ENV NE - Epping Forest Risk Register

Generated on: 24 October 2025



Rows are sorted by Risk Score

Risk Code	ENV-NE-EF 017	Risk Title	Tree event or failure

DescriptionCause: Large numbers of older, more vulnerable trees throughout Epping Forest which require regular inspection and works to prevent failure. A rise in tree disease combined with extreme weather conditions due to climate change exacerbate the risk. Staff shortages due to the Target Operating Model (TOM) process have resulted in insufficient staff resources to complete necessary works and a backlog of tree works. Event: More frequent tree failures. Greater risk during high winds, particularly when accompanied by heavy rainfall, and when trees are in leaf. Effect: Public safety - people (serious injury/death) and property; loss of trees; loss of habitat; insurance claims; reputational

Current Risk	Impact Likelihood Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact		
24	Possible	Extreme	

damage.

Target Risk	Impa	ct
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely	Major

Original Risk	Dog				
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact			
32	Likely	Extreme			

Red Trend Constant	Amber Targ	et Date 31-Mar- 2026	Red	Creation Date	19-Apr-2023
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Latest Note	This risk is actively managed with regular inspections of trees according to Forest-wide risks zones as well as the Severe Weather Protocol which is implemented in the event of large storms/high winds. Inspection surveys are completed by staff and also contracted out. Annual tree surveys have been reviewed and reprioritised and a scheme of works specified to address them. This	10-Oct-2025
	will resolve the backlog of works by early 2026, using existing resources. Once the backlog is cleared, the risk score will be reassessed and reduced further if appropriate.	

Risk Level	Service	Risk Approach	Reduce
Department	Environment	Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
	Carry out tree safety survey and works.	Annual tree surveys have been reviewed and reprioritised and a scheme of works specified to address them. This is an ongoing action which will be kept under close and regular review.	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Mar-2026
017b Severe		A Severe Weather Protocol is in place which details planning and response, in particular to high winds. We are unable to 'close' the Forest during such events but social media and staff broadcast messages to warn members of the public to avoid the Forest, and	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026

serious or large scale events are follow programme of walking trails and paths and action resulting dangers such as he tree limbs.	s to find
The Protocol has been reviewed and s minor changes have been made.	some
This is an ongoing action which will be under regular review. The 'Due Date' sthe date of the next review.	·

Risk Code ENV-NE-EF 018	Risk Title Deterioration of Wanstead Park Reservoirs	
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Cause: Gradual deterioration of the fabric of the reservoirs and / or excessive rain.

Event: Risk that the reservoirs may overtop and be washed away, leading to a cascading breach.

Effect:

Description

- Potential for loss of life or injury to staff/residents.
- Legal action by the Environment Agency.
- Low level flooding of the park and surrounding residential/commercial areas.
- Damage to a listed landscape.
- Requirement for significant immediate CoL funds to repair damage.
- Civil claims/financial loss claims made from residents/ businesses.
- Adverse effect on the reputation of the City Corporation (local/national media interest).
- Park closed for several weeks.

Current Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
24	Possible	Extreme	
Red	Trend	Constant	

Target Risk	Impact			
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact		
8	Rare	Extreme		
Amber	Target Date	30-Nov- 2026		

Original Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact		
24	Possible	Extreme	
Red	Creation Date	09-Dec-2019	

is relatively small. A further additional assessment of the interaction between the River Roding and Ornamental Waters has been undertaken.

The project progressed through Gateway 4 in January 2023.

Detailed designs for dam strengthening works and the reinstatement of the up-cascade pumping system are now being progressed with procurement having been delayed.

The City Surveyors are progressing works to reinstate the River Roding pumphouse and other land drainage works to increase water supply to the Ornamental Water. This has been delayed due to funding issues which have now been resolved. An application for winter abstraction has been submitted to the Environment Agency (EA) and they have now issued the case to an EA Officer for consideration.

A new officer group has been created to coordinate the projects within the park; including issues related to water levels.

A new Wanstead Park Project Officer has been appointed and is now in place. They are beginning stakeholder engagement. This role will support the progression of this project and the refresh of the Wanstead Parkland Plan.

In October 2021, a weekly inspection of the Perch Pond dam revealed a leak in the vicinity of the outflow structure. This has been resolved and the source identified, in consultation with the supervising Panel Engineer.

The target date for reducing the risk score has been extended to November 2026.

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Emily Brennan

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
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ENV-NE 007d Environment Agency Actions	completed.	The Supervising Panel Engineer is kept up to date with the project's progress during their six-monthly inspections of the lakes, during which the Panel Engineer determines if further action is required. The next inspection is due in April 2026 alongside the Section 10 inspection. The 10-yearly Section 10 inspection is due to be undertaken by the Inspection Panel engineer 21-22 April 2026. Gateway 4 approval has now been received.	24-Oct-2025	Tim Munday	30-Apr-2027
ENV-NE 007h Gateway 5 report	permission to progress works on site. Procurement and progression of detailed designs, tendering for site works, gaining required permissions, design consultation, enabling works and to works to begin on site.	Due to uncertainty regarding the requirements that may arise following the Section 10 inspection, work on tendering and procurement are currently paused. The exercise is now expected to take place in summer 2026. This will enable greater certainty on works associated with the upcascade pumping, which is dependent on an EA licence to abstract from the River Roding being granted. The due date of the action has been set accordingly.	24-Oct-2025	Tim Munday	30-Sep-2026

Risk Code ENV-NE-EF 006	Risk Title	Failure of raised reservoirs
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Description

Cause: Inadequate design; insufficient prescribed maintenance; leaks compromising dam integrity; failure to implement Panel Engineer's recommendations; failure to keep dams clear of vegetation; failure to evaluate large water body capacities; disputed ownership/responsibility for one LRR.

Event: Severe rainfall event resulting in overtopping of embankments, leading to erosion of dam and potential collapse. **Effect:** Loss of life; damage to downstream land/property; litigation; risk of prosecution; reputational harm; damage to/loss of habitat and associated rare species; fines from Environment Agency.

Current Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
16	Unlikely	Extreme
Red	Trend	Constant

Target Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Rare	Extreme
Amber	Target Date	31-Oct-2026

Original Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely Major	
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015

	A suitable 'design-and-build' contractor is being sought to carry out the works on Baldwins Pond, but it is unlikely that works will commence before summer 2026 (although funding is in place). Despite the delayed start, inspections by the Reservoir Engineer ("Panel" Engineer) have shown no evidence that the leakage of the dam (nor risks associated with this) has changed in recent years.	
Latest Note	The ongoing weekly inspections of all reservoirs/dams by staff, and the six-monthly inspections by the Reservoir Engineer ("Panel" Engineer) reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring. Therefore, at the end of 2024, the current score was reduced from 24 (possible/extreme) to 16 (unlikely/extreme).	28-Oct-2025
	While it will be possible to further reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring as works are completed, the impact	

would remain extreme should the risk occur. Therefore, the target is to reduce the overall score to 8	
(rare/extreme).	

Risk Level	Service	Risk Approach
Department	Environment	Risk Owner

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-EF 006a Panel Engineer inspections	Statutory inspection visits by engineer - 6 monthly.	Twice yearly inspections completed on schedule as agreed with the Panel Engineer. The most recent inspection was carried out in May 2025; the next is due in November 2025.	28-Oct-2025	Laura Lawson	30-Nov-2025
ENV-NE-EF 006c Internal inspection regime	Weekly inspection of reservoirs/dam.	Digital Blue Books are completed at agreed intervals. Formal recording has moved to an online process. This is an ongoing action which is reviewed quarterly - the Due Date shown is the date of the next review.	28-Oct-2025	Laura Lawson	31-Jan-2026
	Undertake scoping evaluations for Baldwins Pond.	A Design-Build contractor is being sought. Works are now unlikely to commence until summer 2026.	28-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Oct-2026
006f Rookery	Maintenance of Rookery Wood, Tudor Square Pond. Conservation management of Copped Hall.	The remedial works on the culverts within the Rookery Wood Reservoir will be undergoing a feasibility assessment, and a report will be presented to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee. Work is to be partially funded through the Cyclical Works Programme and	28-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026

funding for the remaining costs is still to be identified.		
The aim is to complete the remedial works to the culverts in 2027 and this action will be kept under regular review - the due date shown is the date of the next review.		

Risk Code ENV-NE-EF 008	Risk Title	Negative impacts from pests and diseases
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Description

Cause: Lack of adequate controls on international trade encourages transmission of invasive non-native species (INNS), pests and pathogens (e.g. sudden oak death a Phytophthora disease, fungal pathogens, including Biscogniauxia species); climate change; inadequate site biosecurity often through conscious public release of organisms within the Forest. Such species can include Rhododendrons, snowberry, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam, for example. Similarly, this would include grey squirrels, muntjac, mink and non-native invertebrate 'pest' species (Oak Processionary moth).

Event: Sites become occupied by such organisms which can lead to the decline, hybridisation or loss of key native species due to out-competition/disease transmission. Some organisms have health protection issues particularly moths producing urticating

to out-competition/disease transmission. Some organisms have health protection issues particularly moths producing urticating hairs and terrapins carrying *Salmonella* (DT 191a). Oak Processionary moth leads to tree defoliation. INNS threaten the biodiversity of native and ancient woods, because they are able to exclude, damage or suppress the growth of native tree, shrub and ground species (and their associated typical species), reduce structural diversity and prevent the natural regeneration of characteristic site-native species.

Effect: Loss or decline of key species; temporary site closures; increased costs of monitoring and control. Threat to existing conservation status of sites. Harm to individuals or spread of disease. Once such species are established, the measures to control them may also impact negatively on the features of interest (e.g. use of broad spectrum pesticides).

Current Risk	Document of the second of the		
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact		
16	Likely	Major	
Red	Trend	Constant	

Target Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Target Date	31-Oct-2025

Original Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
16	Likely	Major
Red	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015

	atest Note	Tree diseases such as Phytopthora (Ramorum) present a real threat to Beech: this pathogen uses Rhododendron	24 Oct 2025	l
	Latest Note	species as a host for part of its life cycle. It has been recorded in Rhododendron regrowth in Warren Plantation,	24-061-2025	l

treatment and management involving spraying and preventing rhododendron regrowth continues. Annual inspections are carried out by APHA and will continue. The 2025 inspection by APHA has come back as negative, however, advice is that the infection is unlikely to be 100% gone, therefore still there are some risks of spreading of the disease. APHA has advised to continue keeping the area secured by putting signage up to deter the public from entering and monitoring for any symptom of infection.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) surveys have been undertaken inhouse and completed annually, where required; results shows that occurrences have reduced.

The Hazardous Tree Programme surveys for increases in a wide variety of tree diseases and appropriate action is taken should any be identified.

Sweet Chestnut Blight was recorded within Epping Forest SSSI via lab results on one tree by the Forestry Commission and Forest Research in Summer 2025. The Epping Forest team is waiting for the Statutory Plant Health Notice and will undertake removal of the tree.

Harmful algal blooms (HABs): Under nutrient-rich eutrophic conditions Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) can produce HABs producing harmful toxins which can kill wild animals, livestock and pets and induce skins rashes and sickness in humans. This is a seasonal issue as it is driven by increasing temperatures and low water levels.

Monitoring of Foot and Mouth Disease, Blue Tongue and Avian Influenza continues.

The target date for the risk has been extended to reflect the ongoing presence of pests and diseases, including Ramorum.

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No: Description	Latest Note	Note Date O	Owned By Due Date
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008c INNS,	Develop a Natural Environment Divisional approach to INNS, pests and pathogens.	Monitoring for pests and diseases is part of our ongoing processes. Each and any new disease is dealt with according to the appropriate lead body, e.g. APHA. Officers are working with colleagues in the Environment Department's Environmental Resilience Team and across the other open spaces to develop a division-wide approach to INNS, pests and pathogens. The development of an INNS, pests and diseases policy for Epping Forest is an objective in the new five-year Business Plan.	24-Oct-2025	Tanith Cook	31-Mar-2026
	HABs monitoring and awareness raising.	A reactive process for HABs is in place. Visual inspections increase over the summer months. Positive testing for HABs by the Environment Agency will lead to health warning signage and social media messaging. This action is kept under review - the due date shown is the date of the next review.	24-Oct-2025	Laura Lawson	31-Jan-2026

Risk Code ENV-NE-EF 004	Risk Title	Decline in condition of built assets and infrastructure
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DescriptionCauses: Insufficient maintenance resource; limited ability to influence how resources are allocated. Event: Failure to meet statutory regulations and checks. Assets deteriorate to unusable/unsafe condition. Effect: Poor condition of assets: loss of value: cost of repair rises: inability to fulfil potential of assets, including final

Effect: Poor condition of assets; loss of value; cost of repair rises; inability to fulfil potential of assets, including financial potential. Reputational risk (including media coverage, stakeholder group escalations and Consultative Group complaints).

Current Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact		
12	Possible	Major	
Amber	Trend	Constant	

Target Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
8	Unlikely	Major	
Amber	Target Date	31-Mar- 2026	

Original Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
24	Possible	Extreme	
Red	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015	

	This risk addresses non-heritage assets and infrastructure only and the score has been set on that basis. Risk ENV-NE-EF 019 addresses the decline in condition of heritage assets.	
Latest Note	Chief Officers in occupation are typically accountable for asset condition within their functional area. They are responsible for commissioning required work, and ensuring an appropriate funding route is identified. This action is often delivered upon the professional advice of the City Surveyor's Department (CSD). Once a work package is commissioned, it is the responsibility of CSD to deliver those works as agreed and funded within the given cost/timeline/specifications. The Chief Officer in occupation is to be closely supported by the City Surveyor's Department and the Environment Department Head of Estates as subject matter experts. Recent approval of maintenance backlog funding is welcome, and work is underway, in partnership with the City	10-Oct-2025

Surveyor's Department (CSD), to prioritise those works or to reallocate funding or resource to other projects within the charity, particularly those that are on the Heritage at Risk register, or have the potential to generate income.

Asset registers for built assets are undergoing review and being transferred into a new system with additional information. However, this does not include infrastructure assets such as bridges and culverts. The Assistant Director Charity Development is taking forward recommendations for changes to ways of working with CSD and other corporate departments.

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
004d Statutory compliance of	visits held and carried out by City Surveyor's Department (CSD) or delegated to site.	Statutory audits and checks are now up to date for lodges and buildings, however, this is subject to recommendations for changes to future agreements with CSD. Concern remains on key infrastructure such as bridges and culverts. This may be addressed through recommendations for a full Service Level Agreement between the Natural Environment Division and CSD.	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026
	including residential by site and City Surveyor's Department	Annual tenant/occupier surveys should be reinstated by CSD, with a recommendation that they are carried out by a competent third party and that findings should feed into future maintenance plans and prioritisation.	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026
ENV-NE-EF	Put actions and processes in	Car parks continue to be in declining condition	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline	31-Jan-2026

004g Upkeep of operational facilities	place which ensure the upkeep and development of the Forest.	with surfacing and maintenance being provided through local risk. Provision for car park surfacing was contained within the CWP but has recently been withdrawn. Works on car park surfacing have been completed and were funded from local budgets and resources.		Eggleston	
ENV-NE-EF 004j Maintain the path network	Monitor the path network annually and carry out necessary maintenance.	The path network will be monitored annually and a maintenance programme prepared to address issues raised. A programme of work to spend the £250k RASC (Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee) funding for environmental damage to paths caused by high levels of use by visitors is now being established. SAMMS funding has been used for the surfacing of priority path improvements at Chingford.	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026
ENV-NE-EF 004m Delivery of works	City Surveyor's Department to deliver works as agreed and funded either by CWP funds and/or directly by the Environment Department.	The CSD's Operations Group deliver work packages as agreed with the Environment Department, within agreed allocated funds, timelines and specifications. This is delivered either via the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP), capital and/or local risk budget. Regular liaison meetings are held between Environment and CSD to manage the delivery programme, and to ensure any risks / issues /	13-Oct-2025	Peter Collinson	31-Dec-2025

Appendix 1	A	pr	er	ndi	x 1
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	conflicts / etc are escalated and understood by		
	all parties.		

isk Code ENV-NE-EF 010	Risk Title	Negative impacts of development and encroachment
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Cause: Lack of suitable protections in Epping Forest Acts; Planning Authorities obligations to meet housing targets; failure to monitor and challenge housing and other development plans; lack of resources to employ specialist support or carry out necessary monitoring/research.

Event: Large housing, transport infrastructure or other developments on land affecting Epping Forest.

Effect: Change in character to the context and setting of Forest Land; potential increase in visitor numbers and recreational pressure; increased air, light and noise pollution and consequent potential decline in biodiversity and tranquillity; further

Current Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
12	Possible	Major	
Amber	Trend	Constant	

increases in traffic volumes on local road network.

Target Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
12	Possible	Major	
Amber	Target Date	31-Jan-2026	

Original Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
8	Likely Serious		
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015	

Income from the Strategic Access Management Measures (SAMMs) is now being received and recruitment to a SAMMs post is ongoing.	
Additional Forest Keepers have been recruited which will enable instances of encroachment to be noticed sooner, and then be addressed.	10-Oct-2025
Air quality monitoring for the SAC Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) led by Natural England with Epping Forest staff contributing was completed in Spring 2025 with results and next steps from Natural England in the pipeline. This plan proposes piloting SNAPs to address nitrogen impacts at specific locations. Each SNAP would	

assess current nitrogen levels and sources, forecast future reductions from broader policies, outline local mitigation strategies, and recommend habitat restoration to counter nitrogen-related damage

In relation to planning applications on the edge of the Forest, we monitor these and will comment when a risk to the Forest is identified.

Officers will monitor developments as part of the Local Government reorganisation (Devolution Bill) and other changes to planning and legislation, to assess how they may impact Epping Forest.

We accept that we cannot reduce the risk score any further at present, but the ongoing actions will maintain the risk at its current level. The target date shown is the date of the next review.

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Accept
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
authorities/Co unties Local Plans and	Attend meetings and respond to consultation on the local plan in order to influence the content of the Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding between EFDC and Natural England.	the South Epping Masterplan; the revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in relation to green belt; and the	10-Oct-2025	Tristan Vetta	31-Jan-2026
	Strategy and other LA actions plans: Respond to any further consultation.				
ENV-NE-EF	Development and ongoing work	Progress is being made and the Strategy is	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline	31-Mar-2026

010c Forest Transport Strategy	on the Forest Transport Strategy	now in draft. Meetings are held every two months with the District Council and the intention is to extend consultation to other relevant authorities.		Eggleston	
		Work is continuing on the Forest Transport Strategy. Currently, focus is on the A104 Safety Plan. Due to delays on the A104 Scheme, partner officers have not been able to progress this to the planned schedule and consultation on the draft strategy will now commence in February 2026/			
ENV-NE-EF 010e Strategy to address visitor pressure	Develop a strategy to address visitor pressure.	A strategy to address the impact of visitor pressure is being developed under the SAMMS agreement. This is due to be completed by the end of 2025.	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Dec-2025

Risk Code	ENV-NE-EF 015
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Description

Cause: Anti-social, irresponsible or unsafe behaviour, including irresponsible dog owners, rough sleepers, unlicensed activity. **Event:** Crime; user conflict; trespass; fly-tipping; hazardous litter; dog fouling; dog attacks; abandoned/burnt out vehicles; traveller incursions; illegal motorbike use.

Effect: Negative PR; injury to visitors; risk to wellbeing and safety of members of staff; damage to Forest land; insurance claims; illegal occupancy of Forest land; increase in costs of managing public behaviour.

Current Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
12	Possible	Major	
Amber	Trend	Constant	

Target Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
12	Possible	Major	
Amber	Target Date	31-Jan-2026	

Original Risk	Impac	at
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Rare	Extreme
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015

Latest	
Latest	Note

We work in partnership with a range of Police and Anti-Social Behaviour managers to manage this risk.

A range of targeted sessions, such as volunteer litter picks take place.,

There is a continued need to monitor anti-social behaviour and address new issues as they arise. Increased Keeper and Enforcement resources are now in place to keep the risk under control and keep it at the current level.

The target date shown is the date of the next risk review.

Risk Level	Service		Risk Approach	Accept
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13-Oct-2025

Department Environment	Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston	
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Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-EF 015f Develop and improve joint working	Develop stronger links and become a trusted partner with EFDC, LBWF, LBR and LBN. New relationships with officers in local authorities need creating/developing following staff changes Ongoing action	We work in partnership with a range of Police and ASB managers to address this risk. This is ongoing and improving, for example, a recent joint training session on dealing with flytipping was held with local authorities and the Police. We have, and continue to, undertake targeted ASB and fly-tip operations in conjunction with neighbouring Local Boroughs, the Police, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, local Councillors, and a representative from the Local MP's office. This is an ongoing action - the due date shown is the date of the next review.		Laura Lawson	31-Jan-2026
ENV-NE-EF 015i Address problematic public behaviour	Take appropriate action to address cases of anti-social, irresponsible and unsafe public behaviour.	Officers continue to monitor rough sleeping, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and conflict between forest users. Officers work with appropriate local authorities and agencies to deal with individual cases. This is an ongoing action - the due date shown is the date of the next review.	13-Oct-2025	Laura Lawson	31-Jan-2026

Risk Code ENV-NE-EF 016		Risk Title	Budget pressures
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Cause: Prices continues to rise putting increased pressure on the Corporation's budgets. Some key Natural Environment Division income streams are also likely to reduce due to revisions to EU common agricultural policy (CAP) regulation, transition from Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) (total cessation in 2027) and UK interpretation and tightening of qualifying eligibility criteria. Event: Possible reduction in deficit funding from the CoL; reductions in direct grant available from the Environment Agency or Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to deliver agricultural/conservation activity, especially conservation grazing. NE Division may be unable to deliver spend to profile or income generation programmes to agreed targets and timescales. Effect: Adverse impact on service delivery: reduction in income and rising costs mean that less work can be delivered. Reduction or cessation of agricultural/conservation activity, including negative impact on grazing. Reduction / loss of biodiversity, negative impacts on visitor infrastructure and experience.

Current Risk	Impact Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Trend	Constant

Target Risk	LiteRood	oct
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely	Major
Amber	Target Date	30-Sep- 2026

Original Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
16	Likely	Major	
Red	Creation Date	18-May-2016	

	The risk for the current financial year is low due to vacant posts. We are now in receipt of a City of London grant that will be maintained at the current level for the forthcoming financial year. Therefore, this risk will be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process.	13-Oct-2025
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	Risk Level	Service		Risk Approach	Reduce	
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Department Environment		Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston
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Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-EF 016e Next round of savings to be agreed	reduction targets by increasing income generation.	Net income from car parking, lodge rentals and commercial wayleaves has met current budgets, but further efficiencies and income enhancement must be found over the coming years.	13-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	30-Sep-2026
		The Natural Environment Division's strategies include a focus on income generation. We are also awaiting the outcome of the Natural Environment Charity Review which may present additional opportunities through changes to financial structures and governance.			

sk Code ENV-NE-EF 019	Risk Title D	Decline in condition of heritage assets
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Cause: Insufficient maintenance resource; damaging activity by visitors. Event: Heritage assets deteriorate to unusable, unsafe condition with loss of registered heritage features. Description

Effect: Reputational risk including adverse media coverage and complaints; loss of noted heritage features; increasing cost of repair; fines from statutory bodies.

Current Risk	Impact			
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact			
12	Possible	Major		
Amber	Trend	Constant		

Target Risk	Impact			
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact			
8	Unlikely	Major		
Amber	Target Date	31-Dec- 2025		

Original Risk	Impact			
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact			
12	Possible	Major		
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2024		

Latest Note	Action plans are in place to address each of the assets/asset groups. Funding is the major barrier: we are working to identify funding sources. The Grade II* registered Park and Garden, Wanstead Park, remains at risk with Historic England (it has been on the Heritage at Risk register since 2009, listed as declining condition). However, a programme board is now in place overseeing multiple projects to address different aspects. Although funding is now in place to progress the Wanstead Park Temple to removal from the Heritage at Risk Register, this alone is not sufficient to reduce the overall risk score. A Wanstead Park Project Officer is now in place.	13-Oct-2025
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Minor damage to Ambresbury Bank Scheduled Ancient Monument was reported Summer 2025 due to mountain bikers digging on the site.

Ongoing conversation with Historic England on the Copped Hall Parkland Tudor Square Pond in Rookery Wood and feasibility work required to understand the potential for the removal of the poplar plantation. Historic England want to add the Tudor Square Pond to the list of scheduled monuments as they've assessed the site to be of national importance. City Engineers are progressing the tender for the dam repair works associated with the Tudor Square Pond, which will look at three options and costings for these.

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-EF 019a Protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Maintain the condition of the scheduled ancient monuments (SAMs). Improve the current state of knowledge of the extent of the monuments. Protect the monuments from erosion due to visitor activities.	Conservation Management Plans are in place for Loughton Camp and Ambresbury Bank to manage the conflicting risks of protection of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and the veteran trees upon the monuments. The SAM at Purlieu Bank (2 sections) is subject to ongoing review. Loughton Camp, Ambresbury Bank and Purlieu Bank have Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) funding for land management practices which will restore the sites. Specific plans are being prepared to alter public use of SAMs to prevent erosion.	24-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Dec-2025

		Signage and patrols are in place. Use of dead hedging and physical measures are being considered. Historic England is working on detailed analysis of the LiDAR survey of SAMs which will inform future protection measures.			
ENV-NE-EF 019b Wanstead Parkland	Identify potential funding / partners and submit bid. Funders may include HLF.	Work to refresh the Wanstead Parkland Plan is ongoing and project works will be subject to identification of funding.	13-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026
ENV-NE-EF 019c Wanstead Park - The Grotto	Wanstead Park - The Grotto	A Restoration and Maintenance Plan has now been completed which will remove The Grotto from the Heritage at Risk Register. The Planning Application was approved and City Surveyor's Department is going out to tender for the works. The project has commenced and is due to end in December 2025.	13-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Dec-2025
ENV-NE-EF 019d Warren House	Warren House	Warren House is a Grade II* listed building in declining condition. There is a high risk that it will be added to the Heritage at Risk Register. Fully costed plans for financially sustainable use have been completed, however, clarification over land type through the Natural Environment Charity Review is necessary as a first step to identify available funding and maintain the building as an asset of the charity.	13-Oct-2025	Jo Hurst	31-Dec-2025
ENV-NE-EF 019e Queen	Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge	A Conservation Management Plan is being prepared for the Queen Elizabeth Hunting	24-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Dec-2025

Elizabeth Hunting Lodge		Lodge.			
	Wood	A CSS grant application will be submitted to complete a feasibility assessment for the potential removal of the poplar plantation.	24-Oct-2025	Tanith Cook	31-Jan-2026
Wood		Officers are working with City Engineers to ensure Environmental and Heritage features are considered and costed into their works.			

Risk Code ENV-NE-EF 003	Risk Title	Risk for health and safety
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Description

Cause: Poor understanding and/or delivery of Health and Safety policies and procedures; failure to link work activity with adequate procedures; risk assessments and safe systems of work not undertaken or completed incorrectly; inadequate appropriate training; failure to implement the results of audits; inadequate equipment maintenance.

Event: Staff, volunteers, contractors or licensees undertake unsafe working practices. Insufficient staff numbers and heavier workload for those who are in post.

Effect: Injury or death of staff, volunteers, contractors, licensees or members of the public; prosecution by HSE and/or Police; increased insurance premiums; harm to City's reputation; fine levied by HSE; staff experience higher levels of physical and mental stress.

Current Risk	Impact			
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact			
8	Unlikely	Major		
Amber	Trend	Constant		

Target Risk	Impa	ct
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely Major	
Amber	Target Date	31-Jan-2026

Original Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
8	Likely	Serious	
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015	

	We continue to prioritise all necessary monitoring, audits and risk assessments. A programme of training is required as we move forward with recruitment and cross skilling into new structures. The bulk of recruitment is now complete, and training has been rolled out to new staff.	10-Oct-2025	
	We have further reviewed our Emergency Plan/Major Incident Plan and made improvements. Sections have been added for use in the event of specific situations which make the plan clearer, and more useful. The revised Plan has been used and worked effectively.		

A new Corporate H&S reporting system is now in place and being used. This gives greater oversight of incidents being reported.

We do not consider it will be possible to reduce the risk score further and accept it at the current level. A health and safety risk will always be present, but the processes, training, checks and systems in place will maintain the score of 8. We keep the risk under continual review, implementing additional actions as appropriate, and will amend the current or target score should that become necessary.

The target date shown is the date the risk will next be reviewed

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Accept
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-EF 003c Training programme	desirable training needs. Continual and annual review.	A health and safety training (operational) system is in place and established. Expiring training is known in advance and scheduled. A training matrix link to induction for new starters is in place. This is an ongoing action - the 'Due Date' shown is the date of the next review.		Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026
and	out in documentation and reinforced by training. Structure of local H&S meeting arrangements enables cascading of decisions, issues,	All roles and responsibilities are outlined and clarified in the agreed local Health and Safety statement. The Emergency Plan has recently been reviewed and proven effective. Health and safety communications have also been reviewed to ensure they are effective and timely.	10-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026

	communications.	This is an ongoing action, the Due Date shown is the date of the next review.			
003f Annual licensee		Statutory checks of licensees take place as necessary. This is an ongoing action - the Due Date shown is the date of the next review.	10-Oct-2025	Tristan Vetta	31-Jan-2026
003i Site	based risk assessments across the Forest.	A programme of site-based risk assessments is commencing to create detailed Risk Assessments across the Forest in terms of visitor safety. We expect this will take at least two years to complete.	10-Oct-2025	Laura Lawson	31-Mar-2027
003j Review	all risk assessments used by Epping Forest.	A review and update of all risk assessments used by Epping Forest is underway and the revised versions will be uploaded to the new corporate system – Safety Net.	24-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Mar-2027

Risk Code	ENV-NE-EF 005	Risk Title	Declining Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) condition and Special
			Area of Conservation (SAC) Favourable Conservation Status

Cause: Lack of appropriate habitat and tree management (e.g. pollarding); undergrazing; Invasive Non-native Species (INNS); pests and diseases; wildfires; anthropogenic nitrogen deposition (air pollution); water pollution; public access/recreational disturbance; and climate change - changes in species distribution, inappropriate water levels. Not following the SAC Conservation Objectives needed to conserve and restore the SAC.

Event: Unfavourable assessment by Natural England, declining SSSI condition and deterioration of the integrity of the SAC and not achieving the Favourable Condition Status of its Qualifying Features.

Effect:

Description

- Decrease in % SSSI units in favourable condition (currently 26.14%);
- decrease in % SSSI units in unfavourable recovering condition (currently 57.50%); and/or
- decrease in % SSSI features in favourable condition (currently 46.15%);
- decrease in % SSSI features in unfavourable recovering condition (currently 7.69%);
- deterioration of the SACs qualifying features;
- loss of current grant funding (e.g. Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS));
- reputational damage;
- fines from Natural England and Defra.

Current Risk	Impact			
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact			
8	Unlikely	Major		
Amber	Trend	Constant		

Target Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
8	Unlikely	Major	
Amber	Target Date	31-Jan-2026	

Original Risk	Impac	o l
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015

Works continue under the two CSS grants to address the condition of the SSSI and SAC. These works will continue until 2029 for Forest 1 Grant, and until 2033 for Forest 2 Grant. In 2027/2028 a review and application for a new CSS Grant post 2029 and 2033 will be undertaken to continue funded work, providing these Government funded grants still exist.

In 2023 Government set a long-term commitment to have 75% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2042 under the Environmental Improvement Plan (published in 2023 in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, as the first revision to the 25 Year Environment Plan published in 2018). Two interim targets were also set for SSSIs to be achieved by the end of January 2028, these were:

- To have an up-to-date condition assessment for every SSSI.
- To have actions on-track to achieve favourable condition on 50% of SSSI features by 2028.

Latest Note

Natural England has a programme of SSSI condition assessment surveys which began in 2024 and are due to be carried out over a four-year period. Unfortunately, the programme of monitoring features (amphibian and invertebrate assemblages) in the period 2025-2026 has not been undertaken by Natural England due to their resourcing and funding gaps. This is likely to push the wider feature monitoring programme back and delay updates on the condition of the SSSI features.

24-Oct-2025

Impacts on the SAC and SSSI features due to public access and recreation will be better supported in 2025 following recruitment of the SAMMs officers.

Air quality monitoring for the SAC Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs), led by Natural England with Epping Forest staff contributing, was completed in Spring 2025 with results and next steps from Natural England in the pipeline. This plan proposes piloting SNAPs to address nitrogen impacts at specific locations. Each SNAP would assess current nitrogen levels and sources; forecast future reductions from broader policies; outline local mitigation strategies; and recommend habitat restoration to counter nitrogen-related damage.

We have accepted the risk at its current score as there are too many external contributing factors which are beyond our control. The actions will maintain the risk at the current level, and it will be kept under regular review: the target date shown is the date of the next review.

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Accept
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-EF 005e Recruit SAMMs Officers	Recruit a SAMMs Manager and Officers, and implement a SAMMs agreement.	A new SAMMs team will be appointed in early 2026 to deliver mitigation measures 'on the ground'.	24-Oct-2025	Tristan Vetta	31-Mar-2026
ENV-NE-EF 005f Habitat Management Plans	Update Habitat Management Plans.	Habitat Management Plans are being updated to take into account Countryside Stewardship Scheme habitat restoration work and SSSI condition assessments feedback.	24-Oct-2025	Tanith Cook	31-Dec-2026
ENV-NE-EF 005g Leaky dams	Climate Action Strategy - leaky dam installation.	Implement a large-scale natural flood management project in Epping Forest, by constructing leaky dams and ponds designed to lower flood risk and address water stress for trees and plants during drought periods.	24-Oct-2025	Tanith Cook; Heinz Traut	31-Mar-2027
ENV-NE-EF 005h Wildfire review	Annual wildfire review.	An annual wildfire review will be undertaken to guide habitat management.	24-Oct-2025	Tanith Cook; Laura Lawson	30-Sep-2026
ENV-NE-EF 005i Grazing and herbivore impact assessment	Update grazing and herbivore impact assessment.	The grazing and herbivore impact assessment will be updated over the coming years to help guide habitat management.	24-Oct-2025	Tanith Cook	30-Sep-2028
ENV-NE-EF 005j	Embark on a programme of baseline/habitat monitoring.	Officers are embarking on a programme of baseline/habitat monitoring. This will support	24-Oct-2025	Tanith Cook	30-Sep-2026

Baseline/habit	Natural England on updating SSSI features		
at monitoring	condition assessments, but it is dependent		
	upon funding.		

Risk Code ENV-NE-EF 009	Risk Title	Adverse impacts of extreme weather and climate change
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Cause: Severe gale and storm events; prolonged precipitation/increased precipitation events; drought increasing fire severity. Event: Severe weather events including periods of drought; flooding; gales; and increased fire severity. Effect: Risk of injury or death to staff, visitors, contractors and/or volunteers; loss of habitat/public access and intensification of visitor pressure on other areas of Forest; damage/loss of rare/fragile habitats and species; cumulative impacts from climate change and other environmental/social factors (pests and diseases, air quality, recreational pressures) reducing habitat and species resilience; incidents increase demand for staff resources to respond to maintain public and site safety; temporary site closures; increased costs for reactive management.

Current Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Likely	Serious
Amber	Trend	Constant

Target Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Likely Serious	
Amber	Target Date 31-Jan-2	

Original Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood Impact	
8	Unlikely	Major
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015

Latest Note	The Incident management plan has been reviewed. London Fire Brigade (LFB) has trialled new equipment and a new agreement has been signed with them. Joint training exercises have been taking place and we have been meeting with the London Borough of Waltham Forest's Resilience Team as part of our partnership with LBWP and LFB.	13-Oct-2025
	There are annual site visits with Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Thames Water to confirm infrastructure is satisfactory. In London, two additional sites are having wildfire response plans prepared. A new Wildfire Management Strategy is being developed as part of the Carbon Removals Strategy.	

Members of staff have attended Vegetation Fire Foundation and Wildfire Management Plan training courses. An additional Fire Fogger has been purchased through the Carbon Removals Project. Relevant staff have attended training on use of the new equipment and new staff will be trained when they join.

Links with the Corporate Health and Safety Team and Resilience Team have been established to enable sharing of learning across the Natural Environment Division and other departments.

The current risk score remains at Amber 8 (likely; serious) due to dry summers increasing the risk of wildfires. We have implemented mitigating actions to maintain the risk at its current level but are unable to reduce it any further for the foreseeable future. The target date shown is the date of the next review.

Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Accept
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
	heathland fires.	Specific wildfire response plans have been prepared for two sites. A new Wildfire Management Strategy is being developed as part of the Carbon Removals Project. This includes the establishment of a Wildfire Working Group across the City's open spaces and funding for new equipment. This is an ongoing action - the 'due date' is a date of review.	13-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026
ENV-NE-EF 009i Fire breaks		We have increased the frequency of cutting fire breaks to three times per year. Drought limits grass growth but growth recommences	13-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Jan-2026

		quickly when wetter conditions develop. Fire experience has shown that these fire breaks are an effective barrier. This is an ongoing action - the 'due date' is a			
ENV-NE-EF 009j Awareness campaigns	Undertake fire prevention awareness campaigns and actions.	date for further review. During the high-risk season, high-impact signage is displayed at key locations reminding visitors not to light fires or barbecues etc. Proactive social media campaigns are also undertaken to deliver these messages. In addition, officer patrols are increased at high-risk areas and times.	13-Oct-2025	Laura Lawson	31-Jan-2026

Code ENV-NE-EF 020 Risk T	Security of site, staff and the public
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Cause: Potential terrorist attacks and the requirement to be prepared for, and protected against, such attacks in compliance with the new Martyn's Law legislation (Protect Duty).

Working compounds on the site may not be properly secured at all times.

Event: Act of terrorism at Epping Forest. Unauthorised access to unsecured areas of the site.

Effect: Harm to members of the public and staff. Theft of, or damage to, property. Financial cost of replacement, repairs or insurance claims.

Current Risk	Impact		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
8	Unlikely	Major	
Amber	Trend	Decreasing	

Target Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely	Major
Amber	Target Date	31-Jan-2026

Original Risk	pool mpact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2024

		The threat of an act of terrorism at Epping Forest is recognised. The new Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) will require certain venues to fulfil necessary but proportionate steps to ensure they are better prepared and ready to respond in the event of a terrorist attack. Prior to the enactment of this legislation, we will review staff training to ensure that our staff are prepared to respond to such an attack should it become necessary – keeping themselves and members of the public safe.		
		Security of working compounds is also being reviewed with plans for improvements being identified for implementation when resource has been identified. This will mitigate the risk of unauthorised access.		
		This has now been incorporated into our Emergency Plan and Business Continuity Plan and the risk has been		

Risk Level	Service	
Department	Environment	

Risk Approach	Accept
Risk Owner	Jacqueline Eggleston

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-EF 020a Training	Provide training for staff.	A review will be undertaken of training in place for staff who may need to deal with terrorist attacks or other dangerous incidents, with reference to the requirements of the Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) prior to its enactment. Local actions will be put in place to keep staff and the public safe. This action is complete and will now be closed.	13-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Dec-2025
	Ensure security of all working compounds.	Compounds across the site such as the Warren Yard; Great Gregories Yard; and Aldersbrook, may not be properly secured at all times, enabling unauthorised access. Plans for improvements to Warren Yard and other compounds have been drawn up and will be implemented when resource has been identified.	13-Oct-2025	Jacqueline Eggleston	31-Mar-2026

THIS RISK IS TO BE CLOSED

	Risk Code ENV-NE	E-EF 013	Risk Title	Recruitment of suitable staff and workforce planning
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Description

Cause: Previous reliance on memory-based rather than documentary records; retirements amongst ageing workforce; challenge to recruit to some roles due to competitive marketplace.

Event: Loss of undocumented knowledge and skills.

Effect: Extra training needs; challenges with recruitment to some posts.

Current Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
2	Unlikely	Minor
Green	Trend	Constant

Target Risk	Impact	
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
2	Unlikely	Minor
Green	Target Date	31-Oct-2025

Original Risk	Document of the second of the		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact	
8	Likely	Serious	
Amber	Creation Date	19-Aug-2015	

		Recruitment is almost complete at Epping Forest and training and development packages have been embedded.	
L	atest Note	This is now managed effectively as business as usual and the risk will be closed.	13-Oct-2025