

ISLAND GARDENS **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

2008 to 2018

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Location plan

Management Plan Drawing

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Historic plans of site in 1869 / 1896 / 1919

SECTION 1 **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Purpose of the Management Plan to 2018

The purpose is to guide the future development and management of Island Gardens for the next 10 years. The plan will:

- ensure clear objectives for management and design
- promote the highest standards of management to sustain the renewal works completed in 1998
- programme ongoing work and allow progress to be checked
- help to resolve conflicts of interest
- promote community involvement in the Gardens
- record key information about the Gardens

1.2 Who is the plan for

The plan is for the practical use and reference of:

- designers, managers, contractors and event organisers working on this site
- the Millwall Park and Island Gardens User Group, voluntary bodies and other local people who use and enjoy the park

1.3 Commitment to Green Flag award system and to the management plan

The Council's Open Space Strategy (adopted 11 January 2006), see www.towerhamlets.gov.uk has a number of targets about improving the sustainability of open spaces (Section 8, Action Item 1.5). This sets a target to achieve Green Flag Awards for all major parks and key local parks (10 in total by 2016), including one new award in 2008. The Green Flag award scheme concentrates management attention and recognises effective management on an independent, national basis. Furthermore, the whole Council, from the Leader and Chief Executive down, now understands the importance of these awards and is proud of its achievements.

Island Gardens first won the Green Flag award in 2005 and retained it for 2006 and for 2007. The Council is committed to retaining Green Flag award status for the life of this plan. Officers intend to submit the site for a Green Heritage award in due course.

1.4 Vision for Island Gardens

We will manage the site to preserve the peaceful spirit of place and conserve the heritage value of the Gardens whilst recognising the needs of its users today and in the future.

1.5 Objectives for the management of Island Gardens

- 1 Welcome the public to Island Gardens and help our visitors enjoy their experience
- 2 Manage the park to achieve a high quality, safe environment and enhance the landscape character of the Gardens
- 3 Maintain and enhance the views of and from the river and Greenwich and sustain the heritage value of the Gardens (as set out in paragraph 2.4)
- 4 Maintain or improve the park's facilities for visitors and maintain Parks' income
- 5 Promote biodiversity, sustainable use and management of the site (including of the fine plane trees) and resolve or minimise the issues and conflicts identified in this plan
- 6 Promote the Gardens as a visitor attraction of Tower Hamlets and encourage events appropriate to the site
- 7 Sustain the renewal works for the lifetime of the plan and thereafter
- 8 Encourage local people to get involved in the management of the Gardens and in the Millwall Park and Island Gardens User Group

SECTION 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction to Island Gardens

Island Gardens is an extremely prominent site on the best known loop of the River Thames, visible from the river and from Greenwich. It is a small gem of an open space, 1.12 hectares (2.77 acres) in size. It is best known and was set aside expressly for its classic views over the river to the historic landscapes, buildings and sights of Greenwich, a World Heritage Site. Local residents and workers and thousands of visitors a year from around the world enjoy the park.

Its finest features are the views across the River and its London Plane trees. The park offers its visitors peace and tranquillity and a chance for quiet contemplation.

The Borough has 125 public open spaces, three quarters of them of 1 hectare or less in size. On average there are only 1.2 hectares of open space per 1000 population, half the national standard.

The recently adopted Open Space Strategy gave Island Gardens a score of 74.9% in the quality audit, a high score for the Borough.

2.2 Site location

Island Gardens is located at the tip of the Isle of Dogs overlooking the River Thames. It is situated in the east end of London, within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The Gardens are adjacent to a community centre, a secondary school and residential areas. The Gardens are well linked to other parts of London – the north access to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel is located within the Gardens and links the area with Greenwich and the south side of the River. The Docklands Light Railway Island Gardens station, with links to Lewisham and central London, is within a few minutes walk on Manchester Road, along which are major bus routes to the underground at Mile End and Stratford.

2.3 Site history

In the late nineteenth century the trustees of Lady Margaret Charteris owned the land that is now Island Gardens. The land was leased to the Admiralty, which in turn let it to the Cubitt trustees, with a reservation that no buildings, except certain villa residences, were to be erected without their consent. The Admiralty's objective was to preserve the site in order to maintain the important views to Greenwich. This was almost the only portion of the area's river frontage that had not been developed over the preceding fifty years for shipbuilding and the many other industries associated with the docks.

Island Gardens was formally acquired for public open space in 1893 and opened in August 1895. The original purpose of the Gardens was twofold – primarily a vantage-point from which to enjoy the fine architecture and majestic views across the River but also as a recreation ground for local people, adults and children, to enjoy public entertainment and open space. It continues to provide for these two purposes.

2.4 Significance of Island Gardens

The Gardens are set on the visual axis that runs from All Saints' Church in Blackheath through Greenwich Park and the Royal Hospital to Island Gardens and on through the Isle of Dogs to St Anne's Church Limehouse. The complex of buildings and monuments on this axis comprises the Royal Hospital, Greenwich, the Queen's House, and the Woolfe monument. In addition, parts of the Royal Park at Greenwich can be seen from Island Gardens.



The view of Greenwich from Island Gardens 2004 (Ros Brewer)

Sir Christopher Wren singled the site of the Gardens out as the spot from which the Royal Hospital is best viewed. This is one of the great views of London. The Gardens lie within sight of and in the buffer zone of the Greenwich World Heritage Site and are, therefore, of international significance. At the highest level they are protected by international treaty.

Island Gardens are significant within the Borough as one of three parks and gardens on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest; Island Gardens are listed Grade II. We understand that the site was put on the Register because of the views rather than for the merit of the original design. The Gardens form the core of the Island Gardens Conservation Area. The lift tunnel rotunda is listed Grade II.

The Gardens are also significant to the local population as a place they can visit for peace and quiet as well as for the wonderful views. The Borough is deficient in open space, having only about half the national standard per thousand of population. The Borough is particularly deficient in access to good quality open space of the sort represented by Island Gardens.

The fine, large trees are significant as a testament to historic forward planning. They stand as a mark of continuity in an area where much has changed repeatedly over the last sixty years and in particular over the last twenty years.

2.5 Renewal works

The park's character has remained largely unchanged since its original conception in 1895, although it used to have some active recreational uses such as play facilities, pitch and putt and bowling. Over the years these were removed. We decided to locate active uses in the

nearby, complementary Millwall Park to keep the peace and quiet of the Gardens where visitors can enjoy the river, the views and the trees without distraction.



Riverside walk before the works in the mid 1990s



Riverside view of Island Gardens summer 2004 (Ros Brewer)

Following decades of minimal investment, a major programme of refurbishment was carried out to the Gardens. The refurbishment works contract started in March 1998 and completed in November 1998 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the London Docklands Development Corporation. These works involved alteration and improvement to the Gardens whilst retaining their character and enhancing their facilities. A low key bandstand was installed in April/May 2002.

The main entrance to the Gardens is on the route to the Foot Tunnel. This entrance was enlarged during the renewal project by the inclusion of part of the adjacent car park into the Gardens. The entrance is now more clearly visible to visitors approaching from Manchester Road and Island Gardens station. The last phase of the original conception to improve links (the direct footpath link from Manchester Road to Saunders Ness Road between the school and a new residential block) is now complete. The Gardens open onto a large paved area in front of the Foot Tunnel Rotunda, which leads onto the promenade along the river. This promenade runs the full length of the Gardens. The promenade ends in a gate at the east end to the adjoining river walk. To overcome level problems, the river terrace is raised by two steps above the rest of the Gardens and is lined with mature plane trees. New seating, litter bins and lighting have been sited along the length of the terrace. The river wall has been faced and capped with white reconstituted stone. It is topped with new railings that replace the original spike topped railings. The new railings are of a contemporary design, practical and robust, designed for leaning. Island Gardens was not originally lit, but lighting was added in the renewal scheme. The terrace is linked by paths to the other entrances and to the 'woodland walk' that runs along the northern boundary of the Gardens returning the river terrace to the main entrance.

The central large grass area includes a paved area with notional bandstand for performances and lies between the river terrace and the 'woodland walk'. The 'woodland walk' close to the Saunders Ness Road boundary winds through mature trees, mostly planes under-planted with spring bulbs, longer grass and wild flowers. This is good for wildlife and scenic diversity. There is also a picnic area with tables and benches. The paving around the Teapot Café has been reoriented so that the café is accessed from the paths through the Gardens and a new terrace with seating and tables which looks out across the grass towards the River has been located adjacent to it.

Shrub and hedge planting have been included along the section of the boundary railings to Saunders Ness Road closest to the main entrance and along the easternmost boundary of the Gardens with Luralda Gardens. Areas of seasonal bedding have been included in the grass area at the east end of the Gardens and in the bed around the Foot Tunnel Rotunda.

All paths and paved areas have been surfaced in golden macadam, 'Synergy'. It was a deliberate decision not to renew the seating and river wall railings with Victorian style park furniture as this would detract from the classical architecture of Greenwich and would not meet the needs of contemporary users. The original park furniture and riverside railings were adequate for what had been laid out as a fairly basic pleasure ground. The park was originally laid out with a limited budget and never achieved the quality of, say, the Victoria Embankment. The choice of furniture for the renewal scheme was guided by the need for everything to be tried and tested, robust, hard wearing, with low maintenance costs and of simple design in order to avoid conflict with the Greenwich architecture.

A walled parks yard is located at the east end of the Gardens with gated access from both Saunders Ness Road and the Gardens. Located within the yard is an electric pillar containing the lighting board, and the water control cabinet for the watering points, as well as a sewer connection to allow the temporary use of movable toilets for events.

The main activities in the park are:

- Enjoying the views
- Walking and sitting
- Access on foot or bicycle to / from Greenwich
- Dog walking
- Fitness training – jogging
- Casual games on the grass
- Picnicking
- Schools use for teaching / visits
- Attending events
- Watching the world go by

2.6 Local population

The population of the Borough was 196,106 at the last Census in April 2001, with about 16,500 in the local wards. The population has already risen to 236,000 according to the latest estimates from the Greater London Authority. There are extremely high proportions of young people, with 23% of the local population being 15 or under. Indices of deprivation are high, with local wards being in the top 5% of the most deprived wards in England. About 20% of the resident population over 16 years claims Income Support. Ethnically, 51% of the borough's population is white, 33% Bangladeshi, 3.4% Black African and 2.7% Black Caribbean. There is a substantial population of people of Somali origin. Most of the local population lives in flats without access to a private garden and there are significant levels of overcrowding. Tower Hamlets is the fifth most crowded borough in England and Wales.

2.7 Users

The annual number of users is not known but is high, given the large number of tourists. In the coming year we hope to trial different ways of conducting visitor surveys. We expect to assess numbers, reasons for visiting, where they come from (resident or tourist), length of visit, what they like and don't like and so on.

The Council has adopted a residents' satisfaction survey methodology for parks and open spaces developed by the KMC Consultancy. The survey is based on a standardised questionnaire, which allows some performance comparisons to be made with other authorities and organisations that participate in the scheme. (See Appendix A.2 – Public Consultation for more detail)

Face to face interviews are conducted on behalf of the Council by a specialist agency in order to gain responses from a representative sample of residents from across the Borough. 1,000 residents are interviewed annually. Analysis shows that some 84% of all respondents use a park, and of those, about three-quarters use a Tower Hamlets Park. In the sample group, more females (54%) than males indicated that they used parks. We believe that most users of Island Gardens are local people and tourists, many from abroad. Schools and colleges also visit the site for school trips.

2.8 Land tenure, concessions and leases

The Gardens are owned by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and were transferred from the GLC under the London Authority (Parks and Open Spaces) Order 1971. A restrictive covenant requires that they are maintained in perpetuity as open space or public walks or pleasure grounds with restrictions on the erection of buildings, or of allowing anything to take place that would become a nuisance or annoyance to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Parks and Open Spaces Service manages the Gardens. The Foot Tunnel and Rotunda are managed by the London Borough of Greenwich, which retains a maintenance yard to the rear of the Foot Tunnel Rotunda.

The Teapot Café is let on a contracted out lease until May 2008; there is no right to renew, and business opportunities are subject to an ongoing review process. Its trade can be patchy and much of its natural business is taken by the kiosk which is sited much nearer the foot traffic to the tunnel. The Island Gardens Magic Kiosk, which sells newspapers, confectionery and soft drinks, is let on a 20 year lease. The income from these two premises is returned to the Parks' budget.

SECTION 3 THE GARDENS

3.1 Welcoming people to Island Gardens

3.1.1 Hours

The Gardens are open all day, everyday and are not locked at night. This is because the Thames Path runs along the riverside promenade and because there is a 24/7 right of access to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel.

3.1.2 Accessibility and Disability Discrimination Act 1995

There are no problems for people with mobility problems such as gate widths, changes in level, etc. There are no outstanding matters to be put right within the Gardens in terms of this Act.

3.1.3 Vehicular and Cycle access

Parks and parks contractors' vehicles can enter the site from the east entrance where there is also a small yard for parking and offloading materials. LB Greenwich and emergency services have a right of access to the foot tunnel from the west entrance at all times; this access must not be blocked. We understand that anti-terrorism police visit the site two or more times a day as there is an old nuclear installation in the former Royal Naval College, which is considered to be a terrorist target.

There is a cross-London cycle route, which runs from the foot tunnel rotunda through the Gardens and north up the Isle of Dogs. This is heavily used by commuter cyclists. The unwillingness of some cyclists to dismount causes potential conflict with pedestrians including park users. We are working with the Borough Cycling and Pedestrian officer to look for potential answers to this issue.

3.1.4 Entrances and signs

Colourful "welcome" signs at the main entrance and subsidiary signs at the other 3 entrances were erected in winter 2004. These have proved very successful. They were designed to use as few words as possible and to enable people to locate themselves easily. They are kept clean and graffiti-free.

3.2 Maintaining Island Gardens

3.2.1 Grounds maintenance

This has been subject to competitive tendering since the 1988 Local Government Act. The Council's new key contracted service provider, Fountains, delivers both horticultural maintenance and cleansing services. They began work in the borough in October 2006 for an initial five-year term, but there are clauses for further extensions linked to performance over the contract term. Under the Government's 'Best Value' initiative the Council is seeking further to develop both this partnership and others to ensure that high quality, efficient and effective services are delivered. They undertake maintenance of grass, including edging and shrubs. Parks and Open Spaces Service monitoring officers check standards of work such as grass cutting, weeding, pruning and edging. Their managers also certify due payment to the contracted service provider and issue variation orders for additional work.

3.2.2 Litter clearance and cleanliness

The Borough's parks are all designated at Grade C under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This means that the contractor must maintain a 24-hour response time to remove particular problems such as fly tipping, and the site is cleaned daily. Cleansing is monitored by parks rangers. Our performance is independently monitored four times a year and forms

a key part of our Best Value Performance Indicator, BVPI 199. This issue is taken extremely seriously with a corporate working BVPI group led at director level. The Borough's parks generally score above the designated grade, indeed within the acceptable limit for Grade B sites. The definition of Grade B is "predominantly free of litter or refuse except for small items". The Borough's parks cleansing contractor, Fountains Support Services Ltd., picks litter from the grass and shrub beds and empties the litter-bins on a daily basis. In addition, they sweep the paths, clean the furniture and collect leaves in the autumn.

The Borough's grass sports pitches and green flag sites (grass and paved areas) are cleaned of dog faeces once a week, using a FIDO (Faeces Intake and Disposal Operation) machine (See Appendix B.3 for information about this machine). Dog bins are emptied daily.

3.2.3 Repairs and graffiti removal

Repairs and other maintenance works are carried out as and when necessary (making use of measured term contracts where feasible) to make good any health and safety problems on the site. Priority 1 repairs (urgent hazards) are carried out within 24 hours, down to Priority 3 repairs which can take up to one month. Racist graffiti are treated as Priority 1 repairs and are removed by parks patrol staff if possible or by contractors.

3.3 Conserving the heritage of Island Gardens

3.3.1 Cultural heritage

The Gardens were set aside for the purpose of maintaining views of Greenwich and it is unthinkable that these views should be disrupted on any long term or permanent basis. The emerging borough Local Development Framework (development plan) notes the significance of these views and protects this view over the long distance, from the top of the Mudchute embankments across to Blackheath.

3.3.2 Existing wildlife value

The park itself has been found to support some wildlife and the biodiversity value of the site is improving as the wildflower areas mature and get more diverse. The park supports Blackbirds, feral Pigeons, House Sparrows, with visits from Thrush, Green and Greater Spotted Woodpecker. The large areas of close-cut amenity grass have limited wildlife value but are important to people. The boundary planting has some value. While this site is not a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), the nearby Millwall Park is a new SINC of Local Importance, linked to the Local Nature Reserve at the Mudchute. These 3 sites are shown on the sign-boards as linked to encourage people to enjoy the very different experiences these sites offer. While we will continue to look for opportunities to improve the biodiversity value of Island Gardens, the primary functions and interest of this site are visual amenity and relaxation.



Island gardens and the view to Greenwich 2007 (Oscar Ford)

3.3.3 Enhancing the wildlife value of Island Gardens

The Council commissioned a survey of plants and wildlife in the park in 2007. The findings of this survey will be used as part of a wider update of the Tower Hamlets Biodiversity Action Plan. We are gradually enhancing the wildlife value of the Gardens by planting more native and wildlife-friendly shrubs and perennials. We are examining the survey report's recommendations to increase the extent of the longer grass and enrich it with perennials and wildflowers. We are also considering whether to replace some of the bedding areas with new herbaceous perennial plantings that could offer a long season of colour. The nest boxes have proved successful in that they have been used for nesting. We will manage the shrub planting to create cover at ground level as shelter for birds and insect life, and to reduce unnecessary weed control. We will provide a native hedge along the Saunders Ness Road boundary where there is no planting at present. The Open Space Strategy has a number of targets to meet about improving the biodiversity value within our open spaces (Section 8, Action Item 1.5) and these will be applied to Island Gardens where feasible.

3.4 Marketing Island Gardens

3.4.1 Recent Press and Web coverage

The Borough's website includes several PR pieces about Island Gardens. These can be found at <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/>.

The site has been the subject of several stories in the local press and we always achieve good coverage of our Green Flag wins.

This site was included in last year's campaign to get more people into our parks and doing healthy walks with a special walking guide which was published in the free local council paper, on the website and distributed as a leaflet to all houses in the borough as well as libraries and so on. This was an initiative of the Local Area Partnerships and us with our Sports and Healthy Lifestyles teams.

In addition, this park was included in a borough-wide parks marketing campaign in the early autumn 2006 with large banners placed on the railings at Saunders Ness Road to draw attention to the park and its sports facilities, under the general strap line of "Amazing Space". Our parks are also being marketed to both the public and public sector workers in various public buildings throughout the borough to raise awareness of the quality of our parks.

3.4.2 Direction signs

There is direction signing from Manchester Road, and local park signs include a map to enable people to see how they can walk between the Gardens and other local parks to access a wide variety of open spaces and habitats.

3.4.3 Interpretation

We have installed a simple panorama sign at the best location for the view, on the Greenwich axis, to explain the buildings across the river, their dates and designers. This enables people to identify what they are looking at.

We intend to install a simple, new interpretation sign in the Gardens to set out the history of the site for visitors.

The entrance signs are designed to encourage people to see how they can link up their visits to Island Gardens with other local green spaces. We anticipate working with Canary Wharf, British Waterways and other local partners to establish direction and interpretation signs for the green and blue spaces of the whole of the Isle of Dogs; consultants are about to be appointed for this piece of work. There is an opportunity here to help people realise the potential for really long-distance walks and cycle rides as these spaces link Greenwich to the docks, the Grand Union Canal, Mile End Park, the Hertford Union Canal, Lee Valley Regional Park to Bishop's Stortford and so on, including the forthcoming Olympics Park. The Borough provides leaflets to promote walks in the area.

3.5 Keeping people and facilities safe and secure

3.5.1 Risk assessments

Risk assessments are maintained for relevant maintenance activities and events - [see Appendix C.1](#)

3.5.1 Dog control

The Best Value Review consultation identified this as a major local issue across gender, age and ethnicity categories. It is an issue that Tower Hamlets takes very seriously. Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1966, dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs throughout the Borough. We have a team of dog rangers to foster (and when necessary enforce) responsible ownership of dogs and good dog / owner behaviour. The team expects to formally caution or prosecute about 95 people per annum. Numbers of cautions and prosecutions are going down as people have got into the habit of clearing up after them. The team has doubled its orders for dog waste bags to 1 million p.a. Only about 15% of the complaints about dog fouling are in the Borough's parks; the rest are on estates or the streets. As a result of this activity, dog fouling of parks is very much improved compared to a decade ago. There is no problem with stray dogs in Island Gardens. The Council is currently reviewing the Dog Warden Service in parks to develop a more targeted Service Level

Agreement and where necessary we will create Dog Control Orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005).

- Dog rangers patrol all parks sites on a regular basis and will carry out blitz visits if required. They carry out uniformed and covert patrols acting on intelligence about where and when problems occur. They use hidden cameras to obtain evidence.
- Dog owners must clear up after their animals throughout the Gardens.
- Free pooper-scoopers are provided by the café, dog rangers and parks staff (take up is said to be good) and there are 2 dog waste bins.
- The rangers have held informal Dog Show in Island Gardens in the recent past to encourage responsible dog ownership, with contests for things like the dog that most resembles its owner, the best six legs, etc. A vet was present to give out worming pills and advice.
- The Kennel Club awarded the LBTH Animal Rangers for a national award in February 2006.

3.5.2 Community safety and security

Apart from occasional after-school loitering and boisterousness, there is little relatively little anti-social behaviour in the Gardens. The park is used at night to gain access to the Greenwich foot tunnel and to the riverside walk. We make a lot of effort to improve safety in our parks as this is an important issue for local people. The KMC Consultancy residents' satisfaction survey of 2005 and summer 2006 shows that perception of safety is continuing to improve (2007 results were not available for this update). The Open Space Strategy contains a number of targets (Section 8, Action Points 1.2 and 1.3) expressly to make the parks and open spaces safer and these will be put into action in the Gardens.

3.5.3 Park lighting

There is one well-lit route linking Saunders Ness Road with, and along, the river promenade as this is part of the Thames path. The Borough's Street Environment department manages the lighting since they take care of all public lighting for the authority.

3.5.4 Community Parks Ranger service

The Council employs Community Parks Rangers to help ensure that parks are safe and accessible to users and to provide a proactive, approachable and recognisable presence in the parks. Rangers patrol Island Gardens approximately twice times a day, during the parks' busy times (i.e. afternoon and evening rather than early in the morning) partly to control anti-social behaviour. The rangers monitor site conditions and carry out minor maintenance works as well as following up any issues reported by our out of hours service and the Emergency Services. They also supervise and help deliver events and booked sports matches. They engage with the public as well as our many special interest groups.



Metropolitan Police in Island Gardens (copyright LBTH)

3.6 Environmental sustainability of Island Gardens

3.6.1 Tree strategy for Island Gardens

The site has good tree cover, with some parts of the “woodland walk” area verging on overcrowding. Trees here are very close together, drawn up and thin; because of the competition for light many are irregularly shaped. However, together they form a group with high amenity value. By contrast, along the riverside and other paths there are well-spaced plane trees that have been able to grow into fine, large trees, which also have an excellent group presence visible from Greenwich.

Our trees are surveyed on a regular basis and the information recorded digitally on the Borough’s geographic information system, using “Ezytreev” software. 78 trees (including small ones and some large shrubs such as holly and yew specimens) are recorded for this site. The system provides plenty of detail. The present survey was updated winter 2006. Surveyors undertake risk assessments and provide individual recommendations for any works needed and the frequency of re-inspection.

Trees are also inspected for any necessary works by borough arboriculture officers on a regular basis and when required (e.g. following storms). Tree works are carried out as and when necessary using the measured term contract for tree works to maintain their health, safety or good form or in response to justified complaints.

The main trees in Island Gardens are fine, large London Planes. Several trees in the “woodland walk” area have basal surface wounds and cavities, which are believed to have resulted from salt spreading in years gone by. These trees are monitored more closely than others to assess the risk of structural failure and to monitor changes that could shorten their safe useful life expectancy. As a result of this year’s inspections, we intend to carry out a

further, more detailed inspection in 2008. This may involve climbing the trees and probing cavities.

The policy of the Parks and Open Spaces Service is only to remove living trees when necessary to protect public safety. Trees will be replaced where their existing density and likely light conditions allow. No replacement tree planting will be carried out until gaps are large enough to allow sufficient light for good growth.

We will replace trees on the riverside and adjacent paths with new plane trees only when the need arises; this may be over decades or even hundreds of years. Three plane trees have been recently planted to fill in gaps in the line.

Elsewhere in the Gardens, we will replace trees with a wider variety of species to promote biodiversity and reduce the risk of catastrophic failure in the event of a life-threatening disease of plane trees, and for amenity.

3.6.2 Procurement

Procurement is one of the 5 key areas being examined through the emerging Borough Environmental Strategy. In the interim the purchase and use of materials and supplies from endangered resources, such as peat and peat-based composts, endangered hard wood and tropical species of timber, rocks from Pennine limestone pavements, bulbs and seeds taken from the wild, or products comprising such items are banned. All timbers are to be supplied from sustainable sources and are to accord with the Forest Stewardship Council's guidelines. The Parks and Open Spaces Service will abide by the Council's Environmental Strategy (see Appendix A.13) once it is adopted.

Tower Hamlets has recently been recognised as a Fair Trade borough by the Fairtrade Foundation (see www.fairtrade.org.uk) and won a London-wide award* by achieving the following targets:

- The Council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens,
- A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés and catering establishments,
- Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc) and community organisations (churches, schools etc),
- The council must attract popular support for the campaign,
- A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade Town status.

* The Council won the Mayor for London's Green Procurement Award for 'Best Performing Public Sector Organisation' in November 2006.

3.6.3 Recycling of green waste, parks' litter and other waste

The Parks and Open Space Service aims to develop a number of small scale compost facilities within its parks with the intention to recycle 30-40% of our green waste within a few years. Relatively few parks are suitable for such facilities as three quarters of our sites are less than one hectare in size. Shrubby green waste is currently separated and taken to the local waste transfer station where it is recycled for use elsewhere.

We will be carrying out a review of parks litter and the potential for recycling parts of it with our colleagues from Waste Management Services starting in April 2008-09. The Council is

committed to meeting targets for recycling, and is adopting a range of methods for collecting and sorting waste for recycling.

The current contract for the supply of seasonal bedding plants requires that the plant supplier collects and recycles plant pots and trays after each use. The contract specifies that plants are grown in peat-free compost (with the exception of a tiny percentage of feature plants that will not tolerate peat-free composts).

Office and other waste is recycled at our headquarters offices, such as paper, plastic and glass bottles, cans, etc. This has been successfully extended from April 2007 to our satellite offices, children's buildings (such as one o'clock clubs and adventure play grounds) and this is now built into all new commercial leases, via the borough's normal recycling processes.

3.6.4 Water use

There are two water points in this park. Bedding plants are watered twice a week at most depending on rainfall conditions.

The Council is investigating the cost effectiveness of installing boreholes in some parks to meet non-drinking water requirements. Surveys of the nearby Millwall Park suggest that a borehole installation would cost in the region of £40,000, with ongoing license costs for extraction and maintenance costs for pumping equipment, but it is unlikely that it would be economic to install the necessary pipes to bring this sort of supply across to Island Gardens even if we can obtain both a license and enough volume.

The Service has commissioned a water use survey for major parks with significant water usage; results are due in March 2008. This study includes repair of leaks, minimisation of water use and investigation of more sustainable sources of supply. The programme of repair of underground leaks is expected to reduce total consumption by about 30%.

3.6.5 Energy efficiency and pollution control

The Borough's Transport Service Unit reviews developments in fuel efficiency and alternative fuel sources for three objectives:

- benefits to air quality
- sustainability of energy source
- cost benefits

Our current policy is to operate vehicles that at least comply with the Mayor of London's Low Emission Zone proposals in the most cost effective manner. All the Council's vehicles used by the Parks Service comply with this policy; the latest ranger vehicles exceed these standards. We have trialled electric vehicles as demonstrators in the past but they did not provide our overall service requirements. The Council's target for vehicle emissions within its Environmental Strategy is to reduce emissions by 80% by December 2008 from the levels recorded in 2002. As a Council, we are on target to achieve it.

We, with other local authorities, have investigated the use of bio-fuels but unfortunately there is not yet substantive information to make an informed commercial (as well as ethical and environmental) decision on overall viability. As we would have to invest in new infrastructure for bio-diesel, we have decided to wait until more definitive information is available. Most diesel fuels bought from garages now contain up to 5% bio-diesel already. Serious doubts are being raised as to the overall sustainability of bio-diesel fuels given rising world populations and the likelihood that climate change will reduce the total area of land available for growing food crop.

We have also investigated the use of recycled, cleaned, cooking oil but this has been found to be too expensive an operation for our partners to continue. Our Transport Services

Section therefore recommends remaining with competitively priced, modern diesel engine technology which is still the most efficient engine for fuel consumption at present.

The council restructured its car user allowances for staff in 2007. It has reduced the numbers of staff driving to work and around the borough for work to cut energy consumption, emissions and our carbon foot print.

We have undertaken basic energy assessments of parks' satellite buildings with the largest energy bills. The assessment provides options that vary from "no cost" to "low cost" and upwards. We will now undertake a rolling programme to implement the low cost options to improve the energy and water efficiency of these buildings, starting in 2007-08. This programme will include:

- (1) Energy awareness training for staff
- (2) Loft insulation
- (3) Draught proofing of offices and buildings
- (4) Water butts
- (5) PIR lighting sensors where the performance benefits would be worthwhile (depends on scale of daily usage).

3.7 Involving the community in Island Gardens

3.7.1 Consultation and community participation

This is carried out partly via the Millwall Park and Island Gardens User Group, with additional public meetings being held when necessary. In addition, the public is consulted via the Local Area Partnerships (one of 8 for the borough) as part of the Local Strategic Partnership, which has a very active programme of community involvement. This is considered the principal way that local people have their say on services provided by the public sector within the vicinity.

The Parks and Open Spaces Service has actively sought to involve community groups in the management of our parks and open spaces. At the time of writing, over 15% of the total area of our parks and open spaces (7 sites) is managed by the Third Sector, either by Friends' groups or by other voluntary groups through Service Level Agreements. The Third Sector manages both our Local Nature Reserves as well as more traditional parks.

3.7.2 Millwall Park and Island Gardens User group

This active group meets every six weeks and sets its own full agenda. It is recognised as the official user group for the park, has been consulted on this management plan and is the body with which Tower Hamlets carries out official inspections and reviews. Officers are in regular telephone and personal contact with the chairperson and secretary to deal with day to day issues and they attend the Friends' meetings.

A Community Compact is being developed that will set down guiding principles for all our Friends and User Groups (a dozen at the time of writing), so that they know what they can expect from us and the Council from them. The Council expects to adopt this Compact during 2008. The Compact will also deliver staff training to help us improve our working relationships with the Third Sector. The Parks and Open Spaces Services were recently restructured to create new posts, including a ranger service, whose roles include working with community groups.

3.7.3 Events

The policy of Cultural Services is to encourage the community to arrange small events and to promote larger, community festivals that celebrate diversity. Tower Hamlets prides itself on being the "Festivals Borough", with the largest festival and events programme in London. We host about 60 events a year, most of which are take place in our parks. The new Parks

and Open Spaces structure, which came into place in October 2006, will help us to create opportunities for small, local events and the Open Space Strategy contains two actions to promote this work. One is the production of a Third Sector Events Toolkit and development of a protocol to manage potential conflict between competing users, (Action Plan Point 4.4). This site is not suitable for some types of event if we are to conserve its historic landscape values intact.

The Great River Race is an established spectacular. The race finish line is close to Island Gardens and the site hosts the corporate and entrants' post race entertainment. This national, annual event, a 22 mile "marathon" on the Thames, is held to find the UK Traditional Boat champions. About 300 boats of all types take part, with boats being recovered from the nearby Johnson's Drawdock.



The Mayors sit down to tea at the Great River Race, Sept. 2007 (LBTH)

3.8 Managing Island Gardens

3.8.1 Parks and Open Spaces Services Mission Statement:

We will strive to create good quality parks that:

- are accessible to everyone
- provide a wide range of opportunities for sport, play, entertainment and relaxation
- have a diverse, attractive and interesting landscape and ecology

3.8.2 Budget

There is no single budget for any site in the borough. An individual park budget has to be constructed by summing the contract costs for all the different work types, adding approximated figures for repairs and tree work, management and parks patrol costs.

The approximate budget figure for routine maintenance, management and parks patrols in 2007/ 2008 was £42,000.

There is some park income from the kiosk and café. This is returned to the overall budget of the Parks and Open Spaces Service. Any income from events and filming is ploughed back into the Arts and Events Team's budget.

3.8.3 Current management arrangements

The Parks and Open Spaces Service of Cultural Services manages the Council's Parks and Open Spaces, and maintains most of them, including Island Gardens. Different aspects of care are split between different managers specialising in different aspects of management and with control of different contracts. Managers report to the Head of the Parks and Open Spaces Service, who has overall responsibility for all Parks and Open Spaces within the Borough.

3.8.4 Design and management principles for Island Gardens

The key landscape aims developed for the renewal phase of Island Gardens remain appropriate:

- Maintain the splendid views of the river and Greenwich from the Gardens and beyond
- Maintain the peace and quiet of the Gardens for the enjoyment of present and future visitors
- Conserve the fine plane trees and replace only at the end of their safe, useful life expectancy
- Enhance and manage planting and grass areas, where possible to enhance biodiversity, and maintain clear views into the site, especially at entrances
- Enhance the attractiveness of the Gardens, with appropriate features but keeping them simple

All design for the park must be practical and appropriate for its purpose. It should reflect contemporary and reasonably foreseeable needs, be simple and sympathetic to the peaceful landscape character of the Gardens.

Planting design, including choice of species, will take maintenance into account and seek not to increase the burden of costs overall. It will also deliver improvements for biodiversity.

Replacement site furniture and railings will match those provided during the renewal works or nearest equivalent available at the time of replacement (see schedule at Appendix C.2.)

Paving finishes have been designed not to dominate the landscape, which should remain substantially green in contrast to the surrounding environment. Paths are aligned to reflect the routes people want to use, to provide a relaxing experience for users and to enable people to make a circuit of the Gardens, as well as the best feasible access to the foot tunnel rotunda and the river walk.

Signage has incorporated the Borough's current Visual Identity Guidelines. All existing and future signage will identify who manages the site, give a contact telephone number, and provide guidance on facilities to be found in the park and on behaviour to be expected. Signs welcome visitors to the Park and avoid lists of dos and don'ts. Signs are designed to be clear for those with sight and language problems, replacing as many words as possible with graphic symbols.

3.8.5 Implementation of the Management Plan

The lead officer responsible for implementing this Plan is the Head of Parks and Open Spaces Service. Responsibilities include:-

- Preparation and co-ordination of future annual work programmes and necessary budgets.

- Development of monitoring procedures.
- Mechanisms for reviewing and developing the management plan.
- Co-ordination of new initiatives and developments identified in the plan.

3.8.6 Monitoring and reviewing the plan

The frequency of monitoring varies - it is daily, weekly, or less often, depending on the issue or the activity. General progress on the Plan will be monitored monthly.

A formal review of the progress of the Plan is undertaken annually flowing from the monitoring process. The Service Head carries out this review jointly with the Millwall Park and Island Gardens User Group to ensure independent oversight.

3.8.7 Quality management systems

This is achieved through:

- ensuring main contractor accreditation to ISO 9002
- compliance with statutory Performance Indicators such as BV199 and 119
- stretch outcome targets within the Local Area Agreement and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and the Community Plan which are rigorously monitored through corporate performance management and monitoring system.

3.8.8 ACTION PLAN 2008-2018

No	Action	Deadline/ frequency	Lead	Objective targeted	Achieved ?
1	Daily / weekly / monthly				
2	Carry out regular formal site inspections and meetings to check progress	Weekly / monthly	All	All	Yes
3	Minimise driving on grass areas to minimise damage	All year	Park rangers	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	Yes
4	Ensure no one parks on site except emergency services and LB Greenwich workers	All year	Park rangers	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	Yes
5	Maintain standards of sweeping of paved surfaces to keep them clean and prevent weed growth	All year	Contractor + Park rangers	2, 5, 7	Yes
6	Monitor standards of grass cutting and ensure grass is not cut too short in summer (to reduce drought stress)	Annually esp. in Summer	Contractor + South Area Parks Manager	2, 4, 5, 7	Yes
7	Maintain shrub pruning in accordance with species and good practice. Keep areas near entrances below 1 m high for minimum distance of 7 m. Elsewhere allow to grow taller but keep good ground cover for birds	All year	Contractor + South Area Parks Manager	2, 4, 5, 7	Yes
8	Liaise with Dog Wardens to manage any dog nuisance	All year	Park rangers	1, 2, 5	yes
9	Remove graffiti in accordance with priorities	All year	Park rangers	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	Yes
10	Liaise with Events Team to ensure events held do not damage park assets	All year	Contractor + South Area Parks Manager	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	Yes
	Intermittent				
11	Develop ranger-led programme of events and activities including corporate challenge tasks	Ongoing	Park rangers	1, 2, 5, 6	Yes, just starting
12	Develop green waste composting	Ongoing	Ecology	5	Not yet

			and Environment Officer		due
13	Consider how to exploit opportunities of site in long term and surroundings to improve visitor facilities (including toilet provision)	Dec. 07	Various parks staff + Planners	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	Not yet feasible; awaits development of adj. site
14	Develop monitoring routes and targets for monitoring staff and rangers	April 07	Contract and Infrastructure Manager	2, 5, 7	Yes
15	Monitor existing biodiversity and any improvements	Ongoing	L/scape team	1,2,5,8	Yes; survey completed
16	Plant up suitable areas with spring bulbs, wildflowers, and herbaceous perennials where appropriate	Autumn 2008 and ongoing	L/scape team, and many other people 5	1,2,5,8	
17	Carry out KMC and GreenSTAT market research exercises	By Autumn 2008 and ongoing	HoPOS	1,2,4	KMC ongoing; Green-STAT not yet due
18	Draft new parks bye-laws and commission	March 2010	Head of Parks	1	Not yet due
19	Develop direction signing project for wider area of Isle of Dogs for all types of open spaces, with others e.g. British Waterways, Canary Wharf, etc.	Dec 2008	Transportation + L/scape teams	1, 6	Not yet due
20	Adopt Community Compact to support 3 rd Sector working and carry out staff training	Sept. 07	Head of Parks	4, 8	Due March 08
21	Support User Group to develop sponsorship for events programme and encourage use of site for events put on by schools' and voluntary music and arts groups	Ongoing	Parks rangers	1, 6, 8	Ongoing
22	Provide new interpretation sign.	April 08	L/scape team	1, 3, 6	Not yet due
23	Train rangers to carry out face to face visitor survey methods and begin trials using GreenSTAT model	October 08	Rangers	1, 4, 5, 6	Not yet due
24	Carry surveys of trees with basal wounds to investigate cavities, etc; climbing / boring assessment this year	Every 3 years	Tree officer	2, 3, 5	Next is due 2008
25	Plant replacement trees as necessary	Ongoing	Tree Officer	2, 3, 5, 7	Not yet due
26	Repaint riverside railings (especially where visitor wear requires it) and boundary railings.	As required; min. 10 year cycle	Rangers	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	Not yet due
27	Provide additional signs to deter cycling within the Gardens and work with others to reduce potential for conflict between pedestrians and cyclists	Signs by April 08 and as required	Head of Parks & and Cycling Officer	1, 2, 5, 8	Not yet due
28	Develop LBTH Park web pages for	Ongoing;	Head of	1, 4, 5, 6,	Ongoing

	marketing purposes	Ph 1 by March 08	parks		
29	Launch Community Compact with Parks' Friends Groups	March 2008	Head of Parks	1, 6,8	Not yet due
30	Carry out review of parks litter management and recycling	March 2009	Head of Parks with Waste Management section	5	Not yet due
31	Prepare and implement Climate Change Action Plan for Parks and Open Spaces	March 2009	Head of Parks	5	Not yet due
	Annual				
29	Carry out inspection of trees for risk management and health / condition purposes and carry out necessary works	Min. annually	Tree officer	2, 3, 5	Yes
30	Keep Gardens in local media	Annually	Head of Parks	1, 6, 8	Yes
31	Supply and clean out sparrow nest boxes	Annual	Park rangers	5	Yes
31	Carry out spring renovation to bare areas to restore good grass cover	Annually in April	Contractor	2, 5, 7	Yes
33	Plant up gaps in shrub borders with wildlife-friendly and native plants giving plenty of variety. Include some evergreens	Annually over winter	Head of Contracts and Parks Infrastructure	2, 5, 7	Ongoing
34	Update risk assessments for site annually and when change requires it	Annually	Head of Contracts and Parks Infrastructure	2	Yes
35	Hold annual formal review of site with Millwall Park + Island Gardens User Group	Annually by July	Head of Parks	All	Yes
36	Conduct formal review of management plan with everyone	Annually by Dec.	Head of Parks	All	Yes
37	Enter site for and gain Green Flag award every year	Annually by Jan.	Head of Parks	All	Yes
	Permanent				
38	Ensure new LDF and other policies protect views across to Greenwich from top of Mudchute Park	Forever	L/scape team	2, 3, 7	Ongoing
39	Do not plant trees or other obstructions across Greenwich axis to protect view	Forever	Head of Parks	2, 3, 7	Ongoing

APPENDIX A

CORPORATE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

A.1 Tower Hamlets Vision and Community Plan

Tower Hamlets Council launched its first Community Plan in May 2001 following extensive consultation, involving residents, the Council and its public service partners, the voluntary and community sector, and businesses. The Council led the process, but involved a working group of key partners from other public services, large and small businesses and the voluntary and community sector.

A number of key priorities were identified through the consultation process and the determination to tackle these underpinned the vision for the Borough's Community Plan to 2010, a vision in which services work in partnership to bring about early benefits to residents. The Community Plan is currently being refreshed and an extensive consultation process is now underway.

To fulfil this vision, key partners have agreed to focus service activities on the priorities identified through the five cross cutting themes set out in Tower Hamlet's Community Plan, which seeks to make Tower Hamlets:

- **A Better Place for Living Safely** – reducing crime and making people feel safer.
- **A Better Place for Living Well** - improving housing, health, social care and the environment, reducing pollution and improving traffic conditions.
- **A Better Place for Creating and Sharing Prosperity** – bringing investment into the Borough and ensuring that all residents and business are in a position to benefit from growing economic prosperity.
- **A Better Place for Learning, Achievement and Leisure** – raising aspirations, expectations and achievement and providing the widest range of arts and leisure opportunities for all.
- **A Better Place for Excellent Public Services** – improving public services for local people to make sure they represent good value for money and are provided in ways that meet local needs.

These themes are developed in the Council's Corporate Strategic Plan and the Directorate three-year action plans. These set out action grids with objectives, key activities, milestones and success criteria detailed and time tabled. Key officers are also identified.

The Parks and Open Spaces Service (part of Cultural Services) works to support these corporate objectives. We have been key contributors to the revised Cultural Services framework document, to update targets and priorities for the next five years. We have taken the joint lead in preparing the Playing Pitch Strategy, which is compliant with Sport England guidance.

A.2 Public consultation

The Borough follows a policy of active consultation and involvement with the community. Its aims and objectives reflect this and details are therefore subject to change. The Borough has set up 8 Local Area Partnerships to increase the participation of the local community in local issues and developments.

From market research and consultation exercises, it is clear that local people are most concerned about basic issues such as dog mess, security, park keeping and cleanliness; a

large majority of people think that well-maintained parks promote social responsibility, increased use and reduced vandalism.

A.3 Best Value Review:

The Best Value review of the former Horticulture Services Division was adopted by Cabinet in June 2003. The review findings have been embedded in the Open Space Strategy and the restructure of the Parks Service.

A.4 Open Space Strategy and Play Strategy

The Open Space Strategy for Tower Hamlets was adopted on 11 January 2006.

<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/planning/data/planning-policy/downloads/evidence/open-space-strategy.pdf>

Key objectives of the open space strategy are to:

1. Provide and maintain information on open space in Tower Hamlets (using a Geographic Information System).
2. Establish demand and residents' views
3. Enhance protection of existing open space (given the intense local pressure to develop land for housing, education and other social needs),
4. Identify ways of providing more open space and improving access to open space
5. Improve the quality of the Council's own public open spaces and to prioritise investment.

Objectives 3 and 4 will be delivered through the legal controls that flow from the policies in the Local Development Framework.

The Borough's strategy for play "Play Matters in Tower Hamlets: A Strategic Approach to Play in Tower Hamlets" was adopted by Cabinet on 4/7/07.

[http://modgov.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Published/C00000320/M00002027/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](http://modgov.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Published/C00000320/M00002027/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)

This document is intended to raise the profile of play for children and young people, to map provision and to identify deficiencies in play services, play space provision and quality as well as the means to address them. In addition it is used to bid for funds (from such bodies as the BIG Lottery Fund for Play) to improve provision whether for play services or for capital investment.

Both these strategies were prepared in accordance with guidance from the Greater London Authority.

A.5 Planning policies

The current primary land use documents for Tower Hamlets are the 1998 Unitary Development Plan which was adopted as the council's statutory development plan on 2nd December 1998 and some elements of the emerging Local Development Framework. These are strategic documents that establish the land use and planning framework for the borough. Together with the Mayor's Plan for London they are the primary reference for all planning decisions.

The Local Development Framework, which is in the process of being adopted, defines the land use at Island Gardens as public open space. This protects it from development. The LDF was submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2006, but following discussions with the Government Office for London, the Council's Cabinet (September 2007) resolved to withdraw it and recast the plans. Formal confirmation of the withdrawal was provided by Government on 4 October 2007. The protected status of this public open space is not expected to change.

A.6 Tower Hamlets Biodiversity Action Plan: Habitat Action Plan for Parks, Squares and Burial Grounds

“Tower Habitats” is a group of voluntary sector bodies and Council officers co-operating to prepare and deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan for Tower Hamlets. The Plan was adopted on 24 March 2004, following consultation. The group has started work to review and revise the Plan and consultation will begin in February 2008, for adoption in December 2008. The current Parks, Squares and Burial Grounds Habitat Action Plan contains detailed actions and targets to increase the area and value for wildlife of the various types of park in the Borough. For the current plan, see <http://www.towerhabitats.org/TowerHabitatsLBAP.pdf>

A.7 Health and Safety

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Corporate Health and Safety Policies apply in all parks. The policies are available on request.

The Borough is committed to promoting the Health, Safety and Welfare of all employees and of the public who come into contact with its premises and services. It is the policy of the Directorate to develop a positive Health and Safety culture throughout the organisation because we believe that good safety is good business. This Health and Safety Policy intends to set the ground rules through which continuous improvement of the standards of Health, Safety and Welfare of all employees and clients can be achieved. The safety policies are in accordance with section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and are revised on a regular basis. Their implementation is checked regularly by the Directorate’s H&S officer.

Risk assessments have been carried out for parks’ workers, with an emphasis on those staff who face the most regular risks, namely ranger staff. Risk control measures are in place and are reviewed in the light of changing practice.

All Fountains Support Services Ltd’ staff have induction and basic H&S training. Risk assessments are done and staff must meet the resulting codes of practice. All cleansing staff have manual handling training. Staff have additional training in accordance with their duties and the tools / machinery they are required to use, such as first aid, chainsaw, RoSPA playground checking training and so on.

A.8 Complaints procedure

Tower Hamlets has a three-stage complaints procedure. Stage 1 tries to resolve problems informally face to face and stage 2 is formal (with complaints received in writing or by phone in one of 8 languages or by minicom). Complaints are acknowledged, investigated and responded to in 20 working days. The complainant then has the right of appeal to the chief executive (20 days). If the matter is still not resolved, the individual can thereafter take the matter up with the Local Government Ombudsman to ensure the Council has acted fairly and in accordance with its agreed procedures. See:

<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/your-council/data/complain.cfm>

In addition, officers must respond to enquiries made by councillors or MPs within 10 working days. These are rigorously monitored.

A.9 Equalities

Equalities issues are taken seriously in an area with a high proportion of minority ethnic group residents and the department has a number of initiatives to foster good race relations. All sports clubs that make sports pitch bookings are required to sign and adhere to the Borough’s Anti-Racism in Sport Charter. The department encourages events that celebrate ethnic diversity and racial harmony.

A.10 Park bye-laws

The current byelaws need to be reviewed. The Parks and Open Spaces Service proposes to draw up and adopt new ones in due course but this is not a high priority for the department at present.

A.11 Use of pesticides

The Parks and Open Spaces Service is moving away from chemicals wherever possible; replacing their use with cultural and manual methods.

- No herbicides or pesticides are used in Green Flag sites or play grounds, on either hard surfaces or on planted areas, except for persistent weeds such as Japanese Knotweed are chemically treated with a contact herbicide (Glyphosate) at least twice in a season.
- Browntail moth infestations are pruned out and the arisings disposed of. It is many years since the Borough permitted the use of organophosphate pesticides.
- Rats and other pests are monitored and outbreaks controlled only as and when necessary.

In non-Green Flag sites, there is a weed-killing contract for the control of weeds in selected situations. There is no blanket application of spray. A reactive control methodology is in place; weeds are sprayed out (spot treated) with a contact herbicide (Glyphosate) only where they have germinated. This restricts applications to lightly trafficked paved areas. A maximum of three applications is made each year. In exceptional circumstances a residual herbicide may be used to provide control in known problem areas (now fewer than ten sites), though the emphasis remains on the reduction of usage of this type of herbicide.

A.12 Corporate Environment Strategy

The council seeks to efficiently undertake its duties with the minimum of environmental impact. The strategy was adopted by Cabinet on 6th June 2007.

<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk:80/data/environment/data/strategy/index.cfm>

This deals with the Borough's direct environmental impacts as a council. It identifies the initiatives which need to be undertaken in order to minimise our impact on the environment and what outcomes we can expect to achieve as a result. It covers the following key issues:

- Transport
- Energy management
- Water management
- Waste management
- Procurement

The Parks and Open Spaces Service will abide by this strategy, its priorities and action plan once adopted. We expect to need to make many changes in both thinking and practice, both ourselves and with our contractors and third sector partners.

The Borough has adopted guidelines for sustainable purchasing which are available to staff on <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk:80/data/environment/data/strategy/index.cfm>

A.13 Fountains Support Services Ltd Environmental Policy

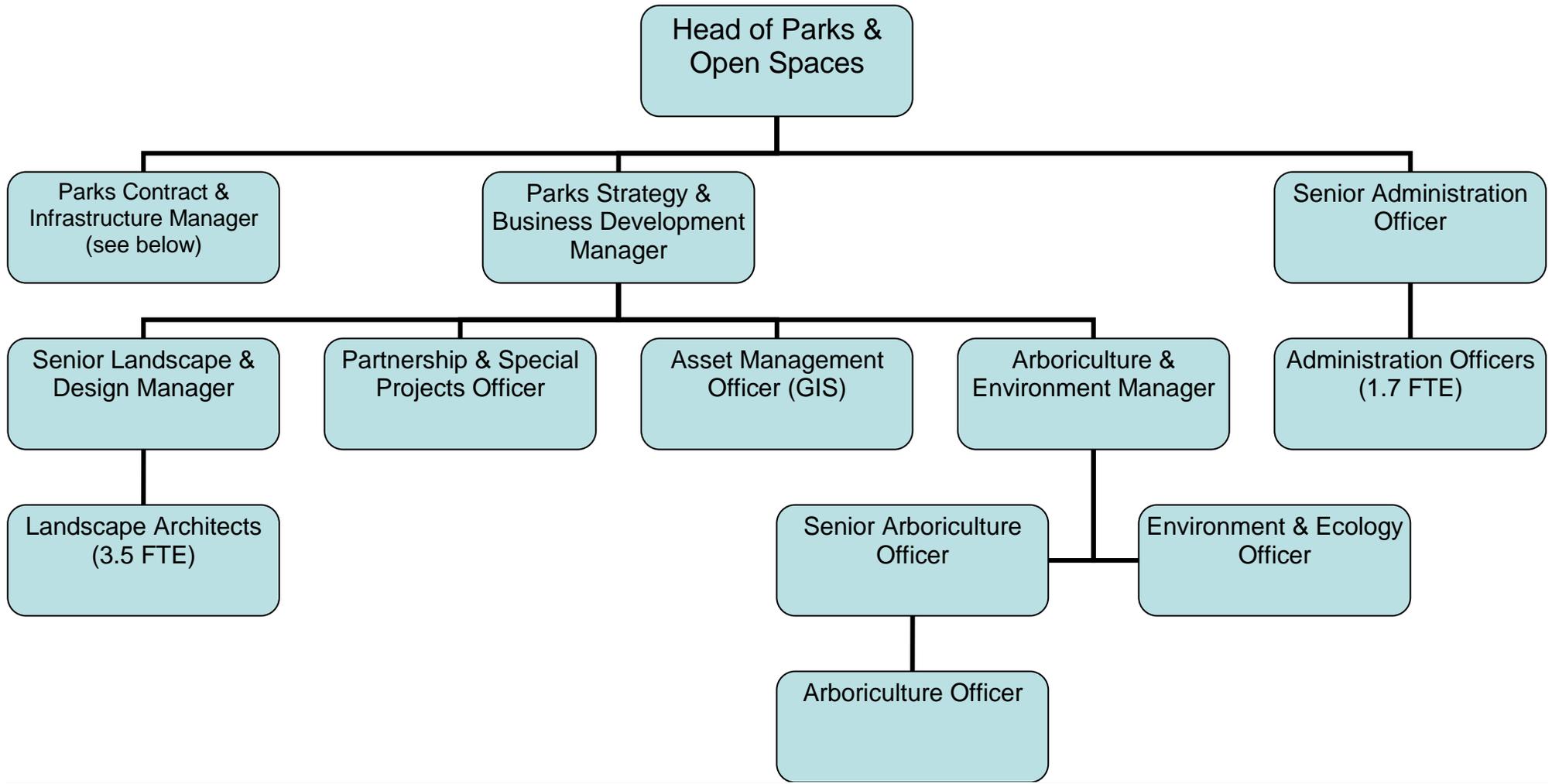
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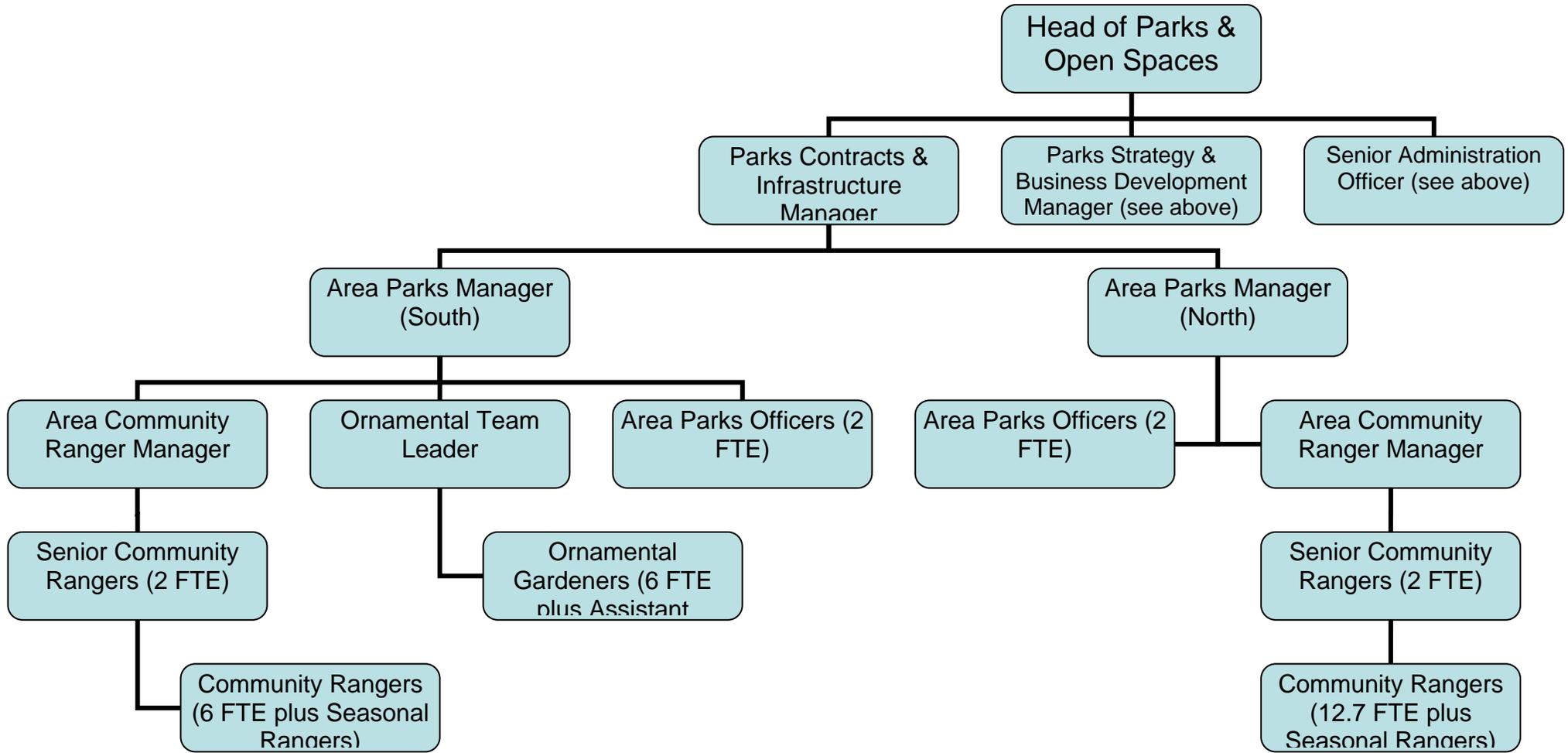
www.fountainsplc.com

APPENDIX B

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

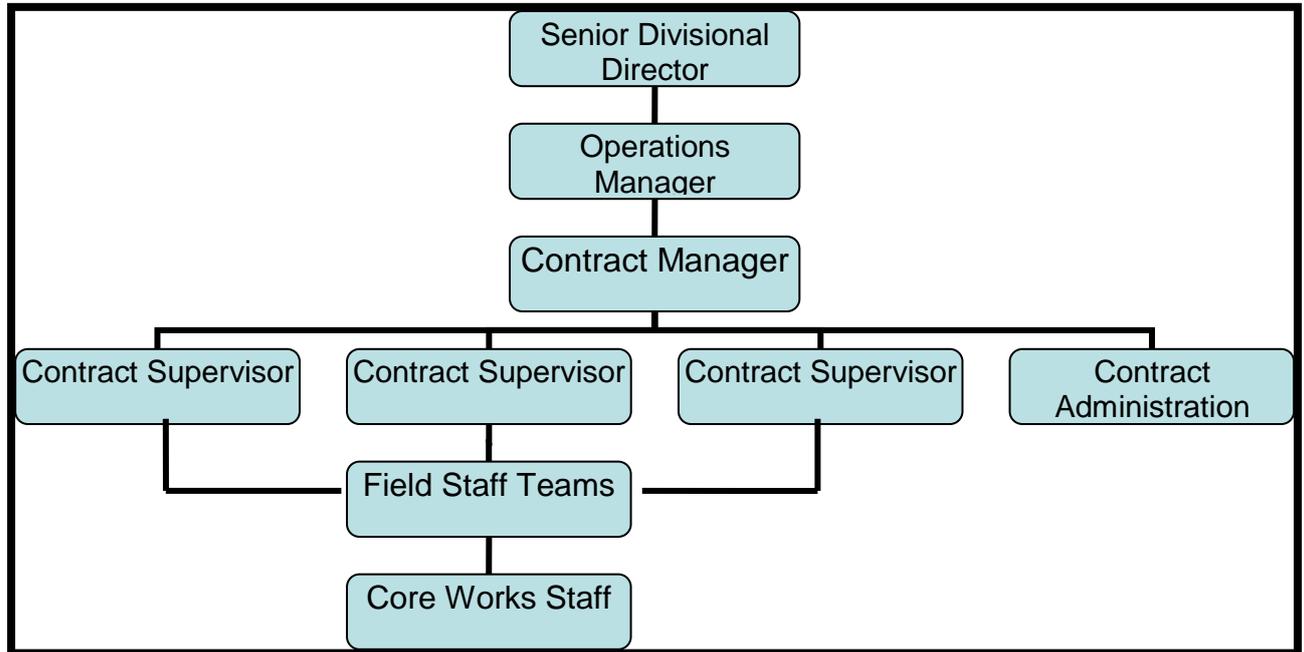
B.1 TOWER HAMLETS PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SERVICE





APPENDIX B.2
FOUNTAINS SUPPORT SERVICES LTD.
TOWER HAMLETS' TEAM

fountains plc. Tower Hamlets Operating Chart



Staff Welfare

fountains plc makes the following provisions to ensure the welfare of its staff:

- Safety training
- Personal Protection Equipment
- Training on job-specific machinery & equipment
- Ensuring machinery is correctly chosen and maintained to provide user safety
- Hand wash facilities in all vehicles
- First Aid kits
- Toolbox talks, including site specific risk assessments
- Incident, Accident and Near-miss Reporting Procedures, including a 24 hour incident reporting line.

Permanent Staff Development

fountains plc aims to invest in and retain staff. The company undertake to train all staff to a minimum NVQ Level 1, up to NVQ Level 4 and 5 to ensure that the next generation of management stays within the Borough.

Image, Uniform & Customer Care

fountains seek to establish good community relations by being a visible and approachable presence. All vehicles are liveried with **fountains** logo, and all staff carry photo ID cards, wear corporate clothing and are issued with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment.

All **fountains** staff are trained to communicate clearly with the public and deal with any queries in a knowledgeable, professional and courteous manner. Part of **fountains** Competence Management procedure includes the assessment of communication abilities where these are required by site circumstances.

APPENDIX B.3

B.3 FIDO MACHINE FOR CLEANING DOG WASTE

(Faeces Intake and Disposal Operation)

FIDO is manufactured on a Kawasaki Mule 550, street legal utility vehicle, which can be fitted with a weather break cab and sides. With low-pressure ground tyres, it can mount kerbs with ease without damaging wheel rims or pavements, and is ideal for travelling across grassed areas and streets collecting dog faeces or litter, without damaging the grass. Being street legal not only enables easy transportation between parks, it also allows removal of dog faeces or litter from paths, grass verges and streets on the way.



The collection unit contains its own engine, which drives a powerful vacuum unit capable of collecting 120 litres of all types of dog faeces. Once collected into a stainless steel container, it is mixed with disinfectant and water, which turns into slurry, leaving it pourable for disposal. A disinfectant spray pump is also fitted, not only to ease removal of stubborn faeces, but also to wash and disinfect the offending areas helping to protect children from toxocara canis.

The above system is used on a weekly basis within all of the Boroughs sites to ensure pathways and grassed areas are kept clear of dog faeces, particular attention is paid to sports surfaces prior to the commencement of matches.

APPENDIX C
C.1 RISK ASSESSMENTS

TOWER HAMLETS PARKS: RISK ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION	Island Gardens	DATE	21 st December 2007
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SITE ELEMENT OR ACTIVITY	Recreational Use
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HAZARDS IDENTIFIED	PERSONS AT RISK						LOSS/SEVERITY				LIKELIHOOD			RISK LEVEL	RISK CONTROL	
	E	YP	CON	PUB	VIS	Other	HIGH	MED	LOW	HIGH	MED	LOW				
							Fatal Injury 4	Major Injury 3	Serious Injury 2	Minor Injury 1	Certain 5	Prob 4	Poss 3			Occ'l 2
Note: Any serious and IMMINENT DANGER will need procedures, etc.																

Aggressive Violent Members of Public	X		X					X						X		6	Staff training, radio communication, support telephone numbers
Potential trip hazards, catching fingers in gates. Damaged and vandalised seating	X	X	X	X	X			X						X		6	Staff monitoring / site inspections active repairs
Potential risk of falling in to the Thames over fence	X	X	X	X	X		X							X		4	Regular site inspections by park staff. Repairs

line																		and maintenance programme in place

Full Assessment required if '**Severity**' multiplied by '**likelihood**' exceeds 3
Key - Employee, Young Person, **CON**tractor, **PUB**lic, **VIS**itors, **Other** (Specify)
High 20 - 8, Medium 6 - 4, Low 3 and below

Priority order is determined by the value of severity **X** likelihood, higher numbers give higher priority. For equal values the more severe outcomes are given priority, then the people at risk.

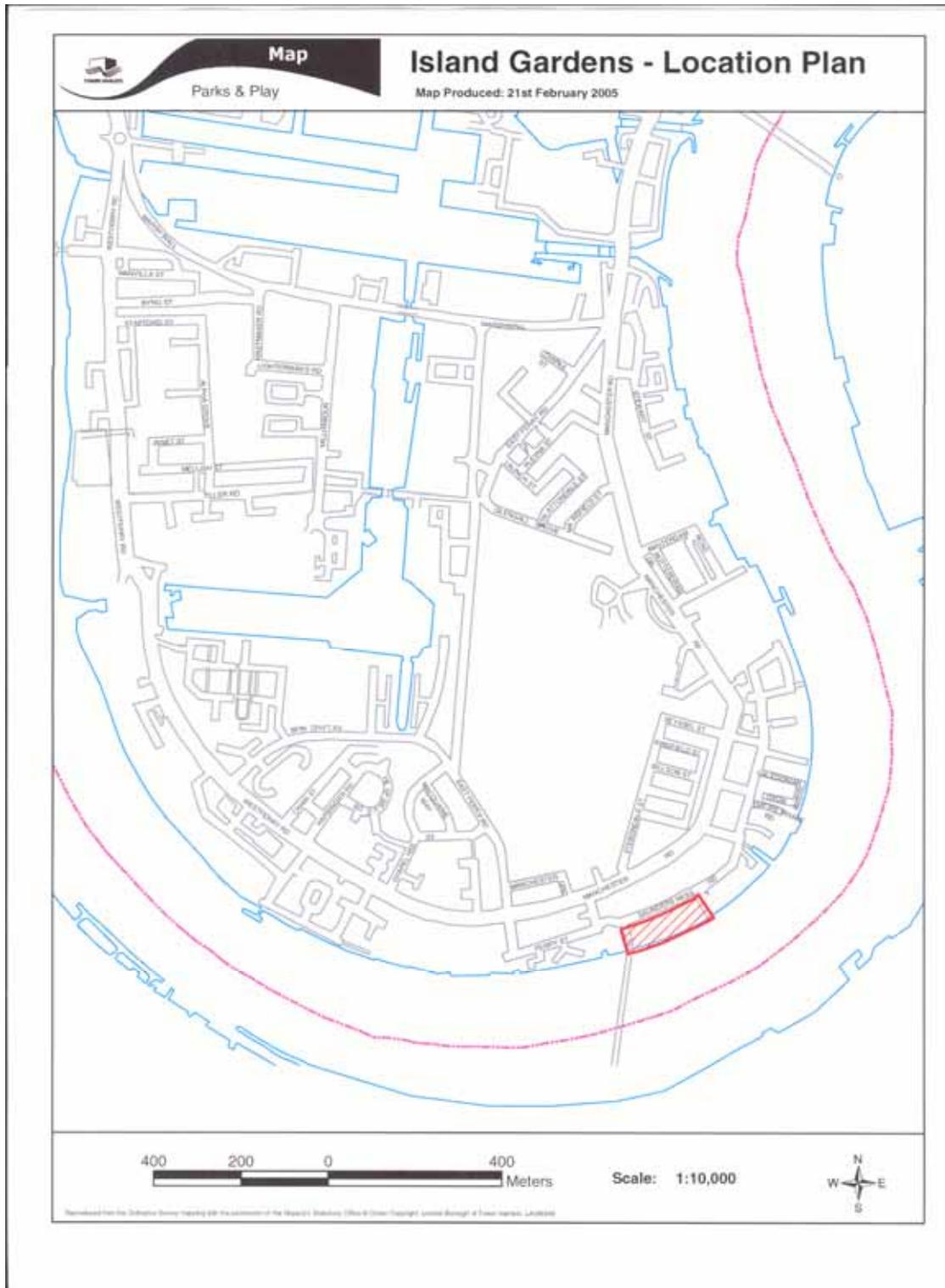
APPENDIX C.2
MATERIALS AND FURNITURE SCHEDULE

ISLAND GARDENS - SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS AND FURNITURE

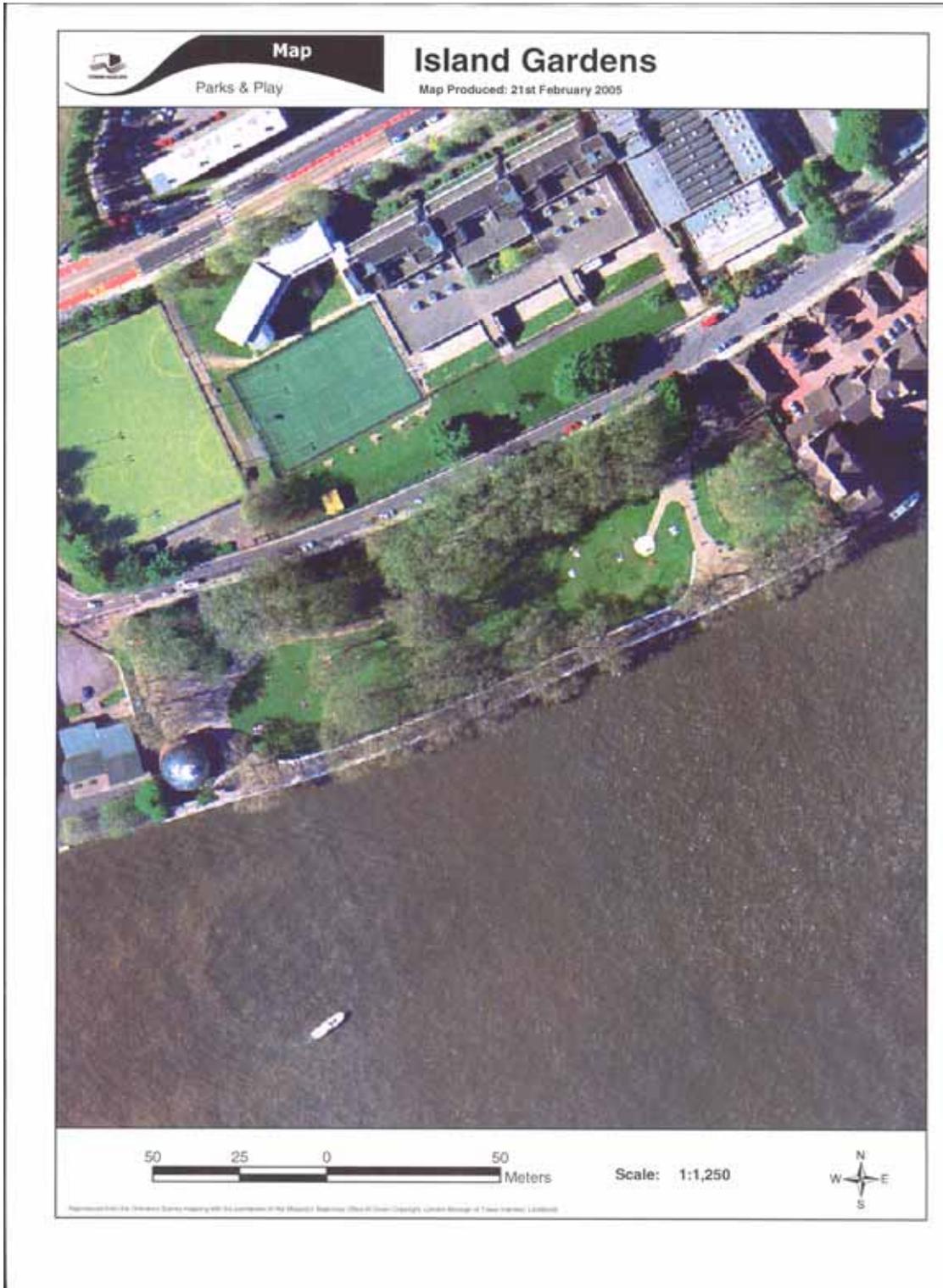
	<u>Location:</u>		<u>Manufacturer:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>	<u>Colour:</u>
Furniture:		bench	Victor Stanley Inc.	RB-28	black
		litter Bin	Victor Stanley Inc.	S-35	black
		litter Bin	Victor Stanley Inc.	S-42	black
		dog bin	Earth Anchors Ltd	HG45A	red
	Picnic area	table/seat	Townscape Products Ltd	YV1014BGF	forest green
	Café terrace	table/seat	Townscape Products Ltd	A/VOL/DIN/29	forest green
		bicycle stand			black
Paving:	Paths	'Synergy' 6-10 mm	Foster Yeoman		golden
	Picnic area	450 x 450 x 50 mm pc concrete slab	Redland Precast	E50	buff
	Parks yard	macadam			black
	Bandstand base	70 x 70 mm setts	Blanc de Bierge		cream
	Apron to Tunnel Head House	450 x 450 x 50 mm pc concrete slab	Redland Precast	E50	natural
	Main entrance	100 x 200 x 80 mm block paving	Marshalls Mono Ltd	KeyBlok	brindle
Edging:	River walk - steps	cast stone	Mooncrete		white
	River wall - copings	cast stone	Mooncrete		white
	Path edgings	cast stone	Mooncrete		white
	'woodland walk'	galvanised mild steel			
Walls:	Western boundary	brick	Ibstock	Aldridge smooth red RE4	
	Parks yard	brick	Ibstock	Laybrook capital brown BR7	
	Saunders Ness Road boundary		Redland	Haunchwood smooth	

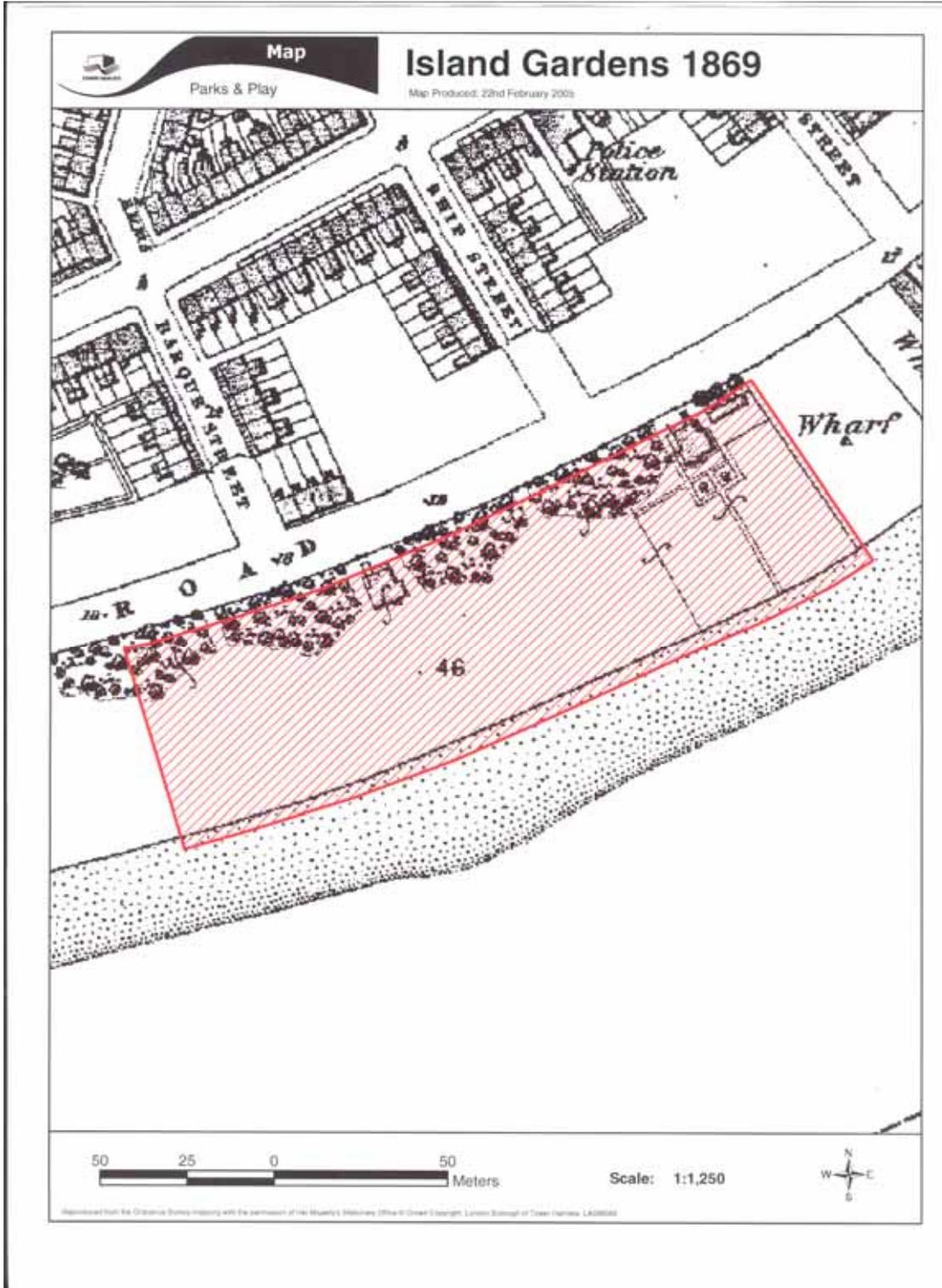
				BR043	
Metalwork:	Railings and gates	galvanised mild steel paint finish	Sika Ltd	Icosit High Build	black
	Pergola	galvanised mild steel paint finish			green BS 14 C 40
Lighting:	River walk	Saturn 1 column	Woodhouse UK plc	SX 470 17-2	black (posts)
	Main entrance	Opal spheres	Woodhouse UK plc	SX 138 22-2	black (posts)

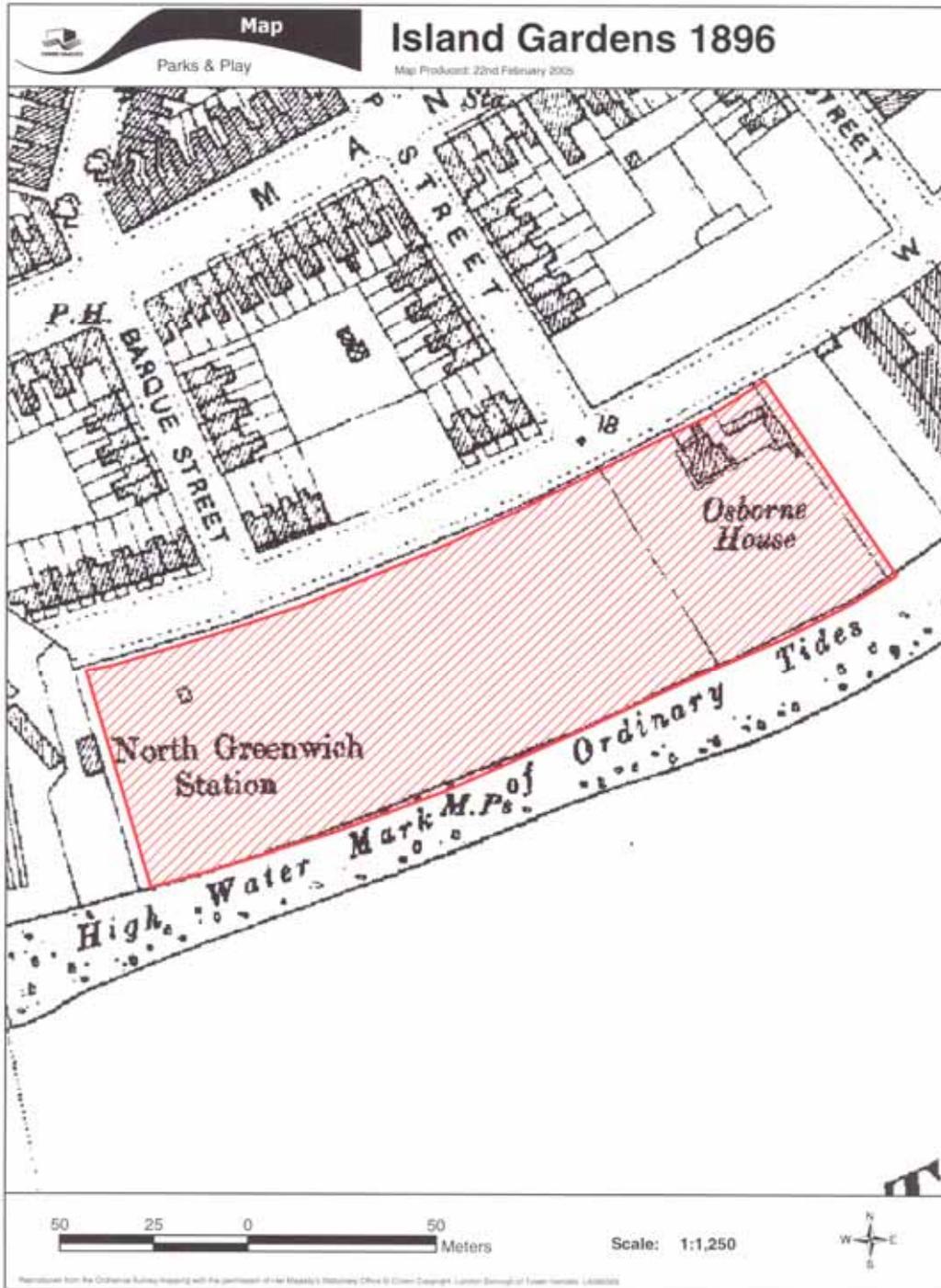
APPENDIX D **MAPS AND DRAWING**

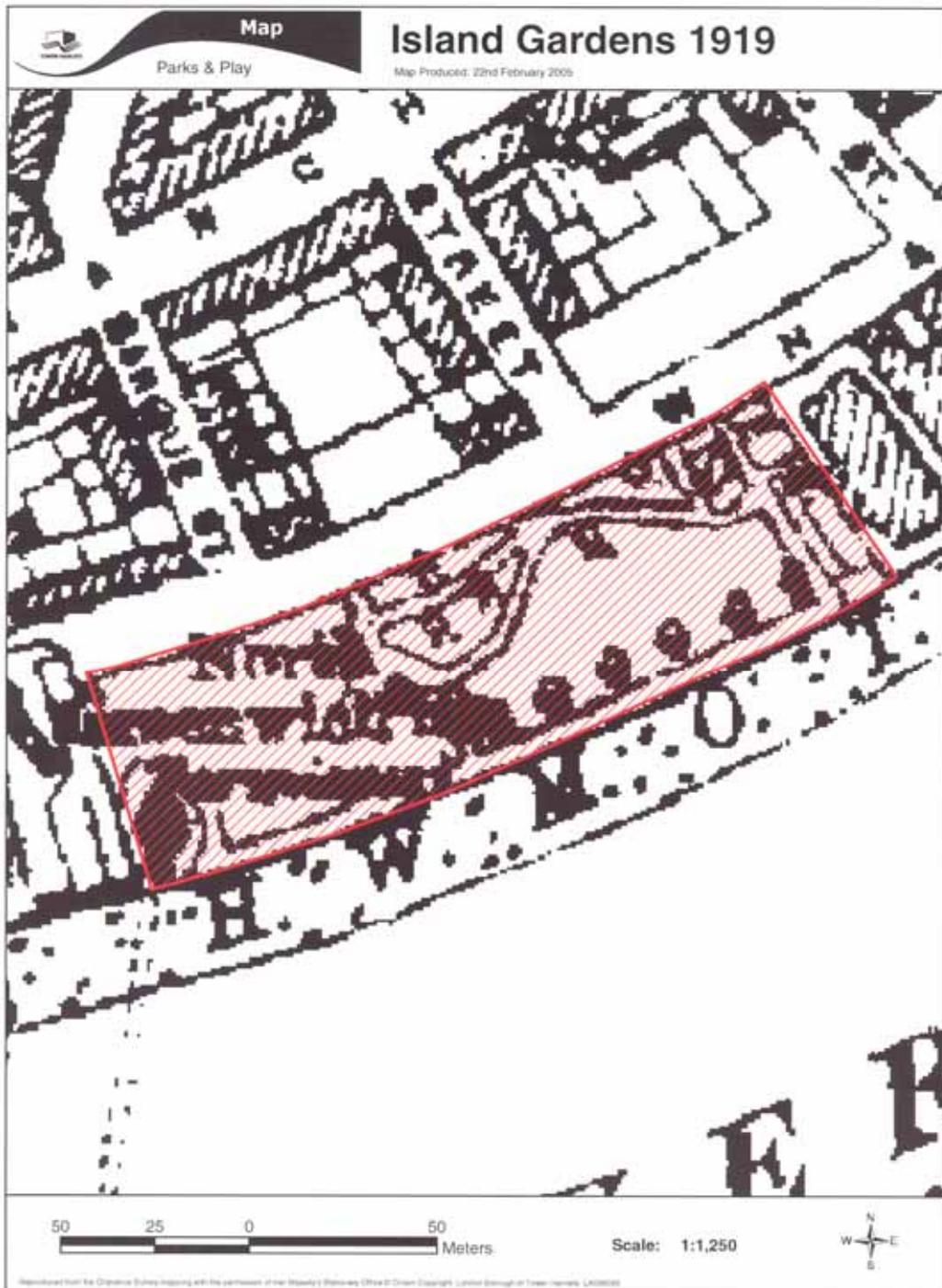


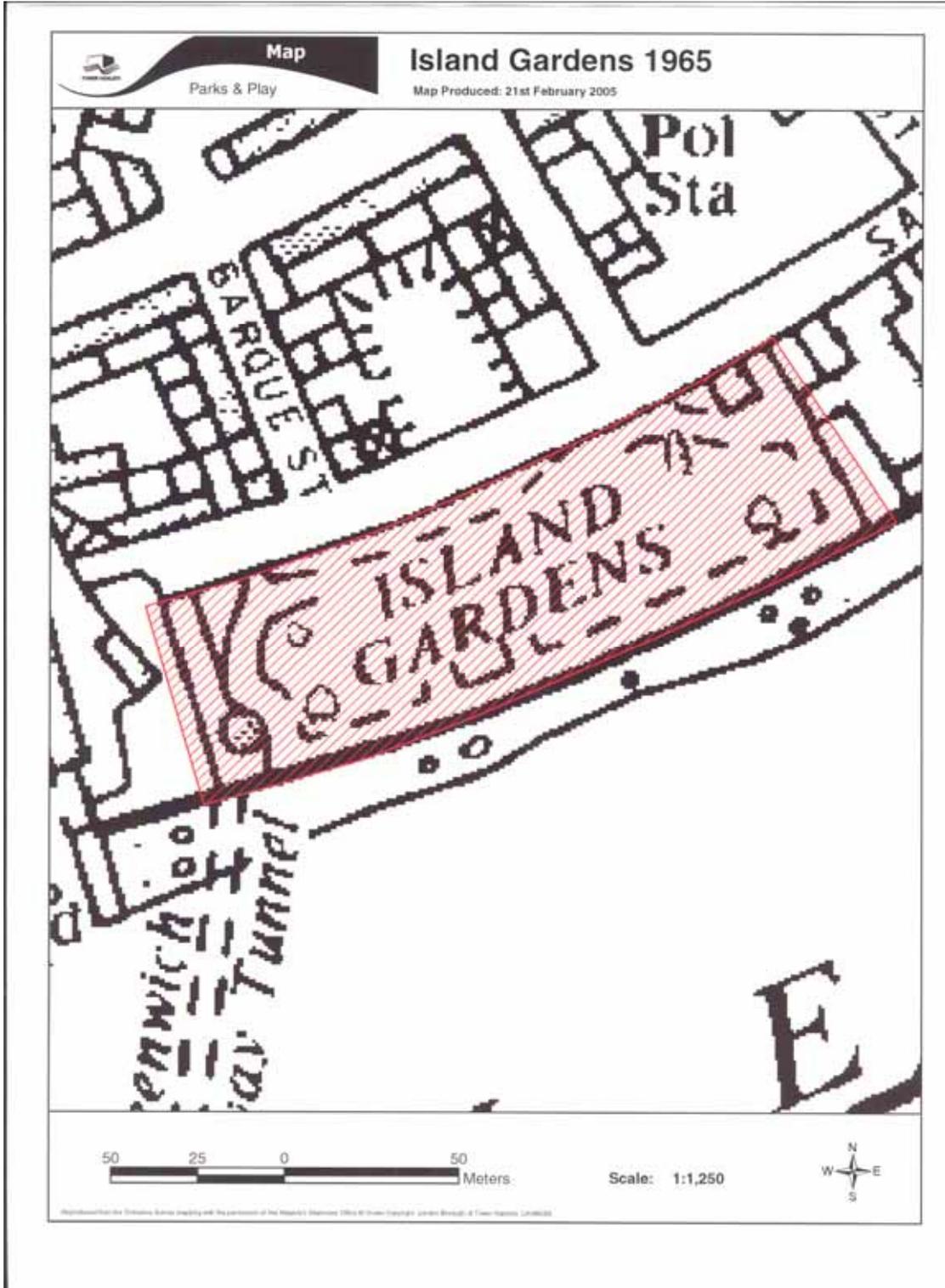


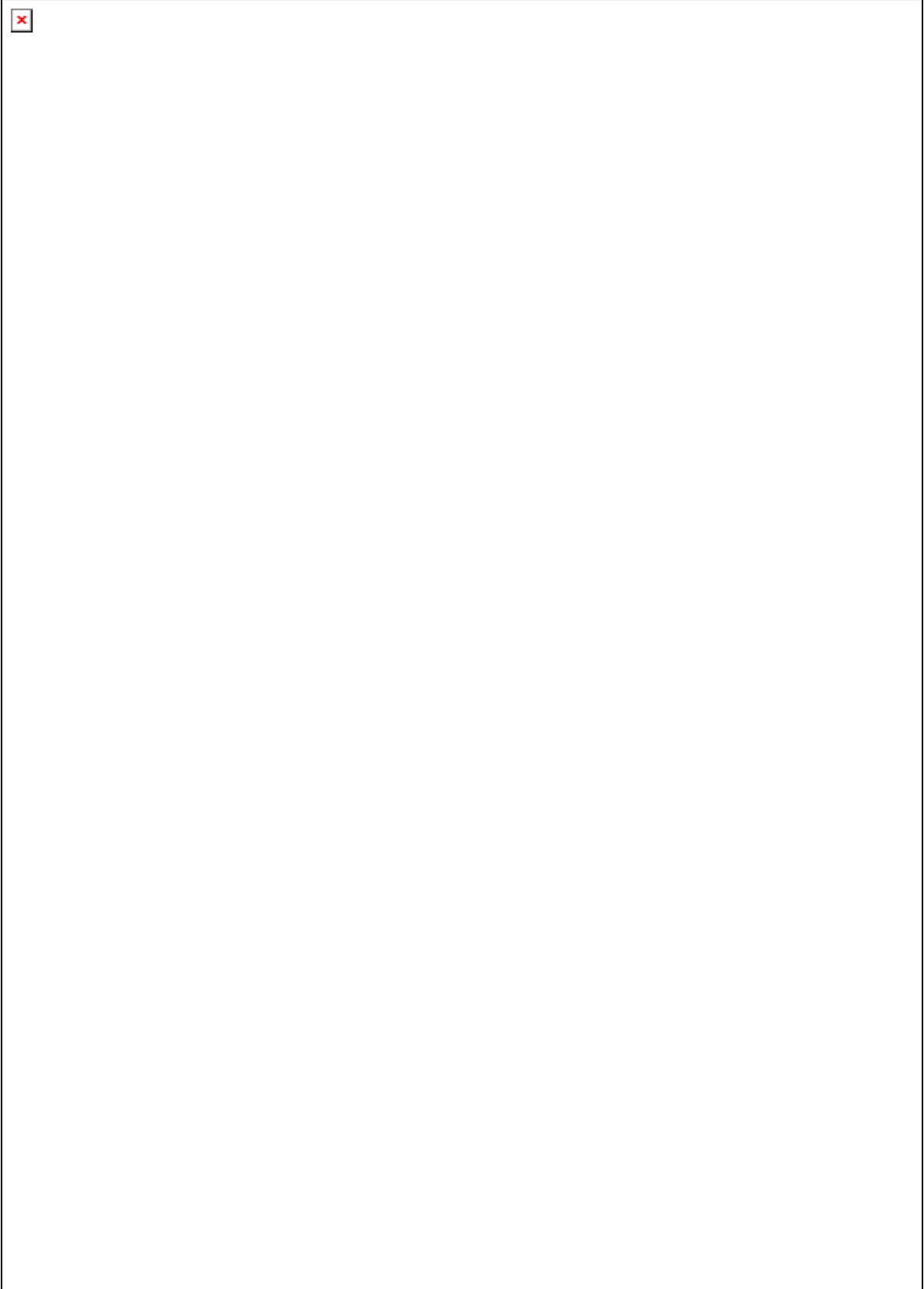
















Island Gardens before restoration works in the early 1990s

