



Highgate  
Wood

Registered Charity

City of London Corporation

Highgate Wood  
Management Plan  
(2025-2035)

DRAFT

City of London Corporation  
North London Open Spaces

Highgate Wood Management Plan (2025-2035)

Contents

1	Foreword	1
2	Introduction and Purpose of the Plan	3
3	Management Context	5
4	Policy Context	6
5	About Highgate Wood	10
6	Visitor Surveys and Feedback	15
7	How Highgate Wood is managed	16
8	Vision and Themes	19
9	Delivery of the Highgate Wood Vision	22
10	Five-Year Action Plan	28
11	Monitoring and Review	31
12	References	32
	Appendix A: Highgate Wood Map	33

## 1.0 Foreword - Draft

This Management Plan states our commitment to realising the vision to protect and preserve Highgate Wood to ensure it continues to enrich the lives of current and future generations.

This Plan aligns with the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan (2024-2029), which provides a framework with six strategic outcomes, to guide our efforts over the next five years. This Plan will be integrated at every level of our work, serving as the 'golden thread' that connects all activities across the organisation.

Additionally, it supports the City Corporation's broader goals of contributing to a flourishing society, shaping exceptional environments, and fostering a thriving economy.

The aims, objectives and actions set out in this Management Plan also contribute to overarching City Corporation strategies to address climate change and the management of all aspects of the natural environment within the City Corporation's North London Open Spaces, including Natural Environment Strategies for nature conservation and resilience, recreation and access, community engagement, and culture, heritage and learning.

This Management Plan is also being prepared in the context of a corporate review of the challenges facing our Natural Environment Charities to be completed in 2025. A key objective of the review is to look at opportunities to enable the charities to become more financially independent and provide a more secure and sustainable funding model for the future.

The Management Plan outlines the strategic Outcomes and Objectives that will guide management and ensure we remain on course over its ten-year duration, in accordance with the following five themes:

1. Sustainable Woodland Management: Implement the Woodland Management Plan which aligns conservation goals with community use, focusing on long-term ecological resilience and nature recovery, in particular threats posed by tree diseases.
2. Culture & Heritage: Preserve and interpret Highgate Wood's historical features, connecting its past with its future through meaningful experiences.
3. Facilities and Access: Maintain and upgrade visitor facilities with sustainable design principles and improve visitor accessibility while protecting the woodland's character.

4. Community & Education: Develop programmes that engage local schools, residents, and visitors in woodland management, promoting conservation through education and participation.
5. Climate Resilience: Adopt sustainable management practices that are adaptive to climate change and other environmental pressures, and able to mitigate impacts where possible to ensure that Highgate Wood remains a flourishing ecosystem and contributes to City Corporation strategic targets.

This plan establishes a framework for Highgate Wood's management and uses an outcomes-based approach. Identifying measures for success enable us to monitor progress and stay on track to realise the Highgate Wood Vision.

Preparation of this Plan has been informed by: the existing Highgate Wood Conservation Management Plan (2013) and Woodland Management Plan (2018-28); current policy and strategies within the City Corporation, and in a wider London and national policy context; and review of current projects and priorities for Highgate Wood. The Plan is the product of an evidence-based approach, using existing plans and surveys relating to the Wood, feedback from the Green Flag application process, and wider ecological and visitor surveys which illustrate the vital contribution of the Park to ecological networks and biodiversity and as an invaluable amenity and public open space for the local and wider area.

The views and aspirations of the Highgate Wood community and all those who love and care for the Wood have been fundamental in informing the Plan and the vision for the Park, including visitors, local residents' groups and volunteers, City Corporation Wood staff and maintenance teams, and wider stakeholders including the London Borough of Haringey. Their contributions have been fundamental in informing the Plan and the vision for the Wood, and the need to balance conservation and management of natural and heritage assets with the maintenance of an invaluable public amenity which meets the wide ranging needs of the Wood's diverse range of users.

William Upton

Chairman of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee

## 2.0 Introduction and Purpose of the Plan

Highgate Wood is a 28-hectare (70-acre) ancient woodland in the London Borough of Haringey, about 6 miles from the City of London. Its rich history, dating back to prehistoric era, and its diverse woodland habitat contribute to a unique and special atmosphere. These characteristics, along with more recent additions such as the playground, sports pitch and café, make the Wood a cherished and well-utilised open space for the local community and visitors alike. This Plan covers a ten-year period and sets out the vision, themes and outcomes which will inform Park management and maintenance.

Highgate Wood was acquired by the Corporation of London in 1886 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners under the Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act of that year. It was officially dedicated as "an open space forever" on October 30, 1886, by the Lord Mayor, Sir John Staples. Today, Highgate Wood remains under the ownership of the City of London Corporation and is managed through the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

The key purposes of the Plan are to:

- Inform stakeholders, users and visitors about the Wood and the aims and objectives of management in order to achieve the Wood's vision and to safeguard its assets, contribute to wider City Corporation strategies and policies and maintain the Wood's annual, well deserved Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage awards;
- Guide management and maintenance by describing the Wood's assets, features and facilities and their significance, the aims and objectives for their management; and by setting out the management structures and resources for the Wood's maintenance;
- Support applications to Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage and other initiatives, such as grant funding applications for facilities provision, improvement or heritage conservation.

### Structure of the Management Plan

The Plan is set out under six main headings:

**Management Context** - a summary of the existing plans and wider strategies which will inform this Plan

**Description of Highgate Wood** - and its assets, facilities, attributes, heritage significance and contribution to amenity, recreation, biodiversity, heritage and community benefits; visitor numbers and customer survey feedback.

**Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage** awards and feedback

**Community Engagement** feedback

**Vision for the Wood** - including aims, objectives and outcomes

**Management Structure** - sets out the role of the City Corporation and Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity in management of the site, the committees and consultation groups that help guide management, and the volunteer groups that make Highgate Wood a success.

**Management Objectives and Outputs** - set out by Green Flag criteria

**Monitoring and Review**- describes how progress will be assessed and recorded and key milestones at which this progress will be reviewed.

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### 3.0 Management Context

The purpose of this Management Plan is to ensure that the Vision for Highgate Wood is integrated at all levels. It allows for a step back from the daily operations of Highgate Wood to take a more strategic perspective, providing an opportunity to identify both opportunities and challenges that come with the growing pressures on the site.

This ten-year Plan is set within the context of wider City Corporation plans and strategies which address the delivery of the City Corporation's overall aims and objectives across key areas. Key among these are the new Corporate Plan (2024-2029), the Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029), and the Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027), which set out the City Corporation's strategic approach to our managed open spaces, assets, and activities.

The Plan looks forward over the period to 2035, drawing on the vision and objectives, themes and policies set out in the 2024 Management Plan and wider City Corporation strategies, considering progress made in projects identified in previous Plans and identifying and prioritising the outcomes for the next ten years. The ten-year period provides a longer term framework appropriate to the achievement of wider strategic City Corporation aims, and to the delivery of Park-based projects over a longer time scale. The Plan will be subject to a five year review to monitor progress in the delivery of the Park vision.

The Covid pandemic has also changed our perception and understanding of the value of parks and open spaces to the health and well-being of local people. More and more people now regularly enjoy the benefits of parks and open spaces, which does bring with it added pressure to conserve and enhance the natural fabric of assets such as Highgate Wood.

The Management Plan for Highgate Wood continues to build on the roadmap laid out in the 2013 Conservation Management Plan. Other existing plans, surveys and studies have been used to inform the Plan including:

- Green Flag Feedback Report 2023
- Green Heritage Feedback Report 2023
- The Highgate Wood Heritage Assessment 2011
- Highgate Wood Management Plan 2018-2028
- A variety of wildlife and monitoring surveys carried out by City Corporation staff and other external specialists

The Highgate Wood Management Team, and the Superintendent of North London Open Spaces, have been actively involved in the preparation of this Plan.



As part of the process, the City Corporation held a consultation group meeting on Wednesday 21 August 2024, marking a key stage in the Management Plan's development. The workshop aimed to secure support and gather input from the Highgate Wood Consultative Group, which includes local specialists, representatives of community groups and organisations, and members of the Highgate Wood Management Team.

#### **4.0 Policy Context**

Highgate Wood is owned by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London (also referred to as 'the City of London Corporation'), and run by it as one of its open spaces with charitable status. It remains part of the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity (reg. 232986), with the City of London Corporation as the trustee.

The Wood was acquired by the City of London Corporation along with Highgate Wood from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners under the Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886. The Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886 provides the primary legislation guiding the City Corporation's management of Highgate Wood. Section 4(1)(d) applies to the 2018 Act the key objectives and protections for Highgate Wood, namely section 2 of the Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886 which the preservation of the lands as public open space and the preservation of their natural aspect.

This Management Plan is set within the context of City Corporation policy and strategies which provide the framework for the delivery of the City Corporation's overarching aims and priorities. Underpinning all of these is the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan, which sets out the vision and strategic outcomes to inform all of its work. Within this context, the City Corporation has developed targeted strategies to address key issues of climate change and management of the natural environment to enhance future resilience of its open spaces and the wide-ranging benefits they deliver for nature conservation and the community.

Wider London strategies provide additional context for the Site's SINC status and nature conservation significance. The Greater London Council (GLA) is currently preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will set out priorities for nature recovery across London as part of a linked biodiversity network.

#### **City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029)**

The Corporate Plan is a tool to guide thinking, planning, decision-making and evaluation across the City Corporation and sets out the Strategic Outcomes to be delivered across the organisation over the period covered by the Plan. The Corporate Plan is a framework containing six strategic outcomes, which are

embedded at all levels of work and form the 'golden thread' across the organisation.



This Management Plan will guide the management of Highgate Wood to safeguard and enhance its role in the delivery of these outcomes, with particular reference to its contribution to community, environmental sustainability, and the provision of flourishing public spaces.

The inclusion of a specific outcome relating to Flourishing Public Spaces emphasises the importance attached to these areas to delivery of the wider strategic aims of the City Corporation.

### **Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029)**

The four Natural Environment Strategies align with the Corporate Plan and set out the City Corporation's strategic approach to managed open spaces, assets and activities. The Strategies cover four key areas which will inform the future management of all North London Open Spaces and other sites within the City Corporation's portfolio: Nature Conservation and Resilience; Access and Recreation; Culture, Heritage and Learning; and Community Engagement.

The Strategies describe our objectives for the natural environment and the measures by which we will assess our performance against these objectives. They will also inform our business plans and management plans and set out

how our activities will align with corporate priorities and policies. This Plan has been prepared within this wider context to ensure that Highgate Wood remains a key contributor to the delivery of the four Strategies.



### **City of London Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027)**

This Strategy sets out the City Corporation's climate action commitments within the Square Mile and across all the City Corporation's wider assets, including open spaces.

The City Corporation will make major investments to achieve the following:

- Net zero by 2027 in the City Corporation's operations
- Net zero by 2040 across the City Corporation's full value chain
- Net zero by 2040 in the Square Mile
- Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

Among the key areas for investment, the Strategy highlights:

- Enhancing carbon removal in our open spaces
- Protecting our shared natural resources
- Integrating climate considerations into all our decisions

The City Corporation's parks and open spaces are central to the delivery of Net Zero by 2027. They are estimated to currently remove 16,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This is equivalent to 40% of the City Corporation's scope 1 and 2 emissions.

This Management Plan aligns with the aims of the Climate Action Strategy and the management aims and priorities for Highgate Wood underpin these key areas which are of particular relevance to the management of open spaces.

## Natural Capital

In January 2024, the Wood was part of a wider baseline natural capital assessment of the City Corporation's open spaces<sup>1</sup> to map natural capital assets, biodiversity and ecosystem services baselines, to estimate their net natural capital value and to make recommendations for enhancing ecosystem service provision and biodiversity.

The findings highlight the value of the North London Open Spaces and the wider portfolio of City Corporation sites:

*Highgate Woods had a high capacity for local climate regulation, noise regulation, air purification, carbon storage, water flow regulation and water quality regulation. This is due to the large areas of broadleaved woodland and mixed woodland throughout the site. Broadleaved woodland and mixed woodland have a moderate to high capacity for timber production, and broadleaved woodland and modified grassland has a moderate to low capacity for pollinator visitation.*

*The surrounding neighbourhoods of Muswell Hill and Highgate that border the site to the north and west, create demand for air pollution regulation (near the A1 in the south western edge of the site), noise regulation from the roads and train depot that borders the site in the same location. These communities have a moderate demand for accessible nature.*

*The net natural capital asset value of Highgate Wood is £167.7 million over 50 years. The site delivers a benefit to cost ratio of 16.5, which means that every £1 spent on maintenance delivers £16.50 in benefits.*

Recommendations for enhancement include:

*The current management plan to improve and manage the areas of ancient woodland by thinning, encouraging natural regeneration and wildflower meadows, and habitat improvements for bat species, will help increase this site's overall habitat condition and biodiversity score. Maintaining a good age structure within woodland habitat throughout the site will help maintain carbon sequestration into the future. Ecosystem service provision could be enhanced through transforming the amenity grassland to semi-natural grassland, if the amenity grassland is not required for practical reasons. This can increase carbon storage, pollination, water flow and quality regulation. Hedgerows and scrub could be introduced at the edge of, especially around the amenity grassland, garden and built up areas. This will also increase the pollinator service, sequester and store carbon, as well as taking up air pollutants, at the same time as enhancing biodiversity.*

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<sup>1</sup> Baseline natural capital assessment of the City of London Corporation's open spaces (Natural Capital Solutions Ltd, January 2024)

The management recommendations set out in this Plan embrace Queen's Park's critical function in contributing the key benefits delivered by North London Open Spaces as a whole, including, in particular, those relating to biodiversity, carbon sequestration and health and well-being.

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## 5.0 About Highgate Wood

### Overview

Highgate Wood is a 28-hectare (70-acre) ancient woodland in the London Borough of Haringey. It was acquired by the City Corporation in 1886 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and opened to the public a year later. Today it provides a safe and relaxing environment attracting over 1.3 million visits a year.

It boasts a rich history dating back to the pre-historic era and was once the centre of a small-scale pottery industry in the first century AD. The woodland is predominantly composed of hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with English oak (*Quercus robur*) and sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) standards but also features a variety of other species, including a notable presence of wild service trees (*Sorbus torminalis*), an indicator of ancient woodland.

The Wood provides diverse habitats for species found in very particular niches in ancient woodlands, including over 300 species of fungi. In addition to its ecological value, Highgate Wood is an important leisure and amenity resource, offering visitors a rare opportunity to experience a woodland environment that has preserved much of its historic character. The site provides a vital open space for recreation and leisure in a densely built-up area of London.

Visitors to the site can enjoy various recreational facilities, including a playing field, trim trail, cricket nets, a large children's playground, a café, and an information centre with booklets, newsletters, and trail guides. There are also maintained football and cricket pitches for regular weekend league clubs.

A Highgate Wood Site Plan is included in Appendix A of this Management Plan.

### Natural Environment

Highgate Wood is designated as **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)** and forms part of a group of important woodland sites in North London. Ancient semi-natural woodland supports a large number of species, many of which are listed as vulnerable, particularly those which require stable, unchanging conditions to survive. The woodland contains many niche habitats which support a range of protected and UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species including bats, birds, fungi and moths. The rich diversity of woodland within the Wood has been well-researched and, to date, the following species have been identified:

- over 900 invertebrate species
- 482 moth species

- Over 300 fungi species
- 70 bird species
- 7 bat species

As a result, Highgate Wood is designated as a **Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation** and considered to be of London-wide significance for nature conservation. Current management operations aim to conserve the diversity of the woodland through creation of individual 'conservation areas' whilst monitoring for pests and diseases such as Chronic Oak Decline and Oak Processionary Moth.

Together with Queen's Wood, Highgate Wood has been identified as a potential **Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)** by the London Geodiversity Partnership and is highlighted in "London's Foundations: Protecting the Geodiversity of the Capital" (London 2012, Mayor of London). Most of the wood is underlain by Claygate Beds, characterised by sandy clay soils that often lead to erosion and runoff during flooding. This specific geology makes the site particularly vulnerable to compaction and current management aims to encourage public access whilst preserving the health of the woodland.

## Heritage

Highgate Wood has a rich history of use and development. Flint tools from the early Mesolithic period have been discovered on the site, indicating early human settlement. Although there is little evidence of occupation during the Roman period, archaeological records suggest that ten kilns once operated in Highgate Wood, with pottery production taking place from AD 43 until around AD 160. A restored Roman kiln uncovered during archaeological excavations is now on display in the education building at Highgate Wood. It is the most complete Roman pottery kiln found in Greater London.

For many centuries, Highgate Wood was managed for the commercial production of fuel wood through cyclical cutting of the hornbeam. Oak standards were likely planted as a long-term investment for eventual use in shipbuilding and construction, with the bark possibly serving as a valuable secondary crop for the tanning industry. The wood's role as a fuel resource declined in the 19th century with the increased availability of coal. However, the ancient coppice stools and mature oak standards still visible today provide a fascinating glimpse into the historical management practices used in the woodland.

In February 1885, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners offered Highgate Wood to the City Corporation as a gift, which was accepted in 1886 under the Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act. The Wood was officially opened to the public on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1886.

During the Second World War, the site was used to station barrage balloons to help defend London from low-level aircraft attacks. The concrete blocks to which the balloons were anchored can still be seen on the sports pitch during dry weather.

## Recreation & Facilities

Highgate Wood is a welcoming and easily accessible green space with a unique atmosphere. It offers a safe environment with excellent facilities, along with educational and recreational activities suitable for all ages. The site attracts a diverse range of visitors, from early morning joggers and parents exploring the woodland with their young children, to dog walkers and walking groups.

The **playground** is a highly frequented facility, especially popular among younger children. It features a camera installed in a bird box, with a monitor situated in the adjacent building, offering visitors a chance to observe birds as they build nests and feed their young.

The **sports field**, located centrally in Highgate Wood, spans approximately 2.6 hectares (6.5 acres). This space is a favoured part of Highgate Wood, utilised year-round for informal games, picnics and walking. It includes two football pitches operational from September to April, and a cricket pitch used from April to September. These pitches are rented by local teams and are also used by schools for sports days and athletic events.

**Changing facilities and showers** are available in the building attached to the café, and a score hut is provided for cricket teams. The sport pitches are marked before each game, with goalposts, nets, and sightscreens set up as needed. There are two cricket practice nets in the south-western part of the field, accessible year-round. These nets, the only free ones in the London Borough of Haringey, are heavily utilised.

The **café** at Highgate Wood is a popular spot for visitors, offering a relaxed environment surrounded by the natural beauty of the Wood. It has a family-friendly atmosphere, with outdoor seating, making it an ideal spot for parents to relax while keeping an eye on their children. The café emphasises sustainable practices. It often uses eco-friendly materials for packaging and strives to reduce its environmental impact. The café is leased out to an external tenant and is open all year round. Public toilets are available in close proximity to the café.

Local primary schools frequently visit Highgate Wood as an educational resource, utilising the natural outdoor setting to teach subjects such as natural history and environmental studies. Children and young people have the opportunity to experience a true outdoor rural environment within walking



distance of their school. Additionally, staff are available to lead walk-and-talk sessions focused on nature and woodland species.

## **Community & Health**

The Wood is a vital resource for the surrounding community, with many visitors coming daily for activities such as walking, dog walking, and jogging. The Highgate Wood team has successfully built long-standing relationships with local residents, creating a welcoming environment where people feel safe and secure.

Highgate Wood's ancient woodland and its wildlife offer numerous opportunities for local residents to engage with nature. The City Corporation, with the support of volunteers, organises a regular programme of events and activities at Highgate Wood, including walks and talks on cultural heritage and the natural environment.

Highgate Wood is an important local resource for promoting the health and well-being of local residents. It offers the opportunity to exercise and join sporting activities such as football or cricket. The sports field is especially popular for summer sports days, and schools without their own sports facilities are encouraged to use the field for both formal and informal activities. The Wood also supports two Forest School groups where children can benefit from education in a natural setting.

A free annual newsletter produced by the City Corporation is available at the education centre, which also provides trail guides and information on wildlife and history. The newly extended education centre features a Roman Kiln exhibition, developed with the Museum of London and Bruce Castle Museum.

The Heath Hands volunteer group assists with conservation efforts in the Wood, including coppicing hazel and holly, and clearing brambles and ivy. Queen's Wood is owned and managed by the London Borough of Haringey and supported by the Friends of Queen's Wood. They collaborate with Haringey's Conservation Officer to care for the site and secure funding for projects. The Friends hold monthly volunteer sessions focused on woodland management and have created new ponds to enhance habitat diversity. Some members of the Friends of Queen's Wood are also part of the Highgate Wood Consultative Committee, fostering valuable connections between the two sites.

## **Climate Resilience**

Highgate Wood plays a crucial role in enhancing climate resilience in London by helping the city adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. As an ancient woodland and a vital green space, it offers several ecosystem services that directly contribute to building resilience to climate-related challenges. These services include:

- **Carbon Sequestration**

Highgate Wood's trees, especially mature and veteran trees, capture and store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, helping to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations. This process aids in mitigating climate change by lowering the overall carbon footprint of the area.

- **Urban Heat Island Effect Mitigation**

The dense canopy of Highgate Wood helps regulate local temperatures, particularly during heatwaves, which are expected to become more frequent with climate change. The trees provide shade and cool the surrounding environment, reducing the urban heat island effect, where cities experience significantly higher temperatures than rural areas due to human activities and infrastructure.

- **Flood Mitigation**

The woodland plays an essential role in absorbing rainwater and reducing surface runoff, which helps mitigate the risk of flooding. Highgate Wood's soil and vegetation act like a natural sponge, soaking up water during heavy rainfall and slowly releasing it, reducing runoff and helping to replenish groundwater levels. This natural water regulation is vital for flood prevention, especially in urban areas such as those surrounding Highgate Wood.

- **Air Quality Improvement**

The trees in Highgate Wood help filter out air pollutants, improving air quality and reducing the negative impacts of pollution, which are exacerbated by climate change. Better air quality enhances the overall resilience of the community by promoting public health, particularly during hot weather when pollution levels can spike.

**Key attributes**

- Highgate Wood is 28 hectares; equivalent to 70 acres or 44 football pitches
- It contains 24.6ha of remnant Ancient Woodland
- It is located just 8km north of Trafalgar Square
- Visitor Surveys indicated 1.3 million in 2022/23
- A children's playground
- A café that is open all year round
- 4 cricket teams training at cricket pitch
- Football pitch used by the local community
- 2 Forest School groups
- Several interpretation panels located throughout the woodland

- Over 1,000 oak standards present in the wood (counted in 2018) and around 1% decline/die on an annual basis.
- 25 breeding bird species
- 300 different fungi species recorded since 1994
- Regular moth trapping has identified 482 species since 1985
- Every £1 spent on maintenance of natural assets delivers £16.5 in benefits

## **6.0 Visitor Surveys & Feedback (including Green Flag)**

A visitor survey conducted in 2022/23 revealed that Highgate Wood attracts more than 1.3 million visits annually.

Highgate Wood receives regular feedback from Green Flag and Green Heritage Award inspections which it takes into consideration for ongoing management. The last Green Flag Judges' feedback was provided on 25 April, 2023 with an overall result of Pass and some very favourable and congratulatory comments about the condition of the site and high standard of management.

General recommendations related to the existing CMP included a request for links to the Annual Work Programme/Maintenance Schedule so that these could be better understood, as well as information on residual waste and alternative fuels. The field assessment noted the play area equipment showing signs of wear and tear, with a recommendation to plan for upgrade.

Judges' feedback related to the Green Heritage Site was also last received in 2023. This mentioned the need to update the 2013 CMP, with a stronger focus on monitoring in order to reflect on the successes of community engagement and marketing. The field assessment prompted only positive feedback and praise for staff, with excitement about the planned Roman kiln upgrade.

All the actions in this Plan are intended to deliver and achieve the Vision for the Wood.

## 7.0 How Highgate Wood is managed

Highgate Wood is one of the four spaces managed by North London Open Spaces, a sub-division of the City Corporation's Natural Environment Division. In addition to Highgate Wood, these include Hampstead Heath, Queen's Park, and West Ham Park. North London Open Spaces is led by the Assistant Director (Superintendent), who is responsible for the operation. NLOS comprises the equivalent of c. 125 full-time directly employed staff.

### North London Open Spaces: Top Tier

26 July 2023



Highgate Wood is a registered charity as part of the Highgate Wood and Queens Park Kilburn Charity (reg. 232986) and relies on funding from the City Corporation, along with revenue generated from services, grants and donations.

The Park is overseen by a management committee of the City of London Corporation, known as the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, which is led by an elected Chair. The Park also has a Highgate Wood Consultative Group (HWCG) and is also led by the Chair of the above Committee and consists of local groups. It meets at least twice a year and provides further opportunity for local groups to provide input on the management of Highgate Wood.

The management team looking after Highgate Wood comprises five Rangers and Operative Rangers, who are managed by one Senior Ranger, who is in

turn managed by the Ranger Manager for Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood. The Senior Ranger and one Ranger reside onsite. This resource provides an all-year-round service, including Christmas Day.

### **Highgate Wood Staffing structure**

- Head of Conservation - responsible for Highgate Wood, West Heath, East Heath, Arboriculture, Ecology, Waste and Recycling.
- Ranger Manager - Responsible for Highgate Wood, West Heath, and East Heath
- Senior Ranger - Responsible for Highgate Wood's day-to-day management.
- Rangers (2 x)- Based at Highgate Wood, responsible for leading teams on the ground.
- The rest of the dedicated Highgate Wood team consists of 5 x Operative Rangers.
- Casual staff as and when required.
- Administrative support officers.

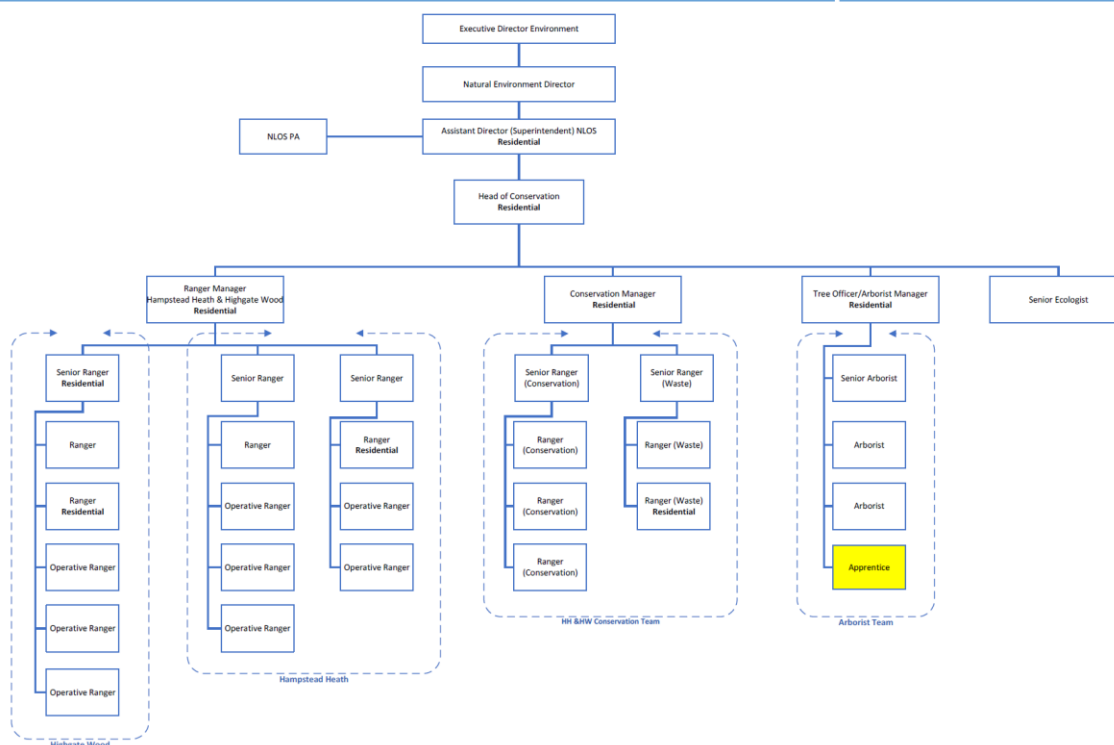
Highgate Wood is also supported by several staff that operate across other North London Open Spaces sites, including:

- Arboricultural Team
- Conservation Team
- Ecologist
- Fleet and Health & Safety Officer
- Mechanic
- Events Manager
- Communications Team
- Hampstead Heath Constabulary
- City Surveyor's Department

The staffing structure for Highgate Wood is outlined below:

North London Open Spaces: Conservation Hampstead Heath & Highgate Wood

26 July 2024



### Staff training, learning and development

All staff have a Performance Development Approach (PDA) appraisal, which is conducted by their line manager and includes an individual learning and development plan and sets objectives to be met over the year. Objectives and development are set at the beginning of the year (April) and reviews made at mid-year and end of year. All staff have monthly local team meetings and individual monthly meetings with their line manager. Recent improvements in the organisation, booking, recording and evaluation of courses, have ensured that we continue to make progress in this important area. All staff receive a mid-term and an annual review to provide a dedicated opportunity to talk on a one-to-one basis with their line manager about a range of development issues, including personal objectives, competencies, and training. All staff are also required to undergo mandatory training that comprises a mixture of off-site and on-site operational training.

### Highgate Wood Consultative Group (HWCG)

The HWCG includes a number of organisations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Wood, including councillors from Haringey Council, representatives from local groups and other volunteer groups.

### Volunteers

Local community groups and organisations play a vital role in supporting the

management of Highgate Wood, collaborating closely with the City Corporation. For instance, Heath Hands has contributed to nature conservation efforts, such as looking after the conservation areas.

Other local groups include The Highgate Society, Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Highgate Neighbourhood Forum, Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association, and Tree Trust for Haringey.

Local experts have assisted City Corporation staff in conducting surveys of the flora and fauna, yielding essential data for managing the site. Additionally, local specialists and educational groups have been instrumental in exploring the history of Highgate Wood.

### **Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity**

Highgate Wood is a registered charity as part of the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity (reg. 232986). The typical annual expenditure budget for the Wood is c. £1.5M which is shared with Queen's Park. The Wood receives this funding from the City of London Corporation and from the Wood's charitable activities. Annual income comes mainly from refreshment licenses and hire of sports facilities.

Throughout the life of this Plan, we will seek to maximise opportunities to deliver projects through external national and local funding. GiftAid for the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity was introduced in 2023 and has been successful in securing donations that have been reinvested back into the Wood.

## 8.0 Vision & Themes

The City Corporation welcomes and values its role as the custodian of Highgate Wood. We place great value on its stewardship for current and future generations and have collaboratively developed the following Vision Statement to guide its management.

### Vision

The valuable ancient woodland habitat, biodiversity and remnant historic features of Highgate Wood are secured through resilient and adaptive management, informed by regular monitoring.

Protection of Highgate Wood's natural and cultural heritage assets is balanced against the provision of safe, inclusive, and welcoming visitor access and facilities, enriching health & well-being through recreation, education and community involvement.

### Themes

The Vision provides the guiding principles for the five main themes which, in turn, show how it will deliver outcomes which contribute towards corporate and departmental objectives. Those themes are:

1. Sustainable Woodland Management: Implement the Woodland Management Plan which aligns conservation goals with community use, focusing on long-term ecological resilience and nature recovery, in particular threats posed by tree diseases.
2. Culture & Heritage: Preserve and interpret Highgate Wood's historical features, connecting its past with its future through meaningful experiences.
3. Facilities and Access: Maintain and upgrade visitor facilities with sustainable design principles and improve visitor accessibility while protecting the woodland's character.
4. Community & Education: Develop programmes that engage local schools, residents, and visitors in woodland management, promoting conservation through education and participation.
5. Climate Resilience: Adopt sustainable management practices that are adaptive to climate change and other environmental pressures, and able to mitigate impacts where possible to ensure that Highgate Wood remains a flourishing ecosystem and contributes to City Corporation strategic targets.



By embracing this Vision, Highgate Wood will continue to be a living testament to London's natural heritage - an irreplaceable green oasis where nature and community thrive together.

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Table 1: How Highgate Wood's Vision will be delivered, and its links to other key strategic documents

HIGHGATE WOOD THEMES					
	Sustainable Woodland Management	Culture & Heritage	Facilities & Access	Community & Education	Climate Resilience
CORPORATE PLAN	Leading Sustainable Environment Flourishing Public Spaces	Flourishing Public Spaces Diverse Engaged Communities	Providing Excellent Services Vibrant Thriving Destination	Diverse Engaged Communities	Leading Sustainable Environment Dynamic Economic Growth
CLIMATE STRATEGY	To champion sustainable growth	-	-	To build climate resilience	To support the achievement of Net Zero To build climate resilience To champion sustainable growth
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES	<p><b>Nature Conservation &amp; Resilience Strategy</b> 1. Biodiversity: To protect and enhance the biodiversity of our open spaces 2. Resilience &amp; Adaptation: To increase the resilience of our open spaces within a wider, interconnected natural landscape.</p> <p><b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Learning Strategy</b> 1. Developing nature connection and pro-environmental behaviours</p> <p><b>Access &amp; Recreation Strategy</b> 1. Balance the needs of visitors with the requirements of protecting the natural and heritage assets of the open spaces</p>	<p><b>Community Engagement Strategy</b> 4. Thriving Spaces; Creating spaces that attract people and improve their lives</p> <p><b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Learning Strategy</b> 2. Developing well-being through spending time in nature or through our heritage 5. Ensuring the effective care, management and promotion of our offer.</p> <p><b>Access &amp; Recreation Strategy</b> 1. Balance the needs of visitors with the requirements of protecting the natural and heritage assets of the open spaces</p>	<p><b>Community Engagement Strategy</b> 2. Removing Barriers: Identifying and removing barriers to participation in our spaces and work 4. Thriving Spaces; Creating spaces that attract people and improve their lives</p> <p><b>Access &amp; Recreation Strategy</b> 2. Enable the best possible visitor journey, creating the right information from pre -visit to a stress-free and enjoyable on-site experience; 3. Provide welcoming places that visitors from all backgrounds and abilities are comfortable to explore</p>	<p><b>Community Engagement Strategy</b> 3. Ownership: Cultivating a sense of deep pride in and attachment to our spaces amongst users 5. Knowledge exchange: Continuous transfer of information between the Corporation and its customers</p> <p><b>Culture, Heritage &amp; Learning Strategy</b> 1. Developing nature connection and pro-environmental behaviours 2. Developing well-being through spending time in nature or through our heritage 4. Developing greater engagement, confidence and enjoyment</p> <p><b>Access &amp; Recreation Strategy</b> 4. Build understanding and knowledge about the open spaces. Visitors will respect one another and will care for and advocate for the sites.</p>	<p><b>Nature Conservation &amp; Resilience Strategy</b> 2. Resilience &amp; Adaptation: To increase the resilience of our open spaces within a wider, interconnected natural landscape. 3. Evidence: To establish a natural capital-based management approach across our open spaces.</p>
OUTCOME / PERFORMANCE MEASURE	Green Flag and Heritage Award  Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation  Adopted FC Woodland Management Plan	Green Flag and Heritage Award  Heritage assets secured and protected  Our practices are financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable	Green Flag and Heritage Award  Improved playground & café facilities  Measurable improvement in visitor accessibility  Positive customer feedback	Full annual programme of well-attended events  Increase in volunteering, through existing groups (i.e. Transition Town) or establishment of a new Friends of Highgate Wood group  Reduction in incidences of site misuse	Establishment of baseline data and secure measurable increase in carbon sequestration/Natural Capital  Reduction in carbon footprint associated with buildings, vehicles, machinery etc.

## 9.0 Delivery of the Highgate Wood Vision

To deliver and achieve the Wood Vision through the five main themes below, a number of objectives have been developed in this Management Plan. To achieve this vision, we recognise the importance of working towards an agreed national standard for good practice in the management of parks and open spaces. The objectives will contribute towards the Green Flag Award criteria, the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom.

### Theme 1: Sustainable Woodland Management

Implement the Woodland Management Plan, which aligns conservation goals with community use, focusing on long-term ecological resilience and nature recovery, in particular threats posed by tree diseases.

To achieve this, we will:

- Preserve the woodland's character as a hornbeam coppice with oak standards while enhancing the variety of native trees and shrubs.
- Promote greater structural diversity within the woodland by fostering a broader age range of trees and coppice, a robust shrub layer, rich ground flora, and ample dead wood at both aerial and ground levels.
- Manage the ponds and meadow to provide additional, valuable wildlife habitats.
- Adapt management practices to strengthen resilience against current and emerging threats, such as tree diseases, invasive species, and climate change.
- Reduce damage from compaction and erosion while encouraging public access and enjoyment.
- Continue to survey birds, bats, and fungi; monitor oak standard and sapling populations; and document wildlife sightings.

The Woodland are under a great deal of pressure and the oak standards in particular are continuing to decline - about 12-13 trees are lost annually, or about 1% of the approximately 1154 oak standards in the Wood (as counted in 2018).

The arboricultural team conducts bi-annual surveys of oak trees for signs of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) and Oak Decline. All high risk tree safety zones in Highgate Wood are inspected every twelve months by Professional Tree Inspection certificated City of London staff. Medium and low risk tree safety zones are inspected by the same staff on a twelve to twenty four months

cycle.'. Any necessary tree work is performed by the arboricultural team or, if required, an external contractor. Additional Tree Safety Inspections are carried out across Highgate Wood after events of high wind.

Ref	Objective	Timescale
1.1	Continue the programme of creating new Conservation Areas and creating new (or expanding existing) smaller canopy gaps.	Ongoing
1.2	Increase the diversity of native trees and shrubs and the structural diversity of the Wood through small quantities of annual planting.	Ongoing
1.3	Maintain the pond and meadow – mow meadow annually, relocate oak regeneration, monitor pond for over-shading	Ongoing
1.4	Managing and eradicating invasive species including Laurel and squirrels.	Ongoing
1.5	Mitigate visitor pressures (including dogs) on woodland habitats.	Short-term
1.6	Carry out Tree Safety Inspections and continue monitoring programmes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oak decline</li> <li>▪ OPM</li> <li>▪ Sweet Chestnut blight</li> </ul>	Ongoing
1.7	Renew Woodland Management Plan in 2028	Medium-Term

## Theme 2: Culture & Heritage

Preserve and interpret Highgate Wood's historical features, connecting its past with its future through meaningful experiences.

To achieve this, we will:

- Preserve, manage and interpret for public understanding the significant heritage assets of Highgate Wood, including the earthworks, ancient woodland features, the Roman Kiln site, key developments from the Victorian era, and evidence of the Wood's wartime use.
- Work with the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln to promote and utilise the restored Roman Kiln as an educational asset.
- Prevent damage to heritage assets as a result of visitor pressure and tree-related issues (addressed in actions 1.5 and 1.6 above)

Ref	Objective	Timescale
2.1	Develop a programme of heritage-themed events throughout the year, including the	Ongoing

Ref	Objective	Timescale
	restored Roman Kiln.	
2.2	Regularly review and update interpretative information within the education centre.	Short-term
2.3	Conserve all earthworks through gradual vegetation removal, fencing and interpretation. Ongoing maintenance of the earthworks will be required.	Ongoing
2.4	Maintain standards as set by site specification to achieve Green Flag Park and Green Heritage Award status.	Annual
2.5	Consider other potential heritage projects to build on the success of the Roman Kiln scheme.	Long-term

### Theme 3: Facilities & Access

Maintain and upgrade visitor facilities with sustainable design principles and improve visitor accessibility while protecting the woodland's character.

To achieve this, we will:

- Identify key priorities for budget investment in order to secure required upgrades to built infrastructure. This includes both the playground and café facility.
- Improve site access arrangements in order to maintain a balance between providing DDA-compliant access for all abilities, whilst preventing/discouraging access to the site for bikes and motorbikes.
- Ensure all site infrastructure and furniture is maintained in good and serviceable condition, and replaced or upgraded where required.
- Review and update third-party contracts for concessions as required.

Ref	Objective	Timescale
3.1	Refurbish playground (to include securing internal funding).	Short-term
3.2	Re-tender cafe contract and upgrade facilities as required.	Short-term
3.3	Review site entrances and select key points for access upgrades; include for updating site signage/maps to identify accessible entrances and routes.	Short-term
3.4	Undertake a regular programme of path surfacing upgrades, in particular where impacted by flooding, and in connection to routes between key accessible entrances (as per 3.3)	Ongoing

Ref	Objective	Timescale
3.5	Review current rental/lease arrangements with sports clubs and refresh as required.	Short-term
3.6	Regular inspections of Highgate Wood's infrastructure and undertaking repairs/replacements as required.	Annual

#### Theme 4: Community & Education

Develop programmes that engage local schools, residents, and visitors in woodland management, promoting conservation through education and participation.

To achieve this, we will:

- Continue working closely with existing community groups and bodies, and seek to increase engagement and participation wherever possible;
- Deliver ongoing programmes of diverse and accessible events and activities, targeting a range of age groups and social backgrounds;
- Develop new ways in which the natural and cultural heritage of Highgate Wood can be best interpreted to site visitors;
- Increase visitor awareness of site sensitivity to help target issues from dogs (i.e. professional walkers, flea-treatment, etc) and other problems of misuse, in addition to Health & Safety issues related to trees and OPM.
- Continued professional development of Highgate Wood staff to ensure they have all the required knowledge and technical abilities to engage with and manage the general public.
- Work collaboratively with other open spaces, groups and organisations to consider how best to maximise opportunities and tackle issues.

Ref	Objective	Timescale
4.1	Re-explore the potential for creating a dedicated Friends of Highgate Wood volunteer group (potentially building upon the existing Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln).	Short-term
4.2	Set annual targets for events and activities and use these to develop a rich and diverse programme to benefit multiple groups.	Ongoing
4.3	Look into developing a QR-code trail for trees and other features around the site.	Medium-term
4.4	Temporary signage and/or a web page (QR-code) with guidance on professional dog	Short-term

Ref	Objective	Timescale
	walking and to educate about impact on ancient woodland habitat.	
4.5	Release annual guidance at certain times of year on seasonal issues, such as OPM.	Ongoing
4.6	Undertake regular consultation with other relevant groups and organisations in the locality to consider issues and opportunities that can best be approached through collaboration.	Ongoing
4.7	Provide any other necessary training for staff to deliver tasks safely and efficiently (as per training matrix).	Ongoing

### Theme 5: Climate Resilience

Adopt sustainable management practices that are adaptive to climate change and other environmental pressures, and able to mitigate impacts where possible to ensure that Highgate Wood remains a flourishing ecosystem and contributes to City Corporation strategic targets.

To achieve this, we will:

- Continue managing Highgate Wood to ensure long-term viability of canopy cover and all of the environmental benefits this provides;
- Develop greater understanding about Highgate Wood's hydrological function in the area and whether there are any opportunities for increasing its flood alleviation role. Highgate Wood will aim to work closer with Queen's Wood, Friends of Queen's Wood and their experts in relation the flooding hydrology;
- Learn more about Highgate Wood's carbon storage and natural capital potential, and use results to inform management;
- Review current arrangements around management practices (i.e. waste and recycling), vehicles, equipment and buildings to understand carbon footprint and measures required to improve.

Ref	Objective	Timescale
5.1	Continue to work towards achieving the City of London Corporation Climate Action Strategy.	Ongoing
5.2	Understand more about Highgate Wood's hydrology in order to inform improved management and contribute to flood	Medium-term

Ref	Objective	Timescale
	alleviation.	
5.3	Review the Natural Capital/Carbon baseline for Highgate Wood and explore potential for improving/capitalising on asset.	Medium-term
5.4	Review/upgrade fleet to ensure compliance with ULEZ, and where possible a shift to electric vehicles.	Medium-term
5.5	Improve environmental performance of buildings throughout the site, eg, insulation of lodges, updating heating systems and photovoltaic installation.	Long-term
5.6	Review current waste and recycling arrangements and look to improve processes where possible.	Short-term

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## 10.0 Five-Year Action Plan

The following table sets out an Action Plan for Highgate Wood covering the next five years. It focusses primarily on capital projects aimed at delivering management objectives whilst the Annual Work Programme covers mostly operational, day-to-day maintenance. It is intended that a new Action Plan of capital items is produced at the end of the five-year review.

Ref	Project Detail	Responsibility	Target Year	Timing	Est. Cost	Mgt Obj.
AP1	Create new 'Conservation Areas' and/or expand existing ones within woodland; including for temporary fencing and signage.	Highgate Wood Management Team (HWMT)	3-4	n/a	TBC	1.1
AP2	Undertake small quantities of annual tree/shrub planting (average approx. 25 stems per year).  Seek grant funding (i.e. Woodland Trust) for supply of trees.	HMWT	All	Nov - Feb	TBC	1.2
AP3	Undertake de-shading vegetation clearance works around the pond.	HMWT; volunteers	3	Sep - Feb	n/a	1.3
AP4	Volunteer task to carefully dig up oak regeneration from the meadow areas and move to more suitable locations (incl. for deer protection).	HMWT; volunteers	Any	Nov - Feb	n/a	1.3
AP5	Continued woodland management work to target invasive/dominant plant spaces, in particular laurel.	HMWT; volunteers	Any	Sep - Feb	n/a	1.4
AP6	Production of a new FC Woodland Management Plan for Highgate Wood; include for meetings with the FC Area Officer.  Secure grant funding from the FC for plan production.	External Consultant (EC); HMWT	3-4	n/a	£2.5k	1.7
AP7	Devise, promote and deliver an annual programme of heritage-themed events and activities, including walks & talks.	HMWT; City Corporation; Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln (FHRK)	All	n/a	TBC	2.1; 4.2
AP8	Undertake a project to review the condition of the earthworks, to identify issues of vulnerability and damage, and prepare a detailed, costed work programme.  Note: Survey work best undertaken over winter when ground flora is absent.	City of London Environment Department (City Corporation); EC	1-2	Nov - Feb	TBC	2.3
AP9	Update all interpretative material across the site, including within the education centre and on-site entrance signage; consider potential for new provision alongside these upgrades, such as a QR-code Tree Trail.	City Corporation; HMWT; FHRK	2-3	n/a	TBC	2.2; 4.3

Ref	Project Detail	Responsibility	Target Year	Timing	Est. Cost	Mgt Obj.
AP10	Undertake playground refurbishment project, to include public consultation, design stages, securing planning permission etc.	City Corporation	3-5	n/a	TBC	3.1
AP11	Re-tender café contract, to include for facility upgrades.	City Corporation	TBC	n/a	TBC	3.2
AP12	Consultation-led project to identify opportunities for upgrading site entrances and access routes to provide improved accessibility for different user groups.	City Corporation; HMWT	1-2	n/a	TBC	3.3; 3.4
AP13	Arrange an engagement event to generate interest in the possibility of forming a Friends of Highgate Wood group. Further action to be taken dependent upon outcome of event.	City Corporation; HMWT	1-2	n/a	n/a	4.1; 4.2; 4.6
AP14	Use of temporary signage, websites and/or newsletter communications to share information with visitors on seasonal and new issues, such as OPM, impact of dogs, events etc. Include for communicating with other sites/groups to coordinate approach where possible.	HMWT	All	n/a	TBC	4.4; 4.5; 4.6
AP15	Undertake consultation and engagement to inform the development of a licencing scheme for Professional Dog Walking.	City Corporation	TBC	n/a	TBC	4.4; 2.3; 1.5
AP16	Use dead-hedging and other natural barriers to establish path networks throughout the woodland and discourage free roaming.	HMWT; volunteers	All	Sep - Feb	n/a	1.5; 2.3
AP17	Commission a Hydrological Study (potentially in combination with Queen's Wood) to understand the woodland's role in flood alleviation and to suggest opportunities for enhancement.	EC	2-3	n/a	TBC	5.2
AP18	Build on the findings of the 2024 Natural Capital Baseline Assessment to look at Highgate Wood's current levels of carbon storage, and identify opportunities for improvement, and the potential to capitalise on assets.	EC; City Corporation	3-4	n/a	TBC	5.3
AP19	Assess current carbon footprint of all buildings, vehicles and machinery, and implement a programme of improvements to achieve tangible reductions.	City Corporation; EC	3-4	n/a	TBC	5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6
AP20	Develop an event (or series of events) specifically looking at a 'Cultural Exchange' between groups/staff involved on different sites.	City Corporation; HMWT	1-2	n/a	n/a	4.6; 4.8
AP21	Develop a more varied and engaging programme of practical volunteer tasks, to be used as a basis for discussions around AP13.	HMWT; volunteers	All	n/a	n/a	4.1; 4.2

Ref	Project Detail	Responsibility	Target Year	Timing	Est. Cost	Mgt Obj.
AP22	Continue to implement pest control measures across the site to tackle problems with grey squirrel and rats. Include for public education/notification.	HWMT; Contractor (C)	All	n/a	TBC	1.4; 4.4

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## **11.0 Monitoring & Review**

### **Implementation**

The Highgate Wood Management Plan is set to continue the work of the 2013 Conservation Management Plan, with priority projects identified in a five-year Action Plan and cyclical activities implemented via the Annual Work Programme.

The implementation of this Management Plan will continue to be overseen by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee and City Corporation Environment Department.

An annual review and update of the five-year Action Plan will be undertaken, and an annual Business Plan prepared. Resources will be allocated to priority projects on a five-year rolling basis, informed by the Outcomes and Priorities in this Management Plan and aligned with the City Corporation's business planning cycle.

At the end of the first five years, the Management Plan will be subject to a full review and update, and a new five-year Action Plan setting out priority projects will be produced.

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring and tracking progress towards achieving the Outcomes will help us to understand the impact of our work, and to share and celebrate successes.

We will continue to monitor progress towards the Outcomes and Priorities set out in this Management Plan, and report back to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee.

### **Learning and improving**

Monitoring the changes or benefits that result from our activities provides insight into and understanding of the effectiveness of our actions and highlights where we can develop our work to make the biggest difference.

Evaluating effectiveness has enabled us to check our course and to make corrections in a timely manner, capturing learning and building in improvements as we proceed.

### **Communicating our impact**

Each year, we will prepare an Annual Business Plan and Work Programmes for Highgate Wood which set out the priorities and how these deliver against the Themes and Outcomes described in both the City Corporation Strategies and this Management Plan.

## 12.0 References

Baseline natural capital assessment of the City of London Corporation's open spaces (Natural Capital Solutions January 2024)

Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886

City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018

City of London Open Spaces Department Managing Tree Safety (2014)

City of London Café Review (July 2023)

City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029)

City of London Climate Action Strategy (2020-2029)

City of London Tree Strategy (May 2012)

City of London Global City of Sport (2023-2030)

City of London Biodiversity Action Plan (2021-2026)

Highgate Wood Woodland Management Plan (2018-2028)

Highgate Wood Conservation Management Plan (January 2013)

Highgate Wood Heritage Assessment (April 2013)

Natural Environment Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Access and Recreation Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Community Engagement Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Culture Heritage and Learning Strategy (2024-2029)

## Appendix A Highgate Wood Map



# Highgate Wood

Registered Charity

### MAP KEY

- Cricket pitch
- Football pitch
- Playground
- Bus route
- London Underground station
- Disabled parking

- Refreshments
- Toilet/disabled toilet
- Made footpaths
- Capital Ring route
- Gate
- Holly, Woodland and scrub

- Area where bluebells thrive
- Site of ancient pottery kilns AD 50-150
- Fenced-off conservation areas and the years they were enclosed  
In all but the 1987 area, which is a permanent reserve, fences are removed after 10 years, to allow tree regeneration.

### ACCESSIBILITY

- All gates are accessible to wheelchairs, EXCEPT Lodge Gate which has nine steps and New Gate which is located at the bottom of a steep slope.
- Mobility scooter access is via Onslow Gate only.
- Disabled parking access is via Onslow Gate; the disabled car park is near the café.



This is one of 14 green spaces managed by the City of London at little cost to the general public.

In an emergency contact the Highgate Wood Keepers  
Tel: 07786 538932  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/highgatewood](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/highgatewood)

