

Eltham Park North Management Plan 2008



The Long Pond

| | |
|---|-----------|
| PART I: WHERE WE ARE NOW | 3 |
| <i>INTRODUCTION:</i> | 3 |
| What is a park management plan? | 3 |
| Purpose of this management plan..... | 4 |
| <i>SITE DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION BASE</i> | 5 |
| Wider Policy Context..... | 5 |
| Description of the park..... | 6 |
| Access | 8 |
| Public Transport | 8 |
| Car parking | 8 |
| Biological..... | 8 |
| Infrastructure..... | 8 |
| Visitor and Community Needs..... | 10 |
| Management..... | 13 |
| Budget Information | 14 |
| PART II: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO:..... | 15 |
| <i>VISION</i> | 15 |
| <i>ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT</i> | 16 |
| Ecology..... | 16 |
| Management..... | 16 |
| Sport & Recreation | 16 |
| Landscape | 16 |
| Consultation | 17 |
| <i>STRENGTHS</i> | 18 |
| <i>CHALLENGES</i> | 18 |
| <i>RECOMMENDATIONS</i> | 18 |
| PART III; HOW WILL WE GET THERE | 20 |
| <i>ACTION PLAN</i> | 20 |
| PART IV: HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE’VE ARRIVED | 23 |
| <i>MONITORING AND REVIEW</i> | 23 |
| APPENDIX I: References | 24 |
| APPENDIX II: Legislation, policies and strategies affecting park management..... | 25 |
| APPENDIX III: Summary of the site’s heritage and history | 30 |
| APPENDIX IV: 2005 Groundwork Meadow Survey | 31 |
| APPENDIX V: Parks and Open Spaces Management Structure | 34 |

PART I: WHERE WE ARE NOW

INTRODUCTION:

What is a park management plan?

Management Plans are an important aid to the efficient and effective management of a site. A Plan forms part of a process for evaluating performance against, consulting and involving people, strategic planning and providing continuity. Individual plans will be specific to each park and will deliver aims and objectives specific to the needs of the local community who will be directly involved in its formulation.

A Park Management Plan also provides an excellent opportunity to collate a wealth of information relating to the park that the management authority possesses, into a single comprehensive document.

Name of Site: Eltham Park North

Address: Eltham Park North / Shepherdleas Wood
Eltham Park Gardens
London SE9

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

Address: Parks & Open Spaces:
Shooters Hill depot
Opposite Eaglesfield Rd
Woolwich
SE18 4LX

Tel. 020 8856 0100
Email parks@greenwich.gov.uk

This park is allocated a technical officer who can be contacted for any further information (using the contact details provided above).

Approach Friends of group to see if they would like to have their contact details on here...

Writing Timescale: 2007
Approved: tba
Adopted: tba
Due for Revision:

Purpose of this management plan

As well as developing a Green Space Strategy, the production of individual management plans for each park is good practice and was one of the Action Points arising from the Green Space Strategy.

The Management Plan will provide a vital resource for parks staff in maintaining and developing Eltham Park North as a resource for the community and visitors to the area and as such will be under constant informal review, with an annual review of progress and continuing management prescription and a 5 year comprehensive review in 2012.

It is hoped that this plan will help to encourage relationships between the Council and the community and provide access to information on the management approach to this site. In addition, it envisaged that the plan will provide a framework around which any future decisions concerning this site will be taken, as well as assisting with allocating existing and securing additional resources for developments on this site that this management plan specifies.

Future actions/priorities for this site are identified in the Action Plan to this document. This management plan therefore provides a benchmark against which future progress can be measured.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION BASE

Wider Policy Context

The Management Plan has been written within the context of a wide framework of national, regional and local policy statements and strategies.

A number of strategies have been considered in the production of this document to ensure that the priorities identified in this plan deliver and compliment the appropriate aims and objectives identified in them.

The main documents impacting on the development of this plan are listed in Appendix II

Eltham Park North site heritage and history

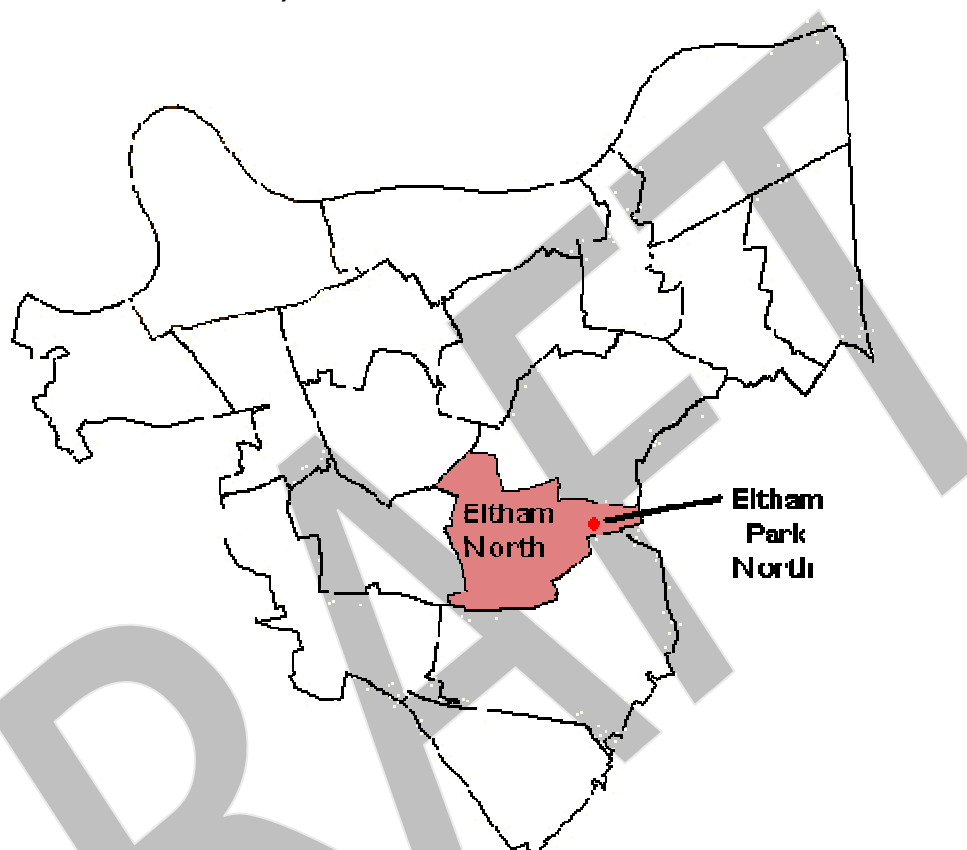
A summary of the sites heritage and history can be found in appendix III

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Description of the park

Eltham Park North is a medium sized area (6.4 hectares) of land of varying slope, located on the southern border of Shepherdleas Woods within the Eltham North ward of the Greenwich Borough.

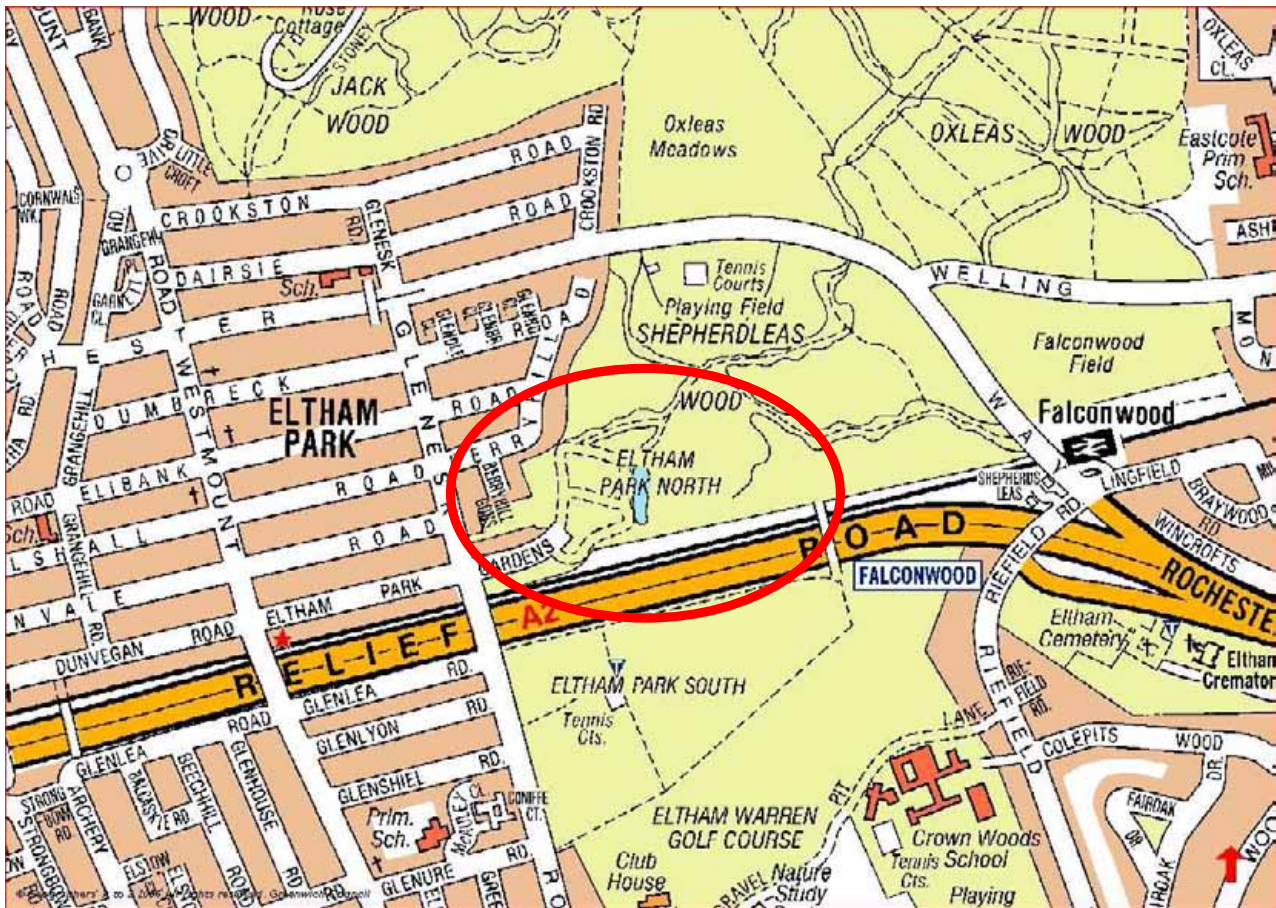
The park is owned and maintained by the Greenwich Council



Location of Eltham Park North within the Greenwich Borough

Eltham Park North is predominantly bound by Shepherdleas Woods on its north and east sides. The A2 Rochester Relief Road lies to the south of the park, with Eltham Park south being on the other side of the road. To the west of the park is mainly medium density middle class residential land.

The parks are separated by the Rochester Way (A2) although this separation dates back to the railway in 1895.



Location of Eltham Park North

The park consists of three individual areas; the sloping area west of the pond, the flat area to the east of the pond and the pond and its immediate surroundings. The majority of the park area slopes to the southwest, and slope varies from flat to approximately 10 degrees in places.

The geology underlying the park is defined by the council GIS as London Clay.

The park's primary purpose (as classified in the Green Space Strategy) is a 'natural semi/natural open space'.

The Park is open to the public 24 hours a day.

The space west of the pond is steeply sloped and consists predominantly of close cut grass with a variety of saplings dispersed about the grass. This area also contains a semi-wild area containing long grass and felled tree stumps left on site for habitats.

The second distinguishable focus is the long pond and its surrounding bitumen path.

The third space is the relatively level meadow, marking the boundary of the wood from which several of the woodland paths commence. Benches and bins (excluding dog bins) are located around the edge of the meadow.

This large grassy area has a pond with a range of resident ducks and wild fowl. Adjacent to the park is Shepherdleas Wood, which forms part of the ancient Oxleas Woodland and part of the Green Chain Walk.

Access

The park is an 'open' site with access via a cul-de-sac at the end of Eltham Park Gardens and by the paths from the woods from Rochester way, Shepherdleas Woods and the overpass pedestrian bridge connecting to Eltham Park South.

The Eastern side of the park has a vehicle access point off Riefield Road, which has a locked boom gate restricting unauthorised access. The western side of the park has a vehicle access point at the Eltham Park Gardens entrance, which is also closed by a locked boom gate.

Public Transport

Though public transport is available near to the park (Falcon Wood Station or Bus routes; 132,162, B15 and the B16 service Westmount Road) a minimum walking time of 15 minutes is required to reach the site.

Car parking

There is no car park on the site, but there are a small number of street parking spaces available near and on Eltham Park Gardens and on the Rochester Way. Additionally, there is a car park at Eltham Park South and at Oxleas Woods.

Biological

Eltham Park North is for the most part surrounded by Shepherdleas Wood with the exception of the south western corner which is bounded by the rear of local residential properties. The park contains a number of mature tree specimens on its upper slopes and a number of semi mature trees on its steepest and lowest point, to the southwest of the Eltham Park Gardens entrance. The Park contains a range of tree species including –Hawthorn, Silver Birch, London Plane, Ash, Oak, Poplar, Maple, Weeping Beech and Weeping Willow. The more recent planting of the semi mature trees consist of varieties with high water demands to assist in site drainage.

An ecological survey of Greenwich's meadows in parks and open spaces was commissioned by the Parks and Open Spaces department in August 2005. The survey was performed by Groundwork South East London and covers 12 meadows in 7 parks. The areas that were covered by the survey are now maintained according to the recommendations made by the survey. The section of the meadow survey that deals with Eltham Park North is included in this plan as Appendix IV. The Meadows Survey recommends that Eltham Park North be a priority site for further botanical surveys.

The Long Pond was dredged in 2005 in order to ensure that it remained a viable feature. Its northern end was found to be around 4 metres deep underneath the dredged slurry. The spoil from the dredging was allowed to dry and settle permanently just to the east of the pond and left to dry before it was removed. The pond is now fenced off with a 1.3 meter hoop rail fence.

Infrastructure

Buildings

The redundant toilet block is the only building within the Park. At the time of writing this plan, the toilets are locked & boarded up. The building attracts anti social behaviour for example, graffiti.

Fencing, Furniture and Signage

As mentioned, the perimeter of the Park is surrounded by the woodland with the exception of the South West where residential properties back onto the site and the south side where the Rochester Way Relief Road adjoins the park. Both these boundaries are fenced, the south side with 2 meter chain mesh and the South West with close board fences.

A 1.3 metre hoop rail fence surrounds the pond and is in good condition and is fitted with several warning signs informing dog owners to keep their pets out of the pond due to the depth of the pond (16ft).

A number of litter/dog bins are situated throughout the parks which are emptied / cleaned regularly helping to maintain the park in a good condition.

Currently, there are two interpretation signs; one fitted at the Eltham Park gardens entrance point and the second at Shepherdleas Woods at the Rochester Way entrance.

Both signs provide a brief history of the park, information on flora and fauna and details emergency phone numbers. A notice board is also situated at the Glenesk Road pedestrian entrance to Eltham Park South, providing details intended for both parks, which the Friends of Eltham Parks group use to inform of their activities. Eltham Park North may benefit from signage indicating that the Friends signage is in Eltham Park South.

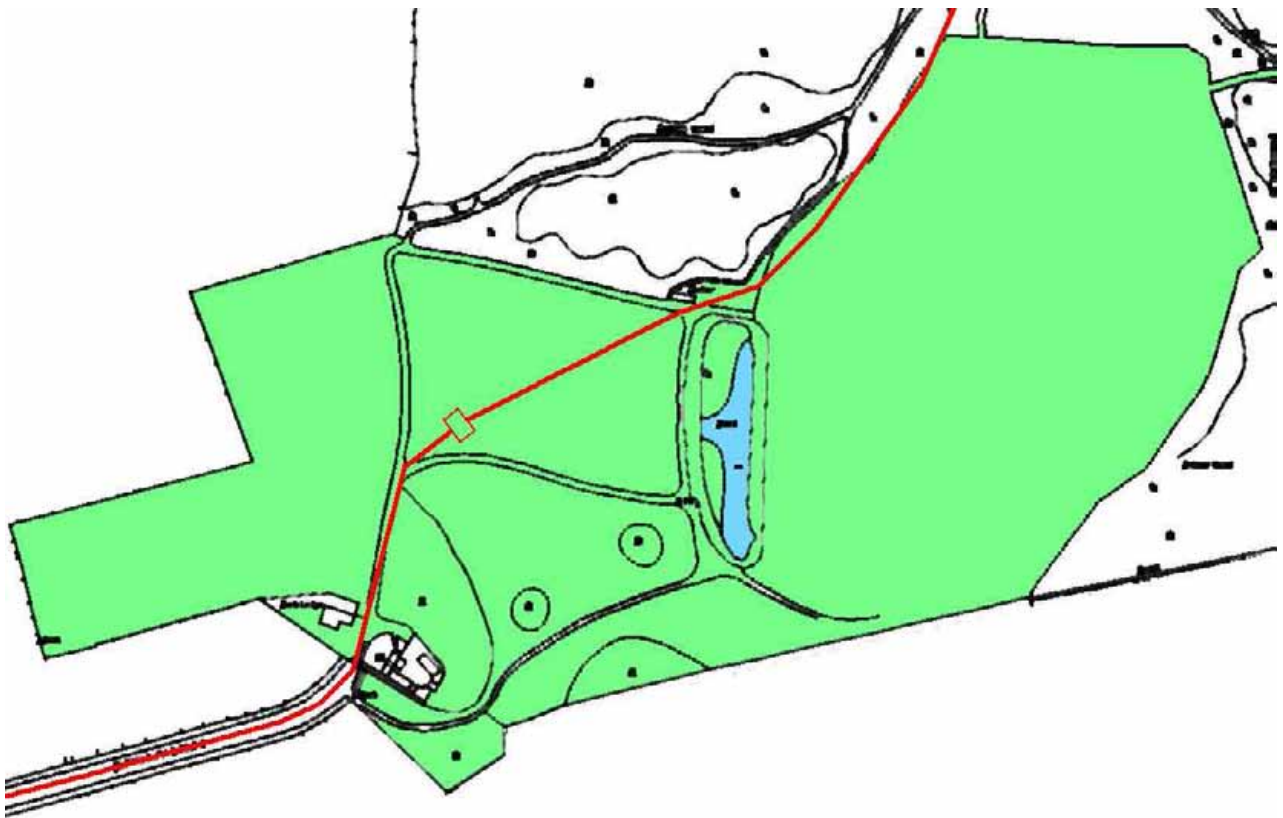
The park is equipped with a number of benches which are all in reasonable condition with the exception of the benches (and bins) in the woodland side of the pond which at the time of writing, have been extensively graffitied.

Footpaths

The tarmac pathways throughout most of the park are in a reasonable condition although would benefit from patch repairs in places.

Hidden Infrastructure

Underneath the park is a 1 meter diameter main water line, which is part of Thames Water's water supply network. During the course of 2006, a flow meter was installed in this line within the boundaries of Eltham Park North.



Approximate location of Thames Water pipe underneath Eltham Park North

Visitor and Community Needs

Main uses, recreational facilities, visitor attractions and activities

The range of uses available to visitors to the park is limited to passive recreation and minimal active recreation due to the limited space available. The park is an irregular shape and the majority of the open space is upon steeply sloping land. Some passive recreation activities available within the park include dog walking, nature studies and possibly informal ball games on the meadow above the pond.

An assessment of the cultural and aesthetic value

The park plays an important role in providing a link between the various local parks and woodlands with the residential area, and the aesthetic value of the park is considerable.

Cultural value and activity could be increased with the provision of interpretation signs at the footbridge entrance which also provides the overlapping point of the Capital Ring and Green Chain walk entrances to the park and similar interpretation provided at the pond.

The closest amenities car park, toilets, picnic area and playground are at Eltham Park South and the café and public toilets at Oxleas Woods.

Who uses the site, where they come from, patterns of use and behaviour

The main users of Eltham Park North appears to be local residents (for example dog walkers) and walkers traversing section two of the Capital Ring and section six of the Green Chain Walk. The park is also popular with families and young children who can enjoy feeding the birds/ducks on the pond.

The Demographic information contained in this section is gathered from a variety of sources, including the 2001 Census and the Neighbourhood Statistics website, but summarised on the Greenwich 2002 Ward profiles of the Council's Intranet site.

The information relates to Eltham North Ward as a whole and not specifically to the area surrounding Eltham Park North.

The resident population of the Eltham North ward, as measured in the 2001 Census was 12,303, of which 48% were male and 52% were female.

The 2001 Census indicated that the majority of people living in this Ward were white. People in the 30 – 39 Y.O. age bracket represented the highest proportion of the Ward population, the average age being 39.8 years. 19.7% of the Ward's population were under the age of 16 years.

The level of employment was 6.5% above the Greenwich average and slightly above the national average. 25.2% of the population have access to 2 or more cars or vans whilst 29.8% of the Ward's population have no access at all to a car or van. This data shows that public transport in the area is not particularly good and reinforces the need for good quality dedicated cycling and walking tracks.

Stakeholders

Greenwich Council

- Culture & Community Services (P&OS, Sports Promotion)
- Strategic Planning (Property Services, Planning Control, Green Chain)
- Chief Executives (Communications, Events)
- Neighbourhood Services (Neighbourhood Panels/Representatives)
- Children's Services

Agencies

- (Police, Fire & Rescue Service),

Community

- Friends of Eltham Parks

Politicians

- local MP
- Ward Members

Agencies

Transport for London (responsible for the footbridge)

Management

Management Structure

The management of the park described in this management plan is the responsibility of the Parks & Open Spaces service within Greenwich Council. This is shown in Appendix V.

The Parks and Open Spaces Service is located within the Directorate of Culture and Community Services. The Parks and Open Spaces Operations Manager is accountable for the overall management responsibility of the Service.

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

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

Staff Presence

A regular staff presence is provided at Eltham Park North.

Mobile Park Keepers perform a range of duties to: - ensure the safety of the public visiting the park, provide assistance where appropriate, to perform daily inspections of the overall grounds and to undertake litter picking.

Infrastructure

The closed toilet block is the responsibility of the directorate of Strategic Planning. On the residential side of the park, fences are the responsibility of residents. Though technically not part of Eltham Park North, the nature corridor of Shepherdleas Woods (which runs along the southern length of Eltham Park North) is bound by the A2 fence, and maintained by the Highways Department within the directorate of Strategic Planning.

Horticulture operations

Grounds maintenance is provided by the Council's own workforce. The District Manager responsible for the grounds maintenance staff initially inspects standards.

A further check is carried out by Quality Control Officers, who are centrally based staff, reporting to the Assistant Technical Manager. Senior management also carry out random checks.

Grounds maintenance specification

In summary, the formal park area is maintained as amenity grass and the semi wild areas are left as meadowland, with the pathways being cut regularly.

Scheduled/planned maintenance takes place at different times throughout the year. Un-programmed and corrective maintenance takes place on an ad hoc basis according to need.

Budget Information

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

Budget - Horticulture operations

Currently it is not possible to identify expenditure specifically related to Eltham Park North, as finances generally come from a central fund.

Budget - Property Services

The corporate budgets for both planned and responsive maintenance of the Council's property infrastructure are held by Greenwich Property Services in the Directorate of Strategic Planning. Planned works are carried out on a strict basis of corporate priorities and, as a consequence, P&OS has to compete against other service departments for a share of the limited funds available. Responsive repairs are carried out for minor items as and when they arise.

Marketing

Marketing of the park is currently limited and is mainly in the local area. However, the park is referred to in

- The Greenwich Council website and walking booklets
- London Wildlife Trust
- The Green Chain Walk leaflets and website
- Capital Ring through The Ramblers website and publications
- Park Explorers website
- Walk finder on the TFL web site

PART II: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO:

VISION

North Eltham Park already acts as a tranquil space for passive recreation, provides a picturesque resting point for walkers using the green chain and capital ring and as an ecological transition between the woodland the wider community.

The vision for Eltham Park North should be to acknowledge this role and support these aspects and assets

To be developed by Friends of Eltham Parks

General Objectives (DRAFT)

- To reduce Anti Social Behaviour in the park
- To improve the health and well being of visitors and residents by offering a well maintained and quality park for active recreation and/ or relaxation
- To protect biological assets and increase biodiversity
- To work with the local community in identifying local priorities for funding of the park
- To ensure day-to-day management of the site is efficient and effective
- To ensure that the activities and events in the park celebrate and promote the borough's rich diversity and that it is accessible to everyone

ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

Ecology

Oxleas Woodlands, (including Shepherdleas Wood) has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, as well as being designated by the Greenwich Council UDP as being a site of nature conservation importance. Eltham Park North is not designated as having any nature conservation importance, but is quite important in that it acts as a buffering area between the Rochester way A2 and the Oxleas Woodlands complex.

Despite having no conservation status, the park itself has several semi wild spaces, including a habitat area of long conservation grass that contains felled trees, in addition to the habitat provided to a number of species by the long pond.

There are a number of factors potentially affecting this type of habitat including a rise in sea level, development and habitat loss, water quality, water quantity, management issues, problem species and diseases, recreational activities and public perception. The Long Pond provides a habitat for a variety of migratory and local wildfowl and fauna.

As mentioned, dredging the Long Pond during the early part of 2006 has resulted in an improvement to the water quality and depth of water (which had become shallower due to the silt).

An assessment of the parks ecology and biodiversity would be of benefit, as it would provide baseline information which would enable management to assess the state of the ecology within the park.

Management

Management of Eltham Park North currently appears to satisfy the wider users of the site. However, further consultation is needed to ascertain users' needs and aspirations.

Sport & Recreation

Although the park provides plenty of scope for passive recreation, there is little scope for sport or recreation development within the site and any such development could potentially have a negative impact upon the ecology of the site and it's surrounding SNCI (commonly referred to as SINC) Site.

Landscape

The landscape within the park provides a valuable semi natural open space in an area otherwise dominated by medium density housing and busy service roads (most notably the A2).

Visitor & Community Needs

Visitors to Eltham Park North benefit from the visitor facilities at nearby Eltham Park South and Oxleas Woods. The park would benefit from consultation with the Friends of Eltham Parks and other stakeholders in order to identify priorities for improvement for the future.

Consultation

The results of the consultation are detailed in **** to be inserted following consultation with stakeholders

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STRENGTHS

- Strong active Friends of the park group
- Proximity and connection to Shepherdleas Woods, which in conjunction with Oxleas Woods, has been designated as a Site Of Specific Scientific Interest
- The parks overall aesthetic appeal of its intimate size, elevated position and tranquil semi wild open spaces
- Home to the long pond- a recently cleaned and revitalised deep water pond that provides a habitat for a variety of migratory and local wildfowl and fauna
- Part of the Green Chain walk and Capital Ring
- With its many benches, gently sloping lawns and meadow in a quite location, the park provides an ideal location for passive recreation and is well suited to be a resting area for on the Green Chain/Capital Ring walks.
- Good local park enjoyed by the local community

CHALLENGES

- Redundant toilet block
- ASB –graffiti on signage, bins, and benches, in and surrounding the wood on all infrastructure within the pond end of the park, dog fouling, illicit motorcycle use
- Soil composition of the entire site, but especially the steep grassed area below lake (suffering from severe problems regarding soil drainage and shrinkage)
- Fly tipping- residents with back fences and gates that open onto the wooded area. Garden waste and plants (including tropical invasive) being deposited on the park side of residents back fences.
- Lack of interpretation signage

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Share draft plan with key stakeholders
- Undertake consultation with Friends of Eltham Parks and local community to identify priorities for improvement, gain feedback on draft Management Plan and incorporate findings as appropriate
- Provide interpretation signs within the park at suitable sites for example, one by the semi wild grass land on the upper slope one by the slurry dam one by the pond one by the habitat area provided by the logs to explain the importance of each area to visitors provide increase the Interpretation signs along the length of the green chain walk
- Install a notice board informing of park happenings giving friends of contact details and promoting events involving the park and its surrounding green spaces.
- Promote the dedication memorial benches scheme
- Provide adequate facilities for dog faeces
- Create a more welcoming entrance when crossing or walking past the Rochester Way Relief road footbridge
- Undertake a review of the ecology of the park with a view to preserving existing ecological integrity and biodiversity and potentially increasing it in the future
- To review the Maintenance Schedule

- To secure Inward Investment as appropriate
- To reduce ASB in the park
- To improve awareness/use of site by all sections of the community

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PART III; HOW WILL WE GET THERE

ACTION PLAN

Timescales as given in this document are as following;

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

| Action required | Detail of Specific action | Objective | Timescale (Long/Medium/Short Term) | Responsibility | Status of Work |
|---|--|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Share draft Plan with Friends of Eltham Parks and Ward Members to gain feedback and identify priorities for improvement | -Contact Chair of Friends of group & Ward Cllrs -Comments to be considered/incorporated into plan as appropriate -Incorporate results of consultation into plan as appropriate | | Short Term | | ✓ |
| Undertake consultation with wider community | -Carry out surveys/questionnaires with stakeholders | | Short Term | | |
| Consider provision of interpretation signage within park | Include in consultation | | Medium Term | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--|
| <p>Consider provision of notice board to promote upcoming events/information re Friends of the Parks</p> | <p>Discuss with Friends of group – see if they would be agreeable to progress?</p> | <p>Medium Term</p> | |
| <p>Promote memorial benches scheme at EPN</p> | | <p>Ongoing</p> | |
| <p>Create a more welcoming entrance for users using the footbridge to enter/leave the park</p> | <p>Contact TfL</p> | <p>Short Term</p> | |
| <p>Undertake a review of the ecology of the park with a view to preserving existing ecological integrity and biodiversity and potentially increasing it in the future</p> | | <p>Long Term?</p> | |
| <p>Seek Inward Investment as appropriate</p> | <p>Work with Friends of Eltham Parks and use outcome of consultation to identify priorities for inward investment Develop a funding options framework that identifies potential sources of funding and deadlines for each fund. Undertake work to secure new funding streams as appropriate</p> | <p>Long Term</p> | |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|--|--|
| <p>Reduce ASB in the park</p> | <p>Carry out an assessment of ASB at Eltham Park North. Liaise with local Police where appropriate/Community Safety Unit as appropriate Undertake works as appropriate</p> | | <p>Ongoing</p> | | |
| <p>To improve awareness/use of site by all sections of the community</p> | <p>Review how site is currently marketed. Investigate ways of improving marketing of site (through the use of different mediums etc) and through improvements to current marketing material Ensure that information on Eltham Park North is available on the planned website being developed as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Undertake EIA to identify any user groups which are excluded from using site Feed findings into Plan and action as appropriate</p> | | <p>Long Term</p> | | |

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

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Eltham Park North Management Plan will be fully reviewed and updated every five years, and the Action Plan annually, by Parks Management Staff responsible for Eltham Park North.

There will also be a need to keep a working document copy of the Management Plan within the parks office so that issues and changes that arise as well as new information can be documented, and the action plan can be regularly reviewed and completed works documented within it as part of the Parks Service business planning process.

Upon review, the new management plan will make note of the works performed and review the success of those works in the Action Plans

APPENDIX I: References

Greenwich Unitary Development Plan Second Development Draft
Council GIS

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APPENDIX II: Legislation, policies and strategies affecting park management

The Greenwich Strategy

The Greenwich Strategy sets out the vision for Greenwich Borough as being the place to live, work, learn and visit. This vision underpins all of the strategies produced by Greenwich Council and directly impacts on all service plans and service delivery.

Parks & Open Spaces Service Plan 2006-7

The Parks & Open Spaces department aims to develop, manage, ensure accessibility and maintain to a high standard the borough's Parks, Open Spaces, Woodlands, Tree Stock, Cemeteries, Playgrounds, Sports Pitches, Allotments and other outdoor facilities. To meet the needs of the community and deliver the Council's core objectives where applicable to the service, and specifically regarding the provision of a clean and well cared for environment and supporting Health and Quality of Life for the local community.

Green Space Strategy

The Green Spaces Strategy sets out the Council's strategic intentions for its green assets and its vision of the positive contribution that Greenwich's open networks make to our lives.

The thematic objectives (community safety, biodiversity, education and culture, culture & events, tackling inequality, sport, health & well being) are all relevant to the management plan for Eltham Park North.

The Cultural Strategy

Parks & Open Spaces is one of six 'areas' considered by the Cultural Strategy. The Strategy has five over-arching themes: - Equality and Access, Sustainability, the Cultural Economy, Achievement and Excellence and Partnerships. All of these aims are relevant to this management plan and have been considered in developing the opportunities and priorities for this site.

The Biodiversity Action Plan

The Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan will be the first co-ordinated approach to conserving Greenwich's biodiversity. The aim of the plan is:

'To ensure the conservation, enhancement and public appreciation of the biodiversity of the London Borough of Greenwich'.

The Biodiversity Action Plan focuses on locally important habitats and species and has actions drafted to ensure that they cover all relevant habitats and species. Initially actions may be focussed on those under the most pressure or where most advantage can be gained. However, it allows for all important habitats and species to be covered.

The Biodiversity Action Plan has been developed in partnership with local and regional groups and organisations and is currently in a draft stage. Once the final draft is agreed it will be released for wider consultation before a final plan is adopted.

Unitary Development Plan

Local Councils have a duty to prepare a Development Plan by law. The Greenwich Unitary Development Plan (UDP) sets out the vision for use of the land in the Borough, and provides the main guidance for making decisions on individual planning proposals. The document is intended to cover the period 2001 – 2011 (or 2016 in some instances) it is a legal document with the following purposes

To provide a framework of acceptable uses within the Borough, defining areas where development is not desired or where it needs to be carefully directed and;

To provide a detailed basis for the control and development

The UDP may be viewed at the Directorate of Strategic Planning, Planning Department, Peggy Middleton House, Woolwich, SE18, or alternatively at a local library.

Metropolitan Open Land

The UDP refers to Eltham Park North as Metropolitan Open Land and falling within a wider Area of Special Character of Metropolitan Importance

The London Plan defines Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) as the land of predominantly open character, which has more than Borough significance, generally because of its size and catchment area.

Policy references O1, O2, O2a and O3 under the section 'Protecting Open Land' set out what the acceptable land uses and allowable developments are within areas designated as MOL. These policy references are too lengthy to reproduce here. The policies are broadly meant to control development or alterations to existing land that would be inappropriate to MOL and has an adverse affect on the character and usage of the open space.

Green Chain

The UDP also designates Eltham Park North **Green Chain**. Policy reference **O5** under the section 'Protecting Open Land' sets out what the objectives of this designation are. The objectives are as follows

- *To improve and encourage the provision of suitable recreational facilities, with an emphasis on those serving a wide area of South East London and/or requiring open land.*
- *To safeguard the open land from built development and maintain its positive contribution in providing a visual and physical break in the built-up area of London.*
- *To conserve and enhance the visual amenity and ecological aspects of the landscape.*
- *To improve public access to and through the area.*
- *To promote an overall identity for the area in order to increase public awareness of available recreational facilities.*
- *To encourage the collaboration and co-operation of the various public and private agencies, owners, organisations, clubs, etc. in the area to achieve the above objectives.*

For the extent of the Green Chain Area, refer to the UDP proposals map and second draft alterations maps.

Green Chain Walk

Policy O15 refers to the Green Chain Walk, which passes through Eltham Park North.

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

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

Nature Conservation

The UDP identifies Eltham Park North as being a **Site of Nature Conservation Importance** (SNCI, also known as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)) And designated as SNCI NC31.

The UDP refers to SNCI's as following: -

O17 *A network of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) throughout the Borough has been identified for protection. These include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and sites declared as Local Nature Reserves (LNR). They are defined on the Proposals Map and listed in Table O2 as sites of Metropolitan, Borough or Local importance for nature conservation or geology. There will be a presumption against the development of these sites: the level of protection accorded to a site will be commensurate with its designation. Conservation and enhancement of important scientific features will be sought by appropriate management.*

In addition, It says: -

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

For the extent of the SNCI Areas, refer to the UDP proposals map and second draft alterations maps.

Areas of Special Character

Also, the Greenwich UDP in part 2.6 refers to Eltham Park North as part of a larger area designated as an **area of special character**.

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

The woodland adjacent and surrounding Eltham Park North is designated as a Site of Specific Scientific Interest

ISO 9001:2000 – Quality Management System

Quality Management System ISO 9001: 2000 is used by organisations to manage their activities and resources to guarantee a quality service. This management system is based on eight quality management principles:

- Customer Focus
- Leadership
- Involving People
- Process Approach
- System Approach to management
- Continual Improvement
- Factual Approach to decision making
- Supplier relationship, which benefit both sides.

The Parks & Open Spaces department is currently ISO 9000 accredited.

Legislation

The Parks & Open Spaces department operates within the frameworks set out by the following legislation, and therefore, the legislation may impact upon the delivery of service of the Parks and Open Spaces department both financially, through planning and human resources. This is not a comprehensive list but is indicative of key pieces of legislation relating to P&OS.

- Alcohol Consumption in Public Places Order 2003
- Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2004
- Control of Pesticide Protection Act 1986
- Country Code 1981
- Country side and Rights of Way Act 2000 and increments
- Countryside & Right of Way Act 2000
- Disability Discrimination Act 1998
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1998
- Litter Act 1983
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks & Open Spaces Act)1967
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957
- Road Traffic Act 1988 (as amended 1991)
- The 2004 Country Code
- The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003
- The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 & Dogs Act 1871??
- The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- The Weeds Act 1959
- The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

In addition there are numerous bye-laws that relate to specific parks.

Legal compliance

There are a number of legal provisions and statutory obligations that affect the delivery of a park service and have an influence on a management plan. For example, the Local Government Act 1999 places a duty of Best Value on Councils to secure continuous improvement in the way it's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Other relevant legislation includes the Open Spaces Act 1906, Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and Environmental Protection Act 1990, which all place obligations upon councils to provide a safe site for the public to visit and maintain them in a good and decent state.

Greenwich Council has Local Bylaws applicable to its parks and open spaces, which enable potential legal action to be taken against offenders. These Bylaws are usually enforced by the Park Keeping staff and are available for inspection at the Parks and Open Spaces Offices, Shooters Hill Depot. (Tel: 0208 8562 232)

APPENDIX III: Summary of the site's heritage and history

http://www.parkexplorer.org.uk/park_intro.asp?ID=grn18

Excerpt from the explorers website detailing the history of the Oxleas, Castle, Jack and Sheperdleas Woods. Originally part of the Eltham Estate.

“...The woodlands came into local authority management in the 20th century. Oxleas and Sheperdleas Woods were purchased in 1936, the latter being added to Eltham Park North. Falconwood was acquired in 1936. It was laid out in the 1950s and incorporated into Oxleas Woods. Oxleas Meadows to the east of Jack Wood was originally the site of Wood Lodge, a large house demolished in the 1930s. Under the meadows an underground reservoir was constructed...”

Park explorer website extracts on Eltham parks

As found on;

http://www.parkexplorer.org.uk/park_intro.asp?ID=grn10

Eltham Park North was once part of the estate of J T North of Avery Hill. It was bought by London County Council in 1929/30. Off Eltham Park Gardens the park has an area of rough open space. In the centre is Long Pond, which is planted with willows and ornamental shrubs and attracts wildfowl from all over the world. Eltham Park South was also part of the North estate. It has a large number of playing fields, with lime and oak trees. The two halves of the Park are separated by a major road, but linked by a bridge now.

APPENDIX IV: 2005 Groundwork Meadow Survey

2.30 Eltham Park North

Brief Description

This site has 3 distinct areas as follows;

- Area A – The western part of the site has areas of rough grass with scattered scrub and mown paths. The topography of the site is of some undulation but generally slopes downward towards the west.
- Area B – The middle of site has an area of shaded rough grass with numerous trees and large pieces of fallen, dead wood. The topography the area is pretty flat and level.
- Area C – This is the largest part of the site with an area of meadow; the sward is fairly open but is comprised mainly of grass species. The topography is very flat and level and there are mown paths throughout the meadow.

Recommendations

- Area A – The limited diversity and small numbers of meadow flowers suggest that this site would benefit from being left un-mown. This would allow anthills to establish and provide rough grass habitat, which is valuable for both invertebrates and small mammals. Management of the area could be confined to occasional strimming of the areas of grass and removal of scrub every 2 – 3 years.
- Area B – The limited diversity, small numbers of meadow flowers and heavy shade suggest that this site would benefit from being left un-mown. This would allow scrub to establish and provide rough grass habitat, which is valuable for invertebrates, small mammals and nesting birds. The deadwood within the area will also provide a valuable habitat for invertebrates and could be added to.
- Area C – This area, in its current state has significant value as a large piece of traditional hay meadow. However the botanical interest and number of meadow flowers within the sward could be improved. Taking earlier hay cut in mid to late July would remove a greater amount of biomass, (and hence nutrients) from the system.
- This would favour the establishment a more diverse meadow sward and would also enable the production of good quality hay. The area should then be mown regularly (every 2 weeks) in the late summer / early autumn until the end of the growing season. This will further encourage the establishment of a sward of finer grass and meadow flower species.



Photo 16. Looking east up the slope



Photo 17. Looking north west across the area of rough grass, trees and scrub



Photo 18. Looking north across the large area of meadow

Species record:

| Common name | Latin Name |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Field Bindweed | <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> |
| Common Ragwort | <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> |
| White Clover | <i>Trifolium repans</i> |
| Yarrow | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> |
| Ribwort Plantain | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> |
| Creeping Cinqfoil | <i>Potentilla reptans</i> |
| Common Vetch | <i>Vicia sativa</i> |
| Common Cat's-ear | <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> |
| Hedge Mustard | <i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> |
| Bristly Oxtongue | <i>Picris echioides</i> |
| Common Bird's-Foot-Trefoil | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> |
| Autumn Hawkbit | <i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> |
| Perennial Ryegrass | <i>Lolium perenne</i> |
| Creeping Bent | <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> |
| Yorkshire Fog | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> |
| Cock's foot | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> |
| Wall Barley | <i>Hordeum murinum</i> |
| False Oat Grass | <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> |

APPENDIX V: Parks and Open Spaces Management Structure

