

Management Plan: The Cedars Open Space

Local Wildlife Site

April 2011 – March 2016

London Borough OF Harrow



November 2010

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1. Description

The site is located north of centre of the London Borough of Harrow in the crook of Uxbridge Road (A410) and Courtenay Avenue, just south of Roger Bannister Sports Centre at national grid coordinates TQ 141, 912 (Figure 1). The Cedars Open Space Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is recognised in Harrow's Unitary Development Plan as of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. Three composite compartments are recognised (Figure 2). These are described below:

Wooded Area – Compartment 1 (1.40 ha)

- 1) This is an area of mature woodland to the north-west of the site with a few patches of rough grassland where the canopy is more open. The woodland canopy comprises a mixture of native trees such as oak, ash, elm, wild cherry, and yew and non-natives such as horse chestnut, scattered pines, exotic maples and London Plane. The shrub layer is dominated by exotics including Portugal laurel and cherry laurels, rhododendrons, Chinese privet. Bramble, holly, hawthorn, elm, rose and hazel are also present. The ground flora is somewhat patchy its composition depending on the light penetration through the canopy. Creeping soft-grass, annual meadow-grass, stinging nettle, broadleaved dock, white clover and dandelion occur in lighter conditions and in deeper shade, creeping bent, cock's-foot, hairy brome, false brome, wood avens, creeping buttercup, cleavers and violet. Cow parsley is abundant to dominant throughout

Wooded areas are frequented by a host of garden and woodland birds e.g. woodpigeon, blue tit, great tit, long-tailed tit, robin, magpie, green woodpecker, blackbird, goldfinch, wren, carrion crow, house sparrow, song thrush and starling.

Scattered trees and Amenity Grassland – Compartment 2 (1.12 ha)

- 2) This parcel is located to the south and west of the site and is really typical parkland. It is characterised by scattered trees and close mown amenity grassland. There are a few fine old oaks, ash, lime, cedar, and beech. There are some large pines, wellingtonia and swamp cypress. The amenity grassland beneath is rather species poor and dominated by perennial rye-grass. Many of the frequently associated forbs are present e.g. white clover, mouse-ear, cat's-ear, dandelion, dove's-foot crane's-bill and slender speedwell.

Cedars Youth and Community Centre – Compartment 3 (0.61 ha)

- 3) This part of the site is largely covered in amenity grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass with a few young trees and shrubs largely at the perimeter. A large part of this parcel is to be redeveloped for use by the local community centre. Plans include an all weather pitch, and other new facilities, living roofs and biodiverse meadow areas. As a result this parcel is not subjected to the management subscriptions detailed in this management plan.

2. Important features on site

A number of locally important features which are crucial to the management of this site have been identified:

Secondary woodland

- a) The secondary woodland of the site with its array of native and exotic trees and shrubs is of local significance in Harrow and supports a variety of birds and invertebrates. Woodland is a London and Harrow LBAP habitat.

Dead wood

- b) Dead wood of all types, but particularly standing is a valuable habitat and asset for a variety of fauna. For example, woodpeckers, nuthatch and treecreeper are often dependent on this resource for foraging and nesting. Additionally, a variety of insects are associated with dead wood and many species of fungi are completely dependent upon it. Dead wood is a Harrow LBAP habitat. This habitat is often lost, particularly in urban areas, when sites are tidied up.

Old and Veteran trees

- c) Some of the large trees within the site are possibly 150+ years in age and are shown on the 1864-94 OS map and are obviously already well established. Veteran trees and trees in general are mentioned in the UK BAP under 'Parkland and Veteran Trees' under the 'Woodland' category with regards to London and Harrow LBAPs. The inclusion of veteran trees at all levels of the BAP process reflects the importance of this habitat.

Birds

- d) A variety of birds are known from the site. Included are a number of London/UK BAP Priority Species and Species of Conservation Concern e.g. house sparrow, song thrush and starling.

3. Aims and Objectives

Management should:

- reflect species and habitat targets set in the UK and local BAPs
- maintain and enhance the general qualities of existing habitats whilst re-establishing others, appropriate to the site
- promote appreciation of site biodiversity by the public

This should be achieved via:-

- 1) Maintenance of woodland grassland/tall herbs ground flora to:
 - Arrest succession and prevent woodland ground flora from becoming progressively more wooded
 - Maintain/increase floral (and with it faunal) diversity of woodland ground flora and associated areas
- 2) Maintaining woodland/scrub habitat for its biological interest
- 3) Ensuring an adequate quantity of dead wood microhabitats, both standing and fallen
- 4) Maintaining health of old/veteran trees
- 5) Deterring littering on site and removal of rubbish as and when required
- 6) Dissuading dog owners from toileting their pets on site via education and provision of dog waste bins situated in suitable locations
- 7) Improving safety standards and interpretation, to encourage educational use and the biological recording on the site

4. Management Prescription

Recommended Action

Compartment 1

- a) A late summer cutting regime will be continued for the parcel's grassland and tall herb vegetation with the entire area mown in summer (August)
- b) Cuttings should be gathered up and taken off site two to three days after 'a' above. This mowing regime will remove invading scrub and trees and encourage floral diversity by lowering the organic matter returning to the soil.
- c) The planting of native bluebells to increase attractiveness of site and early floral diversity should be undertaken. Bluebells should be planted in full leaf (i.e. in the green). What this means is that the bulbs must be lifted by the supplier in February and March, whilst in full growth and planted as soon as possible. The planting of other appropriate native bulbs should also be considered.

Compartment 2

- d) Grassland is to be maintained formally as amenity grassland cutting as and when required.

Compartments 1 and 2

- e) Generally, woodland and trees will be maintained via non-intervention over the period of the management plan except in the case of health and safety concerns.
- f) Replanting of native trees and shrubs can be undertaken as and when the need arises as old trees die and require replacement.
- g) Dead wood should remain on site within wooded areas. Standing dead wood (e.g. monoliths) must be considered where safe to retain. Smaller logs should be chipped and taken off site whilst larger trunks and branches can remain *in situ* providing they do not compromise access or health and safety of site users.
- h) Old and veteran trees currently do not require any surgery work. They are stable and in good condition. To ensure continuing health the trees will need checking on a regular basis (yearly) to make sure that this situation is unchanged.
- i) The placing of interpretive signage (subject to funding) and dog waste bins in selected locations will be used to dissuade people from toileting their dogs on site. Additionally, litter should be cleared as and when required. This will make the site appear cared for and less likely to be vandalised or littered. The site will appear a safer and more attractive environment for visitors.
- j) Local wildlife experts and groups should be encouraged to undertake regular biological survey and monitoring. This could be promoted at Greener Harrow and Harrow Heritage Trust meetings. Records should be passed on to Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL).
- k) A 'Nip and Tuck' patrol by Council staff should be conducted on a weekly basis to pick up essential repairs and potential public safety issues

Five-Year Management Plan: Schedule and Summary of Projects

Compartment(s)	Project	Priority	Notes	Year(s)	Timing	Para.
1	Cutting of woodland ground flora	1		1 to 5	Aug	4a
	Gather arisings - take off site	1	2-3 days after cutting	1 to 5	Aug	4b
	Planting of native bluebells	3	Plant in the green	3 to 5	March	4c
2	Grass cutting	1	Maintain as amenity grassland	1 to 5	a/r	4d
1 & 2	Woodland/tree maintenance	2	Non-intervention except H&S	Ongoing	Ongoing	4e
	Replanting native trees/shrubs	3	As old trees need replacement	1 to 5	a/r	4f
	Retaining deadwood	2	Monolithing and log piles	Ongoing	Ongoing	4g
	Veteran/old tree maintenance	1	Regular inspection	Ongoing	1 per year	4h
	Access, recreation and interpretation	2	Erect new signage and dog bins (subject to funding)	1 or 2	a/r	4i
	Removal of litter	1	Site will appear safer and more attractive	Ongoing	a/r	4i
	Encourage biological recording	3	Promotion at Greener Harrow/HHT meetings	Ongoing	a/r	4j
	Nip and Tuck' patrols and Minor Repairs		1	Regular patrols to identify potential problems and maintain a reassuring presence for the public	Ongoing	Weekly
Minor repairs				Ongoing	Monthly	

a/r=as required

Maps and plans

Figure 1: Location

Figure 2: Management Compartments

Figure 1: Location The Cedars Open Space



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Figure 2: Management Compartments The Cedars Open Space

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Vascular Plant List (Surveyed 2009)

Appendix 2: Management plan projects: labour and funding

Appendix 1: Vascular Plant List (Surveyed 2009)

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR	Qualifiers	Notes
VASCULA PLANTS				
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	O	CTY	
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	R	Y	
<i>Acer psuedoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	O	S	
<i>Aegropodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	O		
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	R	T	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	F		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	F		
<i>Aster</i> sp.	Michaelmas Daisy	O		
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	A		
<i>Betula</i> sp.	Birch	R	T	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	R		
<i>Bromus ramosus</i>	Hairy Brome	O		
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas Cedar	O	Y	
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar Cedar	F	YT	
<i>Cedrus libani</i>	Cedar of Lebanon	R	T	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	R		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	O		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O		
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	R		
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	R		
<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i>	Copper Beech	R	T	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	F	TS	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O		
<i>Geum urbinum</i>	Wood Avens	O		
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	F		
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	O		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	O		
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	O		
<i>Hypochaeris radicator</i>	Cat's-ear	O		
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	O		
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	R		
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Garden Privet	O		
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese Privet	R		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	D		
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	O		
<i>Pinus</i> spp.	Pines	O		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Great Plantain	O		
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London Plane	O	T	
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	F		
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	O		
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	O		
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Portugal Laurel	O		
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	R		

<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	R		
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	O	ST	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	O	T	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	F		
<i>Rhododendron</i> sp.	Rhododendron	R		
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	O	YT	
<i>Rosa</i> sp.	Rose	R		
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	O		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel	R		
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	R		
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	O		
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	Wellingtonia	O	T	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	O		
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	O		
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	O		
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac	R		
<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	Dandelion	O		
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Swamp Cypress	R	T	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	O	T	
<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	Common Lime	O	T	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	F		
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm	O		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	O		
<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Slender Speedwell	O		
<i>Viola</i> sp.	Violet	O		
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle	O		

DAFOR Scale:

D=Dominant
A=Abundant
F=Frequent
O=Occasional
R=Rare

Qualifiers:

E=Edge
M=Mature tree
S=Sapling
Y=Young tree
W=Wet area

Appendix 2: Management plan projects: labour and funding

Compartment(s)	Project	Period	Notes	Delivery Agent	Cost (£)	Funding
1	Cutting of woodland ground flora	Annual		PRM	XXXX	LBH
	Gather arisings - take off site	Annual	2-3 days after cutting	PRM	XXXX	LBH
	Planting of native bluebells	One off	Plant in the green	BTCV Volunteers	825 825	S to F
2	Grass cutting	Approx 12 cuts/year	Maintain as amenity grassland	PRM	XXXX	LBH
1 & 2	Woodland & tree maintenance*	As required	Non-intervention except H&S	PRM	960 4,800	LBH
	Replanting native trees/shrubs	As required	As old trees need replacement	PPM	575 575	LBH
	Retaining deadwood*	Occasional	Monolithing and log piles	PRM	Inc. above	LBH
	Veteran/old tree maintenance	Annual	Regular inspection	PRM	300 1,500	LBH
	Access, recreation and interpretation	One off	Design, erect new signage and dog bins (subject to funding)	Consultants and PRM	1,000 1,000	S to F
	Removal of litter	As required	Site will appear safer and more attractive	PRM	XXXX	LBH
	Encourage biological recording	One off input from Biodiversity Officer	Promotion at Greener Harrow/HHT meetings	Biodiversity Officer/GH/HHT	200 200	LBH

	Nip and Tuck' patrols and Minor Repairs	Weekly (1 hour/week)	Regular patrols to identify potential problems and maintain a reassuring presence for the public	PRM	1,152 5,760	LBH
		Monthly (1 hour/month up to 6 hours/year)	Minor repairs	PRM (playground/handyman team)	300 1,500	LBH

Black type = one off or cost/year

inc. above=cost included in woodland/tree maintenance £4,800 contingency fund

XXXX = To be filled in by PRM

£xxxxx over the five years period of the Management Plan including £4,800 contingency for tree work and £1,000 and £825 subject to gaining external funding (S to F),

PRM = Public Realm Maintenance

LBH = London Borough of Harrow

GH = Greener Harrow

HHT = Harrow Heritage Trust

S to F = Subject to Funding