

The Tarn

Management Plan 2026-2030



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PART I: WHERE WE ARE NOW

Park Address and Contact Details

Name of Site: The Tarn

Address: The Tarn
Court Road
Eltham
London
SE9 5AQ

If you require any further details about this plan, please contact:

Address: Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Oxleas Woods Centre
Crown Woods Lane
London
SE18 3JA

Tel. 020 8856 0100

Email parks@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

This Parks Strategy & Development team can be contacted for any further information (using the contact details provided above).

The Friends of The Tarn have their own Facebook page and can also be contacted via the email address below.

Email info@thetarn.org
Facebook Address [Facebook](#)

Introduction – What is a park management plan?

Management Plans are an important aid to the efficient and effective management of a site. A Plan forms part of a process for evaluating performance against agreed standards, consulting and involving people, strategic planning and providing continuity. Individual plans will be specific to each park and will deliver aims and objectives specific to the needs of the local community who will be directly involved in its formulation.

A Park Management Plan also provides an excellent opportunity to collate a wealth of information relating to the park that the management authority possesses, into a single comprehensive document.

The Purpose of this Management Plan

This Management Plan will be used as a tool to aid the effective management of the Tarn. The Action Plan to The Tarn will be reviewed annually by Parks Management Staff responsible for the site, and the Management Plan will be reviewed annually and fully updated every five years.

A range of representatives from the Community will be consulted in the production of this plan and their views will be considered in the development of a vision for The Tarn. It is hoped that this plan will help to encourage relationships between The Royal Borough and the community and provide access to information on the management approach to this site.

Future actions / priorities for this site are identified in the Action Plan to this document. This management plan therefore provides a benchmark against which future progress can be measured. It is envisaged that the plan will provide a framework around which any future decisions concerning this site will be taken.

In addition, it is hoped that the management plan for The Tarn will assist with allocating existing and securing additional resources for this site.

Wider Policy Context

The Management Plan has been written within the context of a wide framework of national, regional and local policy statements and strategies.

A number of strategies have been considered in the production of this document to ensure that the priorities identified in this plan deliver and compliment the appropriate aims and objectives identified in them. The main documents impacting on the development of this plan are listed in Appendix I.

Description of the Park

The Tarn is an extremely aesthetically pleasing park. The trees and shrubs bordering the park make it feel intimate and tranquil, giving visitors the impression that they are in small woodland away from the residential area and main road. The Tarn is an oasis of calm.

The Tarn is a public park of around 3.6 hectares, located one mile south of Eltham Town Centre and is accessed only from one side in Court Road (A208). The Tarn consists of woodland, lawns, shrub beds and a large lake. As the name of the park suggests, the lake is the main feature. The lake is in the centre of the park and is fed by a small stream which drains to the River Quaggy.

The London to Dartford railway line forms the Southern boundary of the park and the Royal Blackheath Golf course is on the eastern boundary. Court Road is on the western boundary and residential properties are to the north of The Tarn.



Eastern section of The Tarn looking towards the Royal Blackheath Golf Course

The Tarn is owned and managed by The Royal Borough of Greenwich, with management and maintenance being carried out by the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Department, located within the Directorate of Communities, Environment and Central.

Heritage and History

There is an ice well in the NW corner of the Tarn dating back to 1760. The ice well originally supplied Eltham Lodge (now the clubhouse of the Royal Blackheath Golf Course) – with ice and is one of 2500 still in existence in Britain. This, along with the Tarn's links with Eltham Palace, makes the Tarn of historical interest within the local area. Additional History of the site can be found in Appendix 2.

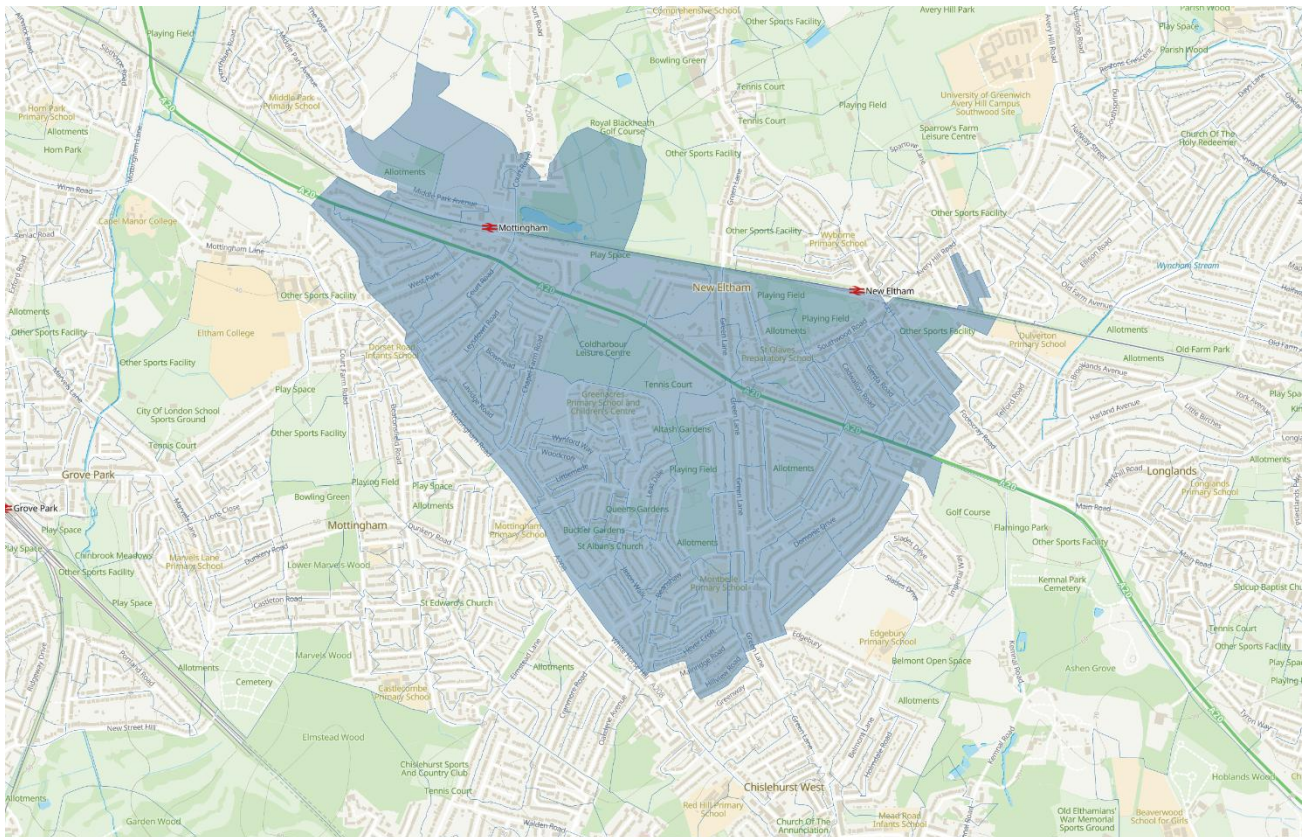
Access to the Park

The Park is open daily by 9am and closed by dusk (times vary throughout the year and hours of daylight). Access within the Tarn is good, with tarmac pathways throughout. There are two entrances to the Tarn in court road. A sign at the park entrance states no access for dogs or cyclists. The Tarn is part of the Green Chain Walk network. There are excellent public transport links to enable access to the Tarn.

Train: Mottingham Railway Station is situated directly opposite the park, giving access to central London and Dartford.

Buses: The 126, 161 and 124 bus routes service the park.

Car: There is no car parking space available within the Tarn, although parking spaces can frequently be found in neighbouring roads.



Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/>

Ecology and Landscape

The Tarn's main feature is a large lake in the centre of the park, surrounded by trees. In heavy rain, it acts as a reservoir for storm water from the A20 run-off. Unfortunately, there has been a large build-up of sediment in the lake that has negatively affected the water quality in recent years. This has also had a negative effect on wildlife in the park. An attractive wooden bridge spans the far end of the lake to create a circular walk around the park. (see photo below)



There is a small island in the middle of the lake and floating platforms for ducks and wildfowl. Previously seventy-three species of birds have been recorded at the Tarn including Common sandpiper, pied flycatcher, grey heron, little grebe, Shelduck, and swan-white Aylesbury. Four species of mammals have also been recorded (namely, the grey squirrel, red fox, brown rat and hedgehog).

Aquatic plants within the lake provide rich nourishment for birds, insects, and other lake dwellers including pond snails, newts, fish water shrimps, and numerous species of aquatic insects including the larvae of dragonfly and damselflies.



Frog Pond

The northern section within the Tarn is designated as a bird sanctuary, currently closed to the public. It accounts for one third of the total 9-acre area, providing a natural habitat for birds, insects and animals to this area.

The bird sanctuary consists of tall trees, bushy shrubs, and dense undergrowth creating a natural environment that attracts many birds and insects. Beech, oak, birch, elder, holly, ivy, stinging nettle, and bramble provide food and shelter for the inhabitants. The sanctuary is currently closed to the public to protect the habitat and flora within this section. Limited access to the bird sanctuary was given to Friends of The Tarn and a circular pathway of wood chippings was formed.

In the shrub beds around the lake, Bluebells and Rhododendrons give a magnificent display of colour in the Spring.



In the south-eastern corner of the park, an unused section has been converted into a butterfly garden by the Friends of The Tarn.

A formal tree survey has been carried out for this site.

Tree management of the site will: -

- Comply with the overall management plan for The Tarn
- Undertake the work identified within the Tree Survey
- Preserve and enhance the existing landscape

Many saplings have been planted since the Dutch Elm disease spread across lowland England in the late 1960's and the Tarn now has numerous mature trees both evergreens and many deciduous trees and shrubs within its boundaries. The Tree Survey is available on request.

Park Infrastructure

Buildings

The only building within the park contains a messroom and toilets. The building is a brick block cavity construction with Norfolk Pan tiled pitched roof. The building line steps back behind the roof eaves line to provide a canopy over the front of the messroom. The extended roofline is supported on natural timber circular posts (tree trunk sections). The soffit of the canopy is rendered on expanded metal and the flooring in this area is York Stone paving.

The maintenance and repairs to the building is the responsibility of RBG Property Services team withing the Directorate of Place and Growth.

The Friends of The Tarn use the building for storage of their equipment. The messroom facilities and toilets are opened and used on volunteer days / work days and when events are held in the park.



Messroom Building

Park Furniture and Signage

There are a number of benches around the perimeter of the lake, many of which have commemorative plaques in memory of loved ones.

There are two information boards giving details of the park (one at each entrance), and an information board next to the Ice Well giving details on its history. There are six life buoys positioned at regular intervals around the perimeter of the lake. There are also numerous litter bins dotted around the site.

Two interpretation signs were installed in The Tarn by the lake giving information about the local wildlife.

Paved Areas and Pathways

There is a tarmac pathway that enables users to walk around the perimeter of the park / lake.

There are two entrances from Court Road, both entrances have a steep incline into the park (one has steps and the other is a sloped pathway)

The main entrance is over 1 in 14 gradient but can be used for wheelchair access. Throughout the park are a number of steps. The paths nearest the building have been resurfaced with self-binding gravel.



Self-binding gravel paths

Picnic and Performance Area

A large area of lawn was introduced in the park in 2019, following a successful Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund bid, by the friends of the park, to cater for friends' teas in the park and a small performance area to allow for events in the park.



Events lawn area

Visitor Attractions and Activities

The main attraction at The Tarn is the lake, the circular walk across the bridge and the associated wildlife. The main users of the park are local residents, in particular, young families. One of the primary uses of the park is for feeding the ducks and birds along with walkers following the Green Chain Walk. There is a steady stream of visitors throughout the day both during weekdays and weekends.



Heron visiting The Tarn

The Ice Well dating back to 1760 can be found in the north western corner of the park. The Ice Well was refurbished with funding awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is sited near one entrance to the Tarn. An information board detailing the origins and uses of the well was erected following the refurbishment of the well.

Community Events

The Friends Group have been involved with many projects in The Tarn including installing bird and bat boxes with local “Girl Guide Groups”, creating a small Wildlife Garden in an unused yard area of the park and obtaining funding from the Woodland Trust for 100 mixed native whips which were planted on site by a local school.



Local School Children participating in Tree Planting



Tree Planting on a Volunteer Day

The Friends of The Tarn Group also organise regular events throughout the year such as Concerts in the Park, Carol Singing, Volunteer Workdays and Garden Bird Watch for the RSPB.



Concert in the Park

Green Chain

The Tarn is part of section 7 of the Green Chain Walk. [Green Chain Walk Section 7 - Go Jauntly](#)

General information regarding Green Chain can be found on [Green Chain Walk - Transport for London](#)

Park User Information

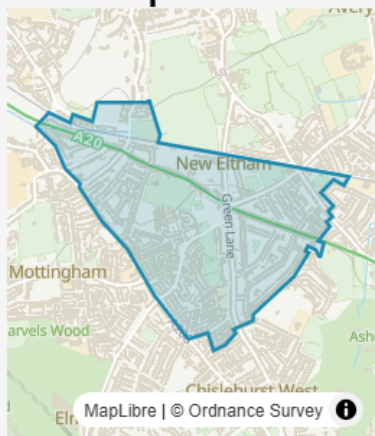
Demographic Information

The information shown below is taken from the Office for National Statistics website and relates to Mottingham, Coldharbour and New Eltham Ward as a whole and not specifically to The Tarn.

Further detailed information is available [Build a custom area profile - ONS](#)

Mottingham, Coldharbour & New Eltham

Area map



Population

2024

14,602

people

58,620,101 people in England

Source: ONS – Mid-year estimates

Small area: Output area

Number of households

2021

5,694

households

23,436,085 households in England

Source: ONS – Census 2021

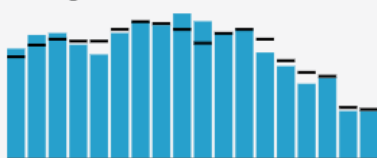
Small area: Output area

Age profile

2024

Mottingham, Coldharbour & New Eltham

(England)



0 years 85+
% of all people, 5 year age bands

Source: ONS – Mid-year estimates

Small area: Output area

Household composition

2021

Mottingham, Coldharbour & New Eltham

(England)

One person household
28.5% (30.1%)

Single family household
63.4% (63.0%)

Other household types
8.1% (6.9%)

% of all households

Source: ONS - Census 2021

Small area: Output area

Ethnic group

2021

Mottingham, Coldharbour & New Eltham

(England)

Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh
8.7% (9.6%)

Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African
10.1% (4.2%)

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
4.3% (3.0%)

White
73.1% (81.0%)

Other ethnic group
3.7% (2.2%)

% of all people

Source: ONS - Census 2021

Small area: Output area

Stakeholders

The Royal Borough of Greenwich

Directorate of Communities, Environment and Central (PE&OS)

Directorate of Place and Growth (Property Services, Planning Control)

Chief Executives (Communications)

Neighbourhood Services (Neighbourhood Panels/Representatives)

Agencies

(Police, Fire & Rescue Service),

Thames Water

The Environmental Agency

Community

Active Friends of the Tarn Group

Politicians

Local Ward Councillors

Eltham and Chislehurst MP

Management of the site

The management of the park described in this management plan is the responsibility of the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces service within The Royal Borough of Greenwich. The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Department are located within the Directorate of Communities, Environment and Central.

See Appendix 5 for management structure chart.

Individual management functions are devolved, and key functions are identified as follows:

- Horticultural Maintenance
- Park Rangers Service
- Parks Development
- Fixed Equipment Playgrounds
- Ecology & conservation
- Tree & Woodland maintenance
- Administration – Sports lettings, complaints monitoring

Staff Presence at the Park

A small mobile team of three Grounds Maintenance staff, managed by the District Manager, carry out regular horticultural maintenance at The Tarn. Grounds Maintenance is provided by The Royal Borough's own workforce. Scheduled / planned maintenance takes place at different times throughout the year (a copy of the Grounds Maintenance Work Programme for The Tarn can be found in Appendix 4). Un-programmed and corrective maintenance takes place on an ad hoc basis according to requirements.

The Tarn has a team of mobile Park Rangers visiting the site daily. Park Rangers provide a regular presence on the site, and perform a range of duties: - help ensure the safety of the public visiting the park, provide assistance where appropriate, daily visual inspection of the site, including the life buoys, opening and closing of gates & facilities, emptying the bins and keeping the park free of litter. During periods when the lake is frozen over it may be necessary to close The Tarn to the public. A decision will be made locally taking account of resources available and other weather conditions.

Safety and Security of the Park

Any anti-social behaviour is reported via ASB reports and any recurrent problems are dealt with via increased patrols by the Park Rangers, local police and PCSO's. Signage warning visitors of "Deep Water" are present around the lake and life buoys are positioned at regular intervals around the lake. Emergency contact number can be found on the notice board.

Community Involvement

The 'Friends of the Tarn' Group was set up in 2008 and is now an established and very active volunteer group. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces works closely with The Friends of the Tarn to make continuing improvements to the park.

The Friends of The Tarn organise regular workdays helping maintain the park to a high standard and carry out bulb and tree planting.

The Friends of The Tarn have their own Facebook page [Facebook](#), where details can be found of events and workdays planned for the park. The group can also be contacted via info@thetarn.org

Environmental Management of the Park

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces horticultural and arboriculture work is managed in conjunction with an Environmental Management System that conforms to EN ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Standard. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces recycles all of its own green waste. The green waste is taken locally to Holbrook Depot and recycled into mulch. The mulch is put back on shrub beds which helps weed control, reduces the amount of pesticides used on site and aids water retention. Non-green waste is taken to the Boroughs waste transfer station where 31.2% (2024/25) is recycled. As part of minimizing Parks, Estates & Open Spaces impact on the Environment, Parks, Estates & Open Spaces does not use any peat-based products.

Budget Information

The budgets used to maintain parks and open spaces are currently split into two areas, Horticulture and Park Keeping Operations and Property Services.

Horticulture and Park Keeping Operation

Revenue Spend (24/25)	£20,152
Capital Spend (24/25)	£6,661

Property Services

The corporate budgets for both planned and responsive maintenance of the Borough's property infrastructure are held by Greenwich Property Services in the Directorate of Place and Growth. Planned works are carried out on a strict basis of corporate priorities. Responsive repairs are carried out for minor items as and when they arise.

Marketing

Information about the Tarn and events can be found on The Friends of The Tarn Facebook page [Facebook](#) and on the RBG website www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk

The Friends of The Tarn also distribute leaflets locally to promote events at The Tarn. Posters are erected in the park and locally also giving details of the Tarn and upcoming events.

Green Flag Award

The Tarn has successfully retained the Green Flag Award for several years. The Green Flag Award® scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and rewards the best green spaces in the country. Many years later it continues to provide the benchmark against which parks and green spaces are measured. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, setting a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.

Additional information can be found on their web site <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

Green Flag Award® applications are judged against eight key criteria.

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

PART II: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO?

VISION

The vision for The Tarn is to maintain and protect its unique charm, improve the water quality of the lake and improve and encourage back the variety of species of birds and wildlife.

General Objectives

- To seek funding to remove the build-up of silt and implement other works to improve the water quality of the lake
- To reintroduce biological assets and increase biodiversity
- To improve the health and well- being of visitors and residents by offering a well maintained and quality park for relaxation
- To realise the potential of the park as a cultural and historical place to visit through a programme of publicity, information and events
- To work with the local community in identifying local priorities for funding of the park
- To ensure that the activities and events in the park celebrate and promote the borough's rich diversity and that it is accessible to everyone
- To reduce Anti-Social Behaviour in the park



The Bridge at The Tarn

ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

Ecology

The Tarn has both ecological and environmental significance and has been appointed a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. It is also part of the Green Chain Walk.

SINCs are non-statutory and range in size from a small meadow to large blocks of woodland. They fulfil at least one of the following conditions:

- They contain good examples of a particular type of semi-natural habitat
- They contain species of flora and fauna which have restricted distribution in the area
- They are of significant nature conservation value within an urban area
- They are of countywide importance.
- There are several reasons for identifying SINCs. Primarily it is to try to maintain the sites as important places for wildlife.

Following a significant decline in wildlife in the lake during 2014 the Royal Borough commissioned a specialist consultant in 2015 to undertake analysis of the water and silt within the lake and make recommendations for improvement. The results of the survey identified low oxygen levels in the water in various areas of the lake and a significant build-up of silt that will be considered as contaminated waste when removed. In addition, the consultant made several recommendations some of which involved significant engineering works to trap the silt and/or create a partial by-pass for water entering the lake in future. These works are estimated to cost between £1 - £2 million and the Council is currently considering how these works could be funded.

The site is already rich in wildlife, but there is the potential to increase this further by additional planting (for example, buddleia, lavender, thistle, stinging nettles and other wildflowers), with a view to attracting further wildlife and, butterflies. The friends have created a small wildlife / butterfly garden in an unused area in the park

As the Tarn is so rich in wildlife, there is the potential to use the site for educational purposes for example, organised tours for school children from local schools.

Visitor & Community needs

A process of consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders and the local community to explore issues such as barriers to use, priorities for improvement. Findings of the consultation will be incorporated into the plan once undertaken.

The site may benefit from additional interpretation signage. This could be explored further through consultation.

There are no formal sport facilities within the Tarn and development of sport facilities would not be appropriate and compromise the tranquillity of the Tarn.

STRENGTHS

- Charming and tranquil with a lake and soft landscaping that provide habitat for wildlife
- Home to an Ice Well dating back to 1760
- Has a very active Friends of Group that assists with maintenance works in the park and hold events to promote the site.
- Part of the extensive South East London Green Chain Walk.
- Good local park enjoyed by residents/visitors who wish to relax and enjoy the range of wildlife in a beautiful and intimate setting.
- Has SINC status

CHALLENGES

- Securing funding to remove and dispose of the large build-up of silt and undertake improvements to the infrastructure of the park/lake to improve the water quality on a permanent basis.
- To attract back and provide habitat for the variety of bird and other aquatic wildlife to the lake.
- Respond to incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Research and identify funding streams to assist with removal and disposal of the silt and other improvement works to provide conditions that maintain a high quality of water and aerobic conditions.
- Investigate what measures might be taken at the Tarn to improve the habitat for the birds.
- Investigate increasing biodiversity of the site further by additional planting to attract further wildlife.
- Continue to support good work of the Friends of the Tarn.
- Undertake consultation with Friends group and local community to explore visitor / community needs and explore issues such as barriers to use, priorities for improvement, etc.
- Investigate whether additional interpretation signage (about the birds and water wildlife) would be of benefit
- Investigate developing the Tarn as an educational site for children from local schools.
- To improve awareness/use of site by all sections of the community.
- Monitor incidents of ASB and take a co-ordinated approach with partners to prevent incidents re-occurring.

III: HOW WILL WE GET THERE

ACTION PLAN 2026 - 30

Timescales as given in this document are as follows;

Short Term – Within one - two years

Medium Term – Within three - four years

Long Term – Five years and more

Recommendation	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long / Medium / Short)	Responsibility	Reviewed
Use the specialist consultant's (Halpin Robbins) report as the basis of an action plan to deliver improvements to the water quality	Continue to investigate options on how to fund silt removal and disposal, repair of lake walls and improvements to water quality. Identify a scheme of improvement works and seek funding based on priority.	Long	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Continue to support and consult with the Friends Group. Consult with the local community to explore visitor / community needs.	Undertake surveys and consultation to explore issues such as barriers to use, inequalities in Parks and priorities for improvement. Collect data to support funding bids.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open

Recommendation	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long / Medium / Short)	Responsibility	Reviewed
Support Friends of Group to provide events in the park	Support and promote events in the Tarn. Advertise events on the Councils social media	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces / Friends Group	Open
Investigate whether improvements could be made to The Tarn to improve habitat for birds and wildfowl.	Make enquiries regarding availability of local ornithologist to assist. And possible adaptation of platforms to enable young ducklings to access the platforms more easily.	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Investigate whether improvements could be made to The Tarn to improve ecological habitat.	Seek funding for an ecological survey of The Tarn, with recommendations for enhancements.	Medium Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Reduce ASB on site (particularly after the park is closed)	Monitor ASB at site in consultation with local users of the site. Liaise with Police and other agencies as appropriate. Develop a site-specific action plan to address issues that are identified.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Investigate how the Tarn can be used to educate about wildlife.	Contact local schools and work with the Friends of Group. to enable children to visit the site and learn about wildlife. Interpretation signage.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Continue to monitor / take action to reduce rodent population.	Continue to educate visitors about leaving excess food in the Tarn. Implement appropriate action from monitoring	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
To improve awareness / use of site by all sections of the community	Review how site is currently marketed. Investigate ways of improving marketing of site (through the use of different mediums etc). Work with and support Friends Group.	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open

Important Note: Improvement actions requiring investment are subject to funding being secured. There are no additional funds available from The Royal Borough unless it has been identified against a specific action.

ACTION PLAN 2021 - 25

Timescales as given in this document are as follows;

Short Term – Within one - two years

Medium Term – Within three - four years

Long Term – Five years and more

Recommendation	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long / Medium / Short)	Responsibility	Reviewed
Support Friends Groups to identify options for additional storage	Help identify options and external funding for storage of tools and equipment for Friends Group	Short	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Obtain wheelchair accessible seating	Octagonal picnic benches, to be wheelchair accessible.	Short	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Achieved
Investigate water leaking into the park from Court Road	Contact DRES / Thames water to identify the cause of the leak and rectify the problem	Short	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Use the specialist consultant's (Halpin Robbins) report as the basis of an action plan to deliver improvements to the water quality	Continue to investigate options on how to fund silt removal and disposal, repair of lake walls and improvements to water quality. Identify a scheme of improvement works and seek funding based on priority.	Long	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open

Continue to support and consult with the Friends Group. Consult with the local community to explore visitor / community needs.	Undertake surveys and consultation to explore issues such as barriers to use, inequalities in Parks and priorities for improvement. Collect data to support funding bids.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
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Recommendation	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long / Medium / Short)	Responsibility	Reviewed
Support Friends of Group to provide events in the park	Support and promote events in the Tarn. Advertise events on the Councils social media	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces / Friends Group	Open
Investigate whether improvements could be made to the Tarn to improve habitat for birds and wildfowl.	Make enquiries regarding availability of local ornithologist to assist. And possible adaptation of platforms to enable young ducklings to access the platforms more easily.	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Reduce ASB on site (particularly after the park is closed)	Monitor ASB at site in consultation with local users of the site. Liaise with Police and other agencies as appropriate. Develop a site-specific action plan to address issues that are identified.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Investigate how the Tarn can be used to educate about wildlife.	Contact local schools and work with the Friends of Group. to enable children to visit the site and learn about wildlife. Interpretation signage.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Continue to monitor / take action to reduce rodent population.	Continue to educate visitors about leaving excess food in the Tarn. Implement appropriate action from monitoring	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
To install additional signage at both entrances to park.	Install signage at both entrances that will inform users that no dogs, no cycling and no fishing is allowed.	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Achieved

To improve awareness / use of site by all sections of the community	Review how site is currently marketed. Investigate ways of improving marketing of site (through the use of different mediums etc). Work with and support Friends Group.	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
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Important Note: Improvement actions requiring investment are subject to funding being secured. There are no additional funds available from The Royal Borough unless it has been identified against a specific action.

ACTION PLAN 2015 - 20

Timescales as given in this document are as follows;

Short Term – Within one - two years

Medium Term – Within three - four years

Long Term – Five years and more

Recommendation	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long / Medium / Short)	Responsibility	Reviewed
Improve on access to events area and enlarge the glass area to accommodate bigger events and school trips to the park	Design, secure funding and implement events lawn and performance area for the community	Short	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Achieved
Use the specialist consultant's (Halpin Robbins) report as the basis of an action plan for delivering improvements to the water quality in the lake and improving the habitat for wildlife.	Check legal responsibility of Thames Water and pursue contribution to works costs if appropriate. Seek funding for silt removal and disposal works.	Medium	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open

	Agree a scheme of other improvement works and seek funding for these works.			
Continue consultation with Friends Group / local community to explore visitor / community needs.	Continue to share Management Plan and incorporate comments as appropriate. Undertake surveys in park. Explore issues such as barriers to use, priorities for improvement. Design improvements to allow for accessibility and ease of use of the site for events access to site	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Support Friends of Group	Advertise events in local papers, on website, signage within the park. Include the Friends Group in the consultation process.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces / Friends of Group	Open
Recommendation	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long / Medium / Short)	Responsibility	Reviewed
Investigate whether improvements could be made to the Tarn to improve habitat for birds and wildfowl.	Make enquiries regarding availability of local ornithologist to assist. And possible adaptation of platforms to enable young ducklings to access the platforms more easily.	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Ongoing
Reduce ASB (particularly after the park is closed) and takes steps to prevent furniture/bins being thrown into the lake)	Monitor ASB at site in consultation with local users of the site. Liaise with Police and other agencies as appropriate. Develop a site-specific action plan to address issues identified in assessment.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open

Investigate possibility of working with local schools to enable children to visit the site and learn about wildlife.	Contact local schools and work with the Friends of Group.	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
Continue to monitor / take action to reduce rodent population.	Continue to educate visitors about leaving excess food in the Tarn (through signs and education via the park keeper). Implement appropriate action from monitoring	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Open
To replace signage at both entrances to park.	Replace with Interpretation signage giving history and details of the park.	Medium Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Completed
To improve awareness/use of site by all sections of the community	Review how site is currently marketed. Investigate ways of improving marketing of site (through the use of different mediums etc) and through improvements to current marketing material. Work with and support Friends Group.	Short	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	ongoing

Important Note: Improvement actions requiring investment are subject to funding being secured. There are no additional funds available from The Royal Borough unless it has been identified against a specific action.

ACTION PLAN 2010 - 15

Recommendation	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long / Medium / Short)	Responsibility	Reviewed
Undertake a tree survey within the park	Liaise with tree officer to schedule	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Achieved

Investigate benefits of additional interpretation signage (about the birds / wildlife)	Consult with Friends of group and install on site	Medium Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Achieved
Investigate biodiversity further through consultation and consider with Biodiversity Action Plan.	Investigate possibility of increasing the biodiversity of the site further by additional planting (e.g. buddleia, lavender, thistle, stinging nettles and wildflowers) with a view to attracting further wildlife in particular butterflies. Improve water quality.	Medium Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Achieved
Consider giving the Friends of The Tarn limited access to the bird sanctuary.	Install a circular pathway around the bird sanctuary to give better access for workdays etc	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	Achieved

Important Note: Improvement actions requiring investment are subject to funding being secured. There are no additional funds available from The Royal Borough unless it has been identified against a specific action.

PART IV HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED

MONITORING AND REVIEW

There will also be a need to keep a working document copy of the Management Plan within the parks office so that issues and changes that arise as well as new information can be documented, and the action plan can be regularly reviewed and completed works documented within it as part of the Parks Service business planning process.

Upon review, the new management plan will make note of the works performed and review the success of those works in the action plan section.

APPENDIX I

Legislation, policies and strategies affecting park management

As highlighted earlier in the plan, The Royal Borough of Greenwich's Parks, Estates & Open Spaces department operates within a wide framework of national, regional and local policy statements and strategies. The main documents impacting on the development of this plan are listed below.

The Greenwich Strategy

The Greenwich Strategy sets out the vision for The Royal Borough as being the place to live, work, learn and visit. This vision underpins all of the strategies produced by The Royal Borough of Greenwich and directly impacts on all service plans and service delivery.

The Cultural Strategy

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces is one of six 'areas' considered by the Cultural Strategy. The Strategy has five over-arching themes: - Equality and Access, Sustainability, the Cultural Economy, Achievement and Excellence and Partnerships. All of these aims are relevant to this management plan and have been considered in developing the opportunities and priorities for this site.

Green Space Strategy

The Green Spaces Strategy sets out The Royal Borough's strategic intentions for its green assets and its vision of the positive contribution that Greenwich's open networks make to our lives.

The thematic objectives (community safety, biodiversity, education and culture, culture & events, tackling inequality, sport, health & well-being) are all relevant to the management plan for the Tarn.

Theme	Action	Timescale
Community Safety	Ensure all notice boards carry emergency / incident telephone numbers	Ongoing
	Identify sites most challenged by anti-social behaviour	Ongoing
	Reduce reports of serious anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces by 25%	Ongoing
	We will encourage good citizenship and reduce youth disorder by developing a programme of outreach and educational initiatives.	Short-term
	Enforce litter and dog fouling powers by increasing the number of officers trained to issue fines and we will publicise both successful convictions and penalty notices issued	Long-term
	We will engage in dialogue with the Police and Community Safety Unit to reduce crime, fear of crime and ASB within parks	Ongoing
Biodiversity	In conjunction with partners, we will monitor and evaluate our biological assets, and work with others towards the development of a Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan	completed

	We will develop management plans for our green and open spaces that implement the provisions of the Biodiversity final Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan, and in particular species action plans for the, Stag Beetle, Water Vole, Black Poplar, Bats, and the Skylark.	Ongoing
	We will work in partnership with local groups and the wider community to identify areas in need of protection and intervention to protect and conserve our natural and semi natural green and open spaces	Ongoing
	We will promote the value of our natural and semi-natural spaces to encourage understanding, enjoyment and responsible usage of the spaces	Ongoing
Education and Culture	We will review and evaluate the potentials for environmental education services to schools and colleges and by guided nature walks and green space based activities	Short-term
	We will develop potentials for developing good citizenship amongst children and young people through environmental education activities	Medium-term
	We will facilitate training and employment opportunities for young people in green space management and maintenance	Long-term
Culture and Events	We will seek to realise the potential of many of our parks and green spaces as cultural and historical places to visit in their own right through a programme of publicity, information and events	Long-term
	In partnership with both external voluntary and commercial users and operators, we will implement a programme of cultural events and activities in our parks and green spaces that may include (but not be confined to) drama, dance, music, youth culture and children's activities	Long-term
Tackling Inequality	We will promote activities and events in our parks and green spaces to celebrate the borough's rich diversity of people and interests.	Ongoing
	We will work to develop safe and inclusive access to all our green spaces to all cultures and communities.	Ongoing
	We will utilise the potential of allotments and community gardens to provide opportunities for horticultural and environmental knowledge and skills sharing between both cultures and generations	Medium-term
Sport	We will work to achieve the targets to be agreed for the Council's Sports Strategy (in preparation) for outdoor sports activities	Long-term
	We will develop management plans for green and open spaces that provide for casual sport and recreation opportunities identified by local communities	Medium-term
	We will review levels of equipped and unequipped play space provision, standards and opportunities for improvement in the development of an Outdoor Leisure Provision Strategy.	Medium-term

	We will provide quality safe play facilities that conform to National and European Standards and which meet local needs	Ongoing
Health and Well being	We will aim to improve the health of children and young people by offering quality opportunities for active recreation in our green spaces.	Ongoing
	We will promote the allotment service and improve uptake of under-used allotments and continue to research and seek opportunities to provide additional allotments in areas where demand exceeds supply	Ongoing
	We will use allotments and their community gardening potential as a multi-agency tool to achieve objectives in relation to both healthy living and social inclusion	Ongoing
Inward Investment	We will consult inclusively with local communities to identify local priorities for project funding	Long-term
	We will develop an investment strategy that identifies and prioritises sites and projects for development	Medium-term
	We will identify external sources of funding and sponsorship and submit a progression of external funding bids	Medium-term
Performance & Standards	As a result of the Green Space Strategy we will develop detailed management plans for individual parks in partnership with local communities and users. The management plans will set priorities, as well as identify areas of potential.	Medium-term
	In addition to securing further Green Flag and Green Pendant Awards, local quality measures will be developed as part of management plans involving residents	Medium-term
	Develop additional “Friends of Parks” groups, ensuring full involvement of young people	Medium-term
	For smaller green spaces, adopt a direct community management approach with Council support	Medium-term

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

The 10 year Strategy, adopted in 2017 is centred on the following seven themes:

- **Park and open spaces management:** Ensuring our parks and open spaces are well managed, maintained in good condition and are safe to use;
- **Community engagement:** Ensuring we actively engage and work in partnership with local residents to provide good quality parks that meet the needs of the local community;
- **Nature and biodiversity:** Ensuring that areas and habitats are provided for wildlife and that they are protected from inappropriate development;
- **Environmental management:** Maximise resource efficiency by increasing recycling opportunities, establish better use of essential energy sources and controlling the use of pesticides and chemicals;
- **Recreation, health and wellbeing:** Ensuring that parks provide spaces for active recreation and quiet reflection and contribute to the health and well-being of the local community;

- **Regeneration and local economy:** Ensuring our parks are well designed, attractive to visitors and encourage enterprise and employment of local people; and
- **Culture and heritage:** Ensuring our parks are places for culture and that their heritage is preserved and celebrated.

Annual Service Plan.

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces department aims to develop, manage, ensure accessibility and maintain to a high standard The Royal Borough's Parks, Open Spaces, Woodlands, Tree Stock, Cemeteries, Playgrounds, Sports Pitches, Allotments and other outdoor facilities. To meet the needs of the community and deliver The Royal Borough's core objectives where applicable to the service, and specifically regarding the provision of a clean and well cared for environment and supporting Health and Quality of Life for the local community.

ISO 9001:2000 – Quality Management System

Quality Management System ISO 9001: 2000 is used by organisations to manage their activities and resources to guarantee a quality service. This management system is based on eight quality management principles:

- Customer Focus
- Leadership
- Involving People
- Process Approach
- System Approach to management
- Continual Improvement
- Factual Approach to decision making
- Supplier relationship, which benefit both sides.

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces department is currently ISO 9000 accredited.

ISO 14001:2004 – Environmental Management System

Parks, Estates and Open Spaces are committed to ensuring our activities are undertaken in an environmentally friendly manner and our effects on the environment are minimized and controlled. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces promote activities that have a positive effect on the environment, and promote sustainability, conservation and environmental awareness. The Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Environmental Management System is certified to the internationally respected BS EN ISO 14001 Environmental Standard.

The Core Strategy

Local Councils have a duty to prepare a Development Plan by law. The Greenwich Core Strategy sets out the vision for use of the land in the Borough and provides the main guidance for making decisions on individual planning proposals.

- To provide a framework of acceptable uses within the Borough, defining areas where development is not desired or where it needs to be carefully directed and;
- To provide a detailed basis for the control and development

The CS may be viewed at the Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills, Planning Department at The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, Woolwich London SE18 6HQ, or alternatively at a local library.

The Biodiversity Action Plan

The Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan is the first co-ordinated approach to conserving Greenwich's biodiversity. The aim of the plan is:

'To ensure the conservation, enhancement and public appreciation of the biodiversity of the London Borough of Greenwich'.

The Biodiversity Action Plan focuses on locally important habitats and species and has actions drafted to ensure that they cover all relevant habitats and species. Initially actions may be focused on those under the most pressure or where most advantage can be gained. However, it allows for all important habitats and species to be covered.

The Biodiversity Action Plan has been developed in partnership with local and regional groups and organisations.

Health and Safety

Staff are able to access certain Health and Safety information via a 'Red Folder'. 'Red Folders' are located at every depot where staff are based. The contents of the Red Folders include a list of first aiders, list of PA1 PA6A certificate holders, COSHH assessments, Risk Assessments, and the Environmental Management System Manual.

The contents of this red folder are reviewed on a regular basis, and any additional assessments are added as required. COSHH / risk assessments are carried out by trained staff on all new substances / new work practices before use.

All machinery operated by The Royal Borough of Greenwich undergoes regular maintenance by The Royal Borough's Fleet Management Service. In addition to this, staff carry out routine checks on all machinery before use. If problems are detected, the machinery is then booked for service by the Fleet Management Unit.

Parks, Estates and Open Spaces are continuously reviewing the market for energy efficient machinery. Where practical, battery operated hedge cutters are now used and the tree maintenance unit is looking to trial battery operated chain-saws, pole saws and blowers.

The vehicles used by the Parks, Estates and Open Spaces department are also maintained by The Royal Borough's Fleet Management Service. The Borough is accredited to the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). FORS is a voluntary accreditation scheme for fleet operators which aim to raise the level of quality within fleet operations, and to demonstrate which operators are achieving exemplary levels of best practice in safety, efficiency, and environmental protection.

Community Open Space

The CS refers to The Tarn as Community Open Space.

Policy Reference O7 in section 2.4 of the Greenwich CS refers to Community Open space. Policy O1 refers to MOL policy.

O7 Public and private open space areas defined as Community Open Space on the Proposals Map will be safeguarded from built development. New buildings and extensions to existing buildings will only be permitted where they are ancillary to the existing land use, are limited in size and extent, sensitively sited, and are compatible with neighbouring development.

Changes of use of existing buildings in ancillary use will be considered in the light of Policy O1.

Where existing built development within parks and public open spaces becomes surplus to demand, the Council may allow the sites to be redeveloped for specialist sporting development (which combine the use of outdoor and indoor space), subject to the criteria set out in Policy O1.

Green Chain

The CS also designates The Tarn as Green Chain. Policy reference O5 under the section 'Protecting Open Land' sets out what the objectives of this designation are. The objectives are as follows

- To improve and encourage the provision of suitable recreational facilities, with an emphasis on those serving a wide area of South East London and/or requiring open land.
- To safeguard the open land from built development and maintain its positive contribution in providing a visual and physical break in the built-up area of London.
- To conserve and enhance the visual amenity and ecological aspects of the landscape.
- To improve public access to and through the area.
- To promote an overall identity for the area in order to increase public awareness of available recreational facilities.
- To encourage the collaboration and co-operation of the various public and private agencies, owners, organisations, clubs, etc. in the area to achieve the above objectives.

For the extent of the Green Chain Area, refer to the CS proposals map and second draft alterations maps.

Community Benefits

O10 The Royal Borough will seek to secure improvement and enhancement of existing parks and public open spaces, where major development places increased demand on existing areas, and, where appropriate, the creation of new parks and public open spaces in line with Policies O9 and C3, through planning obligations and conditions on planning permissions in line with Policy SC2.

Park Facilities

O12 The Royal Borough will seek to enhance open space by the provision and encouragement of appropriate park facilities (e.g. seating, children's play equipment, refreshment facilities, outdoor tennis courts, pitch and putt, sports pitches and changing facilities and Arts, Culture and Entertainment facilities, such as open air performance spaces, sculpture and visual imagery and areas for cultural exhibition and study) within suitable parks and public open spaces. Facilities should be of a high standard of design and quality and respect local nature conservation interests. Such facilities should be safe to use and accessible to all. (See Policies D5, D6 and D7).

Legislation

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces department operates within the frameworks set out by the following legislation, and therefore, the legislation may impact upon the delivery of service of the Parks and Open Spaces department both financially, through planning and human resources. This is not a comprehensive list but is indicative of key pieces of legislation relating to P&OS.

Alcohol Consumption in Public Places Order 2003

Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2004

Control of Pesticide Protection Act 1986

Country Code 1981

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and increments

Countryside & Right of Way Act 2000

Disability Discrimination Act 1998

Health & Safety at Work Act 1998

Litter Act 1983

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation
(Greater London Parks & Open Spaces Act)1967

Occupiers Liability Act 1957

Road Traffic Act 1988 (as amended 1991)

The 2004 Country Code

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949

The Weeds Act 1959

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

Safer Neighbourhood Act 2005

In addition, there are numerous bye-laws that relate to specific parks.

Policy Statements

THE TARN APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Purpose

To explain and clarify the Parks Service position on appropriate behaviour within the Tarn and to promote the importance of the Tarn as a better visited, more vital site which delivers great heritage, social environmental and recreational benefits for future generations.

Key Issues / Policy

Passive Recreation

Activities such as walking, relaxing, reading, photography, drawings, are all encouraged and considered appropriate ways to enjoy the environment of the Tarn. Any activity that disturb the tranquillity of the site or are not in keeping with the presentation of the site will be prohibited. This will include such things as nude sunbathing, the consumption of alcohol taking drugs, playing loud music or large ball games etc.

Events

The Parks Service is committed to increasing the use of the site and people's understanding of various aspects of the site through various events and outreach activities. Events and activities should have relevance to the site and be in keeping with the aims of the authority. They should not in any way damage or alter the nature of the site long term.

Events and activities will always be carefully planned and sufficiently staffed. A health and safety assessment will be carried out before every event and all activities will be preceded by an introduction outlining health and safety issues and the importance of appropriate behaviour.

Access

An annual rota of opening and closing times has been drawn up by the Parks Service. This rota is advertised and available to members of the public upon request. If in the future, community groups become increasingly involved in the management of the site, they may need keys to gain access outside normal hours. In these circumstances, community groups will normally be required to give 24 hours' notice of their intention to be on site outside normal hours. A list of key holders is held by Parks Services.

Vehicle access to the Tarn is by prior arrangement with the Parks Services.

No parking for other vehicles except as part of park management and authorised maintenance.

Vandalism

Acts of vandalism are to be treated as serious and the police should be called in situations where they have been witnessed or have been found after the incident.

Anti-Social Behaviour

People acting in an anti-social manner will be asked to stop that behaviour and/or asked to leave the site.

Criminal Activity

Breaches of Park Bylaws will be enforced by the Parks Service. Any other criminal activities witnessed will be referred to the Metropolitan Police for further action.

Removal of Vegetation

Removal of any vegetation except by authorised maintenance works carried out by authorised personnel is prohibited.

The Role of the Parks Service in Promoting Appropriate Behaviour within the site

On site, Parks' staff are the front line contact with people that visit and use the Tarn. They are responsible for building up good relationships with visitors to the site and are in a position to give information, advise and help where needed. There are a number of bylaws which cover the Tarn in addition to a number of policies which are required to be enforced. During enforcement of bylaws and policies, staff must protect their own safety and make a judgement as to how far they should go in asking people to refrain from certain activities or adhere to policies. All visitors will be asked to adhere to bylaws and policies. Police support will be requested when appropriate.

Conclusions

The Tarn is a complex site that is cherished by the friends group and local residents and other communities. The heritage of the site must be promoted further to the wider community so that its potential value is fully realised.

Several of the assets of the sites are vulnerable and policies have been developed in addition to existing bylaws with the aim of protecting the site as well as its visitors. This involves allowing the greatest number of visitors to the site without causing damage to the site or offence to other users. The safety, security and protection of the site and visitors will influence all existing and future policies.

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted in the Tarn and detailed park protection regarding dogs and other parks is as below.

Dog control

Dog fouling has been recognised as being a problem within many of The Royal Borough's open spaces.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 makes it possible for local authorities to introduce Dog Control Orders. The Royal Borough has adopted 5 separate control orders which provide a fixed penalty for non-compliance. These orders make it an offence for persons in control of their dog(s) to:

- Not clean up after their dog has fouled.
- Have more than 4 dogs in their control at one time.
- Not to have their dog on a lead in designated areas
- Not to have their dog on a lead and kept on a lead when instructed to do so by an authorised officer.
- To allow their dog(s) to access designated dog exclusion areas.

Tenancy Services Officers, Officers from Parks and Open Spaces, Police Community Support Officers and the Dog Warden are authorised to issue fixed penalties.

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces COSHH Statement

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces are committed to ensuring safe working practices and to minimising the negative effects on the environment from our activities.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health within Parks, Estates & Open Spaces is through implementation of risk assessments on all substances where exposure could lead to an adverse effect on health or danger to safety, and the introduction of appropriate control measures.

COSHH assessments are undertaken by a trained member of staff and are reviewed annually

Written records are kept to demonstrate that risks have been considered

Control measures highlighted in the assessment are implemented and maintained

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces employees only use products in conjunction with a COSHH assessment

Health surveillance is used to evaluate effectiveness of control measures

An up to date inventory is kept of all hazardous substances to which staff are likely to be exposed to during their work activities

No other products may be brought into use without prior Management Review product approval

Parks and Open Spaces Environmental Policy also sets guidelines for the use of substances hazardous to health



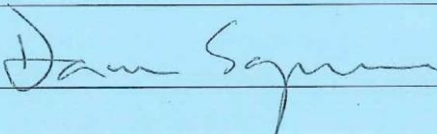
4.2 Environmental Policy

The Royal Borough of Greenwich recognises that environmental issues are of fundamental importance to our customers, and to our business success.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich aims to work towards the achievement of sustainable development and continual improvement.

Under the scope of its Environmental Management Systems, The Royal Borough of Greenwich strives to:

- Promote sustainability and the use of sustainable resources
- Promote conservation and environmental awareness
- Promote activities which enhance the environment
- Achieve continual improvements in environmental performance
- Prevent the release of pollution
- Minimise the release of waste, noise and emissions
- Minimise activities which have a negative effect on the environment
- Maximise activities which have a positive effect on the environment
- Comply with applicable legal and other requirements that relate to environmental aspects
- Work in partnership with other organisations in environmental management
- Set environmental targets built into the day to day running of the service
- Use products which have a minimum impact on the environment
- Provide training in environmental issues to all persons
- Communicate the Environmental Policy to all persons working for or on behalf of The Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Review Environmental objectives, targets and policy

Signed		Head of Parks & Open Spaces
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Issue 09

Issue Date: 10/04/13

Ref: LC.EMS.P&OS

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Pesticide Policy

**Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Community Safety & Environment
The Royal Borough of Greenwich**

(Authorised by the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Management)

As part of a continual move towards better environmental practice, we aim to minimise the use of pesticide where possible and to promote the use of alternative maintenance and curative procedures in relation to Parks, Estates & Open Spaces sites.

We aim to:-

- Eliminate the hazards of pesticides
- Reduce the dependence of pesticides
- Promote alternatives to pesticides
- Communicate good practice through membership to PAN (Pesticide Action Network).

Objectives:-

- Control the problem of worm casting, without the use of lumbricides
- To limit the use of selective herbicide to the ornamental areas only
- To not use on insecticides
- To limit the use of fungicides to the Bowling Greens
- To use organic fertilisers.

APPENDIX 2

Summary of Site Heritage and History

Little is known of the Tarn's early history. It is possible to speculate that the Tarn lake was stocked with fish for traditional medieval Friday and Lenten diet. Perhaps the Heron, geese and swans featured in vast quantities on bills of fare for the late 15th century banquets at Eltham Palace. The Tarn is the nearest other stretch of water to Eltham Palace. It is certain that the 'The Tarn' is a comparatively recent name and that it had previously been called 'Starbucks Pond'. It is so indicated on maps of the early and late 19th century, but by 1903 appears as Eltham Tarn.

The name Starbuck's Pond is linked with a family in the 16th century who were thought to have left the area in the late 17th century yet it appears the name was attached to the pond itself for a further two hundred years. The ice well located in the northwest region of the park, was initially placed there for the use of Eltham Lodge. There was no artificial means of making ice therefore the purpose of the ice well was to preserve blocks of ice cut from the lake in winter in to the warmer spring weather. Ice wells are found in association with many great houses of the 17th-19th centuries and are a variety of shapes and sizes. The one found at the Tarn 'worked' in the same manner as a vacuum flask by insulating in the cold and excluding the warmth. Sited in a shaded spot, it is a brick-lined hole in the damp ground. The walls are of cavity construction and the well is drained. The top opening was north facing for extra coolness and the well would have been very thickly insulated with a conical straw-thatched roof. The octagonal pointed pan tiled roof on the present shelter seems to echo an antique theme.

The house at the northwest corner of the park now outside its fence used to be part of the property and seems to date from the late 19th century.

Directories indicate that it was occupied by members of 'the gentry' who held, the Tarn on short-term leases from the crown. From 1914-29 male members of the Rocke family were residents at the Tarn. The tarn was left unoccupied in 1933 and the lake was untended and grew stagnant and overgrown.

In 1964 major work was undertaken at the Tarn. An attempt was made to improve the North-western corner of the lake. It was shallow and not in the main flow of water so it was inclined to stagnate. An extra flowerbed was constructed and a rockery, waterfall and pond created. In the 1970's the fencing had to be replaced, with chain link rather than close-board, and there were fresh plantings to replace old trees and provide extra colour on the ground in spring and summer. In 1981 the drainage system was improved. This involved the building of a new weir, adding a second four foot diameter pipe at the inlet, two large outlet sluices, and an electrically operated sluice gate, to control the outflow. The lake suffers from various types of pollution, in recent years oil has occasionally seeped into the lake and water birds have been adversely affected. The Court Conservation societies adopted a small rockery plot in autumn 1982 and, jointly with the Parks department, were aiming to provide an interesting all-season garden. There are various gifts of trees to the Tarn by the people of Mottingham and Eltham that represents the high regard they have for the Tarn.

APPENDIX 3**RSPB Garden Watch Survey Results**

Birdwatch Results - The Tarn										
		27.01.13		29.01.12		30.01.11		24.01.10		26.1.08
		2-4pm		2-4pm		2-4pm		2-4pm		1-3pm
Blackbird				2		2		1		
Bluetit				2		4		8		1
Canada Geese				3		8		5		25
Carrion Crow				4		5		4		6
Coal Tit						3		2		
Collared Dove				1				1		
Coot				6		2		8		7
Feral Pigeon				30		32		40		70
Goldcrest								2		
Great Spotted Woodpecker				1		1		1		
Great Tit						3		6		1
Greenfinch						1		6		
Grey Heron						2				1
Greylag Goose										1
House Sparrow				1		1		1		
Jay				1		1		3		
Kingfisher				1						
Little Grebe				1						2
Long Tail Tit								4		1
Magpie				1		2		1		3
Mallard Ducks				10		17		17		25
Moorhen				8		8		14		7
Nuthatch										1
Parakeet				7		32		8		7
Robin				1		2		1		5
Song Thrush						4				
Starling								1		
Tufted Ducks				4		6				
Woodpigeon				1		9		6		
Wren				1				1		

APPENDIX 4**Work Programme for The Tarn****C06M THE TARN**

con 2

line	Description	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	edging half moon		1										
2	Green Chain Walk				1						1		
3	pedestrian grass mowing			2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	
4	brushcutting & obstacles			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
5	hedge cutting					1		1		1			
6	hedge base maint	1		1		1		1		1		1	
7	leaf clearance	1										1	1
8	shrub bed maint			1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
9	shrub bed maint												1
10	rockery maint			1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1
11	tree feathering & stake/tie			1				1					
12	sweep park	5									4	5	4
13	clear lake outlets	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

APPENDIX 5

Parks Estates and Open Spaces Management Structure Chart

