A Biodiversity Action Plan for Home Park

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Historic Royal Palaces
Trees

- Inspection and risk assessment of trees
- Maintaining and updating tree inspection records
- Ensure best practice in arboricultural standards and techniques
Management of the Veteran trees within Home Park
Monitoring Pest & Disease

- Horse chestnut leaf miner moth  *Cameraria ohridella*
- Horse chestnut bleeding canker  *Bacterium Pseudomonas syringae*
- Sudden oak death -  *Phytophthora ramorum*
- Oak processionary moth -  *Thaumetopoea processionea*
Monitoring
Tree health

- Soil compaction
- Soil condition
- Leaf analysis
Tree Planting

- Hedgerow planting
- Parkland trees
- Specimen garden trees
- Protection for existing trees
Ecology

- Oversee and manage Home Park Biodiversity Strategy
- Coordinate ecological surveying
- Implement schemes for the creation and protection of habitats
- Promote awareness amongst Gardens & Estates team & HRP
- Represent HRP at local biodiversity action groups

Richmond Biodiversity Partnership & Bushy Park Wildlife Group
Provision of bird and bat boxes
What is BIODIVERSITY

Biological diversity or *biodiversity* is the term used to describe the *variety of life on Earth*.

It refers to the wide variety of ecosystems and living organisms:

- animals,
- plants,
- their habitats and their genes.
Why is Biodiversity Important?

- Health and quality of life
- Leisure and tourism
- Ecosystems services
- Intrinsic and moral value
Examples of Habitat Action Plans (HAPs)

- Acid Grassland
- Ancient Parkland & Veteran Trees
- Reedbeds
Species Action Plans (SAPs)

- Bats
- Mistletoe
- Stag Beetles
- Water Voles
Home Park Biodiversity Strategy

The creation of a comprehensive biodiversity strategy and management plan is essential to guide our activities and decision making in the short, medium and long term.
Home Park is a ‘Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation’

- non-statutory wildlife site
- protected by local authorities from most development.
Home Park, Barge Walk And The Paddocks
2007 Review Of Existing Ecological Data

- Work carried out in accordance with Richmond Biodiversity group paying particular attention to the Boroughs SAPS and HAPS
- Discussions with local recorders -
  - Bats: Alison Fure,
  - Invertebrates: J. Hato
- Comparisons with Bushy Park
- Data requested from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) the biological records centre for London
- Local wildlife groups
  Unpublished data
2007 Phase 1 NVC Habitat and Scoping Survey

HRP commissioned ecological consultants to conduct a survey of Home Park to determine the potential for the presence of protected habitats and species in order that they may be conserved and managed correctly.
Several habitat types which were found are listed by the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act* as being important for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

- Lowland dry acid grassland,
- Lowland wood-pasture and parkland,
- Reed-beds and
- Ancient species rich hedgerow.
Home Park supports a mixed biodiversity of terrestrial and wetland habitats and a host of associated species. Of these habitats, the acid grasslands provide the most important plant and animal communities.
The Park supports a significant proportion of the acid grassland that remains in Greater London. This habitat has undergone substantial declines nationally in the last 100 years mostly due to agricultural intensification and direct habitat loss.
At Home Park the colonisation of coarser grasses into the sward has reduced its quality yet a large area of the park still supports good quality acid grassland.
Two nationally scarce species of plant were found

- Galingale and
- Autumn Squill
It was noted that within the Paddocks there were habitats with the potential to support rare aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, water voles, newts and other amphibians.
2010 Phase 2 Habitat Survey
Habitat Community Map for Home Park

Legend
- Secondary woodland communities
- Pterostylis australis capillaris-Heathland grassland community
- Anthoxanthum odoratum-Lolium perenne sward community
- Acid grassland (01a)
- Unclassified acid grassland community
- Unclassified acid neutral grassland mosaics community
- Unclassified unimproved neutral grassland community
- Anthoxanthum odoratum grassland community (01a)
- Unclassified neutral/improved amenity mosaic community
- Unclassified amenity grassland
- Pond and lake communities
- Paths and tracks of artificial materials
- Drainage artificial materials
- Buildings
- Tree lines
- Area of scattered trees
- Survey area
- Quadrat location and number
- Target notes
Current threats to grassland biodiversity –

- Under-grazing or mowing without removing cuttings
- Heavy grazing or intensive mowing
- Artificial fertilisation
- Tree planting
- Human biodegradable litter and dog waste materials
- Importation of soils and other building materials
- Vehicular and atmospheric pollution
Ecological Survey

- Stag beetle survey
- Reptile survey
- More detailed analysis of the existing bat population
Study of fungi
Breeding bird survey
More detailed survey of the water bodies
Survey water voles, newts and other amphibians.
Reintroduction of native water-lilies to the Long Water Canal
Planting marginal vegetation providing ecological habitats

PLEASE KEEP OFF

REED BED FILTER
These floating rafts are planted with reeds.
The reeds reduce nutrient levels in the water which helps to prevent algae forming.
The historic fallow deer herd

Ensure long term quality and health of these animals is sustained for the future. This is essential for the long term conservation of the deer herd.

A conservation management tool for grassland management
Control strategy for non-native invasive species

- Japanese Knotweed
- Giant Hogweed
- Himalayan Balsam
Tree Planting Strategy