

ACID GRASSLAND (HAP)

Acid grassland is associated with acidic soils (pH 4 to 5.5) that are free-draining and low in nutrients. It contains a diversity of fine-leaved grasses and wildflowers such as red fescue, sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw and harebell. Richmond has the largest total area of acid grassland in Greater London, where you can also find nationally scarce plants such as clustered clover, upright chickweed and autumn squill. This habitat is also important for butterflies and a large range of invertebrates, which attract many birds such as the green woodpecker. Also of importance are the small mammals, reptiles and various fungi such as the brightly coloured waxcaps. Top sites that you can visit include:

- 🌿 Richmond Park
- 🌿 Bushy Park
- 🌿 Home Park
- 🌿 Barnes and Ham Commons



ANCIENT PARKLAND & VETERAN TREES (HAP)

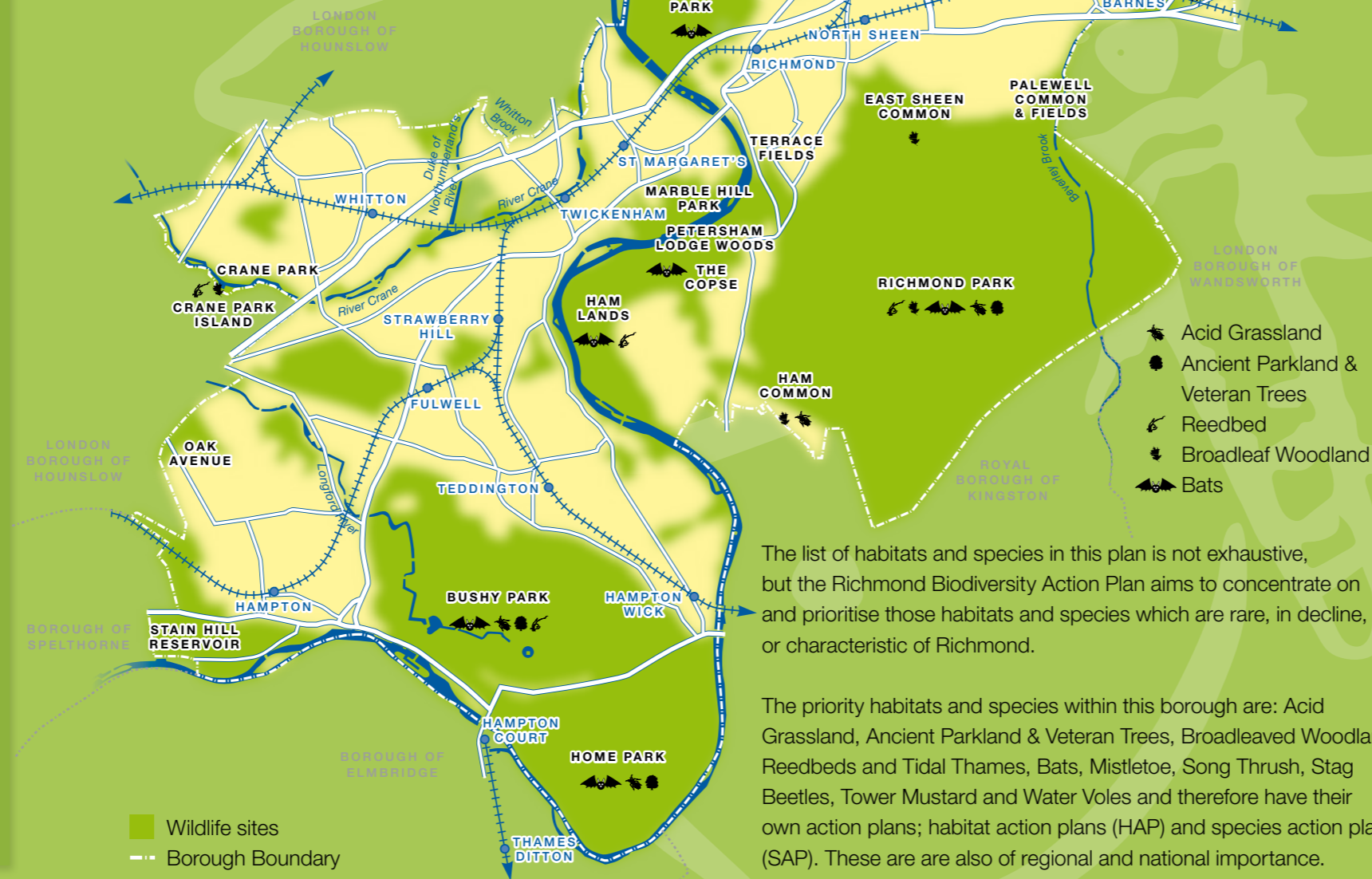
Veteran trees are often found in Ancient Parklands where the landscape has been browsed by herds of deer for many generations. There are more veteran trees in the London Borough of Richmond than France and Germany combined and the habitat supports many species including thousands of rare insects and countless birds. Veteran trees are defined as 'trees, which by virtue of their great age, size or condition are of great value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife'. However the age of a veteran tree will depend upon species. A veteran Birch might be less than 100 years whilst some Yews are reputed to be 2000 years old. Veteran Oaks are typically 300-1000 years old.

- 🌳 Bushy Park
- 🌳 Richmond Park
- 🌳 Wetland Centre



Wildlife sites within the London Borough of Richmond

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames sets out the framework for the protection, conservation and enhancement of wildlife within Richmond upon Thames.



The list of habitats and species in this plan is not exhaustive, but the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan aims to concentrate on and prioritise those habitats and species which are rare, in decline, or characteristic of Richmond.

The priority habitats and species within this borough are: Acid Grassland, Ancient Parkland & Veteran Trees, Broadleaved Woodland, Reedbeds and Tidal Thames, Bats, Mistletoe, Song Thrush, Stag Beetles, Tower Mustard and Water Voles and therefore have their own action plans; habitat action plans (HAP) and species action plans (SAP). These are also of regional and national importance.

REEDBED (HAP)

Reedbeds are areas of shallow water dominated by a very tall wetland grass called Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. Historically the Thames estuary would have supported extensive reedbeds, but these wet areas have mostly been drained and the land put to other uses. Many reedbeds are recent, man-made habitats, quickly colonised by some interesting and uncommon wildlife. Reedbeds in Richmond occur at the margins of all kinds of water bodies and alongside several other habitats including wet woodland and Willow dominated scrub. Elusive birds such as Water Rails and Sedge Warblers hide alongside the endangered Water Vole, making reedbeds a focal point for all naturalists and bird watchers in particular.

- 🌿 Bushy Park
- 🌿 Crane Park Island
- 🌿 Richmond Park



BROADLEAF WOODLAND (HAP)

Richmond has almost 1200 acres (500 hectares) of woodland making it the third most wooded borough in London. We all love trees and it's not just eccentric wildlife enthusiasts that enjoy a walk through nice woodland! Woodland habitats generally support more wildlife when they comprise of a variety of native trees and shrubs. Woodlands with a matrix of habitats including wide rides, glades of woodland flowers, ponds, low scrub layers and tall, towering trees will be richer in biodiversity. Where decaying wood habitats such as fallen branches and 'dead' trees are retained a suite of wildlife including fungi, beetles and hole nesting birds will also be supported.

- 🌳 Crane Park
- 🌳 Ham Common
- 🌳 Richmond Park



BATS (SAP)

Bats are nocturnal flying mammals that navigate by echolocation – a system that is so effective a single pipistrelle bat can catch around 3000 midges per night! There are 17 species of bats in the UK and at least 10 of these are present in the Borough. Bats are intelligent, long-lived mammals with complex social behaviour and lifestyles. They need safe flying routes between the places used to roost, hibernate, breed and feed which make them vulnerable to changes in the landscape. Even our most abundant bat, the pipistrelle is estimated to have declined by 70% between 1978 and 1993. All UK bats and their roosts are protected (even if bats are not present). There is a national bat helpline - 0845 1300 228 or visit www.bats.org.uk

- 🦇 Wetland Centre
- 🦇 Bushy Park
- 🦇 Richmond Park

