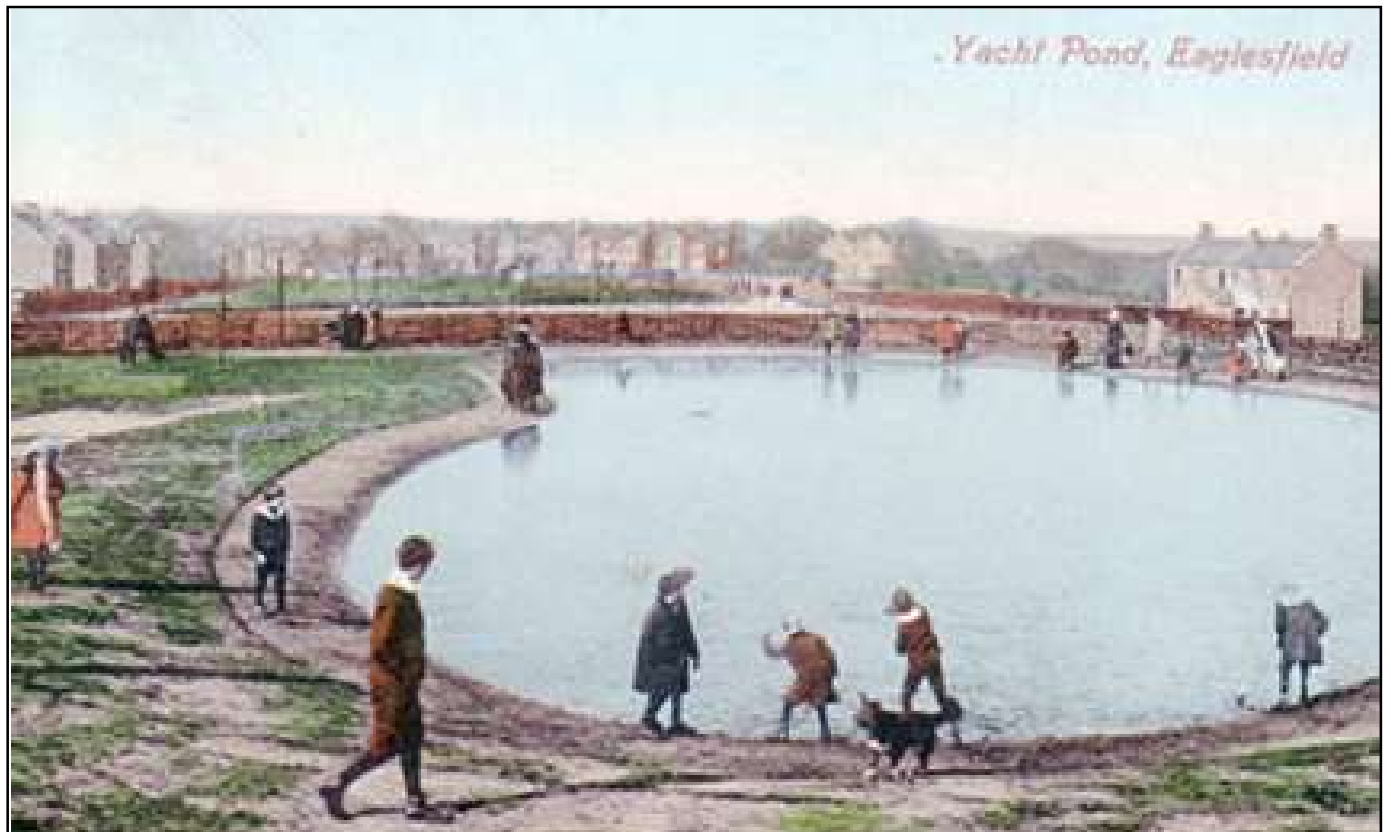


Eaglesfield Park Management Plan 2023



Yacht Pond, Eaglesfield Park postcard c.1912

CONTENTS

PART 1: WHERE ARE WE NOW	3
Introduction	3
What is a Park Management Plan?	3
What is the purpose of this Management Plan?	4
Site Description & Information Base	5
Brief Description	5 to 6
Infrastructure	7 to 10
Example of Playground Inspection Sheet	10
Biological	11
Current Management Arrangements	12 to 13
Example of Grounds Maintenance Work Programme	14
Community Information	14 to 17
Summary	17
PART 2: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO	18
Vision For The Park, General Objectives	18
Analysis & Assessment	19
Heritage	19
Ecology & Biodiversity	19
Landscape & Trees	19
Furniture & Fencing	20
Management	20
Staff Presence	20
Litter	20
Dogs in Parks	20
Visitor & Community Needs	20
Sustainability, Recycling, Pollution Reduction	21
Anti-Social Behaviour	21
Investment – Playground to Podium	21
Strengths	22
Challenges	22
Recommendations	22
PART 3: HOW WILL WE GET THERE	23
Action Plan	23 to 25
Recently Completed Works	26
PART 4: HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED	27
Monitor & Review	27
Appendix I Legislation, Policies & Strategies Affecting Park Management	27 to 32
Appendix II Summary of The Site's History	33 to 34
Appendix III Meadow Survey	35 to 36

PART I: WHERE WE ARE NOW

INTRODUCTION

What is a Park Management Plan

Management Plans are an important aid to the efficient and effective management of any site. A Plan forms part of a process for evaluating performance, 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.

Name of Site: Eaglesfield Park

Address: Eaglesfield Road
Shooters Hill
London
SE18 3HU

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

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

Tel: 020 8856 0100

Email: parks@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

This park is allocated a Strategy and Development Officer who can be contacted for any further information (using the contact details provided above).

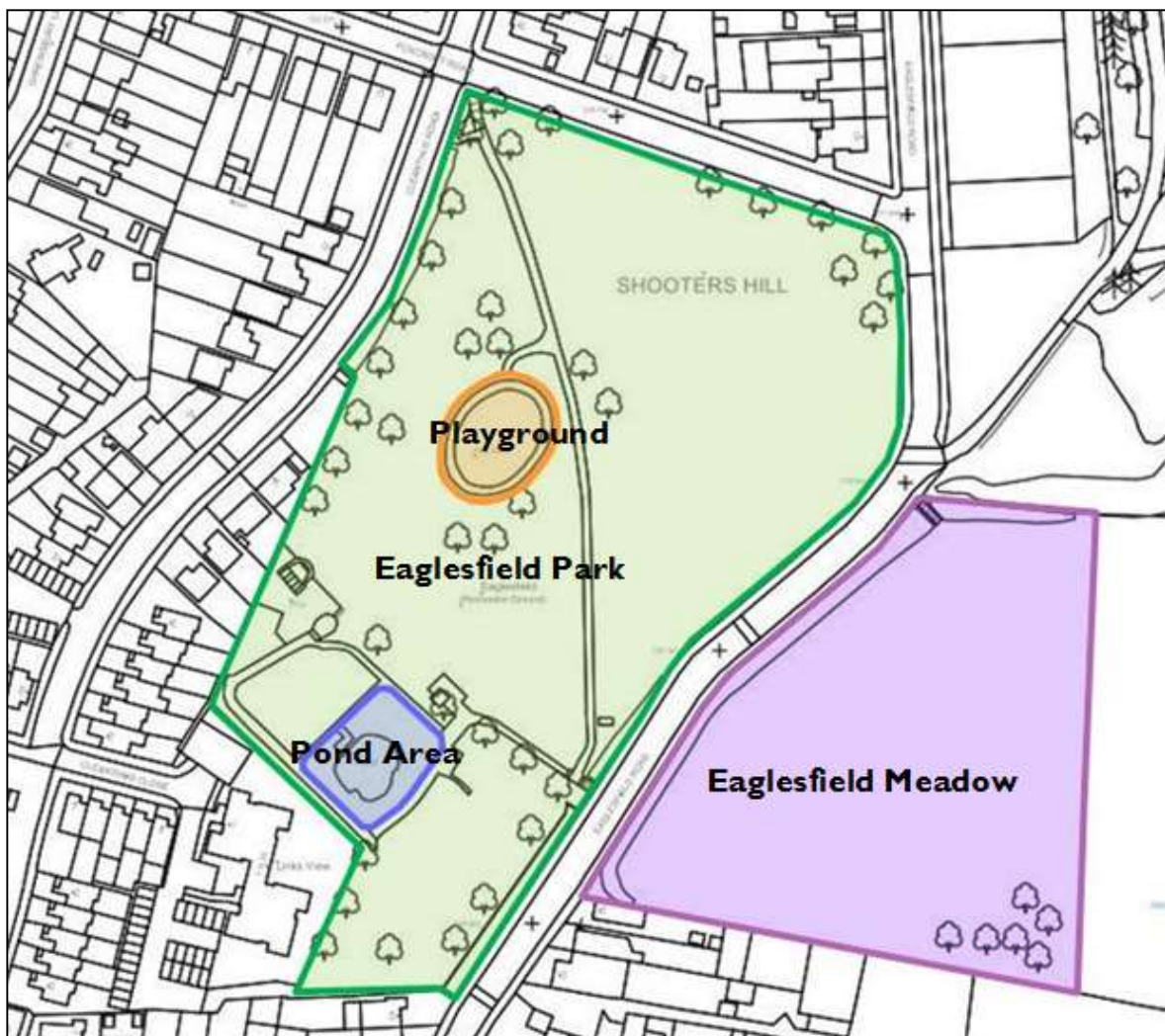
What is the purpose of this Management Plan

As well as developing a Green Space Strategy, the production of individual management plans for each park is good practice and is in accordance with the Royal Borough of Greenwich commitment to providing Best Value.

The Eaglesfield Management Plan will be fully reviewed and updated in 2025 by Parks Management staff responsible for the site.

It is expected that the plan will provide a framework within which any future decisions concerning this site will be taken and that the rolling reviews will inform future strategic and management planning. In addition, it is hoped that the management plan for Eaglesfield Park will assist with allocating existing and securing additional resources for developments on this site that this management plan specifies.

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.



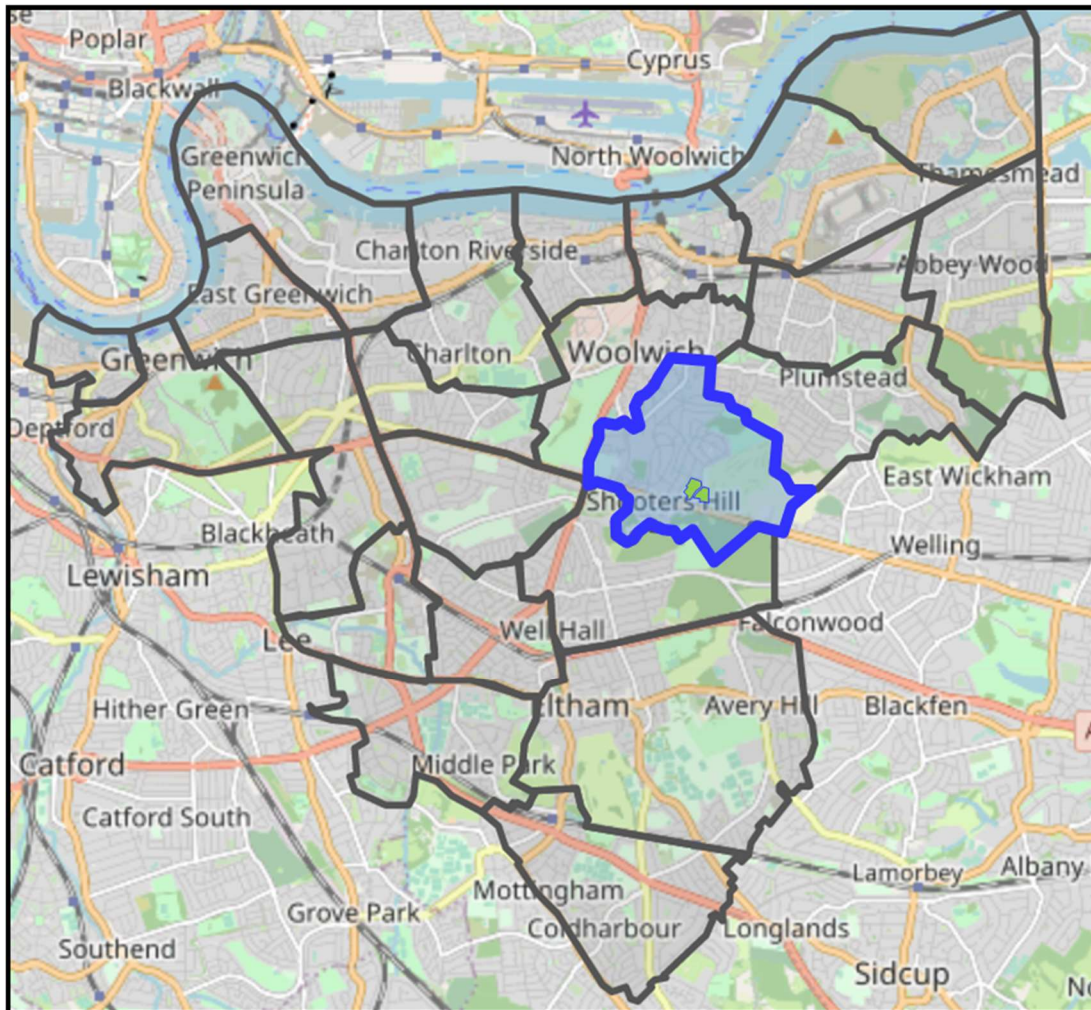
Eaglesfield Park & Meadow

SITE DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION BASE

Brief Description

Eaglesfield Park is a park in two parts of 3.62 hectares located approximately 3 miles northeast of Eltham town centre and 1.3 miles southeast of the Woolwich town centre at the very summit of Shooters Hill in the Shooters Hill Ward of the Royal Borough of Greenwich (SE18 3DA). Details of Elected Members for this Ward are available from the Greenwich Council website:

<http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/> or from the Town Hall, Woolwich, Tel: 020 8854 8888.



Location of Eaglesfield Park within the Shooters Hill Ward in the Royal Borough of Greenwich

The summit of the hill within the park is one of the highest points within the greater London area at 126 metres above [datum](#). The park is divided on a north/south axis by Eaglesfield Road, with the western side (upper park) maintained with formal amenity character and the eastern side (lower park) being maintained as meadowland. (Upper Eaglesfield = 2.46ha, Lower Eaglesfield Park = 1.16ha) It is bordered by the Shooters Hill Golf Course on its eastern side and urban housing on all other sides, being separated on the north and west sides by Cleanthus Road and Foxcroft Road.



The ground on the formal area of the park is of varying slope, with the top area of the hill being mainly flat, and is at approximately 123 metres above sea level. The informal eastern area of the park is of gently sloping eastern aspect, and is approximately 120 metres above sea level. The underpinning geology in the western part of the park is plateau gravel that forms the cap of Shooter's Hill, and the eastern part of the park is formed from the underlying London Clay.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich owns the park with management and maintenance being carried out by the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Department, which is located within the Directorate of Communities, Environment & Central. There are no leases affecting Eaglesfield Park.

The Royal borough of Greenwich Green Space Strategy designates Eaglesfield Park's primary purpose as Local Park.

Other parks in the local area are; Shrewsbury Park 500 metres to the northeast, and Oxleas Woods 100 metres to the south.

Eaglesfield Park enjoys an active and dedicated Friends group.

"...The view to the eastward from the ridge of the Hill, both by day and by night is impressive; the main road to Dover can be traced for many miles; by day the square miles of red roofs and by night the thousands of twinkling lights make one ponder over the question as to 'when will London reach the sea?..."

(Articles on Shooter's Hill by Colonel A.H. Bagnold, Parish Magazine of Christ Church 1936/1938)

Infrastructure

Paths and Access to the park

There is excellent pedestrian access to the formal park, as it is surrounded on the west, north and eastern sides by streets, with no fencing around the park.

The informal park area has access to Eaglesfield Road on its western side, but the path is a desire line as opposed to being paved. This is to encourage dog walkers to use this part of the park rather than the formal area.

There are five formal entrances (although as the formal area of the park is unfenced, many people just walk straight into the park), three to the formal park area, Cleanthus Road, (corner of Cleanthus Road and Foxcroft Road, and the western side of Eaglesfield Road), and two leading into the informal park area (eastern side of Eaglesfield Road).

Wheelchair and pushchair access to the formal area of the park can only be classified as acceptable, as there is only one disabled access point to the park, being a ramp at the northern entrance to the formal park at the corner of Foxcroft Road and Cleanthus Road.

The park is part of the Green Chain and Green Chain Walk, with the adjacent green spaces on the walk being Jackwood to the south and Shrewsbury Park to the north. (www.greenchain.com)

Watercourses and Water Features

The only water feature in the park is a small pond at the highest point of the hill. This pond is called 'The Lily Pond'. This pond is in the area that was formerly within the grounds of a house known as 'The Shrubbery'. The Lily Pond was restored as an ecological pond in 2011 with external funding obtained by the Friends of Eaglesfield Park.



The Lily Pond around WWI



The Lily Pond November 2011

Eaglesfield Park occupies the very top of Shooters Hill, and as mentioned, the upper park's underlying geology is composed of porous Harwich Formation on top of London Clay. This results in a perched water table that produces springs where the two layers meet. These springs at one stage could be found around the cap of Shooters Hill, but a combination of factors has resulted in a number of these springs drying up in the recent years, though they can be apparent after notably wet winters.

Lower Eaglesfield Park has poor drainage because of its underlying London Clay geology, which, combined with the perched water table, means that it can be wet for most of the year. This provides a habitat for amphibians particularly frogs.

Furniture, Fencing and General Infrastructure

Seating, litter bins and picnic benches are generally in good condition.

The park is not fenced off from adjoining land, except on the southern side of the formal area, where it borders onto residential properties and the south and east of the informal area, where it borders onto the Shooters Hill golf course (owned by the golf club). There is a post and rail fence along Eaglesfield Road to prevent pedestrians falling off the pavement into the lower part of the park. This fence is not a parks fence but comes under the Highways Department.

The only fencing within the park is that around the Lily Pond, the playground and the drainage vent.

The fencing around The Lily Pond is a 3 foot high iron fence, and has been prone to vandalism in the past. The fencing was replaced in 2011 as part of the pond restoration. The shrubbery area surrounding The Lily Pond provides a secluded area (the featheredge fence behind this area is occasionally graffitied).

The fence to the properties in Eaglesfield Road and Cleanthus Close are the responsibility of the council, the fences to the properties to Cleanthus Road are the householders responsibility.

Play Facilities

All fixed equipment playgrounds in parks are managed by Parks, Estates and Open Spaces. The play equipment conforms to European Union standards EN1176 and EN1177 in regard to installation and surfacing. The equipment is visually inspected on a daily basis, with a more detailed inspection undertaken on a bi-monthly basis and an independent inspection on an annual basis.

Playground Refurbishment

The Friends of Eaglesfield Park identified replacing the children's playground as one of their priorities and undertook consultation in May 2020 to ask what the local community would like to see in their playground.

The playground at Eaglesfield Park was completely refurbished in July 2021. The old playground equipment that was coming to the end of its life was replaced with wooden play equipment to give the play area a more natural feel, since installation the playground has been very popular.

The playground works were funded as part of the £1 Million Parks Improvement Scheme and additional budget from Section 106 and ward budget.



Eaglesfield Park Playground

Lighting

Currently, there is no lighting within the park. However, (street) lighting is provided around the perimeter of the park, providing significant “backlighting” into the park.

Buildings, Facilities and Structures

The only structure currently found within the park is a small ventilation outlet for the sewer fenced off near Eaglesfield Road.

Example of Playground Inspection Sheet

Royal Borough of Greenwich		Parks, Estates & Open Spaces	
Play Areas Equipment & Surroundings			
Site Location: Eaglesfield Park No 9	Date of Inspection:	Signature:	

Line	Equipment	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Cradle Swing X 2	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Flat Swing X 2	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Multi Complex	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Springy X 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															
11	Bins														
12	Signs														
13	Fencing														
14	Drains														
15	Gates X 1														

INSPECTORS ACTION TAKEN / ACTION RECOMMENDED
1 - Flexing between integral side barriers & main frame, pivots worn
2 - Flexing between integral side barriers & main frame, seat damage X1 (minor damage monitor)
3 - At various locations 2X bridge timbers fire damage but serviceable, hole plugs missing. Some small areas of damage to safety surface present (not in fall area), crack in safety surface at slides. Run out, access chain top mounting eyes worn X3
Key
A) Structure B) Surface Finish C) Consumable Item D) Edge E) Pinch Crush Point F) Mechanical or Moving Part G) Hand Access H) Foot Access I) Seats J) Foundations K) Safety Surface L) Sharps M) Vandalism N) Cleanliness

Biological

Ecological Description

An ecological survey of Greenwich's meadows in parks and open spaces was commissioned by the Parks and Open Spaces department in August 2005. The survey was carried out by Groundwork South East London and covers 12 meadows in 7 parks. The section of the meadow survey that deals with Eaglesfield Park is included in this plan as Appendix III.

The grass in Lower Eaglesfield Park is cut infrequently in accordance to a maintenance schedule that was created according to the aforementioned Greenwich meadow survey 2005. This field is of importance as it lies wet encouraging a greater bio-diversity and as such, is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) by the Greenwich Council CP (see Appendix I). An abundance of frogs can be found here in the spring. There is a desire line in the grass for dog walkers to encourage them to use this part of the park away from the more formal areas in the top area (which are more regularly used by children to play).

Horticultural Description

There are many mature trees and semi-mature trees both on the perimeter and scattered around the site providing excellent amenity value. The majority of shrubs within the park are located in the area that was formerly part of (and still known as) 'The Shrubbery'. The rest of the park has a variety of trees, including ash, lime, oaks. The old mulberry tree fell down in the winter of 2011 and it is hoped it will re-grow from the remaining stump. There has been no sign of growth so a new tree has been planted in February 2013. The perimeter of the formal park area where it borders the road has a line of London Plane trees. This line of trees has been broken in several sections where trees have been removed.

Green Waste and Weed Control

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces recycles all of its 'green waste'. Green waste is transported locally from parks, gardens and woodlands to Holbrook Yard at Shooters Hill, where it is recycled into mulch. The mulch is then used in the parks, both as a provider of nutrients, a moisture retainer and a suppressor of weeds. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces use herbicide only as necessary for the control of invasive species such as Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed and where weed control is required on hard surfaces).

Arboricultural Survey

An Arboricultural Survey was carried out in January 2021.

Tree management of the site will:

- Comply with the overall management plan for Eaglesfield Park
- Undertake the work identified within the Tree Survey
- To preserve and enhance the existing landscape by replacing a tree when removed and reviewing the capacity for additional planting

There are over 50 mature and semi-mature trees on the site, with none exceeding 20 metres in height. The Arboricultural Survey contains a complete list of all the trees within the site and set out actions required to maintain the trees in a safe and healthy condition. Tree inspections are undertaken on a 3-year cycle, the next inspections are due 2024.

Current Management Arrangements

Management Structure

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

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

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

Staff Presence

Park Rangers visit the park on a regular basis to perform a range of duties such as, to ensure the safety of the public visiting the park, provide assistance where appropriate, daily visual inspection of playgrounds, Reporting of antisocial behaviour and graffiti, maintain the park free of litter and the collection of passes and income from sports where appropriate. Occasional incidents of graffiti are normally removed within 5 working days but often on the same day. Rangers also provide assistance for park events. The Rangers report to their senior parks officer any of the above and the issues are either dealt with directly by the senior parks officers or passed on where appropriate to the management. The Safer Spaces Wardens Team carry out hotspot patrols of Parks where required at the request of the Park Ranger Manager, the Wardens are licensed to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and dog fouling.

Grounds maintenance is provided by the Council's own gardening workforce. The District Manager responsible for the grounds maintenance staff initially inspects standards. Senior management carry out random checks.

Grounds maintenance specification

In brief, the formal park area is maintained as amenity grass, the SNCI area is maintained as meadowland.

Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments are contained in a red folder along with a COSHH assessment book, a list of all first aid contacts and the Environment Management System manual. The red folders are available to staff at all depots and mess rooms, the risk assessments cover all equipment, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and work tasks and are reviewed each time any new machines, substances or procedures are introduced.

Budget Information

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

Horticulture / Park Rangers Operations

Revenue Spend for 2021/22 = £22,220.32 Capital Spend for 2021/22 = £111,938.40

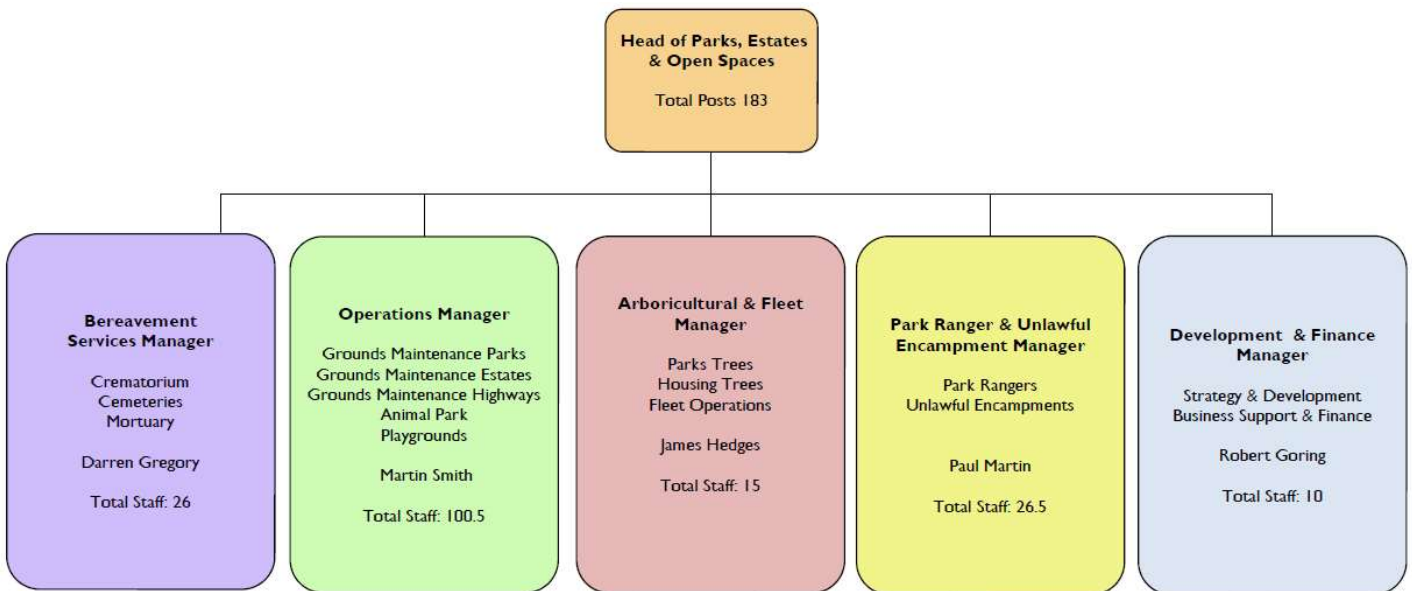
Property Services

The corporate budgets for both planned and responsive maintenance of The Royal Borough's property infrastructure are held by Greenwich Property Services in the Directorate of Regeneration Enterprise and Skills. 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 local parks within the borough can be found on the Royal Borough of Greenwich's website: www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk. Events at Eaglesfield Park are promoted by posters and flyers distributed and displayed locally. Adverts are also entered in the local press and the Royal Boroughs Media Desk Team promotes on social media platforms.

Management Structure Chart



Example of Grounds Maintenance Work Programme for Eaglesfield Park

Line	Description	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	spray path edges & paving				1								
2	edging half moon		1										
3	pedestrian grass mowing			2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	
4	leaf clearing	1										1	1
5	shrub bed maint summer			1		1		1		1			
6	shrub bed maint winter	1										1	
7	sweeping paths	5									4	4	4
8	brushcutting pond bank										1		
9	brushcutting & obstacles			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
10	tree feathering			1				1					
T4	tractor gang mowing			2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	
M15	mini-triple mowing			2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	

Community Information

The demographic information contained in this section is gathered from a variety of sources, including the 2011 Census and the Neighbourhood Statistics website, but summarised on the Greenwich Ward profiles of the Council's Intranet site.

The information relates to the Shooters Hill Ward as a whole and not specifically to Eaglesfield Park's immediate surroundings, which border onto the Eltham South Ward on the northern side of the train line.

The resident population of Shooters Hill Ward, as measured in the 2011 Census, was 13,433.

Population density (persons per sq. metre) 3,513.2

% area that is green space = 57.1%

% of children 0-15 = 20.7%

% of persons working age 16 – 64 = 66.8%

% of persons 65+ = 12.4%

Community Consultation

There is an established Friends of Eaglesfield Park group that operates under a model constitution. Their website is: <http://eaglesfieldpark.org/>.



Friends of Group Banner in Eaglesfield Park

Brief Summary of some of the Friends Groups Achievements *(sourced from their website)*

- Obtained £50,000 from the Community Spaces Programme (Big Lottery Fund)
- Organised regular pond/meadow maintenance/planting sessions
- Organised pond dipping activities, equipment provided
- Planted spring bulbs supplied by RBG Parks Department
- Liaised with RBG Parks Depart for wildlife Interpretation Boards and park signage
- Liaised with RBG Parks Department to renew pathways and steps
- Organised working parties of students from the National Citizen Service – The Challenge to clear overgrown bushes around the pond and pathways
- Met with Local Councillors and RBG Parks Department regarding various issues
- Put up numerous bird boxes
- Obtained advice from wildlife organisations such as Groundwork UK and Froglife
- Participated in Parkfest Summer Festivals funded by the Greenwich Forum
- Obtained Green Flag Status
- Together with instructor Chew-yeen Lawes, organised Tai Chi sessions in the park

Stakeholders

Royal Borough of Greenwich

Directorate of Communities, Environment & Central
Parks, Estates & Open Spaces

Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills
Property Services
Planning Control
Green Chain Officer

Chief Executive's Department
Marketing/events

Directorate of Neighbourhood Services
Neighbourhood panels/Representatives

Directorate of Children's Services
CYPS
Local schools

Agencies

Police
Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team
Fire & Rescue Service

Community

Friends of Eaglesfield Park
Eglesfield Park Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
Park Users
Park non-users
Dog walkers
Green Chain Walkers
Digging for Dads Army community Archaeology group

Politicians

Ward members (Shooters Hill Ward)
Local MP (Eltham)

Existing and potential conflicts of interest

Potential conflicts that are generally found in parks include:

- Tension between some young people on occasion and local residents
- Neighbouring properties may be affected by noise as a result of activities in a park and associated litter
- Dogs not under proper control and dog fouling
- Vandalism deterring legitimate park users
- Fear of crime
- Limited improvements due to budget constraints
- Older children monopolising and/or damaging play equipment
- Illicit motorcycling/quad biking/car misuse

Recreational evaluation

Possible recreational activities of park users are both passive and active. Passive recreation includes walking, sitting, reading and picnicking. Also informal nature study or communing with nature. Active recreation in the park is limited to the Playground and casual sport.

Summary

Eaglesfield Park is a medium sized site incorporating a range of passive and recreational activities. It is used by many of the children and adults of the local area. The availability of the grassed area is an asset and promotes small scale informal recreation.

PART 2: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO

VISION FOR THE PARK

To manage, develop and maintain Eaglesfield Park to a high level of quality and to a sustainable standard in partnership with and meeting the needs of the local community. Maintain the Park to Green Flag standard.

To improve the health and wellbeing of visitors and residents by developing a well-maintained and quality park for active recreation and or relaxation with respect to the size, geographical environment, historical landscape and nature of current amenities, e.g. the children's play area.

General Objectives

To manage the maintenance and development of Eaglesfield Park to a high level of quality and a sustainable standard, in partnership with and meeting the needs of the local community.

To preserve and enhance the biological environment within the park with a view to improving the ecology of the park.

To preserve and enhance the infrastructure within the park with a view to supporting the primary users of the park.

To realise the potential of the park as an ecological, cultural and historical place to visit through a programme of publicity, information, education and events.

To reduce anti-social behaviour in the park in co-operation with other stakeholder agencies, e.g., by taking advantage of the Green Space Strategy Action Plan items under Communities & Environment.

To work with the local community in identifying local priorities for funding of the park and to consult with them and others in management planning, including monitoring and review.

To work with the local community in identifying appropriate projects that could be completed by them (the community) but are otherwise beyond the resources of the council, and assisting them (The community) in identifying and applying for appropriate funding.

To encourage Biodiversity in line with the Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan.

ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

Heritage

Eaglesfield Park has been developed as a park for just over one hundred years, and the ‘invisible’ heritage at the site may be of value to residents who may have memories of playing in the park as children. It may be possible to access this invisible heritage by the use of interpretation boards showing historic photos of the park. The park was part of the “TIME TEAM” television programme “Blitzkrieg on Shooters Hill” (2008) about the WW2 defences for London. Many artefacts were uncovered. In 2009, more archaeological excavations took place and a World War I anti-aircraft gun emplacement the only one of its sort to date was discovered. Part of the park was in the grounds of one of the grand homes to be found at the top of the hill.

Ecology / Biodiversity

The CP says “...Plans need to be based on adequate information about species and habitats... To achieve these goals, baseline data needs to be established where ecologically friendly management is already in place. Therefore, ecological assessments must be undertaken in order to establish baseline data...” The Greenwich Meadows Survey 2005 provides an excellent starting point from which further studies can be performed, but it should not be viewed as being definitive, as all ecologies change over time, and require regular surveys in order to establish trends and conditions within the ecology. The pond restoration of 2011 as an ecological pond embraces the Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as one of the aims is “To conserve and enhance existing pond, river and wetland habitats in Greenwich for biodiversity”.

The ecology of the park has been greatly improved by the restoration of the pond in the autumn of 2011. The ecology within the park could be highlighted by the use of interpretation boards showing the species that are present within the park. The friends are working on procurement of interpretational signage.

Landscape and Trees

The landscape within the park can be seen from a wide area around; any development on the park should remain very sensitive to this.

An Arboricultural safety survey was last carried out in January 2021 with the next due in 2024.

The perimeter line of London Planes in the formal park is broken where trees have been removed. In some areas, it may be appropriate to reinstate them. In addition, this line of trees changed to limes and passes around where the outer border of ‘the shrubbery’ was.

On casual inspection, the mulberry tree within the former Shrubby grounds which fell over in November 2011 appears to only be around 80 years old, but it is possible that it may be historically important, as there are other mulberries in the area that are of the King James provenance. We were hoping the tree will re-grow from the remaining stump but the stump had not re-grown by January 2013 so a new tree was purchased.

Furniture and Fencing

The park furniture found at the summit of the park, adjacent to the playground is occasionally graffitied. The fencing around the Lily Pond has been renewed as part of the pond restoration of 2011. The park boundary fence in this area is addressed elsewhere in this document. In 2008, picnic tables were relocated to other parts of the park so as not to make a gathering point. This has proved successful as the anti-social behaviour has decreased.

Management

Management of the park satisfies the wider users of the site. The existing grounds maintenance specifications have been modified from past contracts, reflecting good horticultural practice, safety and landscape management.

Staff Presence

As noted previously, staff visit the park approximately once a day to carry out routine inspection and maintenance duties on a regular basis (times vary).

Litter

It has been noted that the park has been subject to a high level of littering, but this is not on a continuous basis. It would seem that at times, additional litter picks may be necessary, particularly when groups of youths have congregated in the park during summer evening's, should resources permit.

Dogs in Parks

The Royal Borough of Greenwich's policy is that all playgrounds are dog free areas supported by the Council's recent adoption of statutory powers under Dog Control Orders. Dog fouling has also been recognised as being a problem within many of Greenwich's open spaces.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Act 2005 makes it possible for local authorities to introduce Dog Control Orders. The Royal Borough of Greenwich has implemented the Dog Control Orders and this has been in operation since November 2009.

Visitor & Community Needs

The Friends of the Park have successfully restored the lily pond in 2011. Further consultation to identify priorities will be undertaken.

A consultation strategy for this site will be developed in the future.

As mentioned previously, there have been problems with minor antisocial behaviour within the park. Vandalism is associated with the area behind the Lily Pond, although since the restoration it has been minimal.

Sustainability

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Parks, Estates and Open Spaces section have an environmental management system (EMS) which is externally audited by the British Standards Institute and certified against the internationally respected ISO 14001 environmental standard series.

Recycling

The Parks and Open Spaces department recycle as much of its green waste as possible. All green waste is taken to Holbrook Meadow and shredded on site. The resulting mulch is reused throughout Greenwich's parks.

Litter where possible is sorted by the Rangers so much of it can be sent for recycling. Any non-recyclable litter is taken to the Royal Boroughs civic amenity site for disposal.

Small wood is chipped and large wood is sometimes left on site to create wood piles to encourage increased bio-diversity and potential habitats for stag beetles and other invertebrates.

Pollution Reduction

A trial of battery-operated combi head equipment is being carried out with the intention to replace most of the existing hand-held petrol driven equipment. All staff have completed an Environmental Induction and have access to a copy of the Environmental Management System which is in the Red Folder at each depot.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Eaglesfield Park area has a Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating.
Contact details are:

Eaglesfield Park Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (EPNWS)
Jenny Penn (Principal Co-ordinator)
Tel: 020 8854 3337 (evenings)

This document is not intended to be an ASB reduction strategy, but further investigation and effort should be made to link this document with a crime and disorder reduction strategy for this area.

Investment – Playground to Podium

The Royal Borough is committed using the opportunities created by the 2012 Olympics to create a legacy of improved infrastructure sports facilities in the Royal Borough's Parks, Estates & Open Spaces. To meet this ambition it has approved a £4.77 million investment programme.

Funding from this programme has been allocated for Eaglesfield Park and will help deliver a number of priorities identified in this plan. A detailed scheme and estimate report was developed in 2010 for approval by the council. The paths and steps improvements of 2011 were funded by this programme.

STRENGTHS

- Major viewpoint park – outstanding views over South and East London, North Kent, Thames Estuary and Essex
- Active Friends group / Neighbourhood Watch (with an interest in the park)
- Community archaeological group
- Good local park enjoyed by the local community
- Two organised community events in most years
- New signage has been installed as part of Green Chain
- Well maintained park
- The pond was restored in 2011
- Paths and steps relayed 2011
- New noticeboard, two new information signs at entrances and an information sign for the pond installed
- Fully refurbished playground completed in 2022

CHALLENGES

- Vandalism / ASB within the site –and in occasional graffiti and vandalism, both usually on the man-made surfaces. This has significantly reduced in recent years.
- There is limited marketing of the site

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To continue the development of an effective working partnership between the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Department and the Friends of Eaglesfield Park/neighbourhood watch/local community, and in their involvement in the management planning consultation process
- Maintain view through sensitive tree management
- Perform a Biological/Bio-diversity survey of the SINC
- To support the Friends of Group
- To improve awareness, use of and respect for the site by all sections of the community
- To reduce ASB at the site through a range of measures
- Increase active recreation facilities
- To obtain and maintain Green Flag Status

PART 3: HOW WILL WE GET THERE

ACTION PLAN

Timescales as given in this document are as follows;

- Short Term – Within one to two years from adoption of this plan
- Medium Term – Within three to four years from the adoption of this plan
- Long Term – Five years and more from the adoption of this plan

Action Plan	Recommendation	Action	Timescale (Long/ Medium/ Short Term)	Responsibility
Biodiversity	To undertake Biological/Bio-diversity survey of the Lower Park area and the pond	Identify funding and source the knowledge to undertake surveys	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces/ Friends of Group
Culture and events	To identify (through a process of consultation) where additional signage – for example, a ‘view interpretation panel’ would be beneficial/desirable	To include this in part of consultation process with local community	Completed 2014	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Biodiversity	To support the Friends of group in their efforts to maintain the pond	Hold annual clean-up and restoration sessions with the Friends of Groups and staff	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces

Recreation	Installation of outdoor gym at site	Consultation revealed that the majority of users of the park thought a gym was not in keeping or suitable for the park	N/A	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Community Safety	To reduce ASB at the site	Continual consultation with Community to explore the issues of graffiti removal (Exploration of anti-graffiti paint and/or working with community to train them in graffiti removal. Request that Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team patrol the park and its immediate area more often and work in conjunction with them as appropriate (Use trends obtained from ASB database to reinforce this request).	Ongoing	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Education and Culture	To improve awareness/use of site by all sections of the community	Undertake consultation to identify any barriers to use for any particular groups/users. To consider producing a marketing plan for the park in conjunction with the community	Medium Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Arboricultural Survey	Recommendations made following the last Arboricultural survey undertaken in January 2021	To undertake the recommendations, next inspections are due 2024	Short to Long Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Refurbish playground	To fully refurbish the playground	Playground to be refurbished by the end of 2021	Completed	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces

To reduce the use of two stroke petrol	To reduce the use of two stroke petrol	To test battery operated handheld grounds maintenance equipment with an aim of 25% of handheld fleet battery operated by the end of 2023	Achieved	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Benches	Place additional benches surrounding the outside of the play area	X2 benches ordered and to be installed, funded from the remaining money from the £1 Million Parks Improvement Scheme	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Signage	Place additional signage	Signage on taking rubbish home, using bins provided, no BBQs and advice on what to feed the ducks to be ordered & installed before Summer 2023, consultation on designs with the Friends of Group	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Pond	Replacement of the walkway	Replacement with non-slip planks on the ramp	Short Term	Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Education and Culture	Installation of sculpture	Friends of Group to be assisted by Parks in arranging the installation of a wooden sculpture around in the pond area	Short Term	Friends of Group, Parks Estates & Open Spaces

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.

RECENTLY COMPLETED WORKS



PART 4: HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Management Plan will be fully reviewed and updated every five years by Parks Management Staff responsible for Eaglesfield Park, with annual reviews undertaken as and when necessary.

A working document copy of the Management Plan is kept within the park's office so that issues and changes that arise as well as new information can be documented. The action plan will be regularly reviewed and completed works documented within it as part of the Directorate's Service business planning process.

APPENDIX I

Legislation, policies and strategies affecting park management

As highlighted earlier in the plan, Royal Borough of Greenwich Council's Parks, Estates and 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 and directly impacts on all service plans and service delivery.

The Cultural Strategy

Parks, Estates and 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. The plan also has a number of strategic aims.

Green Space Strategy

The Green Spaces Strategy sets out the Royal Borough' 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 and events, tackling inequality, sport, health and well being) are all relevant to the management plan for Eaglesfield Park.

The Health, Safety & Wellbeing Policy was reviewed and ratified by the Directorate Management Team on 25th November 2009. The overall responsibility for Health & Safety within Communities & Environment rests with the Director.

Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan

The Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan provides direction and coordination for the conservation of biodiversity in Greenwich.

Parks and Open Spaces Service Plan

The Parks and Open Spaces department aims to develop, manage, ensure accessibility and maintain to a high standard the borough's Parks, Estates and 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 Boroughs 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 9001:2015– Quality Management System

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces arboricultural services is accredited to the ISO 9001:2015. The ISO 9001 Quality Management System is used by the Royal Borough to manage their activities and resources to guarantee a quality service. The ISO 9001 helps the Royal Borough achieve customer satisfaction because it provides a framework for service analysis and definition and for the improvement of processes. The four main parts covered under the Quality Management System are (i) management responsibility (ii) resource management (iii) process management and (iv) measurement, analysis and improvement.

ISO 14001: 2015 – Environmental Management System

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces horticultural and arboricultural services are managed in conjunction with an Environmental Management System that is accredited to the internationally respected EN ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Standard. The Royal Borough's grounds maintenance and tree maintenance activities are controlled to ensure the service is delivered in an environmentally sustainable manner and to reduce any negative effects on the environment that may be their operations. Parks, Estates & Open Spaces works towards sustainable development and continual environmental improvements.

ISO 45001:2018 – Health, Safety & Wellbeing Management System

The Parks, Estates & Open Spaces arboricultural services is accredited to the ISO 45001:2018 which provides a framework for managing Occupation Health & Safety risks and opportunities. The aim is to prevent work related injury and ill health to workers and to provide safe, healthier workplaces by eliminating hazards minimizing risks by taking effective preventative and protective measures. The intended outcomes of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management System include (i) continual improvement of performance, (ii) fulfilment of legal and other requirements and (iii) achievement of Health & safety objectives.

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.

Core Strategy

Local Councils have a duty to prepare a Core Strategy by law. The Royal Boroughs Core Strategy (CS) sets out the vision for use of the land in the Royal Borough, and provides the main guidance for making decisions on individual planning proposals. The document is intended to cover the period 2001 – 2011 (or 2016 in some instances) It is a legal document with the following purposes:

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

Eaglesfield Park is designated by the CS as follows

- Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)
- Green Chain & Green Chain walk
- Conservation (SNCI) (Eastern part)
- Area of Special Character of Metropolitan Importance

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

Metropolitan Open Land

The CS designates Eaglesfield Park as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). Policy references O1, O2, O3 and O4 under the section 'Protecting Open Land' set out what the acceptable land uses and allowable developments are within areas designated as MOL. These policy references are too lengthy to reproduce here. The policies are broadly meant to control development or alterations to existing land that would be inappropriate to MOL and have an adverse affect on the character and usage of the open space.

Green Chain

The CS also designates Eaglesfield Park 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 Council 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).

Green Chain Walk

Policy O14 refers to the Green Chain Walk, which runs through Eaglesfield Park on Cleanthus and Foxcroft Roads.

O15 Existing footpaths will be safeguarded and new footpaths created to and through open spaces and places of interest, where they do not adversely affect nature conservation. The Council will endeavour to create a signposted network of continuous and circular routes. In particular the 'Green Chain Walk' footpath network will be improved and extended and new links created wherever possible.

The CS then states that the Mayor's Transport strategy has identified the Green Chain Walk as being one of six strategic walks in London, Section 2.4

Conservation

The UDP identifies the eastern side of Eaglesfield Park as being part of a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI), listed in the CS as a Site of Borough Importance Grade I and designated as SNCI NC16. reasons given for this designation are as follows: -
'An extensive mosaic of habitats, ranging from ancient woodland, secondary woodland through scrub to rough grassland and wetland.'

The CS refers to SNCI's as follows: -

O18 A network of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) throughout the Borough has been identified for protection i.e. eastern part of Eaglesfield Park. These include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and sites declared as Local Nature Reserves (LNR). They are defined on the Proposals Map and listed in Table O2 as sites of Metropolitan, Borough or Local importance for nature conservation or geology. There will be a presumption against the development of these sites: the level of protection accorded to a site will be commensurate with its designation. Conservation and enhancement of important scientific features will be sought by appropriate management.

In addition, it says: -

Plans need to be based on adequate information about species and habitats... To achieve these goals, baseline data needs to be established where ecologically friendly management is already in place. Therefore, Ecological assessments must be undertaken in order to establish baseline data.

For the extent of the SNCI Areas, refer to the CS maps (2006 adopted version).

Areas of Special Character

Also, the Greenwich CS in part 2.6 refers to Eaglesfield Park as part of a larger area designated as Special Character of Metropolitan Character.

D28 Within Areas of Special Character defined on the Proposals Map, special consideration will be given to the safeguarding, restoration and enhancement of character, scale and quality of open spaces and associated buildings. Skylines and distant views both to and from the Areas of Special Character will be protected.

The Biodiversity Action plan

The Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan will be 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 Royal 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 focussed 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 and is currently in draft form awaiting adoption by the Council.

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, Estates 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.

Dog control

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

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 make 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, Estates and Open Spaces, Police Community Support Officers and the Dog Warden are authorised to issue fixed penalties.

Public Space Protection Orders

The Royal Borough of Greenwich can also use Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to deal with a specific nuisance or problem in the local community. PSPOs place conditions on anyone using the specified area. They are designed to ensure that everyone can use and enjoy public spaces, free from anti-social behaviour.

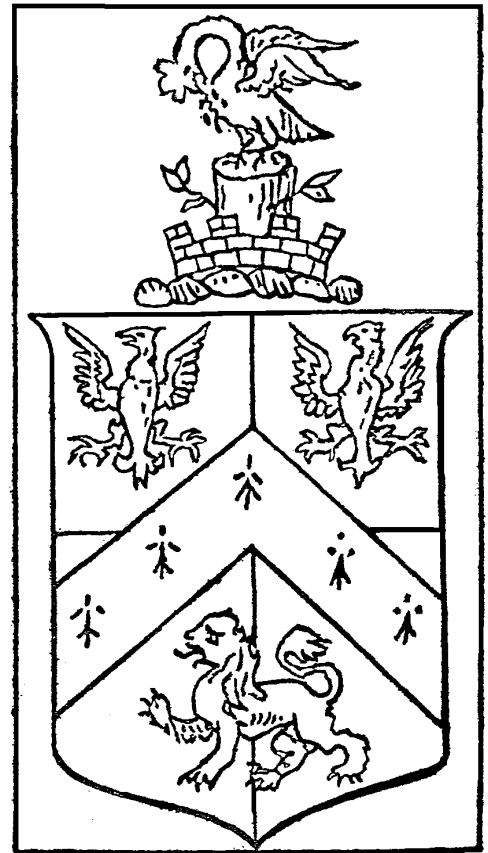
APPENDIX II

Summary of the site's history

Eaglesfield Park occupies the highest point of Shooters Hill, and one of the highest points in the Greater London area. As such, it has been a landmark since the earliest human settlements in the London area. Prior to human settlement, the area occupied by the park would have been largely covered by woodland, the only local remnants of which now are in Shrewsbury Park and Oxleas Wood.

The geology underlying the cap of Shooters Hill as mentioned previously in this plan consists of a plateau gravel cap on top of London Clay. The effects of this are to produce a number of natural springs around the cap of the hill. Some historians indicate that the Romans and earlier peoples may have come to “take the water” from these springs. The Romans also created the road that runs over the top of Shooters Hill just south of Eaglesfield Park, Watling street, the Dover, Canterbury-Rochester-London road.

Clearing of individual areas of woodland in this area would have taken place from the very early Anglo-Saxon times, if not before. The name for the nearby Oxleas Woods comes from the Anglo-Saxon practice of clearing open areas (or *Coat of arms showing the two eagles* leahs) in woodlands for grazing lands for sheep and oxen – hence – ox leah.



1740

JOHN LIDGBIRD

The modern name for Eaglesfield is derived from the coat of arms of John Lidgbird, who was made High Sheriff of Kent in 1741 and owned the site. His coat of arms displayed two eagles, as shown above.

Eaglesfield Park has historically been referred to as Eaglesfield Pleasure Ground and Eaglesfield Recreation Ground. The site was originally acquired by the London County Council in 1908, and passed to the Greater London Council then transferred to Greenwich Council.

There were two ponds within the grounds of the park, one on the very top of the hill, referred to as the Lily Pond which was possibly originally a clay pit. The area surrounding this pond was formerly in the grounds of ‘the Shrubbery’ a substantial house. This pond is referred to in A.H.Bagnold’s “Shooters Hill” as the “Tile Clay-Pit”.

The other pond was further down the ridge of the hill, and was thought to be a “dew pond”. This second pond was often used as a children’s paddling pool/ model boat sailing area, and is shown on the cover of this plan as the ‘yacht pond’. The Yacht Pond was originally converted to a paddling pool and then when the concrete base failed it was converted to a children’s playground.

Historically, the park had toilets, shelters, kiosk, and staff accommodation; however, all these facilities have been removed.

The park was part of the “TIME TEAM” television programme “Blitzkrieg on Shooters Hill” (2008) about the WW2 defences for London. Many artefacts were uncovered. In 2009, more archaeological excavations took place and a World War I anti-aircraft gun emplacement revealed (the only one of its kind discovered so far) and World War 2 barrage balloon anchor points. Trial pits were dug for the Lilly pond restoration and some minor artefacts were found there. Further information can be found online: <http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/reports/65308/shooters-hill>.



Eaglesfield Park playground site with pond Postcard year unknown

APPENDIX III

Meadow Survey

The following is an extract from the Greenwich Meadow Survey 2005 by Groundwork.

Brief Description

This site comprises a small area (approx ½Ha) of rough meadow with a hedge and scattered trees on the eastern boundary. The meadow comprises predominately rough grass species with areas of more sparse vegetation. The topography of the site is relatively flat with a gentle downward slope towards the east.

Recommendations

The limited diversity and small numbers of meadow flowers suggest that this site would benefit from being left unmown. This would provide rough grass and scrub habitat, which is valuable for invertebrates, small mammals and nesting birds. Management of the area could be confined to occasional strimming of the areas of grass in the autumn and removal of scrub every 2 – 3 years.



Looking south across the rough meadow and scattered scrub

Species Record

Common Name	Latin Name
White Clover	Trifolium repans
Red Clover	Trifolium repans
Common Cat's-ear	Hypochoeris radicata
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens
Smooth Tare	Vicia tetrasperma
Hairy Tare	Vicia hirsuta
Pignut	Conopodium majus
Common Chickweed	Stellaria media
Common Mouse-ear	Cerastium holosteoides
Perennial Ryegrass	Lolium perenne
Creeping Bent	Agrostis stolonifera
Yorkshire Fog	Holcus lanatus
Red Fescue	Festuca rubra
False Oat Grass	Arrhenatherum elatius
Cock's foot	Dactylis glomerata



Snapshot of flowers recorded on the Friends of Eaglesfield Park website