the survival of the Chinese Mugwort. If so, how often Ivy cutting needs to be done throughout the year.	Oct-Feb
Compartment 4	Scrub 5	Monitor and Evaluate the effect of reducing Ivy cover around the location of the Soft Shield Fern (Notable Species 2).	To find out whether reducing Ivy is beneficial to the survival of the Soft Shield Fern. If so, how often Ivy cutting needs to be done throughout the year.	Jan-March. Aug-Dec.
Compartment 4	Scrub 6	Monitor and Evaluate the effect of reducing Ivy cover around the location of the Haringey knotweed (Notable Species 3).	To find out whether reducing Ivy is beneficial to the survival of Haringey Knotweed. If so, how often Ivy cutting needs to be done throughout the year.	Jan-March. Aug-Dec.
Compartment 5	Hedgerow 5	Monitor Ivy and Scrub encroachment around the True Service Tree (Notable Species 4).	To ensure the True Service Tree survives in this location.	Jan-Dec
Compartment 6	Scrub 8	Monitor Common Toothwort (Notable Species 5) growth, flowering at the base of Hazel.	TCV want to ensure the Common Toothwort is surviving in this location.	May

Monitoring and Evaluation: Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)				
Compartment 1	Woodland 1	Monitor Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Non-native Species 1) abundance. Removal / Eradication by cutting. Put cuttings in specified container on site.	J. Knotweed needs to be monitored to keep an updated account of the spread, and whether further intervention is needed. The aim is to eradicate J. Knotweed.	Jan - Dec
	Woodland 2			
Compartment 2	Scrub 1			
Compartment 3	Scrub 2			
	Pond 2			
Compartment 2	Pond 1	Monitor Butterfly Bush (Invasive Non-native Species 2) abundance. Aim is to control, not to eradicate.	Butterfly bush needs to be monitored as while it does have wildlife value, it can quickly become invasive if not managed.	Nov-Feb
	Woodland 3			
Compartment 3	Hedgerow 3			
	Scrub 4			
Compartment 3	Hedgerow 3	Monitor Snowberry (Invasive Non-native Species 3) abundance. Aim is to control, not to eradicate.	Snowberry needs to be monitored as while it does have wildlife value, it can quickly become invasive if not managed.	June-Aug
Compartment 6	Scrub 8			
Compartment 4	Hedgerow 4			

5.2 Management of Infrastructures and Buildings

The site office and education centre are cleaned and maintained by TCV staff. Non-plastic and eco cleaning options are used where possible.

The mud kitchen including benches, wooden kitchen appliances and kitchen utensils were built and are maintained by TCV staff. The stools and ‘throne’ in the story den were built and are maintained by TCV staff.

There are 3 sets of litter bins on site. TCV staff have the responsibility to pick up litter, remove dog mess, and empty litter bins on site. Refuse and recyclables waste are left outside the gate for collection and are collected daily. Compostable waste is composted on site. Green waste is used in dead-hedges and habitat piles.

The swing and picnic benches are checked visually by TCV staff weekly. LBH is responsible for more thorough 6 monthly checks and maintenance of the swing.

Any damage to the site office caused through vandalism would be the responsibility of LB Haringey’s Property Services. Any damage to the education centre caused through vandalism would be the responsibility of TCV.



Figure 2: Picnic benches

6 Biodiversity

6.1 Introduction

The London Biodiversity Audit (London Biodiversity Partnership, 2000) lists a range of species which the Partnership would like to be considered for inclusion in the London Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). Among these are species that are characteristic of London habitats, and/or locally distinctive, as well as those that are rare. Species in Audit belong to one or more of eight categories, which are indicated in the tables below by the following abbreviations:

Table 5: Abbreviations used in species lists

Abbreviation	Description	Notes
P	UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species	These two combined as 'P' in botanical records
C	UKBAP Species of Conservation Concern)	
R	Rare in London	(Rb: rare as breeding species)
I	Indicative of typical habitats	
C	Characteristic of London	
V	Culturally valued	
D	In decline	
E	Easy to monitor.	

More details on the criteria for inclusion in the categories are given in the Audit. The categories are given for interest, and because the LBAP may acquire a high profile in nature conservation in

London. For completeness, all categories are given. However, they should be interpreted with caution. Thus, for example, if a bird were in category 'I', this would have no relevance to Railway Fields if it were only recorded flying over. Most records supplied by David Bevan. Species in raised beds not included, but many of those listed are, of course, introduced.

6.2 Botanical Records

Table 6: Botanical records 1990 – 2005

Species name	Common name	Audit categories
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Black bent	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping bent	
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Common water-plantain	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Hedge garlic	
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild onion	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow fox-tail	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood anemone	V D
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren brome	
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass	(7/6/2000)
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horse-radish	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False oat-grass	
<i>Artemisia verlotiorum</i>	Chinese mugwort	
<i>Artemisia verlotiorum</i> 'A. vulgaris'	'Wurzell's wormwood'	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Garden asparagus	
<i>Aster agg.</i>	Michaelmas daisy	
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common orache	
<i>Atriplex prostrata agg.</i>	Spear-leaved orache	
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oat	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Sliver birch	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Wood false-brome	
<i>Brassica napus</i>	Rape	
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	C V D E
<i>C. flexuosa</i>	Wavy bitter-cress	
<i>C. flexuosa</i> x <i>C. pratensis</i> (<i>C. x fringsii</i>)	'Bevan's bittercress'	
<i>C. lacteus</i>	Late cotoneaster	
<i>C. polyspermum</i>	Many-seeded goosefoot	
<i>C. rubrum</i>	Red goosefoot	
<i>C. sumatrensis</i>	Guernsey fleabane	
<i>C. vesicaria</i>	Beaked hawk's-beard	
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>	Early crocus	(26/2/03)
<i>Crocus vernus</i>	Spring crocus	(3/02)
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	Wood small-reed	
<i>Callitriche platycarpa</i>	Various-leaved water-starwort	

<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed	
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large bindweed	
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	
<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Large bitter-cress	
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common centaury	
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay	C V D E
<i>Chenopodium album agg.</i>	Fat-hen	
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-night-shade	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian fleabane	
<i>Cornus sanguineus</i>	Dogwood	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Himalayan cotoneaster	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawk's-beard	
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue	
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's-tail	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	
<i>Daucus carota ssp. carota</i>	Wild carrot	
<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>	Perennial wall-rocket	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum sens. lat.</i>	Teasel	V D E
<i>E. hirsutum</i>	Great willowherb	
<i>E. obscurum</i>	Short-fruited willow-herb	
<i>Eleogiton fluitans</i>	Floating club-rush	
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common couch	
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American willowherb	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	
<i>Euphorbia esula x E. waldsteinii (E. x pseudovirgata)</i>	Twiggy spurge	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	Black-bindweed	
<i>F. baldschuanica x F. japonica</i>	"Haringey knotweed"	
<i>F. japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed	
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall fescue	(6/6/2000)]
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow fescue	(6/6/2000)
<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	Red fescue	
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	V D E
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	
<i>Fragaria x ananassa</i>	Garden strawberry	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder buckthorn	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	
<i>G. lucidum</i>	Shining crane's-bill	
<i>G. phaeum</i>	Dusky crane's-bill	
<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved crane's-bill	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens	
<i>G. urbanum</i>	Wood avens	

<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Reed sweet-grass	D
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	Mare's-tail	
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary mustard	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	P R V
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort	
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common cat's-ear	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	
<i>Iris foetidissima</i> var. <i>citrina</i>	Stinking iris	
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow iris	D E
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed rush	
<i>Juncus bufonius</i> sens. <i>lat.</i>	Toad rush	
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard rush	
<i>L. triscula</i>	Ivy-leaved duckweed	
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort	
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	
<i>Lamium album</i>	White dead-nettle	
<i>L. purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle	
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common duckweed	
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn hawkbit	
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy	
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common toadflax	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	D
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> var. <i>sativus</i>	Common bird's-foot-trefoil (fodder variant)	
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged robin	V D E
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort	
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk-mallow	
<i>M. officinalis</i>	Ribbed melilot	
<i>M. sativa</i> ssp. <i>sativa</i>	Lucerne	C V D
<i>M. sylvestris</i>	Common mallow	
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple-weed	
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scentless mayweed	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Hop trefoil	
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White melilot	
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Corn mint	
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury	
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood forget-me-not	
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild daffodil	
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red bartsia	
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	V D
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redleg	
<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter heliotrope	
<i>Phleum pratense</i> sens. <i>str.</i>	Timothy	
<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	Bristly oxtongue	
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	
<i>P. major</i>	Greater plantain	
<i>Poa angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved meadow-grass	

<i>P. annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	
<i>P. compressa</i>	Flattened meadow-grass	
<i>P. pratensis sens. lat.</i>	Smooth meadow-grass	
<i>P. trivialis</i>	Rough meadow-grass	
<i>Polygonum aviculare agg.</i>	Knotweed	
<i>Populus alba</i>	White willow	
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	I V D
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Primrose	I V D E
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	
<i>P. domestica</i>	Wild plum	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak / Evergreen oak	
<i>Q. petraea</i>	Sessile oak	V D
<i>Q. robur</i>	Pedunculate oak	V D
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	
<i>R. bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Mignonette	
<i>R. flammula</i>	Lesser spearwort	
<i>R. lingua</i>	Greater spearwort	
<i>R. peltatus</i>	Pond water-crowfoot	
<i>Rosa canina agg.</i>	Dog rose	
<i>R. rubiginosa sens. str.</i>	Sweet-briar	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	
<i>R. maritimus</i>	Golden dock	
<i>R. obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	Annual pearlwort	
<i>Salix capraea</i>	Goat willow	
<i>S. cinerea</i>	Grey willow	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	
<i>Sanguisorba minor ssp. muricata</i>	Salad burnet	
<i>S. orientale</i>	Eastern rocket	
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	
<i>S. squalidus</i>	Oxford ragwort	
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion	
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	
<i>S. nigrum</i>	Black nightshade	
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canadian goldenrod	
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sow-thistle	
<i>Sorbus aria sens str.</i>	Whitebeam	
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	Rowan	
<i>S. torminalis</i>	Wild service-tree	I V D
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched bur-reed	
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelion	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	
<i>T. hybridum ssp. hybridum</i>	Alsike clover	
<i>T. pratense</i>	Red clover	

<i>T. repens</i>	White clover	
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum sens. lat.</i>	Sea mayweed	
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush	V D E
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	
<i>V. persica</i>	Common field-speedwell	
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	
<i>Vicia sativa ssp. segetalis</i>	Common vetch	
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder vetch	
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser periwinkle	
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat's-tail fescue	

6.3 Butterfly Records

Table 7: Butterfly records. Abbreviations in column CRO: C: common, O: occasional, R:rare

Species name	Common name	CRO	Date/notes	Audit categories
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	O	First record: 6.4.95	
<i>Colias croceus</i>	Clouded yellow	R		
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma	C/O	Occasional from 2013	
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common blue	R	I V E	
<i>Thymelicus line-ola</i>	Essex skipper	O/R	Rare from 2013	
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper	C	First record: 7.90	V E
<i>Pieris napae</i>	Green-veined white	C/O	Occasional from 2013	
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly blue	C	Since 1990. Breeding proved: larvae found on ivy in 1995	V
<i>Ochlodes venata</i>	Large skipper	O		
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large white	C		
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow brown	C		
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange tip	O		
<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Painted lady	R		
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock	O	V E	
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red admiral	O		
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet	R	First recorded 2005	
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small copper	R	E	
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small skipper	O		
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small tortoise shell	C/R	Rare from 1999 onwards	
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small white	C		
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled wood	C	Since ~ 1983; (since recorded on Parkland Walk)	I E
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall brown	-	Last seen 1990	

6.4 Mollusc Records

Table 8: Mollusc records. Noteworthy species are listed below, but this is not a comprehensive list.

Species name	Common name	Audit categories
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	Brown-lipped snail	
<i>Helix pomatia</i>	Edible snail	P I V E
<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	Kentish snail	
<i>Testacella scutulium</i>	Shield shelled slug	

6.5 Bird Records

Table 9: Bird records. Bird species recorded from Railway Fields and adjacent length of New River. All are taken from Perry (1987), (records made from 1985 to 1987), except those marked DB (recorded by David Bevan) and WF (recorded by Will Farmer). The three species marked NR are the New River records.

Species name	Common name	Recorder/date	Audit categories
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird		I V
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap		S I
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed gull		
<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue tit		S I V
<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Brambling		
<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	Budgerigar		
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch		P V D
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard	DB 1996	
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose		
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion crow		
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch		
<i>Phylloscopus col-lybita</i>	Chiffchaff	S I V	
<i>Parus ater</i>	Coat tit	DB 1992	S I
<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	Cockatiel	DB 1999	
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared dove		
<i>Larus canus</i>	Common gull		
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot	DB NR	
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Cormorant	S I C V	
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	S I	
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare		
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden warbler	S	
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest	WF 1996/8	
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	S I V	
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great black-backed gull		
<i>Parus major</i>	Great tit	S I V	
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green woodpecker	DB 1996/05	S I V E
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Greenfinch	S	
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey heron	V E	
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey wagtail	S I C E	
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Gt. spotted woodpecker	DB 1993 - on	S I V
<i>L. argentatus</i>	Herring gull	S C E	
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House martin	P V D	
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow	C	
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay	I V	
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	S C V E	
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	DB NR 1995	S I V E
<i>L. fuscus</i>	Lesser black-backed gull	S C E	

<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser whitethroat	S D	
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet	P V D	
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed tit		
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie		
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	S I C V E	
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow pipit	S I	
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle thrush		
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	DB NR 1996	
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute swan	S V E	
<i>Montacilla alba</i>	Pied wagtail	S I C E	
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard	S R(b) I C V E	
<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Redpoll		
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing		
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting	P I D	
<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Ring-necked parakeet	DB 1997	
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	I V	
<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Siskin	WF 1996/8	
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Snipe	WF 1996/8	S I
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted flycatcher	P I V D	
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	P I V D E	
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song thrush	P I V D E	
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	DB 1993 - on	S
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	C	
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock dove		
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow	S V D E	
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift		
<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny owl	S V E	
<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree sparrow	WF 1996	P R D
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted duck	S I C V E	
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat		
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Whitethroat	S	
<i>Phylloscopus. trochilus</i>	Willow warbler	S I E	
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock		
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon		
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren		

6.6 Mammal Records

Table 10: Mammal records. No details surveys have been carried out. Those marked 'L' were found using Longworth traps. Others are casual observations.

Species name	Common name	Longworth trap	Audit category
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Brown rat		
<i>Felis domesticus</i>	Domestic cat		
<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Field vole	L	
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red fox		
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Grey squirrel		
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog		S V
<i>Mus musculus</i>	House mouse	L	
<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>	Pipistrelle sp.		P V
<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	Wood mouse	L	
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Muntjac		

6.7 Amphibian Records

Table 11: Amphibian records

Species name	Common name	Audit category
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common frog	S I V
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common toad	
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Smooth newt	

6.8 Reptile Records

Table 12: Reptile records

Species name	Common name	Audit category
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow-worm	

Appendix A

Background

2011 was a rapid period of change for the Parks Service in Haringey. The Local Government Settlement for Haringey resulted in an £81m reduction in funding to Haringey, including £41m from 2011/12.

Members agreed a package of change proposal for parks around 3 themes:

- further operational efficiency
- transfer and fund delivery of services
- reducing scope and scale of grounds maintenance activity

The related actions achieved a net cost saving of £1.06m, the majority of which - £991k - was from 1 April 2011.

The most challenging element was the 'reduction in grounds maintenance' with a £510k budget cut, and reduction of 19 FTE staff (17 permanent and 2 FTE agency).

The Service has contractual commitments to both Homes for Haringey and the Heritage Lottery Fund (Lordship Recreation Ground, Finsbury Park and Markfield Park) which need to be met.

Whilst Friends of Parks have remained engaged and participated in the two Lead Member led summit meetings to date, they have also expressed their concerns regarding the budget cuts through a petition and deputation to Full Council in November 2011.

Action Update January 2013

In the short term the Council has, in conjunction with partners, including Friends Groups, developed an action plan with 3 key themes, aimed at mitigating the impact of the reductions outlined above and redefining a core service offer:

- redesign and revision of our current parks and open space horticultural content
- proactive and joined up use of supported employment and training initiatives
- a smarter approach to supporting and developing volunteering

Redesign and revision of current parks and open space operation – Initial reviews around particular operations led on to a full review of the future options for Parks Maintenance in the Borough. The review concluded that the cost being paid for the service being received by the council was broadly comparable with the cost of service in the market, however, more money needed to be spent on modern machinery. It was also recognised that if additional money was provided for machinery overtime less seasonal staff would be required. The options review was considered by members, and they elected to continue providing the service in house, to invest in new machinery and to ensure that work was undertaken to improve the management and supervision of the grounds maintenance operation.

Proactive and joined up use of supported training and employment initiatives - Over the last six years the Parks Service has actively engaged in initiatives to bring young people into horticulture. With an ageing workforce and natural vacancies that arise each year it is important that such schemes are maintained. The level of skills of our agency staff is an ongoing area of concern. Over the last 12 months this theme has been explored with the help of Groundwork one of the council's partners. Groundwork already runs two schemes for Homes for Haringey under the banner of the 'Green Team'. Groundwork has secured match funding from City Bridge Trust,

Haringey Jobs Fund, Skills Funding Agency and Department of Work & Pensions totally £125,000 towards supporting training and employment initiatives in Haringey's Parks. Overall, this will support 8 training posts in the borough the first two will be apprentices based at Lordship Recreation Ground. 'Graduates' from programmes will move into core and seasonal vacancies as they arise in the parks operational team. Working in this way the Council will move from its dependency on untested agency staff to well trained staff that have demonstrated their competency and skills to undertake the role of gardener in Haringey's Parks.

Smarter approach to supporting and developing volunteering - Haringey Parks Service has a strong track record of developing local engagement and volunteering. In discussion with the existing Friends Groups and volunteers, it is clear that as a group they do not have the capacity to 'volunteer more'. Therefore, our approach to developing volunteering further will be to focus on capacity building with residents to seek new and additional volunteers. Capacity building will focus on the establishment of Friends Groups in parks where they do not exist, and also recruiting additional volunteers for existing groups.

Through our key partnerships with Groundwork, TCV and MPS we have moved forward on changing the use of their resources to focus more specifically on Volunteering.

This greater effort on developing new volunteering and support the development of existing groups is beginning to bear fruit. Some examples include:

- 12 Corporate volunteering events since April 2011 supported by over 500 volunteers with an estimated value of £75,000.
- Groundwork have developed a Community Action Plan for Stationers Park where the friends have taken on the majority of the maintenance in the park.
- TCV have conducted 77 working party days since April 2012 with a value of volunteering work of over £58,000.
- MPS have signed up 479 Neighbourhood Watch groups to include their local park within the watch.

Summary

2011 was very challenging for the Parks Service in Haringey and it remained so throughout 2012. However, the review of options for the maintenance of parks has ensured that members have considered again what standard they want to see in their parks and have agreed to invest an additional one off £180,000 to achieve this in 2013. Haringey's active network of Friends Groups and partners remain committed to providing the best possible parks that we can. We will continue to explore new ways of securing investment and improved maintenance in the parks over the coming years.