Image Credit: Eden Spence

Orleans House Gallery Grounds

Ecosystem plan 2021-31

April 2024

Please note this document is updated to reflect the changing needs of the Orleans House Gallery Grounds Ecosystem

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

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1. Introduction

This plan will be delivered during the 2020s, a decade which began with Richmond declaring a climate emergency. During the next allotted 10 years, the Borough along with the rest of the UK has resolved to work towards net zero carbon emissions. Our approach to the Orleans House woodland and gardens is a response to the most challenging threat of our times, climate breakdown, as well as a celebration of the people, animals and plants that make up the ecosystem and who are the key to its future.

Today Orleans House Gallery and its Woodland Gardens sit amongst the remnants of a grand house and grounds. As well as this recent past the site has a deep geological and ecological history which is recorded in a series of surveys carried out by archaeologists during the 20th Century. The earliest recorded inhabitant of the area was a saiga antelope which lived in the Pleistocene era. The first evidence of people in the area are the flint tools they left behind on the foreshore. Thousands of years later the area became farmland close to the small riverside village of Twickenham.

As London grew in the 16th and 17th centuries wealthy people bought land on the Thames for grand houses. A house was built on the site surrounded by an estate beside the Thames: A large kitchen garden and orchard fed the residents, a boathouse approached through a tunnel in the woodland provided access to the river, parties were arranged on the lawns. Then the house declined and was demolished in the early 20th century, only the stables and the Octagon room remained. The site was turned over to gravel extraction.

The woodland is relatively recent, growing up after the house was demolished in 1926. A recent habitat survey records it is now the home to a diverse ecology, including surviving veteran trees, three notable plants for London, bats and breeding birds. The grassland within the gardens is also of value.

This deep history reveals the area as a constantly changing habitat for plants and animals, including humans. It underpins our understanding of the economic and ethical reasons for basing our approach to the site on the preservation of healthy, self-renewing ecosystems. This plan is committed to ensuring the grounds are managed with this approach. The proposed prescriptions offer a major opportunity to develop a creative programme and education work linked to arts and the natural environment; to help people develop a love for the natural world and an understanding of their relationship with the environment.

Our objectives

The Arts Service working in partnership with the Parks Service will oversee the site, and we have identified four aims which focus our work. All changes to the site are governed by the Parks Service Strategic Principles and Arts' Service Aims and should support the following strategic goals:

- Restore and conserve the woodland and develop the site as a living collection: *we will research, record and interpret the wood – recognising the grounds as a natural and cultural asset equally important for human visitors and for the animals, plants and fungi that inhabit it;*
- Develop Orleans House Gallery and Woodland Gardens as an integrated cultural and environmental destination: *we will present a welcoming place which enables people to explore the relationship between people and the environment - with its unique identity, offering visitors a sense of arrival at a special place and the chance to explore and enjoy the site through interpretation and creative programming*;

- Develop infrastructure in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable way: *enabling us to make the most of the site - linking the gardens, gallery, stables, woodland and café and creates a range of spaces for programming, exemplifying best practice in sustainability, art and design as well as the management of public and green spaces*
- Develop a community of practice to help us refine and deliver the plan: *the Arts Service is committed to experimentation and embedding collaborative research into its major programmes and projects. Each of the aims in the terms of reference will be linked to a research question and partnership.*

Our plan

The Orleans House Gardens plan provides guidance for the care of the site and gives a framework that enables officers to look after the site to a high standard in a sustainable way. It sets out details of the site's important components and the prescriptions intended to deliver against the strategic goals.

The plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the park namely:

- Site visitors and borough residents
- The Arts Services and Parks and Open Spaces Service
- Orleans House Trust
- Artists, researchers, cultural and creative partners
- Volunteers and biological recorders
- Other services and departments within Richmond Council
- Elected members, ward councillors and portfolio holders
- National agencies
- Local businesses; and
- Contractors

The plan will run from April 2021 to March 2031, but it is not set in stone. There must be scope to constantly review, re-programme and re-prioritise in response to our experiences, the changing needs of local communities and the course that nature takes. The plan will be updated each year and an action plan developed from the rolling work programme for the following April to March period. The plan will be reviewed in years 5 and 10.

2. Site description

Site background

2.1 Site summary:

Location	Orleans Road, Twickenham, TW1 3BL
Grid Ref.	TQ170734
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	Site of Importance Nature Conservation (SINC), Site of Local Importance (#RiL02); Metropolitan Open Land (MOL); Orleans House, Grade 1 listed building
Area	3.37 ha (8.33 acres)
Key habitats	Broad-leaved woodland; semi-improved acid grassland; parkland
Key species	bats; badger; breeding birds; stag beetle

The landscape

2.2 The site sits on the north (Middlesex) bank of the River Thames at Twickenham, 150m east of Eel Pie Island and immediately west of Marble Hill Park.

2.3 Orleans House Gardens and the adjacent Orleans Gardens form a key component of Twickenham Riverside, in-keeping with the historic character here of historic buildings and gardens along to the river with boathouses and wharves, and it is connected into the surrounding landscape by views to Richmond Hill / Terrace Field and Ham House.

The site

2.4 Orleans House Gardens today has two distinct components: the western third comprises the remaining historic buildings surrounded by a small area of parkland and Regency-style gardens, and the remainder – separated by the main drive and tree avenue – is secondary broadleaved woodland that has naturally developed on the part of the site subject to gravel extraction in the early part of the 20th century.

Site designations

2.5 The surviving part of Orleans House is a Grade 1 listed building. The curtilage boundary wall is also included in the listing. The site is within the Twickenham Riverside Conservation Area.

2.6 Apart from the buildings and the courtyard between, the site is within the Marble Hill Park and Orleans House Gardens Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. The site is also designated as Metropolitan Open Land.

History

2.6 The Prehistoric Periods. The first recorded inhabitant of the area was a saiga antelope (NHMUK PV M 4448 PAL), which roamed the banks of the river in the Pleistocene. At the time the shape of the land was largely as we see it today, but the banks of the river would have been covered by a sparse forest of birch, ash and oak. Being near to the river, with a good arable soil and an abundance of natural resources, it is not surprising that there is evidence of human activity in the area during the prehistoric periods. This comprises residual material, generally finds of worked flint tools and flakes on the foreshore.

2.7 There is little evidence for Roman activity.

2.8 There is little archaeological evidence of early medieval activity in the area of the site. Throughout the medieval period, the settlement at Twickenham would have remained small, and likely consisted of only a cluster of houses surrounding Church Street and leading to the river, with farm and pasture land further north. Church Street remained the principle road through the village until the 19th century, when York Street was built. The Thames would have provided livelihoods for many of the people, including fishing, fishmongering, boat building and ferrying. The first reference to a manor at Twickenham is found in 1445 – 46, when it is recorded that the estate belonged to William York, head of a prominent local family. The site of the present day York House was originally the site of the manor farm. The original manor house, built in the 15th century, stood diagonally opposite the church of St Mary.

2.9 Nearer to the site, the GLHER records the presence of a 16th -century tenement building called the Guard House (MLO3764). Although the GLHER geo-reference data places the location of the building within the grounds of Orleans House, its association with Riverside House suggests that it was located immediately west, on the site of the present Riverside House.

2.10 As early as 1561 the first of the major country houses that came to line the banks of the Thames at Twickenham had been built. Twickenham became a fashionable place, with aristocrats, politicians and artists building smart houses along the waterfront: notable constructions of the 17th and 18th century include York House, Richmond House, Riverside House, Marble Hill House and Ham House. By the 1720s other smaller houses began to appear, often in fine Georgian style townhouses, such as along Montpelier Row, to the east of the Orleans House site, and Sion Road, to the west.

2.11 The first detailed map of the area, by Moses Glover in 1635. Shows the village radiating from the church, with the surrounding area devoted to arable land or market gardens. The area of Orleans House, part of the Queen's Farm Estate, is shown as being arable land. There was a farmhouse associated with the property, which in 1567 was leased by the Crown to Sir Thomas Newenham and later Andrew Pitcarne. This building is described as being of brick and timber, with Flemish walls and tiles (Stearn and De Novellis 2008).

The garden was mentioned in the Parliamentary Survey of Twickenham 1649-1650, detailing a south facing garden with cherry vines, gravel paths with arbours, vegetables and other features.

2.12 The Pitcarne family sold the Queen's Farm Estate to Richard Webb in 1660, and at that time the grounds associated with Orleans House included all the land now occupied by Orleans Park School as well as the current site area. In 1663 the farm house was replaced with a substantial building, which in 1694 was occupied by Jane Davies, who lent the property to the then Princess Anne (Simpson 1993).

2.13 Orleans House and estate passed through a number of owners and occupiers in relatively short succession in the 18th and 19th centuries, all of whom left a mark on the fabric and layout of the house and gardens. Most of this development was funded by the new financial and trading opportunities offered by the new United Kingdom and its colonial expansion.

2.13 The lease of the estate was obtained by James Johnston, Joint Secretary of State for Scotland, in 1702. He commissioned a new house from John James, one of the renowned Christopher Wren's chief assistants. The house was erected in 1710 and can be described as a typical Wren house in the Palladian style, with a simple roof and brick walls. A Portland stone central feature was the key point of decoration.

2.14 Between 1718 and 1720, the architect James Gibbs added the Octagon Room to the estate. This was intended as a pleasure house, for hosting grand events, and was not formally connected to the main house until a link building was constructed in the 1750s. At the same time, extensive remodelling was undertaken of the gardens, which were particularly celebrated. Stretching to what is now Richmond Road; the gardens included an icehouse, a large pond, a parterre, wilderness areas and an extensive kitchen garden and vineyard. The Rocque map of 1745 shows the estate and surrounding area in considerable detail. The main drive leads from Richmond Road to the central courtyard area of the house, where a large carriage circle is situated. The layout of the gardens is evident, with a formal parterre to the south of the main house, leading towards the river, and kitchen gardens to the east.

2.15 George Morton Pitt, who acquired the property after Johnston, was responsible for the construction of the link building, in c.1750.

The house takes its name from the occupancy of Louis Philippe, Duc d'Orleans, who was in residence from 1815 – 17. This marked the beginning of a French inspired style, which characterised some of the later renovations and constructions.

The trend towards capturing an idyllic landscape, including the creation of grottos, mounts and naturalised vistas, with extensive use of water and water features, is noted throughout the grounds and treatment of the riverside area. In the 1840 – 50s, this included the creation of the boat tunnel under Riverside linking the estate with the boathouse, canalised mooring area and the Thames. Ragman's Castle occupied a narrow piece of land in the south east corner of the grounds, where the tunnel lies today. Dating from c. 1630s, it was eventually bought by Alexander Murray in 1848 and demolished in 1850, becoming part of the OH grounds. A drawing of the house from Murray's time shows the tunnel.

The 1871 Ordnance Survey map shows the site at this time. This also shows the extent of the walled gardens on the site and greenhouses, and the landscaping of the northern part of the estate grounds.

The most significant changes to the late 19th century estate came during the time of Henri, Duc d'Aumale. Henri added an extensive library, work commencing in April 1860, and would later demolish the north and adjoining west wings forming the kitchen garden and existing stables.

The current stables and coach house were built after June 1868, as these do not appear on plans drawn for the Duc d'Aumale at this time but which show the original stables block which incorporated the current west wing. These features are attributed to the Duc primarily in the 1907 Sales Catalogue and first appear in maps of the 1891-1895 OS survey.

The late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps also show many of the garden features, including the icehouse to the very north of the estate grounds, the large central pond and kitchen and walled gardens, with extensive greenhouses. Garden outbuildings are situated at the extreme north-east corner of the study site, and the open expanse of lawn and woodland areas can be seen to the south of the house.

2.16 Orleans House finally became the home of the shipping magnate William Cunard in the late 19th century, and after his death in 1906 the estate was divided, with the north half of the grounds sold to the Exiles Club in 1919. The house and part of the grounds were sold to a gravel company in 1926. The main house, ancillary structures and gardens were all demolished. Only the Octagon Room, part of the west and north wing, and stable buildings survived. The 1930s Ordnance Survey map shows the cleared site. 200,000 tonnes of gravel was excavated from most of the site, up to 12 feet in places, and it may be that deep features such as cellars or tunnels remain. The boat tunnel was used to pump the gravel onto Orleans Gardens for sorting.

2.17 Part of the house, notably the Octagon, was purchased by Nellie Ionides, who bequeathed it to the local authority. In the late 1960s, the buildings were converted to gallery use, which involved extensive alteration to the west and north wing, with part of the north wing demolished. The in-filled quarry became covered with new woodland growth

2.18 Between 2007 and 2018 improvements were made to the gallery. The Stables Block and Educational spaces were developed in the mid-noughties, opened in 2007. During 2015-18 the Gallery, stables and courtyard areas were the recipients of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, which refurbished the educational facilities and stables and improved the existing gallery space. A new wing provided improved collections spaces, visitor services, retail spaces and staff offices.

Environmental factors

Geology & soils

2.19 The bedrock geology here is the London Clay Formation. Overlying this are loamy and clayey floodplain soils with high groundwater, but the majority of the site has been disturbed by the gravel extraction, up to a depth of 3.5 metres. The backfill soil origin and quality is unknown, but is anticipated to be poor.

Ecological interest & features

2.20 The description below is illustrated in the map on page 8.

Habitats and vegetation

2.21 A variety of habitats are found today within the grounds of Orleans House Gardens. The site comprises secondary woodland and parkland with small areas of semi-improved neutral grassland, semi-improved acid grassland, lines of trees and hedgerows.

Habitat	Area (ha)	Area (m^2)

Broadleaved woodland	2.43	24291
Parkland	0.42	4203
Semi-improved neutral grassland	0.042	423
Semi-improved acid grassland	0.0073	73
Improved grassland	0.044	447

Woodland

2.22 A large area of secondary woodland occupies 70% (2.4ha) of the site. The canopy is dominated by sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* with occasional pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and mature London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*. Other tree species of note include cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and false acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*. The shrub layer is relatively poor, the main species being elder *Sambucus nigra* with scattered horticultural species including Portuguese laurel *Prunus lusitanica*, a species of firethorn *Pyracantha sp* and leather leaved viburnum *Viburnum rhytidophyllum*.

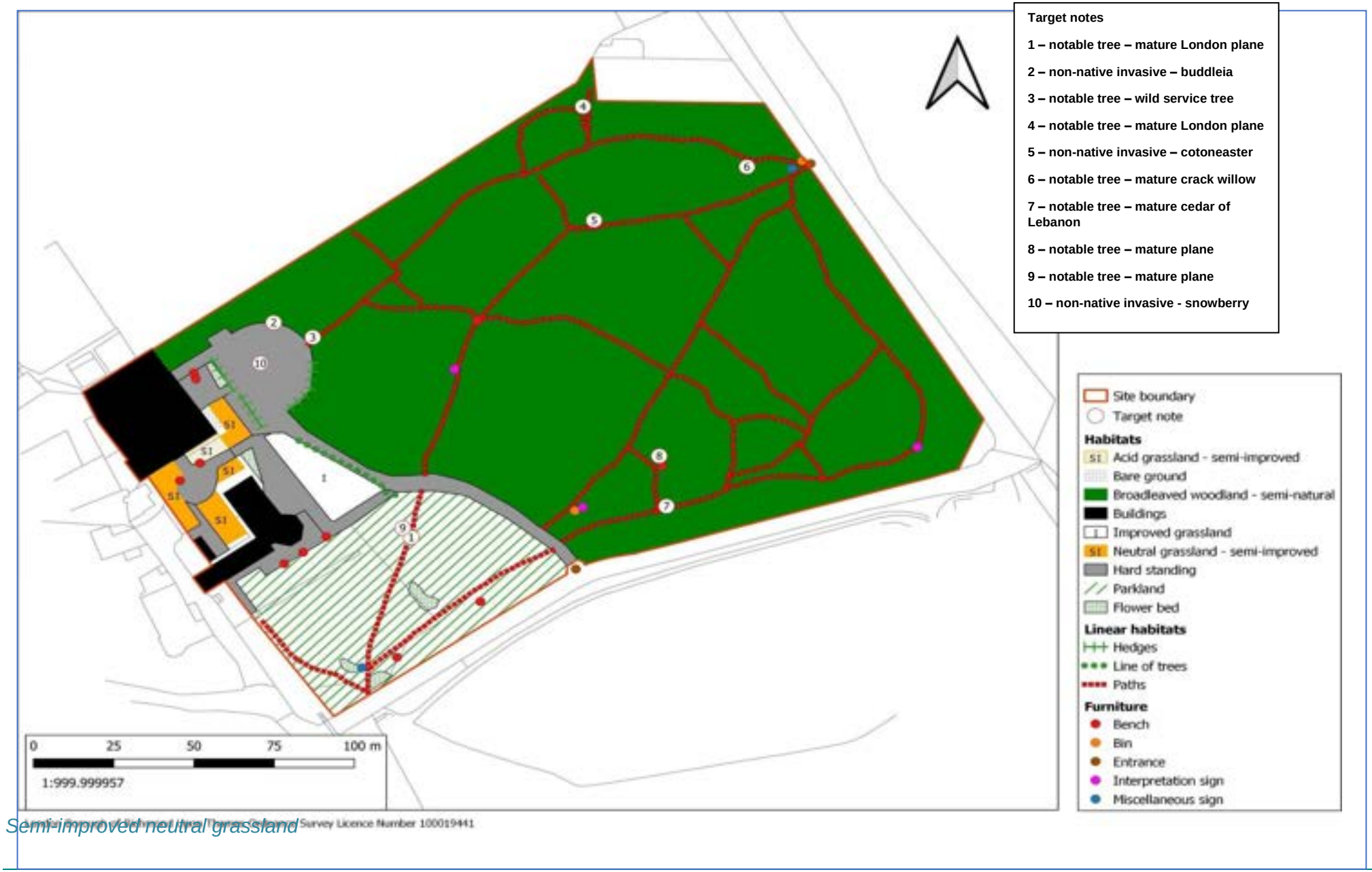
2.23 The ground flora is dominated by cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* with frequent hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. Other species are occasional and included cleavers *Galium aparine*, wood avens *Geum urbanum* and green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens*.

Parkland

2.24 To the south of Orleans House, in the south-eastern corner of the site is a large (0.42ha) area of parkland. There are a number of mature planted trees scattered across this area including sycamore, horse-chestnut, cedar *Cedrus sp*, walnut, London plane, pedunculate oak, lime, evergreen oak and Swedish whitebeam *Sorbus intermedia*. The underlying grassland is improved relatively species-poor grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass with occasional rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*. Forbs included daisy *Bellis perennis* and dandelion *Taraxacum officinale agg.*

Semi-improved acid grassland

2.25 There is a small area of semi-improved acid grassland within a courtyard between the main buildings to the west of the site. The sward here is dominated by red fescue *Festuca rubra*. Other grasses included frequent rough meadow grass and occasional cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata* is the most abundant forb with daisy, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris* and ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* also frequent. Guernsey fleabane *Conyza sumatrensis* is occasional.



Semi-improved neutral grassland

2.26 Other areas of grassland in the courtyard are a mix of perennial rye-grass Lolium perenne, rough meadow grass and red fescue. Forbs included daisy, small leaved cranes-bill *Geranium pusillum*, dove's-foot crane's-bill *Geranium molle*, cat's-ear, smooth sow thistle *Sonchus olearaceus* and prickly sow thistle *S. asper*. Common ragwort are occasional. Within the grassland area is a mature walnut *Juglans regia*, a black mulberry *Morus nigra* tree and a large magnolia *Magnolia sp*.

Improved grassland

2.27 There is a small area of improved grassland immediately to the east and to the front of Orleans House. Here perennial rye-grass is the dominant grass species present. Daisy Bellis perennis and white clover *Trifolium repens* are the most frequent herbs with dandelion *Taraxacum officinale agg.* and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* occasional. Greater plantain *Plantago major* is frequent around the edges of this area of grassland.

Fauna

2.28 There is a high chance of occurrence of commuting and foraging bats across the site. The surrounding area is important for bats and has been well recorded in the past, with nine species recorded from within 500m of the boundary.

2.29 The woodland is likely to be of interest for breeding birds. Tawny owl and song thrush have been recorded from within 100m of the boundary.

2.30 Stag beetle has been recorded from close to the site and there is some suitable decaying wood habitat in the woodland.

Access and visitor usage

2.31 There are three original paths through the woods however an excess of ten additional desire lines have been created by the public. Neither the pathways or desire lines have been formulised, therefore the ground is well trodden mud with roots and bramble in areas. Access is limited-to-non-existent for wheelchair users and those with prams. During the winter months the pathways can become very muddy and frozen in parts. The organic way the paths within the woods have been created over time encourage a sense of adventure and discovery for visitors, and we would be keen to retain this whilst still improving access for all users.

2.32 There are three entrances to Orleans House grounds; the vehicle entrance off Riverside Road, the pedestrian entrance off Riverside Road and the woodland entrance off Orleans Road. The majority of visitors to Orleans House Gallery come to use the grounds, either as a shortcut to Marble Hill Park or the Thames footpath, or predominately by dog walkers and groups walking. Local residents see Orleans House grounds as a local space and tend to be well read on the historical uses and layout of the grounds; they feel a sense of ownership over the woodland. Residents are quick to contact the gallery if they spot changes to the woods, and den building is popular during the summer months.

2.33 The woods are used by a forest school, currently between 12-15 sessions annually. The Arts Service learning programme currently does not make use of the woodland. This is to reduce the damage to the woodland, and to ensure the school visits do not dominate the use of the grounds. As part of the programme we will reconsider school engagement in the grounds.

2.34 The gallery opened a new café in November 2019, and since then we have seen a steady increase in footfall to the café month on month, for either sit down food or takeaway coffees. This has given visitors an additional reason to come through the grounds and is often a first stop before walking round the woods.

2.35 The driveway and the gallery have external lighting on timers to allow staff to leave safely in the evenings. The grounds are to home to wildlife including bats, therefore there is no external lighting in the lawns or woodland. This means visitor usage is mainly limited to daylight hours.

Evaluation of key features

Heritage

2.36 Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham, is a site of exceptional interest and significance with historic connections to both the British and French royal families; several major Scottish figures and an important group of architects and craftsmen – not least James Gibbs (1682-1754) arguably the leading British architect of the 1720s. The centrepiece of what remains at Twickenham is Gibbs' Octagon Room – a single octagonal room of great height and presence and with a richly decorated baroque interior – designed as a room for entertainment and eating. The country house for which it was built is long gone but the room with its adjoining wings and the surviving and converted stables form an extensive reminder of the site's history. The Octagon Room and adjoining service wing are grade 1 listed, entry number: 250280.

The archaeological remains of the buildings across the site are an important record and will need to be preserved and interpreted for visitors.

Evidence of previous use of the site as gardens and orchards should be preserved as should any evidence relating to earlier activity. Wherever the site reveals elements of its long geological history these should be preserved.

Since the 1970s the site has been a unique arts and community centre housing the important art collection of the London Borough of Richmond but also acting as an important and much loved gallery, community centre, educational resource and visitor destination. This more recent history and the use of the site by local people and artists as an open green space are also significant and should be recorded in some way.

Ecology

2.37 From an ecological perspective, the site includes woodland and acid grassland which are London Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats (Mayor of London, 2016). The site supported three London notable plants: Small-flowered Crane's-bill *Geranium pusillum*, wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* and wood speedwell *Veronica montana*. Notable is defined as species which were recorded from 15% or fewer of the 400 two-kilometre recording squares (tetrads) in Greater London in the Flora of the London Area (Burton 1983).

2.38 The site supports the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan habitats broadleaved woodland, hedgerows, neutral grassland and acid grassland. The site also supports, or is likely to support, the following Richmond BAP species: bats, hedgehog, house sparrow, song thrush and stag beetle.

Open space

2.39 The site is valued by residents as a green space and its breadth of heritage and natural features.

Constraints

2.40 Constraints to be considered during management planning include:

- The listed boundary wall isolates the site in terms of access and views, and acts as a barrier to some wildlife.
- The risk of the veteran trees shedding branches constitutes a risk to the visiting public.

3. Policies

Arts Service Strategic objectives

3.1 Richmond Arts Service builds community through creativity: the service fosters creativity and enjoyment of the arts, enables people to reflect on their lives and develop new ways of seeing the world. The service brings thought-provoking art to the Borough and cultivates a network of individuals, organisations and programmes that nourishes the arts, local organisations and communities. Richmond Arts Service will deliver the following objectives:

1. Develop an ambitious arts programme which shares Richmond with the world and brings the world to Richmond. We will reach a larger and more diverse audience, offering the highest quality experiences which are authentic, meaningful and thought-provoking
2. Be a catalyst for local artistic responses to Global challenges - ecological crisis, inequality and isolation. We will work with artists, researchers, the cultural and creative sector, community partners and local services to explore new ideas, and play a role in change for the better.
3. Nurture wellbeing and a lifelong love of the arts, focusing our work on children and young people, creating opportunities to share learning between generations. Through volunteering we will provide opportunities to learn and share skills and experience, widening the service's reach into the community, helping people to play an active role in their local area.
4. Facilitate a diverse and resilient arts ecology in the borough, developing partnerships, attracting inward investment for culture and supporting artists and arts organizations committed to developing their practice. We aspire to make our programme reflect the diversity of arts practice in London and our audiences, workforce and volunteers reflect the diversity of west London.
5. Manage our resources effectively, develop staff and generate more income so we can continue to deliver the service for the widest possible public benefit.
6. Develop in a sustainable way, supporting Richmond's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

Strategic principles for Parks & Open Spaces

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

1. Parks and Open Spaces will be a sustainable legacy for future generations.
2. Parks and Open Spaces will continue to define our borough.
3. Parks and Opens Spaces will enrich the life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
4. The Council will lead in the delivery of excellent Parks and Open Spaces services.
5. Parks and Open Spaces will offer positive experiences to all visitors.

6. Through innovation, the future development of Parks and Open Spaces services will be ensured.
7. Increased community participation in Parks and Open Spaces will be encouraged and supported.
8. Parks and Open Spaces will be celebrated as centres of excellence.

The London Plan

3.3 The Mayor for London is responsible for the strategic planning in London. His duties include producing a 'Spatial Development Strategy' for London - the London Plan. Local (Local Authority level) plans must be in 'general conformity' with the plan. The London Plan, last updated in 2016, recognises "open space in all its forms represents a key component of social infrastructure and its protection and enhancement is an integral part" of policy and that "delivery of local biodiversity action plans should be linked" to Local Plans at borough level.

Richmond planning strategies

3.4 Richmond upon Thames' Local Plan for 2018 recognises the importance of open space in the Borough. The extensive areas of open land create a varied and distinct landscape prominently defined by Richmond Hill and the River Thames valley in addition to Kew Gardens, two Royal Parks and many smaller open spaces and water courses. The importance of open space as an urban structure, providing relief from the built environment, is acknowledged, as is the importance of providing for play and recreation. These collectively contribute to quality of life in the Borough.

3.5 The role of ecology and open space's ability to provide a range of habitats is recognised, leading the Borough to protect areas of nature conservation value and to manage and enhance wildlife habitats. The strategy seeks to promote open space as a network of recreational, ecological and landscape assets which both serve the people of the Borough and help enhance and preserve the Borough's physical entity.

3.5 Orleans is affected by several of the borough's specific spatial policies. The site is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (policy LP 13) for protection of its character and openness, as an Other Site of Nature Importance (policy LP 15, Biodiversity) to be safeguarded and enhanced and also falls within the Thames Policy Area (policy LP 18, River corridors) where the distinctive character of the area needs to be considered. The site is within the Twickenham Riverside Conservation Areas (policy LP 3, Designated Heritage Assets), designed to protect and enhance the features of local importance.

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan

3.6 To conserve Richmond's biodiversity, the decline of valuable species and habitats needs to be reversed. The origin of the Biodiversity Action Plans was to explain how to promote the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.

3.7 Richmond's BAP, being updated for 2018, prioritises habitats and species that are rare, in decline or characteristic of Richmond, and aims to use them to help raise the profile of biodiversity in the borough. The BAPs strategy is based around protecting and celebrating local wildlife and improving the quality of wildlife habitats and the environment in our borough

3.8 There are currently thirteen Biodiversity Action Plans covering selected species and habitats for Richmond. The Council are committed to implementing the objectives enshrined in these plans into their management practices. The plans that have most relevance to Orleans will be bats, house sparrow, broad-leaved woodland, song thrush and stag beetle.

4. Site vision and objectives

4.1 Vision and Strategic Goals

The vison for Orleans House Gallery and Grounds is to become an exemplary site for engaging with and understanding the relationship between the natural world and human creativity.

To do achieve this vision we will work towards four strategic goals.

- We will conserve the woodland and develop the site as a living collection;
- We will develop Orleans House Gallery and Gardens as an integrated cultural and environmental destination through interpretation and creative programming;
- We will develop infrastructure in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable way exemplifying best practice in sustainability, art and design as well as the management of public and green spaces;
- We will develop a community of practice to help us refine and deliver the plan.

4.2 Objectives

1. **Restore where appropriate, maintain and improve the existing habitat** to ensure the unique qualities of the woodland and gardens are conserved. This will entail management to ensure the conditions are maintained for key species and groups as well as preserving those elements of the built environment and archaeology.
2. **Improve physical access and site infrastructure.** Increase accessibility through improving footpaths, entrances and signs as well as identifying spaces for creative programming and learning activities, without compromising the natural habitat and archaeology
3. **Enhance visitor engagement with the gallery and gardens**. Deliver the interpretation action plan set out by the interpretation strategy. working with local people and a community of practice to interpret the history and ecology of the site and how it might be programmed.
4. **Deliver a programme of education and research.** Conduct research relating to the landscape and its history, natural habitat, and public engagement. Regular ecological surveys will chart changes. We will create a collections plan for the living collections which exist in the gardens and wood. Identify research areas and academic partners.
5. **Deliver a creative programme** linked to the development and ongoing management of the grounds. We will commission new artworks, explore and foreground environmental issues and reflect Richmond's climate emergency declaration and commitment to being a greener borough.

6. **Monitor and update the management plan and action plan.** The Arts and Parks Services will regularly monitor outcomes for success in the ongoing management of the grounds and their integration with the gallery. This will clarify roles and responsibilities including volunteering.

5. Management prescriptions

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

Prescription 1: Mature trees

Aim: The existing mature trees should be retained for as long as possible. As far as possible they should be allowed to age naturally, with dead branches left on the tree. Management intervention should balance tree health, safety and access with landscape and biodiversity. Ivy should not be removed from trees unless there is a specific reason for doing so.

Rationale: The mature trees are a link to the site's historic past. Tree health and visitor risk issues will arise on an increasing basis but the most site sensitive, safe option should be employed wherever possible.

P1.1	Undertake surveys of the trees at no more than four year intervals (shorter where individual tree circumstances require) and take recommended actions. Any tree being monitored should be discretely tagged / numbered for record keeping.
P1.2	A bat roost assessment should be carried out to determine the potential of mature trees. Subsequently, where works are proposed to trees with bat roost potential an ecologist must survey the trees first.
P1.3	Where regeneration beneath the mature tree or where nearby trees are creating unhealthy competition for light or resources, these trees may need to be removed. If the trees are of a reasonable age (semi-mature or older) this should be done gradually over a number of years to prevent sudden exposure.
P1.4	Consider what measures may be required at ground level to manage access to and protect the trees.

Prescription 2: Woodland management

Aim: Manage the woodland to achieve a more open and diverse structure, creating dappled light conditions via lifting, coppicing and general thinning to establish canopy spacing. The degree of openness should increase from east to west. Non-native and invasive species will be considered first for removal. Scrubby areas will be managed on a mixed rotation to diversify the habitat and keep part always open.

Rationale: Through lack of management, the secondary woodland has a dense canopy of mainly sycamore and the structure has become less open, resulting in lower temperatures within the wood and a species-poor ground flora. This situation leads to an increase in soil nutrients which only perpetuates those species which prefer high nutrient levels, such as ash and sycamore. Changes should be made gradually throughout the woodland to create a more diverse ground flora. Trees selected for removal should first be those of non-native species unless they have a historic link to the site's past and then those either of poor form or unfavourably located. Creating sudden full light conditions can lead to coarse fast growing species out-competing other woodland flora.

The structure should be most open along the western edge of the woodland. This will create a better setting for the built heritage; rarely would dense woodland have been this close to built features. This will also create a valuable ecological gradient from the gardens through to denser woodland and maximise the habitats for biodiversity.

P2.1	Select semi-mature trees for removal and undertake this gradually throughout the lifetime of the plan, responding to the species and habitat monitoring to guide the location and extent. Invasive and non-native species must be considered for removal first.
P2.2	Manage the existing shrub layer to maximise diversity. Remove where suffocating ground flora. Due to the sparse understorey, there should be no rush to remove non-native species where it provides valuable cover or food.
P2.3	Consider limited planting of native understorey species to re-build the shrub layer. Hazel, hawthorn, silver birch, guelder rose, crab apple, wild privet, alder buckthorn, wild cherry, dogwood, holly, rowan and spindle should be considered for appropriate compartments.
P2.4	Encourage and protect natural regeneration of native tree species. Select young trees of good form and potential to be future specimens, haloing around them where necessary.
P2.5	Ecological Volunteer role to be explored with volunteers having

	opportunity to support management of the above and woodland in general.

Prescription 3: Glade management

Aim: Re-establish former glades and open areas to create open space for increased light, warmth and a more diverse flora, as well as highlighting historical features. A variety of vegetation heights should be maintained where possible to create a graduated effect and offer a range of habitats. Where space permits, a strip of tall-herb vegetation and scrub / coppice should be created on the edge of glades and the outer edge of the woodland. Shading should be reduced along paths.

This overall management approach will also enhance the views and visibility within the wood for visitors and art.

Rationale: Open spaces within woodland are significant structural features. They are one of the most important mechanisms for enhancing biodiversity. Nettles and brambles are key features in this context but diversification is desired. These spaces will also give us an opportunity to programme the woodland with ephemeral installations and performance.

P3.1	Reduce shading and increase width / height along paths in order to create dappled light. Cut bramble back to the first row of memorial stones on either side; coppice / treat any regeneration within this zone and consider removing larger trees if any.
P3.2	Develop jobs list to specify P2.1 – P.3.1
P3.3	Any bramble, regeneration or invasive species in the open spaces (or more open woodland) should also be managed on an annual basis by cutting back or complete removal. Small patches of brambles are of interest but should be maintained rather than allowed to expand.
P3.4	Where scrub abuts open areas, it should be coppiced on a mixed 7-12 year rotation. Small amounts should be done occasionally, with no more than one fifth cut in any one year.

Prescription 4: Retain deadwood in appropriate locations

Aim: Maintain a variety of different types including standing, canopy, and lying deadwood, both scattered and low piles. Some should be left *in situ* or as close to source as possible. Plan for the next generation of deadwood. Ensure that the quantity or location of deadwood does not conflict with other conservation or operational objectives and consider visitor amenity where close to paths.

Rationale: Deadwood is a fundamental base to the woodland ecosystem. It is sometimes regarded as a source of disease, sign of neglect or obstruction to efficient management, however deadwood is vital in providing soil with nutrients and it harbours around 1700 species of invertebrate, many of which are rare, and those of high abundance are a vital food source for other, more visible woodland wildlife including birds and hedgehogs.

Larger and longer pieces of deadwood are more valuable but a large volume of small deadwood can also be important. Dappled shade locations close to open space are most probably valuable; many deadwood invertebrates as adults feed on nectar from plants in these areas. It is also helpful to replenish or expand the deadwood in areas where it is already valuable, to provide continuity. Deadwood species are not very mobile so may not expand to new areas.

It is usually preferred to leave it lying rather than create piles; however, from areas that need to be kept clear or open, deadwood can be placed into low piles with as few air gaps as possible; this can be achieved by stacking end to end and then cutting into the piles to compress them.

P4.1	When operations produce deadwood, consider distribution or removal. Most brash should be removed or chipped but some of the larger cordwood should be scattered throughout the wood in at least small amounts so it is found in all conditions from sun to shade, lying, piled and half-buried.
P4.2	Create a stag beetle loggery with half-buried timbers in a partly shaded location.

Prescription 5: Manage heritage features

Aim: Maintain the historic landscape; survey, monitor and maintain the site's heritage and ensure the historical aspects are reflected in its management.

Rationale: The Octagon Room is a Grade I listed building and the gallery and stables have been restored at significant cost; however the park and woodland have not been managed with the same attention and vision. The site's history is bound up in the plants, landscape and archaeology. These

features are mainly aged between 100 and 400 years old and require monitoring and maintenance to ensure good condition. Consideration should also be given to the longer deep history of the landscape and related records.

P5.1	Undertake a full safety survey at least every five years of above ground archaeology, statues and building structures in gardens and woodland; complete actions as required.
P5.2	Remove ivy and other vegetation from above ground archaeology adjacent to paths and where required. Coppice and treat any young trees within or close to above ground archaeology.
P5.3	Maintain the vegetation shorter and more regularly above footprint of demolished buildings to provide an indication of where the house was.
P5.4	Tree lift and crown reduction of the lawn areas to make the gallery more visible from the two primary entrances (the driveway and the pedestrian entrance). Remove one lime tree to allow a clear view of the gallery as you come up the driveway

Prescription 6: Create an improved visitor environment and improve accessibility and wayfinding across the site

Aim: Provide a welcoming and clean visitor environment with clear entrances, paths and sightlines, always considering the site's heritage and nature.

Rationale: Improving the presentation and accessibility of the site will enhance visitors' impressions of the site and encourage them to enter and explore to a larger or more frequent degree.

P6.1	Repave the driveway with heritage appropriate, hard wearing gravel matching the gallery entrance and maintain.
P6.2	Consider formalising the pathway leading through the front lawn to the gallery entrance, using heritage and tree appropriate materials. By encouraging visitors to commit to one pathway from the pedestrian entrance, the rest of the front lawn can be better maintained and allow this entrance to reflect the original 'manicured' entrance which will be a sharper contrast to the 'natural' woodland entrances.
P6.3	Decide if any paths through the woodland should be 'formalised' and

	accessible, and if paths close to heritage trees should be diverted. Improved path in the woodland should still look natural and unkept, but simply allow for better access for all visitors.
P6.4	Ensure contractors and volunteers maintain and manage the gardens and woodland environment to the required standards.
P6.5	Source suitable funding to enable the resurfacing of identified paths to give wheelchair access to the woodland
P6.6	Accessible pathway to be installed to give pedestrian access to wheelchair users from Riverside and improve site safety
P6.7	Maintain the following schedule for the maintenance of the formal lawns: - The Diana Lawn will be mown after the bulbing flowers have died off May/June - The North, East and South Boundaries will be left to grow long - The remaining formal lawns will be is kept between 20 and 60mm throughout the year. It will be box mown to produce a healthier, improved sward.
P6.8	The Central courtyard will be managed to naturalise as wildflower-rich grassland in 24/25. If successful it will be added to the list of Parks Pollination Stations
P6.9	External Lighting review to be carried out in car park and on Riverside pathway (West Boundary) to improve health and safety at night. This will be done in consideration of the ecological sensitivity of the area

Prescription 7: Increase education and engagement on site and on-line

Aim: Increase awareness of site's importance for wildlife, local history and its value as a living collection, and through this peoples understanding and respect for the natural world and how

Rationale: Delivering the interpretation action plan set out by the interpretation strategy and working with local people and a community of practice to interpret the history and ecology of the site and how it might be programmed will communicate the site's importance and lead to greater understanding of sustainability.

P7.1	Develop and implement a strategy around signage and messagingthe site, including the entrance, grounds and historical areas.
P7.2	Install one-way counters on the three entrances to the grounds to start recording footfall and car use.
P7.3	Create a monitoring survey, recording human visitor use of the site and ecological detail to be carried out by volunteers across 2021.
P7.4	Arts and Parks to develop a joint communications strategy around the plan the and work/activities taking place
P7.5	Identify a suitable tree species and location for planting for the reaffirmation Twinning ceremony
P7.6	Identify a tree to dedicate to Nelly Ionides for her generosity to the Borough

Prescription 8: Conduct research relating to the landscape and its history, natural habitat, and public engagement

Aim: To improve our understanding and management of heritage urban woodland

Rationale: Create a body of accessible information and documented working experience that will improve our understanding and of the management of spaces like OHG gallery and grounds.

P8.1	Create a collections plan for the living collections which exist in the gardens and wood.
P8.2	Maintain a database of written material relating to history of current site.
P8.3	Create a baseline ecological survey for key species and habitats and collate available biological and horticultural records.

P8.4	Continue to identify research areas and academic partners. Link plan objectives to a research programme which identifies a series of specific research questions linked to the management of urban woodland; the interaction between artist and urban woodland; and the value of urban woodland in engaging people with environmental sustainability and citizenship

Prescription 9: Deliver the Cultural Reforesting programme.

Aim: To explore and foreground environmental issues and reflect Richmond's climate emergency declaration through community participation and a socially engaged arts programme. The CR programme encompasses next three years of creative programming, interpretation, events and activities.

Rationale: The programme of commissions, community engagement and research will involve local people thinking about global challenges through exploring and co-developing new ideas presented in the programme in the grounds and gallery.

P9.1	Set out a framework for how artist research and regular evaluation will take place within the grounds.
P9.2	We will commission new artworks, explore and foreground environmental issues and reflect Richmond's climate emergency declaration and commitment to being a greener borough.
P9.3	Continue to plan a programme of events and exhibitions that take place in the woods and lawns, that utilises the spaces as and when the grounds works are complete, and are appropriately evaluated in line with the ground's project research requirements

Prescription 10: Monitor success and review the plan

Aim: Ensure the site is developing to deliver the wider principles and objectives relating to both Parks Service and Arts Service and to ensure the site is maintained as a space for learning, creativity and a place for plants and animals, as set out in the plan. Maintain records of site work, wildlife monitoring and cultural achievements, and review plan accordingly.

Rationale: Ensure that management remains on track to deliver the site vision and objectives. No plan can anticipate every situation or environmental response and it is vital that management be reviewed every year and the subsequent work programme adjusted. The plan should be seen as a live document for editing and updating.

P10.1	Develop and coordinate a Community of Practice which will help monitor and develop the plan on an annual basis.
P10.2	Every year identify a key community or species group to monitor to inform management success. Examples are breeding song thrushes; foraging bats; key plants or the developing community in the glades; or groups such as deadwood invertebrates. Expert help should be sought where required, from volunteers if possible.
P10.3	Maintain a rolling 3-year work programme
P10.4	Produce an annual summary of work completed
P10.5	A major review should be undertaken in year 5 to check that the vision and objectives remain correct. In year 9, plans should be put in place for completion of the new plan in advance of the new period.

6. Management of the gardens

Introduction

6.1 This section sets out guidelines and general principles to be followed in delivering the vision, objectives and prescriptions outlined in the previous sections. The Grounds surrounding Orleans House Gallery will be co-managed by Parks and Arts Service, under the oversight of the Culture section and LBRuT's ECS Committee.

Richmond Arts Service

6.1.1 Orleans House Gallery is managed by Richmond Arts Service which is part of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council. The team facilitate a range of high quality accessible arts provisions for residents of and visitors to the borough.

For details of activities taking place across the borough please visit the arts pages of Richmond Council's website.

Richmond Arts Service and Orleans House Gallery contribute to the delivery of The Culture Vision.

Parks and Open Spaces Service

6.1.2 The Parks Service is made up of three teams:

The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a manager, parks officer, an ecology officer and a support officer.

The Development team which is responsible for consultation and the planning and initiation of projects. The team consists of a group of local expert consultants co-ordinated by the Service Manager.

The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council-managed parks and open spaces, as well as assisting with planning issues. The team consists of a manager, two tree officers and a support officer.

We value diversity and are committed to delivering a service that puts equality of opportunity as a priority.

Management of the park needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of the park within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by major borough-wide capital investment Parks Improvement Programmes between 2005 and 2010 and between 2012 and 2018.

Delivery Partners

6.1.3 The plan will be delivered in partnership with a range of organisations and groups, these include the following

Orleans House Trust

Arts Service, including volunteers

Parks and Open Spaces Service

Forest School

Orleans Ecosystem Community of Practice

Programme partners, e.g. artists

Contractors, e.g. Continental Landscapes, Facilities Management

The Council will consult where needed. This helps the Council to work in harmony with users' and residents' views and ensure direct local input into the management of the site.

6.1.4 For parks maintenance, a new Framework approach was introduced from April 2013, with services split into separate lots. The current contract started in February 2018 and is split into seven lots. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractors' operatives who are specialist in the relevant areas, thus achieving high and consistent standards. As a framework, the contracts will also be available for other authorities and organisations in London and the south-east of England.

Parks Framework contract: February 2018 – January 2025

Following an open and thorough procurement process that began in spring 2017, contractors were appointed to seven service areas to start 37 month contracts in February 2018. Evaluation was on an 80% cost and 20% quality basis. The contracts were extended from February 2021 for a further four years.

1 Amenity Landscape Management

2 Arboriculture Management

3 Oak Processionary Moth management

4 Play Inspection & Maintenance

5 Parks Patrol

6 Events Management

7 External Planting

Procurement was written in an output style with built-in quality measures and performance indicators, and qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

<u>Relevance to Orleans House Gardens and Orleans Gardens</u>

Continental Landscapes are the main grounds contractor, undertaking amenity management (grass cutting, shrubs, hedges, sports bookings and pitch maintenance), small works (hard landscaping, infrastructure and furniture installation, etc.) gate locking operations, plus undertaking play inspection and maintenance. They also undertake parks cleansing alongside existing street cleansing and graffiti removal to create a joined-up operation.

KPS are the arboriculture contractor, working closely with the Council's tree team who undertake inspections and specify works, with Bartlett Tree Experts undertaking Oak Processionary Moth management.

Events and filming in Orleans House Gallery grounds (excluding the courtyards), are managed by The Event Umbrella, via the Parks team, a company who specialise in managing outdoor events in the public sector. Whilst the event and filming admin is managed by The Event Umbrella, all enquiries are sent to the Arts Service for approval. If approved, the event is managed jointly by the OHG team (acting for the client as venue manager) and Event Umbrella (acting for the client as the agent).

Park patrols are undertaken by Parkguard, a company specialising in education, support services and enforcement in parks and open spaces.

6.2 A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Orleans continues to be a welcoming area.

6.2.1 Graffiti removal

As a part of our aim to make the Borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The full details of the borough's commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed at: www.richmond.gov.uk

There is an agreement with the Council's street cleansing contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is offensive it will be removed within one working day of notification.

6.2.2 Signage

Signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly.

6.2.3 Pathways

All paths will be inspected annually with defect monitoring throughout the year. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible.

6.2.4 Access

We will seek funding to support the creation of at least one accessible route for wheelchair users across the woodland through the Orleans Road gate.

6.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that the park continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

6.3.1 Community Safety

All contractors working in the park undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing.

Parkguard regularly patrol the park. In addition the local Police Safer Neighbourhood team regularly visits the park.

The park is currently included in a Public Spaces Protection Order designed to reduce anti-social behaviour in public places in the borough, effectively replacing the open space byelaws. For example, barbeques, fires and fireworks are prohibited; bicycles must not cause a hazard, nuisance or damage; drones are prohibited; and smoking is prohibited in any enclosed play or sports area. More details can be found on the Council's website.

6.3.2 Dogs

The Council and their contractors make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible for their dog's waste as the dangers of humans coming into contact with dog faeces are well known.

Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

The Council is currently in the process of phasing out dog bins and replacing these with multi-use bins. All general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog waste.

The Council has a Public Spaces Protection Order in place to regulate dog control. With regard to Orleans these prohibit fouling, limit an individual to walking a maximum of four dogs (unless in possession of a licence or permit issued separately) and require dog walkers to ensure their dog is under proper control.

6.4 **Clean and well maintained**

The following management is in place to ensure that the park is clean and well maintained:

6.4.1 Horticulture and grounds maintenance

Grass

Grass surfaces within the park are classed as amenity grass and maintained by the Amenity Landscape contractor. Amenity turf is those areas used for general recreation and formal and informal sports and can include wide-open spaces or those areas planted with trees and shrubs. The height of this grass is kept between 20 and 60mm throughout the year. Litter is removed before cutting. From April 2021, the grass at Orleans House Gardens will be box mown to produce a healthier, improved sward.

The level of maintenance will depend on the level of use, with increased repairs, fertilising, and scarifying of those areas subject to heavy wear. Most repair works to turf are carried out in the autumn or spring, with areas either re-turfed or seeded.

Grass edges, whether they are against paths, fences or walls will be cut at the same time as the rest of the grass using strimmers in most areas. Grassed areas by the park's northern, eastern and western boundaries are left to grow long to provide habitat for wildlife.

Grounds contract operations

Planted borders and shrub beds

Planted areas are generally maintained by the site's volunteers and only a small proportion by the contractor. Where the contractor is responsible, the beds will be weeded by hand to ensure that there is less than 5% visible weed growth at any time and plants will be maintained and pruned at the appropriate times.

Hedges

Hedges on site are mostly maintained by the contractor; one side of the hedges near the stable block are maintained by the volunteers. Where the contractor is responsible, hedges will be maintained using suitable hand or mechanical tools. During pruning operations, all litter, leaves weeds and self-sown plants will be removed. All hedge maintenance takes place outside of the bird nesting season.

6.4.2 Trees

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturists in order to identify and remedy any unacceptable risks to people using the sites. An example of this is the prophylactic treatment of oak processionary moth or the removal of trees that are extensively decayed compromising their structural integrity.

Tree pruning is only carried out where necessary for risk management purposes or where formative pruning is necessary; this approach allows Richmond's parks to retain a natural landscape with well-formed specimens. Where there is a particular characteristic by way of species composition, size or natural distribution the Council seeks to maintain this through selecting appropriate replacement and new trees.

6.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the park and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis by the park cleansing contractors.

The contractors carry out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping / blowing of paths. This applies to all surfaces, paths, lawns and beds.

When the park has high numbers of visitors and large amounts of litter are expected the cleansing contractors will carry out additional visits to empty the bins. The full litter bags will be collected and removed from the site on the same day. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

6.4.4 Park Furniture and Fittings

Any proposed changes or additions to park furniture and fittings will be agreed jointly by the Parks and the Arts Services.

The grounds contractors ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. Items will be cleaned as needed. Repairs will be requested by contractors on a Defect Report and carried out promptly.

6.4.5 Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean, with detritus swept from surfaces regularly by a combination of contractors and volunteers.

Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair, all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gulleys will be inspected regularly by staff and contractors on site.

6.5 Environmental Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the park is managed in a sustainable way:

6.5.1 Recycling green waste

The Council's ground maintenance contractor takes any green waste they create to Townmead recycling centre.

Other green waste created on site is composted in heaps in the woodland area.

6.5.2 Pesticides

The use of pesticides will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology; they are not used in routine tasks except where there is no viable alternative. An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making and promote other solutions.

6.5.3 Biodiversity

Improving the site for biodiversity is one of the central principles underlying its management, especially for the priority habitats and species on site. In any decision, the question will always be asked – does the approach support the development of healthy, self-renewing ecosystems? Where possible, decisions about the development of the site will be based on ecologically-based ethics rather than human-centred views of the environment.

6.6 Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of the site. Although Orleans House Gardens is primarily used by people within walking distance it is a space and resource for people who live across West London. The unique nature of the space also means it reaches out to a London wide, national and international community. Engagement with this community is carried out by working with the Community of Practice. The COP is convened by the Arts Service and will draw insight and wisdom from residents, environment and heritage specialists, scientists, academics and curators, artists, volunteers, producers, teachers, young people, estate managers, community engagement and safety professionals.

6.6.1 Creative Programming and Events

The Council encourages the use of outdoor spaces including for creative programming, events and activities. Some of this programme is delivered by council services, some by external organisations, including hire of parks to appropriate organisations. OHG and grounds is an important heritage site and habitat as well as being a space for creative programming. The Arts Service will develop the events programme in OHG grounds working closely with Parks, ensuring the events support the long term vision for the site and are in step with each service's strategic principles and objectives. Ward councillors and members of the ECS committee are consulted annually over the proposed programme. The Community of Practice advises on the development of the programme.

Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found at: www.richmond.gov.uk

What's On at Orleans House Gallery

6.7 Marketing

Promotion and marketing of Orleans is carried out using a range of measures, principally via the OHG website and associated social media, and including the Council's website and publicity literature, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

6.7.1 Entrance Signage and interpretation

A corporate style of signage for Richmond's parks and open spaces was launched in 2007. It was designed to be attractive and informative.

A consultant will be retained to assist with producing a new strategy for the site.

6.7.2 Internet

Information about Orleans House Gallery and Grounds is available on the Orleans House Gallery website, orleanshousegallery.org

6.7.3 General Promotion

To create awareness for all of its activities and facilities, the Arts Service and the Parks and Open Spaces Service regularly produce articles and press releases about activities and facility development.

7. References

1. Archer, J. & Curson, D., *Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames* (1993): London Ecology Unit.
2. SINC citation, East Sheen and Richmond Cemeteries and Pesthouse Common, RiL06: Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), www.gigl.org.uk
3. *Habitat survey of Orleans House Gardens (2020)*: Salix Ecology

8. Glossary

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan, focusing on the protection, conservation and enhancement of wildlife
GiGL	Greenspace Information for Greater London
GLHER	Greater London Historic Environment Record
LBRuT	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames; Richmond Council
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, a designation denoting London's most important wildlife sites in three tiers: Sites of Metropolitan Importance, Sites of Borough Importance and Sites of Local Importance.