Grassland Habitat Action Plan

"*Many eyes go through the meadow, but few see the flowers in it.*"

Ralph Waldo Emerson

1 Aims

- To maintain and enhance the ecological health of existing grasslands and ensure that management is appropriate. Any unavoidable loss should be adequately compensated with the securement of a Biodiversity Net Gain.
- To create new grasslands and extend existing areas
- Raise the awareness amongst Council Officers and the public of the importance of grassland and encourage appreciation across the borough.

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2 Introduction

During the interchange between the Late Pleistocene and the Early Holocene as glaciers retreated northward (approximately 12,000 years ago), large areas of previously ice covered land were colonised by a range of grasses, sedges and herb species creating grassland

environments. Grasslands also existed in areas where trees were lost over time, such as on floodplains or woodland clearings. If not grazed or disturbed by wild animals or other natural events such as wildfires, these grasslands would naturally progress through ecological succession and transition into scrub and woodland. However, it wasn't until human activities intensified around 6,000 years ago that grassland began to expand, with the advent of agriculture and the domestication of wild animals.

Today UK grasslands cover approximately 40% of our landmass. However, only 2% are classified as semi natural species-rich grasslands and over 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s. Grasslands can be broadly divided into two categories: upland and lowland. Upland grasslands exist up to 300 metres above sea level therefore all the grasslands within Kingston would be described as lowland grasslands. Grasslands can also be divided into three broad types; these are **acidic, calcareous** and **neutral,** all of which exist to some extent within the borough. According to GiGL data, grasslands cover approximately 26% (985 hectares) of the total land area in Kingston, making grassland the most widely distributed habitat type in the borough.

Acidic grassland covers approximately 6.5% of the UK with London providing 4% of the national coverage. Typically, they are situated in unfertile areas with low-nutrient, acidic sandy soils (pH 4 to 5.5), which were often used by our ancestors as common grazing land and support rich biodiversity. Good quality acid grassland supports between 20-25 species per square metre and flowers are generally small and grow close to the ground. Therefore, it is important that the sward is kept short to enable this competitive environment; best achieved through grazing practices. Botanic taxa which are commonly associated with acid grassland include common bent, red and sheep's fescues, mat grass and others. Alongside the grasses grow wildflowers like sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw, tormentil, harebell, common stork's-bill, heath milkwort and bird's foot trefoil. Nationally scarce plants found in London's acid grassland include clustered clover, upright chickweed and autumn squill.

The borough is surrounded by notable sites which support acid grassland, such as Richmond Park, Bushy Park and Wimbledon Common. We are fortunate to have large sites within the north of the borough supporting this habitat type - most notably the Coombe Hill Golf Course, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation of Metropolitan Importance. Coombe Wood golf course also supports acid grassland and smaller sites include a meadow at Kingston University's Kingston Hill Campus and parts of Malden Golf Course.

Calcareous grasslands are famous for their floristic richness, which can be in excess of 40 species per square metre and can support an array of invertebrates. This is a rare habitat type that only covers 0.2% of the UK landmass, resulting from chalk or hard limestone geology and was typically heavily grazed by introduced sheep dating back to the Mesolithic. There is a significant band of chalk that lies to the south of the borough stretching across the neighbouring boroughs of Epsom & Ewell and Sutton, which formed 66 - 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the area was dominated by warm chalk seas. This geology supports chalk grasslands in surrounding boroughs, whereas they are rare in RBK due to the primary geology being London Clay. However, there are small areas of calcareous grassland recorded in Seething Wells (currently in a poor condition) and The

Meadowlands, which have a tenuous connection to this geology and are influenced by introduced substrates and/or inundation from chalk streams.

Neutral grassland, also known as mesotrophic grassland, is the dominant type of (semi or unimproved) grassland found in Kingston's nature reserves and SINCs. These areas are typically cut for hay or grazing pasture and result from clay dominated soils. Neutral dry grassland usually contains a high proportion of broad leaved herbaceous species, relative to grasses, giving rise to a colourful wildflower sward in summer which is heavily used by insects such as butterflies. Within urban areas, a potential resource of species-rich grassland are grass roadside verges and formal amenity parkland. The largest example of neutral grassland in the borough is Tolworth Court Farm Fields at 42 hectares, which is currently managed with a hay crop. However, plans to introduce low intensity grazing management techniques will increase the diversity of a mosaic of habitats and ecological processes on the site. Smaller sites across the borough include the hay meadow at Fishponds Park where traditional scything techniques have now been implemented, the meadow at Tolworth Court Farm Moated Manor which is managed through traditional scything and aftermath cattle grazing, and Six Acre Meadow which is cut for hay.

Wet meadow - Where the ground is periodically waterlogged by flooding or poor drainage, the boundaries between wetlands and grasslands can be difficult to establish. Neutral wet lowland grasslands may be botanically species-rich, but are characterised by seasonal flooding and a high water table. Areas in the borough that could be regarded as wet meadows include the wet meadow to the south west Six Acre Meadow, the north-west corner of Tolworth Court Farm and some of the meadows at Elmbridge Meadows where the Hogsmill formerly ran (before being straightened).

Improved grassland - There are significant areas of farmland towards the south of the borough that support improved grasslands through the use of fertilisers. This plan advocates engagement with the landowners to encourage ecologically favourable outcomes, and regenerative farming techniques.

Amenity grassland - Across Kingston there are approximately 30 parks that support amenity grassland on enriched soils. Please refer to the PollinatorParks strategy which is looking to enhance the ecological quality of these areas, creating areas of rough grassland and wildflower areas where appropriate. Each park will have a bespoke management plan, which identifies opportunities for rough grassland and wildflower meadow creation. For highway grass verges please refer to the WildWays strategy which is looking to improve the ecological condition of roadside verges.

This document is an updated version of the previously published Habitat Management Plan for 'Grassland' which was created in 2014. This Habitat Action Plan is not intended to provide site specific context and management recommendations, but provide an overview of the current borough level situation and a framework in which site management interventions can be agreed.

3 Current status

a. **Legal/policy status –** Grasslands themselves are not legally protected but some of the species that use them are under the power of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. A survey should be undertaken to check for rare and or protected species before a development can take place.

b. **Conservation Status –** Lowland dry acid grassland, lowland calcareous grassland and neutral grassland are all listed as priority habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. (See Appendix A for list of SINC sites in RBK).

c. **Distribution**

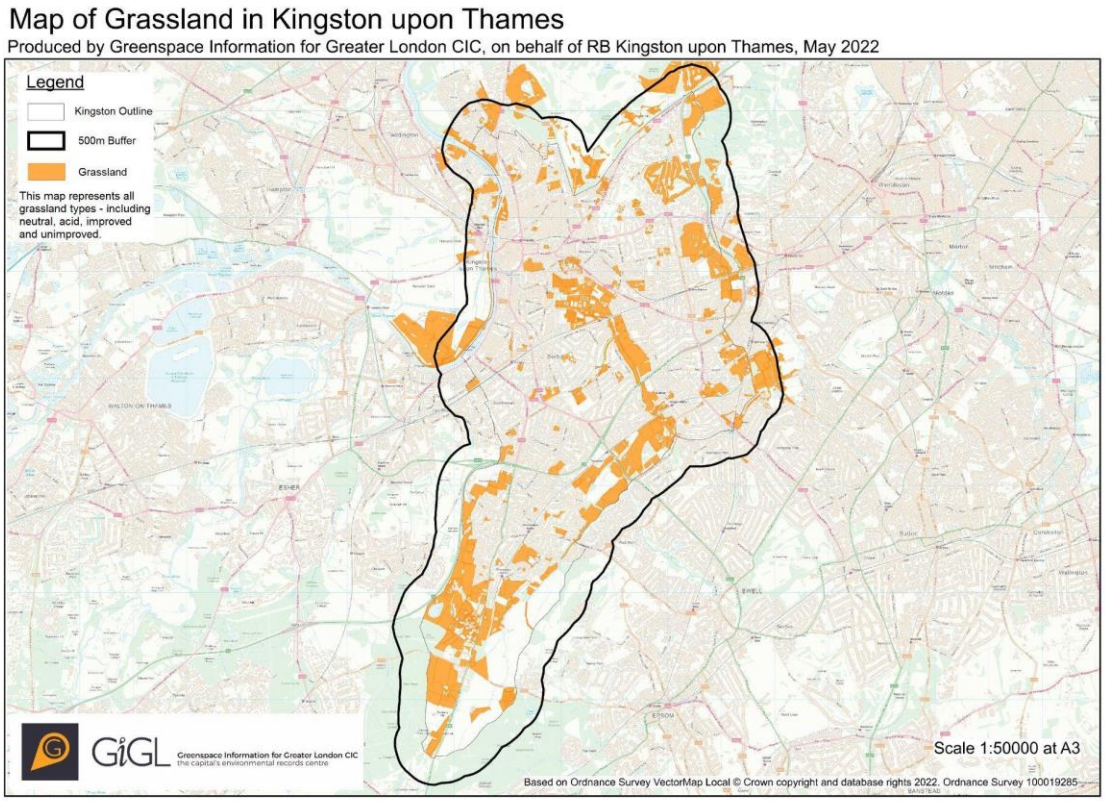

Figure 1 Distribution of grassland habitat in RBK with a 500m buffer into neighbouring boroughs.

Several grassland sites in Kingston are currently classified as “at risk” as a result of inappropriate management techniques (Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, 2020). This includes a lack of management of the neutral grassland at Old Malden Common, intensive mowing of acid grassland habitat at Coombe Wood Golf Course, overgrazing leading to a loss of wildflower species at Jubilee Meadows, and loss of species-rich calcareous grassland through the destruction of vegetation at Seething Wells.

Grassland requires management to be appropriate and effective to remain in good condition and support a characteristic composition of species. Apart from acid grassland, grasslands

generally benefits from allowing more relaxed mowing regimes whenever possible. Allowing a more diverse selection of grass and herb species to establish leads to greater structural diversity and species-richness. Using grazing management techniques on suitable sites is one step towards rewilding that can increase the diversity of a mosaic of habitats and ecological processes.

4 Associated Indicator Species

The community composition of grassland depends on a number of factors; location, climate, underlying geology, soil pH and management history to name a few. As such, there are numerous grassland types which each provide a niche for wildlife. Lowland acid grassland and lowland calcareous grassland are typically classified as species-rich. When in good condition, these can support a number of threatened plant, invertebrate and bird species. Species-rich grasslands are rare and it is therefore extremely important to protect them.

Table 1 Associated indicators of grassland habitats.

Grassland Type	Indicator Species
Acid grassland	Herbaceous: harebell, bent grasses, common bent, red and sheep's fescues, sweet vernal grass, mat-grass, wavy hair-grass, heath rush, heath bedstraw, tormentil, heath milkwort, green-ribbed sedge, pill sedge, heath wood-rush, sheep's sorrel, common stork's-bill, bird's foot trefoil. Nationally scarce plants found in London's acid grassland include clustered clover, upright chickweed and autumn squill. Mosses: springy turf-moss, reed-stemmed feather-moss, neat feather-moss, broom fork-moss, mountain fern moss. Fauna: yellow meadow ant, green woodpecker, small copper butterfly, northern brown argus butterfly, slow-worm, adder.
Damp acid grassland	Same as above. Herbaceous: soft rush.
Lowland dry acid grassland (UK priority)	Typically contain fewer of the above species. Herbaceous: early hair-grass, sheep's sorrel, parsley-piert. Mosses: springy turf-moss, whitish feather-moss, bristly hair-cap. Fauna: yellow meadow ant, mining bees and wasps, butterflies such as grayling, green hairstreak and small heath, adder.

Lowland calcareous grassland (UK priority)	Herbaceous: wild thyme, common rockrose, sheep's fescue, red fescue, crested hair-grass, meadow oat-grass, quaking grass, spring sedge, glaucous sedge, bird's-foot trefoil, ribwort plantain, purging flax. Mosses: great plait-moss, yellow feather-moss. Fauna: skylark, curlew, butterflies such as brown argus, yellow meadow ant.
Neutral grassland (UK priority)	Herbaceous: Yorkshire fog, red fescue, false oat-grass, cock's-foot, crested dog's-tail, common knapweed, red clover, bulbous buttercup, yellow rattle, ox-eye daisy, common mouse-ear, bird's-foot trefoil, ribwort plantain. Fauna: butterflies such as meadow brown and common blue, green woodpecker, goldfinch, grass snake, slow-worm, yellow meadow ant.
Damp neutral grassland	Same as above. Herbaceous: tufted hair-grass, marsh foxtail, creeping bent, soft rush.

5 Ecosystem Functionality and Services (Role in the Climate Emergency)

Grasslands and their herbaceous plant communities are among the most species-rich and widely distributed habitats on earth (Wilson *et al.,* 2012), representing approximately 40.5% of the terrestrial landscape (White *et al.,* 2000). While all grassland types have the potential to provide a wide range of ecosystem services, the degree to which they are delivered is dependent upon biotic and abiotic factors, management, ecological health and the unique and distinctive communities that comprise the different grassland types.

5.1 Carbon Sequestration

Although grasslands are less efficient at carbon sequestration than woodlands, they contribute significantly to the carbon cycle due to their abundance across the landscape. Furthermore, grasslands store around 90% of their biomass underground and act as an important reservoir of organic carbon (Gibson, 2009). Protecting and restoring grasslands could therefore play an important role in the UK's net zero strategy, especially in areas where expanding or planting woodland is not feasible.

5.2 Water Supply & Quality

Grassland habitats often support a mosaic of features, including permanent and seasonal freshwater bodies which provide us with a source of drinking water and irrigation. Therefore grasslands, alongside woodlands and wetlands, are important for regulating water quality and distribution of

water at the local and regional scales (MEA, 2005).

5.3 Fuel

Grass cuttings are widely regarded as a waste product in the UK and are often left on site in public domains due to the expense of removal. Collecting grass cuttings not only benefits flowering plants through the removal of nutrients in the system, grassland biomass can also be processed for the production of various forms of biofuel (Rowe, Street & Taylor, 2009; Abu-Dahrieh *et al.,* 2011). Cuttings can also be used to mulch hedgerow environments, which prefer higher levels of nutrients in the soil.

5.4 Climate Regulation

Urban grasslands can help to alleviate the urban heat island effect through decreasing land surface temperature by approximately 1°C on average (Sun & Chen, 2017). While urban trees and woodlands are more effective in reducing land surface temperatures during the day, open grasslands are more efficient in cooling temperatures at night, due to the lack of canopy cover which traps heat. Small greenspaces however (<0.5 ha), may not offer a substantial cooling effect (Monteiro *et al.,* 2016).

5.5 Soil Erosion Control

Grassland vegetation plays an important role in reducing soil erosion, though effectiveness is dependent upon community composition and the functional traits of plants. Root diameter, root tensile strength (de Baets *et al.,* 2008; Burylo *et al.,* 2012) and community diversity across the landscape (Pohl *et al.,* 2009; Zhu *et al.,* 2015) have all been shown to significantly influence and reduce erosion rates.

5.6 Cultural

As well as providing space for recreation, grassland ecosystems also have educational, scientific and cultural heritage values due to their unique biodiversity (Hönigová *et al.,* 2010; Sala *et al.,* 2017). Fischer *et al.* (2020) found that environmental education and information campaigns are crucial for cultivating positivity towards biodiversity-friendly greenspace management. For urban grasslands, they suggest that near-natural features combined with more classical elements, such as mowing lawn-like framing strips along the edges of tall grass meadows, could provide a more widely pleasing appearance to those who are accustomed to neat and tidy greenspaces.

5.7 Habitat for Pollinators

Wildflower-rich grasslands provide a food source for pollinators, who themselves provide goods and services to society. For example, many of the world's crops are dependent on pollinators, as well as plants used by a range of taxa from birds to bats and other invertebrates (Wilson *et al.,* 1999; Woodock *et al.,* 2006).

Despite their importance, pollinators are in global decline. This is, in part, due to the homogenisation of grasslands and the intensification of grassland management, creating uniform landscapes with low biodiversity value (Tscharntke *et al.,* 2005). Increasing the value of our grasslands to wildlife through appropriate management techniques creates potential for improving habitat for pollinators and increasing pollinator-associated services.

5.8 Pollution & Air quality

Grassland vegetation can intercept pollutants, reducing their toxicity and distribution across the landscape (Macleod & Ferrier, 2011).

6 Threats to habitat

Grassland biomes provide multiple ecosystem services to humanity but are seriously threatened by anthropogenic activities which undermine their capacity to do so. Understanding the threats to grassland ecosystems is vital to their protection and restoration.

6.1 Poor Grazing Management

Grazing is an important process which influences the structure of grassland communities. When grazing intensity is appropriate on the landscape scale (consisting of both intensively grazed and less grazed patches) structural complexity and diversity can be achieved. Where grazing isn't possible, mowing can be a suitable alternative. However, ecologically ideal mowing practices are rarely accessible or economically feasible at present.

Overgrazing and under-grazing however, can degrade grassland ecosystems leading to the reduction of resilience and ecosystem services (Andrade *et al.,* 2015). Jubilee Meadows and Winey Hill are both sites in Kingston where overgrazing has deteriorated the condition of grassland. Management recommendations include reducing grazing pressure, making changes to the cutting regime and introducing rotational management of scrub in order to restore habitat quality and diversity. If the management of Jubilee Meadows does not change, it is at risk of further ecological degradation.

Inversely, areas such as Tolworth Court Farm Moated Manor are benefiting from traditional management with scything and aftermath cattle grazing. Options, such as the choice of grazing animals used, are currently being investigated to introduce low intensity grazing to Tolworth Court Farm as part of a rewilding vision for the site.

6.2 Development

Most UK grasslands have undergone agricultural improvement, or have been cleared for urban expansion. Even protected sites suffer from development at their fringes which compound the pressures that lead to degradation, such as fragmentation, pollution, invasive species and overexploitation of water resources (Bardgett *et al.,* 2021). Furthermore, the conversion and fragmentation of grasslands can lead to a reduction in ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, water infiltration, water storage capacity and availability of wild pollinator habitat (Wick *et al.,* 2017).

6.3 Invasive Species

Climate change is predicted to provide greater opportunities for invasive species, as droughts, storms, floods and fires create gaps in vegetation canopy for colonisation, and as changes in climatic conditions such as temperature and precipitation increase the range of non-native plants into the UK (Joyce, Simpson & Casanova, 2016). Invasive species of current concern in Kingston include

goat's-rue, false-acacia and butterfly-bush.

6.4 Policy

Grasslands face a lack of representation in both national and international policy (Bardgett *et al.,* 2021). The exact reasons why grasslands receive much less attention than forests for example are unclear, though perceptions such as a low economic potential of grasslands to landowners from ecosystem services may be partly to blame. Unlike forests, grasslands are more likely to be perceived as degraded wastelands with low productivity and biodiversity value (Henderson *et al.,* 2016). Therefore, education and policies that recognise the role of grasslands in climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration and and a number of other ecosystem services are needed.

6.5 Climate Change

Grasslands like other habitats will see an increase in a number of threats due to climate change, such as the incidence of pests and disease, invasive species and extreme weather events. Elevated carbon dioxide levels as a result of climate change will boost plant growth and increase water use efficiency (Polley, 1997; Hillel & Rosenzweig, 2010). However, these benefits are likely to be outweighed by other impacts, such as limited nutrient and water availability (Hungate *et al.,* 2003). Increased temperatures alongside nutrient deposition from airborne pollutants may increase plant productivity, but these are likely to be accompanied by a reduction in biodiversity, as fast growing plants outcompete others (Weiss, 1999).

While the effects of climate change will be regional and site-specific, it is inevitable that grasslands will experience problematic changes in community composition as a result. Restoring a network of species-rich grasslands and their associated ecological processes will be crucial in mitigating climate-related impacts.

6.6 Heavy Recreational Use

Recreational use poses a number of risks to grassland biodiversity in public spaces, including soil compaction, nutrient enrichment from dog excreta, litter, increased risk of fire, fragmentation from roads and footpaths, disturbance and management practices which favour recreation rather than ecology.

7 Conservation actions (Tabulated)

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Partners	Evidence base
G01 - Encourage site managers to improve habitat quality. This is to include both traditional and pioneering techniques such as scything and grazing opportunities where possible.	2023 - ongoing	RBK	Glendale, Downlands Grazing Partnership, Friends Groups	Lowland Grassland Management Handbook - Natural England
G02 - Resist loss to hard surfacing or development. Encourage measures to improve connectivity. If loss is unavoidable, ensure appropriate compensation to be deployed. Recommend appropriate materials for paths or other 'surfaces' laid within grassland areas.	2022 - ongoing	RBK		Guidance on the Permeable Surfacing of Front Gardens - GOV.UK Sustainable Drainage Systems - Thames21 Creating, Enhancing and Managing SuDS for Wildlife - RSPB
G03 - Improved record-keeping with regard to any actions taken to extend or improve grassland habitat. Share best practice on providing clear contractor specifications and improving performance against specifications.	2023 - 2028	RBK		Glendale (Current Contractor) - Kingston.GOV Grassland Management, Nature Recovery - Theerivers.GOV WildWays - Kingston Managing Road Verges for Wildlife Trial - Transport for London

G04 - Encourage research project(s) to help define the importance of grassland within academia.	2023 - 2028	RBK	Kingston University	N/A
G05 - Research the potential for green roof developments. Provide literature review and an experimental example.	2023 - 2028	RBK		Creating Green Roofs for Invertebrates - Buglife Green Roof Guide and Code of Best Practice - GRO
G06 - All park sites to support areas of rough grassland and wildflower areas where possible.	2023 - ongoing	RBK		(See individual management plans and Pollinator Park Strategy)
G07 - Continue to expand WildWays sites on road verges.	2023 - ongoing	RBK		WildWays - Kingston
Engagement & Awareness	**Timeframe**	**Lead**	**Partners**	**Evidence base**
G08 - Develop annual events for managers, volunteers, local schools and community groups to raise awareness of grassland conservation with interests in grassland habitats.	2023 - 2028	RBK		N/A
G09 - Promote links with local universities and undergraduate or graduate students who may be interested in using sites for ecological projects.	2023 - 2028	RBK		Review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation - Kingston.gov

8 Planning Context - Biodiversity Net Gain

In the UK, a planning condition is defined as ‘a constraint placed on the granting of planning permission which allows development to go ahead only if the conditions are satisfied’. When used properly, conditions can enhance the quality of development and enable it to proceed where it would have otherwise been necessary to refuse, by mitigating the adverse effects. As an automatic condition of the Environment Act 2021, applicants will need to measure the existing and proposed biodiversity values of their sites before development begins in order for permissions to be granted.

As a priority habitat for the borough, grassland should be protected through the planning system and, where possible, habitat creation and enhancement is encouraged. As part of the new conditions, if the loss of a habitat cannot be avoided appropriate mitigation and compensation actions must be taken, with a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain (calculated using The Biodiversity Metric 3.0). Additionally, these biodiversity enhancements must be secured for a minimum of 30 years. Reaches of adjoining priority habitats such as woodlands, standing open water and rivers and streams may form important areas for the conservation management of grasslands.

The new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) policy does not trump other environmental policies, meaning irreplaceable and locally important habitats should remain protected from development and are not to be insufficiently replaced with newly created habitats. The delivery of BNG through landscaping and green infrastructure is preferred onsite. Where onsite improvements are not possible measurements must be delivered off site on land holdings or via habitat banks, or as a last resort, through the purchase of statutory biodiversity credits.

9 Monitoring

Metric	Process of Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead	Partners
G01, G02, G05, G06, G07 – Number of habitat creation / enhancement projects supported / undertaken.	Ad hoc, Annual report	2023 – ongoing	RBK	

G02, G03 – Database recording the status of grasslands in relation to development. Record of where loss to hard surfacing was resisted and record of grassland loss/gain.	Ad hoc, Annual report	2023 - ongoing	RBK	
G04, G05, G09 – Number of collaborations made to produce research.	Summary report	2023 – 2028	RBK	
G06 – Record of increase in rough grassland habitat within RBK parks.	Ad hoc, Annual account	2023 – 2028	RBK	
G08 – Number of events, number of attendees and collation of materials used.	Ad hoc, Annual account	2023 – 2028	RBK	

10 Other relevant HAPs/ SAPs

a. PollinatorParks
b. Bats
c. Badger
d. Hedgehog
e. Reptiles
f. Swift

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12 Abbreviations

RBK - Royal Borough of Kingston
SuDS - Sustainable Drainage Systems
SINC - Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

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14 Appendix

Appendix A. SINC designation status of RBK sites with grassland habitat.

Site	Habitat	SINC Designation
Seething Wells Filter Beds	Calcareous Grassland	Borough (Grade 1)
Sixty Acre Wood and Jubilee Wood	Open grassland dominated by tufted hair grass and birch sp.	Metropolitan
Jubilee Meadows	Rough grassland and grazed meadow	Borough (Grade 2)
Canbury Gardens	Amenity grassland	Unspecified
Kingston Cemetery	Rough and amenity grassland	Local
Coombe Hill Golf Course	Semi-natural, semi-improved acid grassland	Metropolitan
Surbiton Cemetery	Amenity grassland	Unspecified
Hogsmill Valley	Semi-improved, unimproved neutral and amenity grassland	Borough (Grade 1)
The Leyfield (or Old Malden Common)	Relict neutral grassland	Borough (Grade 2)
Coombe Wood Golf Course	Lowland dry acid and neutral grassland	Borough (Grade 2)
Hogsmill Community Garden & Kingston University Land	Amenity grassland	Unspecified
Kingston University, Kingston Hill	Semi-improved neutral and semi-improved acid grassland	Borough (Grade 1)
Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works and Hogsmill River	Grassland	Borough (Grade 1)
Royal Park Gate Open Space	Amenity and rough semi-improved grassland	Local
The Meadowlands	Chalk and Species-rich grassland with ancient character	Borough (Grade 1)
Tolworth Court Farm Fields and Medieval Moated Manor	Semi-improved and species-rich grassland	Borough (Grade 1)

Bonesgate Stream	Grassland dominated by perennial rye and Yorkshire fog	Borough (Grade 2)
Bonesgate Open Space	Amenity grassland	Unspecified
RAF Chessington (Kingston upon Thames)	Species-poor neutral grassland	Unspecified
Fishponds	Amenity grassland, poor semi-improved grassland and hay meadow	Borough (Grade 2)
Manor Park	Semi-improved and amenity grassland	Local
Beverley Brook in Kingston	Grassland	Borough (Grade 2)
Winey Hill	Grazed grassland	Borough (Grade 2)
Causeway Copse	Amenity grassland with rough margins	Local
Mount Road Open Space	Amenity grassland	Local
Raeburn Open Space	Semi-improved and amenity grassland with rough margins	Borough (Grade 2)
Knollmead Allotments	Amenity grassland	Unspecified
Beverley Park Allotments	Amenity grassland	Unspecified
Beverley Park	Amenity grassland	Unspecified
Oakhill, 'The Woods' and Richard Jefferies Bird Sanctuary	Grassland dominated by perennial rye, intensely mown	Borough (Grade 2)
Malden Golf Course and Thames Water Pipe Track (Kingston)	Species-rich, acid, amenity, wet and semi-improved grassland	Borough (Grade 1)
Alexandra Millennium Green	Poor semi-improved, amenity and rough grassland	Unspecified

Appendix B. Plant species to be grown in grassland

Common Name	Latin name	Notes
Bird's foot trefoil		Nectar source and larval foodplant for Common Blue
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	
Tufted Vetch	Vicia cracca	
Self heal	Prunella vulgaris	

Greater stitchwort Lesser stichwort	Stellaria holostea Stellaria graminea	Spring
Kidney vetch	Anthyllis vulneraria	Good nectar source but needs disturbed ground. Larval foodplant for Small Blue butterfly.
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale	One of the best sources of nectar that there is with flowering from spring right through to autumn. Should be tolerated more.
Sorrel Sheep's sorrel	Rumex acetosa Rumex acetosella	Larval foodplants for Small Copper butterfly
Grasses – should include the following: Timothy Yorkshire-fog Cock-s-foot Sheep's-fescue Creeping bent	 Phleum pratense Holcus lanatus Dactylis glomerata Festuca ovina Agrrostis stolonifera	Larval foodplants for many grassland species such as Browns, Marbled White and Small and Essex Skippers