

Progress against the Natural Environment Strategy Action Plans and Business Plan objectives Quarter One (Apr-Jun) 2024-25

Epping Forest

1 Nature Conservation and Resilience			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
1.1	Management plans are in place to ensure that their biodiversity and natural assets are conserved, engaged with stakeholders, and are implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Deer Management Plan for the 2024/25 season has been prepared. • A re-prioritisation exercise of tree work identified through existing and most recent surveys is taking place to help to streamline and consolidate the 'jobs'. Three new arborists will be starting in July 2024 and a new team and task structure is being implemented to tackle the backlog of works as rapidly and efficiently as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement
1.2	SSSI condition improvement and Species Recovery plans are in place for all our sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSS Forest 2 grant being finalised with Rural Payments Agency - to address SSSI condition over next 10 years. With Forest 1 CSS this amounts to ~£4.3M. It will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage and restoring wood pasture - Conserving veteran trees - Management of grassland - Management of heathland - Care for three scheduled monuments – Ambresbury Banks, Purlieu Bank, Loughton Camp = Support the conservation grazing programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting our rare <i>Zygodon forsteri</i> moss - Provide funding to allow the Field Studies Council to run more engagement sessions to tell young people about conservation grazing. • In April NE joined the Epping Forest Conservation team for an in person meeting to discuss the SSSI monitoring programme, progress and to meet EFs new Head of Conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Conservation and Resilience

1 Nature Conservation and Resilience			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
1.3	Species records and other biological data are regularly gathered and professionally managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Monitoring started in April 2024; nitrogen pollutants (nitrogen oxides, ammonia) in air are being monitored throughout the Forest for 12 months. The intention is that SNAPs would demonstrate what appropriate measures are in place to secure the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites and would coordinate possible future local measures. By providing a timetabled trajectory towards favourable condition status, future SNAPs can have the potential to clarify what 'headroom' might be available for future developments, thereby providing a firmer basis for habitats regulations assessments. They can also help to inform a balanced and proportionate approach to reduction measures across different emission source sectors. • Reptile surveys in 2024 are being undertaken by two local volunteers at Long Running, in the future we hope to expand this. • Butterfly transects are being undertaken by three members of staff and one volunteer. We need more volunteers, but also capacity to manage them and introduce them to the transect routes. • Birds surveys at Copped hall - 1 vol & 1 staff • Birds/insects surveys - Patmores by a volunteer • Natural England undertook a broad habitat survey for their Living England Project at Wanstead Flats in May. The Living England project aims to create a broad habitat probability map of England. This map is derived from satellite imagery using machine learning and relies on good quality field survey information for training the model and validating the output. In time, Living England will be used to better understand our landscapes and how they change, and used as a tool to help draft policies for protecting Britain's habitats, along with planning future investment and research. • In late June the Conservation Team completed environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling surveys for great crested newt on six waterbodies (three areas of Heronry Pond including the Lost Spur Heronry Pond and two sample sites east and north of the Lost Spur, two Oakhill roadside ponds, and Oakhill Leighs Pond). The Lost Spur and one of the Oakhill roadside ponds returned a positive sample for great crested newt eDNA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Nature Conservation and Resilience

1 Nature Conservation and Resilience			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
1.4	Community support and engagement in the conservation of our open spaces is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanstead Wildlife Weekend delivered by WREN group WP – 22 to 23 June 2024 • EFCV volunteer hours = 987 hours • EFHT general (or specifically Happy Loppers) hours= EFHT Total 1074 (including 470 Happy Loppers hours) • Snedders Hours= 292 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement
1.5	Greater and more effective engagement with the planning system to influence the protection of our open spaces in the most relevant way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
	Landscape connectivity around our open spaces is enhanced through collaboration with other organisations and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EF Head of Conservation had an introductory meeting with the GLAs London Nature Recovery Policy and Programme Manager to discuss the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Invited to the London Urban Forest workshop in July. • Attendance at the Roding Beam and Ingrebourne Catchment Partnership quarterly meetings which are led by Thames21 • Attendance at River Ching Working Group meetings. The River Ching Action Plan has been developed led by Thames21, EF are working with Thames21 and the EA on making it public (e.g. press release and social media updates). The document is now on the London Lea Catchment Partnership website London Lea Catchment Partnership (arcgis.com). The purpose is for potential funders to be aware of the River Ching Action Plan, local community to understand why the work needs to be delivered and its importance. • EF's Head of Conservation and Grazing and Landscapes Manager attended Nattergal's Harolds Park Farm site visit with other stakeholders for a tour of the farm and a group discussion on habitat and biodiversity restoration. The group included eNGOs, neighbouring farmers, councils, academics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement

1 Nature Conservation and Resilience			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
		<p>Nattergal have now completed purchase of the farm and the team remain in contact for future collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June a letter of support was provided to Thames21 for their River Ching Water Restoration Fund grant application in keeping with the River Ching Action plan to include identifying all barriers to fish/eel migration along the Ching and a feasibility assessment and design development for the removal/mitigation of these barriers and marginal and in-channel habitat enhancements with an objective to improve the Water Framework Directive status. Thames21 are still waiting for an outcome on the application. 	
	Reduced visitor impact on priority habitats and other important sites through sustainable visitor and mitigation strategies being in place and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage at Loughton Camp installed to better interpret the site and discourage cycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Access and Recreation Nature Conservation and Resilience. Learning and Heritage
	Damaging introduced species monitored and kept under control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) surveys completed in June by EF inhouse Arborist. OPM removed in collaboration with Hampstead Heath colleagues. Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed plants treated July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Conservation and Resilience
	Climate resilience plans prepared for each open space		
	The City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy goals are met for the open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April Epping Forest Conservation Team met with the EA, Thames21, LB Waltham Forest to discuss natural flood management grants, which included a site visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Conservation and Resilience

2 Community Engagement			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
2.1	Build and sustain meaningful and lasting partnerships with the communities we serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer database created • Skylark campaign • Partnership working with Love North Chingford / Chingford Ward re. funding for and scoping of Epping Forest signage from Chingford Station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation • Nature Conservation and Resilience. • Learning and Heritage
2.2	Implement a holistic approach to community engagement that encourages active participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer programme for youth volunteering – created and promoted in this period, activities taking place in August 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation • Nature Conservation and Resilience. • Learning and Heritage
2.3	Cultivate and support successful partner organisations that support us in mission delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy Plan review meeting held with EFHT • Skylark campaign with WREN Group • Continued engagement with Thames21 for natural flood management grant applications, River Roding water quality testing programme (to establish levels of sewage linked bacteria in the river and determine whether the river is safe to swim/paddle in). • EF Landscape and Grazing officer led a site visit in April with the RSPCA and Nofence representative to discuss grazing technology and animal welfare, demonstrating the benefits and positive use of the collars and virtual fence with EFs herd of English longhorns. • The EF Conservation Team hosted the Institute of Chartered Foresters in June and undertook a site walkover introducing them to wood pasture management at EF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation • Nature Conservation and Resilience. • Learning and Heritage

2 Community Engagement			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EF Conservation Team hosted the Ancient Tree Forum board of trustees in June and undertook a site walkover introducing them to wood pasture management at EF. In June EF Arborist Manager supported the Forestry Commission on their OPM awareness event at The View 	
2.4	Ensure diverse and representative participation in our work and spaces)		
2.5	Create physical spaces that are as accessible as possible to as many people as possible		
2.6	Engage in continuous self-reflection to identify opportunities for continuous improvement		
2.7	Facilitate a deep sense of pride in and attachment to our open spaces among user groups and communities		
2.8	Create opportunities for user groups and communities to provide additional resource to the Corporation to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wren group support for sky lark fencing - Wren Group members observed seven adult skylarks including two breeding pairs and nesting activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Nature Conservation and Resilience

2	Community Engagement																																																		
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:																																																
	support mission delivery	<p>Volunteer hours by group</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Cattle</th> <th>Communications</th> <th>Conservation team volunteers</th> <th>EFCV</th> <th>EFHT Conservation activities -</th> <th>EFHT Green Team</th> <th>EFHT Happy Loppers</th> <th>HBVC</th> <th>Highams Park Snedders</th> <th>Litter Picking</th> <th>Volunteer Wardens</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>April</td> <td>62</td> <td>0</td> <td>32</td> <td>336</td> <td>70</td> <td>56</td> <td>108</td> <td>169</td> <td>162</td> <td>23</td> <td>152</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>18</td> <td>291</td> <td>28</td> <td>108</td> <td>180</td> <td>169</td> <td>40</td> <td>11</td> <td>118</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>23</td> <td>360</td> <td>188</td> <td>154</td> <td>182</td> <td>182</td> <td>90</td> <td>10</td> <td>96</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Cattle	Communications	Conservation team volunteers	EFCV	EFHT Conservation activities -	EFHT Green Team	EFHT Happy Loppers	HBVC	Highams Park Snedders	Litter Picking	Volunteer Wardens	April	62	0	32	336	70	56	108	169	162	23	152	May	0	0	18	291	28	108	180	169	40	11	118	June	0	0	23	360	188	154	182	182	90	10	96	
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2.9	Improve health and wellbeing through our open spaces through successful and effective community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Walks delivered by LBWF • Walks promoted • Events • Promotion of recreation opportunities through communication channels • 4 Forest Bathing sessions took place during the period with a total of 20 participants, there are 7 Nordic Walking sessions a week with up to 10 people on each. 3 Community Wellbeing walks took place with a total of 30 participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement 																																																

2 Community Engagement			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
	Deliver well-managed spaces that are widely understood as destinations for improved health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chingford Golf Course has welcomed 10,407 golfers to Chingford Golf Course in April, May & June, down by 24 visitors compared to previous year, however Chingford Train Station was out of action for 3 weeks due to refurbishment work on the line which had a negative impact on the golf course. The golf course was asked to host one of four Quarter Finals for the Leslie Wood Competition by The Essex Golf Union which is made up of 57 courses across Essex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access and Recreation
	Provide a diverse mix of opportunities for enrichment at our open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our renewed Epping Forest events programme will be rolled out in Summer 2024 and will continue to develop moving forward to look for a range of engaging of ways for visitors to experience enrichment when visiting Epping Forest. Our communication channels (website, social media, monthly newsletter and media outputs) will continue to promote various ways visitors and the local community can enrich their lives through Epping Forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Access and Recreation
	Create spaces where formative experiences occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We encourage young people and new visitors to explore and enjoy Epping Forest via our various communications channels with targeted messaging to engage new people to connect with the ancient woodland and develop advocacy for protecting and conserving this open space. Various education outreach provisions take place, including via our own CoL learning team, our partnership with the Field Studies Council at our Epping Forest education centre in High Beach and with The Hive (formerly Suntrap). Various volunteering partners also provide formative experiences within the local communities to encourage people to become advocates for Epping Forest. Furthermore, our events programme is being re-established to engage with a wide-reaching cross-section of the local community. We're particularly proud to be planning a series of youth volunteering opportunities in Summer 2024 with a view to continue these throughout the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Access and Recreation Learning and Heritage

2 Community Engagement			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are also currently busy working on plans to introduce a new, weekly Epping Forest pre-school programme from the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford, called 'Little Saplings' which will build early-years engagement with the Forest for local children and their families, which we hope will feed into our youth volunteer programme. 	
	Ensure easy access to information about the Corporation, its open spaces, and our management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epping Forest communications continues to be engaging, wide reaching and up to date as we output Epping Forest messages through a wide-range of channels to keep visitors and the local community informed about the City of London Corporation's role in owning and managing Epping Forest and how we manage the ancient woodland the surrounding Buffer Lands. This channels used for this are the website, social media profiles on X, Facebook and Instagram, our free, digital monthly newsletter, Forest Focus, on signage and posters and with media releases and statements as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Access and Recreation Learning and Heritage
	Catalyse improved behaviours in our spaces where needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have Codes of Conduct available and promoted for Epping Forest. These are distributed as posters and are promoted on our website, via social media and in our monthly, digital newsletter, Forest Focus. We reference byelaws frequently via our communications channels and all Epping Forest signage references what can and can't be done in Epping Forest at various locations and throughout the year, i.e. no fungi picking for the late summer / autumn months etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Learning and Heritage
	Ensure greater understanding among members of the public of the Corporation's efforts to preserve and care for our spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epping Forest's communications team continue to raise the profile of the City of London's efforts to conserve their open spaces. All signage, publications, digital messages and media statements reference the ownership and management of Epping Forest by the City of London Corporation. We also emphasise the Registered Charity status where appropriate to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Learning and Heritage

2 Community Engagement			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
	Improve service delivery by the Corporation at its open spaces through information exchange	•	•

3 Access and Recreation			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
3.1	Manage visitors to protect vulnerable areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and improved signage has been installed at the iron age hillforts at Loughton Camp and Ambresbury Bank. In addition, messaging about how to visit these sensitive heritage sites has been distributed via our range of communication channels. • The developing events programme aims to target events in established visitor hubs, where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . • . • .
3.2	Plan for increased visitor numbers and improve durability of honeypot locations		•
	Reduced visitor impact on priority habitats and other important sites through sustainable visitor and mitigation strategies being in place and implemented.		•

3 Access and Recreation			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
	Provide clearly branded and accessible on- site wayfinding, interpretation and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our excellent and exemplary Epping Forest signage is within the established branding guidelines and provides a high standard of accessible information to help visitors to navigate and find out more about Epping Forest. We have this signage available at a wide range of locations. • The newest Waymarked Trail can be found at Warlies on our Buffer Lands. • Discussions are well underway with local Councillors at Chingford to install new funded signage to welcome visitors to the Forest from Chingford Station. • New child-friendly signage has been designed for the Wanstead Park Play Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation • Learning and Heritage
	Provide easily accessible, clear and exemplary pre visit information through digital platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of London Corporation Epping Forest website prioritises accessibility to ensure that the information presented is clear and inclusive. The website is updated regularly to ensure that information is current and engaging. Work is also underway to commence development of a new Epping Forest website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation • Learning and Heritage
	Provide on site infrastructure and welcome facilities to create exemplary world class sites that are renowned for the highest quality visitor experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford, along with the programmed range of activities available there, is developing to encourage more engagement across a broader range of the local community. • Plans for visitor engagement at The Temple in Wanstead Park are being reviewed with the aim of providing an improved visitor experience at this location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation • Learning and Heritage
	Make improvements to both informal and formal recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wanstead Park Play area has been improved to provide excellent informal natural play facilities for local families in the Wanstead area. • The events programme delivered at Epping Forest is being developed to improve event and activity outreach within the local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation
	Understand gaps in visitor profile		

3 Access and Recreation			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
	Work with partners to develop outreach to ensure wider audiences or are aware of and able to access sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walks led by EFHT supported _ Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers on the 27 April with around 200 participants, and Home Girls Unite on the 2 June with around 50 participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Access and Recreation Learning and Heritage
	Ensure that sites have least restrictive access		
	Work towards excellence for physical access		•
	Information and education about the open spaces' culture, heritage and ecology will be provided through on site interpretation at visitor centres and through all marketing channels to increase understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epping Forest has an excellent range of communication channels which have been established and grown to date. These channels are constantly used to provide balanced and targeted messaging to deliver education about Epping Forest's cultural relevance, heritage importance and biodiversity / conservation management. The Epping Forest Visitor Centres at Chingford, The Temple and at High Beach (ran on behalf of the City of London Corporation by partners the Epping Forest Heritage Trust) deliver important and engagement messaging about conservation, heritage and culture with the aim of encouraging visitors to find out more about the open space and how they can visit appropriately to help us conserve Epping Forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Access and Recreation Learning and Heritage
	Respectful use of facilities and sites will be encouraged through engagement and instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly tip reports have seen an increase of 50% compared to the preceding three years which had seen a reduction year on year of approximately 10%. This increase is in line with both national and local trends (indicated by DEFRA data). The enforcement team seek to tackle this increase with prevention activity focusing on data driven hotspots, continuing education and media activity to raise awareness and improved joint working with stakeholders, particularly Epping Forest District Council. Of note, Essex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Nature Conservation and Resilience.

3 Access and Recreation			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
		<p>police have agreed to place suspect vehicles reports onto the ANPR system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epping Forest Enforcement Officers have investigated a total of 37 new matters and continue to progress to a positive outcome 2 on-going ASB issues between 1 April and 30 June 2024, comprising the following types – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fly tips – 32, ○ Byelaw breaches – 3 ○ Anti-social behaviour (matters relate to the use of Quad / motorcycle & drug / alcohol / waste abuse) – 2 ○ Dog related incidents – 1 • Regular and targeted messages are distributed via our Epping Forest communication channels to encourage respectful and appropriate visits to the ancient woodland. • Signage gives clear information on the Epping Forest byelaws and various codes of conduct to ensure that visitor understand how they can visit Epping Forest respectfully. 	
	Key messages are delivered through layered and targeted campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Epping Forest Communications and Campaigns Planners are constantly kept up to date and the visitor engagement team deliver multiple and various campaigns. • For instance, In April, the campaign to encourage responsible visits to the bluebells at Chalet Wood in Wanstead Park was executed successfully. The signage to encourage controlled visitor access at the site, with the least impact on the natural aspect, was deemed to be a great success, and this was fully supported by our social media and website messaging, as well as a media release. A further example is demonstrated with the skylark protection campaign. Throughout bird nesting season the ongoing campaign to encourage visitors to respect the temporary signage at Wanstead Flats to help us conserve the vulnerable skylark population there was very successful and well-received by our volunteering partners, the Wren Wildlife and Conservation Group and the local Wanstead Flats community. A successful media release attracted pan-London engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement

4 Learning and Heritage			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
4.1	"Engage participants in activities which increase feelings of wellbeing."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the new visitor engagement team is being established we have been busy planning the development of the Epping Forest events programme to begin in summer 2024 (update to follow in next reporting period). • We promote Epping Forest as an incredibly valuable source of self-led wellbeing activities through relaxation in a tranquil and natural space or through enjoying one of the various recreation opportunities available such as walking, running, cycling, boating, golf, football, cricket and horse-riding and our communication channels provide information to visitors to access and enjoy these opportunities on an ongoing basis. • The education provision across Epping Forest (via our City of London learning team, the Field Studies Council provision at our education centre in High Beach and at The Hive) encourages a wide-range of young people to benefit from improved wellbeing through accessing Epping Forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation
4.2	Provide opportunities for adult volunteering as a means to increase wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 volunteer activities were run over the period involving 848 volunteers. This resulted in 3877 hours of volunteer support in the period. • Monthly Volunteer Information Sessions now held at the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford to promote volunteering. • Volunteer Guide for Epping Forest revised and promoted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement
4.3	Provide bespoke learning sessions for children and young people with additional needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education at Field Studies Centre. In partnership with The City of London, Field Studies Council engaged with 92 different schools and over 4,970 students at the Epping Forest Field Centre between April and June 2024. • School Programme summary statistics for curriculum geography and science: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 770 primary school and early years students • Over 3,610 secondary school students • Over 590 A-level students • Epping Forest Field Centre hosted Field Studies Council Biodiversity tutors delivering wildflower and habitat survey workshops to two groups of adult learners in May and June. • Over 55 parents and children attended our Eco Adventure family events to enjoy nature-based outdoor games and activities in the school holidays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Learning and Heritage

Appendix 1

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Field Centre also welcomed approximately 200 participants of the Muslim Hikers event, organised by the Epping Forest Heritage Trust. Walkers were able to use the facilities and learn about the Field Studies Council's environmental education programmes and its partnership with The City of London as part of their day. • The Field Centre indoor and outdoor learning space was hired by Froglife for Great Crested Newt survey training and by London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine for an MSc fieldtrip. • Between April and June 2024, the Field Centre delivered over 6,000 customer days equating to over 32,300 learner hours in total across all programmes. • NE Learning Team bespoke programme for children and young people with additional needs is currently focused at West Ham Park. • Education at The Hive delivered by LBWF (e-mail from YW to JE about obtaining this info) • CSS Forest 2 grant being finalised with Rural Payments Agency - to address SSSI condition over next 10 years. With Forest 1 CSS this amounts to ~£4.3M. It will include the provision of funding to allow the Field Studies Council to run more engagement sessions to tell young people about conservation grazing. 	
4.4	Provide opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships leading to skills and career development.		•
4.5	Engage participants in our learning, heritage and cultural activities which provide opportunities to explore, enjoy and feel safe in our spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibitions at the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longhorn cattle of Epping Forest, 19 Mar 2024 - 15 Sept 2024 ○ Exhibition - Brimble walks in Epping Forest, in partnership with Chingford Historical Society, April 2024 – ongoing (and to include with photographic restoration exhibition in Spring 2025) ○ Art exhibition – Interpreting the Forest, 13 May – 7 July 2024 • NE Learning Team facilitate activities at the Tudor Hunting Lodge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation

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4.6	Provide activities which enable participants to build confidence to explore green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Air Theatre events (welcome people into Wanstead Park, encourage them to explore further). • Exhibitions at Epping Forest Visitor Centre encourage people to visit and find out more to explore the wider Forest. • NE Learning Team school programme and bespoke programmes for young asylum seekers and pupil referral units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation
4.7	Develop strategic partnerships with organisations that help to deliver our culture, heritage and learning offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chingford Historical Society – Brimble Exhibition in place at the Epping Forest Visitor Centre. To be followed-up with Brimble restored photographic exhibition in late 2024 / early 2025 (dates TBC). • London Borough of Waltham Forest – Make it Happen Follow the Forest, 30 planned for 30 August and 7 September (details still TBC) • NE Learning partnership with City of London Virtual Schools to enable participation from young asylum seekers • NE Learning partnership with Hackney Council to encourage more Hackney schools to engage with the learning programme • Met with West Essex Archaeology Group for partnership working on the Lidar interpretation project (see below) • Led by EF Grazing and Landscape Manager, we hosted Bird Life Cyprus and Essex Wildlife Trust, presented to them on Nofence / virtual fencing and conservation grazing and a short tour to see cattle grazing and visit to review the training fields and cattle handling systems in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation
4.8	Conserve and enhance our heritage assets in accordance with statutory requirements, sector guidance and best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree partnership working with Historic England on interpretation of the Lidar data, in conjunction with local archaeology group to better understand our non-built heritage assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and Heritage

5 Income Generation			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
5.1	Licences and Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income from utilities of £194,882 – for works continuing throughout the year. Car parking income raised £119,000 short stay, £17,000 permits and £3,000 penalties – totalling £139.500 for the quarter. This is a marginal £3,000 increase on the same quarter for last year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access and Recreation
	Filming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filming raised income for quarter one spilling into quarter two of £147,400 net. 	

6 People Management			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
6.1	Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews were completed in May for the Conservation Manager, but candidates weren't successful. The post will be readvertised August with interviews proposed in September. In April, new starters to the Conservation and Land Management Team included Head of Conservation, Wildlife Management Officer, Arborist Manager, Senior Grassland Conservation Officer, Sports Admin and Premises Assistant Our new Volunteering and Engagement Officer joined us in May and has made a great start in this exciting new post. 	

Appendix 1

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are currently revising the Visitor Centre rota and will soon begin recruitment to bring on board exciting new positions to support development of activity and engagement at our Epping Forest Visitor Centres.• We are currently recruiting for our new Digital Content Officer.	