



WOKING PALACE

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

January 2013

[Issue 2]

APPENDIX F

GUIDELINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR
MAINTENANCE WORKS WITHIN THE
PALACE SITE BY SPECIALISTS AND
VOLUNTEER WORKING PARTIES





TIM MURPHY

On behalf of Purcell®

15 Bermondsey Square, London SE1

info@purcelluk.com

www.purcelluk.com

All rights in this work are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means (including without limitation by photocopying or placing on a website) without the prior permission in writing of Purcell except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. Applications for permission to reproduce any part of this work should be addressed to Purcell at info@purcelluk.com.

Undertaking any unauthorised act in relation to this work may result in a civil claim for damages and/or criminal prosecution. Any materials used in this work which are subject to third party copyright have been reproduced under licence from the copyright owner except in the case of works of unknown authorship as defined by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. Any person wishing to assert rights in relation to works which have been reproduced as works of unknown authorship should contact Purcell at info@purcelluk.com.

Purcell asserts its moral rights to be identified as the author of this work under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Purcell® is the trading name of Purcell Miller Tritton LLP.

© Purcell 2012

DOCUMENT ISSUE

ISSUE 1	NOVEMBER 2012	-	WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ISSUE 2	JANUARY 2013	-	WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TM/lkc/233752

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	4
2.	UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE AND DESIGNATIONS	4
3.	WORK UNDERTAKEN BY VOLUNTEER WORKING PARTIES	4
4.	MAINTENANCE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALISTS	7
5.	MONITORING SCHEDULE	7
6.	ACTION PLAN FOR MAINTENANCE	7

1. INTRODUCTION

There are various habitats on site that hold the potential to, or have been proven to support species protected under international, national and local policy and legislation, and are therefore of specific interest to nature conservation. As such any on-site works must take into account the relevant protection afforded to these species and by association these habitats. Recommendations in this appendix draw on points detailed in the CMP and will describe actions to be taken by volunteer and specialist working parties. This Appendix has been prepared by Greengage LLP.

2. UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE AND DESIGNATIONS

The specific policy and legislation surrounding the on-site habitats and species is detailed in Chapter 5 of the CMP. It is generally illegal to knowingly disturb or kill the protected species that are found on site. Any works should therefore abide by the guidance presented in this document to avoid any unlawful acts.

3. WORK UNDERTAKEN BY VOLUNTEER WORKING PARTIES

These guidelines suggest management actions to be carried out from an ecological perspective and will therefore not include all works to be carried out on the site. Should heritage works be carried out in any areas of the site then these should be reviewed by a suitably qualified ecologist to confirm that there will be no negative consequences for ecological receptors of note in those areas. For ease, in this section the works to take place will be split into areas, as delineated in the CMP:

PALACE SITE & KING'S GARDEN

Here, the traditional mowing regime can continue, however this should not become more infrequent, to avoid successional changes in floral communities creating habitats suitable to support protected species. The maintenance of the current grass sward characteristics is desired. Photographs 1 and 2 show the maintained Palace Site and King's Garden in September 2012.

The areas that directly border the river should be left untouched so water voles are not disturbed, until surveys have taken place confirming their presence/absence. Any other vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season. The bird nesting season is taken to be March to August inclusive. Trimmings should then be used to supplement brush/log piles present throughout the site. These log piles should not be disturbed, so as to not destroy invertebrate or reptile habitat.

The removal of vegetation directly surrounding the on-site buildings and structures in this area can continue as recommended in Appendix E.



Photograph 1 – The Palace Site grassland



Photograph 2 – The King's Garden grassland



Photograph 3 – Log piles along the peripheries of the King's Garden

OLDHALL COPSE

The potential for dormice was identified within the copse – suitable habitat was present and field signs such as gnawed hazel nuts were observed. Dormice boxes highlight that this potential has been identified in the past.

Dormice hibernate throughout the winter months in trees, vegetation, leaf litter, scrub or brush. As such, no clearance of vegetation of any sort should occur until dormice surveys have been carried out on site. The findings of these surveys will be able to further inform the management works to be undertaken. The presence of dormice in certain areas for example may constrain the potential management works, however the confirmation of dormice's absence in others may allow for management works such as scrub clearance and glade maintenance. Because of the intrinsic linkage between the specialist contractor requirements for management works in the copse and those works to be carried out by volunteers, further detail is added in the following section (4. Maintenance to be undertaken by specialists) for potential works in the copse area. Volunteer working parties should refer to both sections to gain an understanding of management requirements for the site.



Photograph 4 - Coppiced Hazel tree and dormouse box – these areas should be left untouched until surveys have been carried out and suitable mitigation measures (if applicable) have been developed.



Photograph 5 – Existing pathway through the copse. To enhance the ecological and biodiversity value of the copse, plans will eventually seek to remove the aggressive scrub vegetation, some of which is clear bordering the path in this image. Specifics will however be decided upon following dormice surveys

MOAT

The moat requires no immediate management by volunteer working parties until specialist surveys have been carried out to identify the presence/absence of GCN and bats, along with the removal of Himalayan Balsam.



Photograph 6 – the moat to be left untouched until plans surrounding its reinstatement have been finalised and specialist surveys have been carried out to identify potential ecological management works that are required.



Photograph 7 – A number of trees can be found growing in the moat. Should plans include the reinstatement of the moat to its historic condition then further specialist surveys should be carried out before any volunteer working parties carry out management works.

If volunteers were to disturb Himalayan Balsam whilst it is in seed then they could potential cause the illegal spread of the plant. The photograph below shows the Himalayan Balsam on site.



Photograph 8 – Himalayan balsam in the moat to the south east of the site.

PONDS

There is no obvious management associated with the ponds immediately required. Should works be required in the future for nature conservation grounds, or desired as part of heritage management plans however, then the proposed works should be reviewed by a suitably qualified ecologist to assess the potential ecological implications of carrying out the work. The reinstatement of the ponds to their historic condition will require certain ecological management works surrounding enhancement measures that could be included, however, specifics surrounding these should be developed in conjunction with heritage plans etc when they are finalised.



Photograph 9 – The northern pond.



Photograph 10 – Tree bordering the northern pond with 2 bat boxes. Should works seek to change the ponds and their surrounding habitats an ecologist should be consulted to assess the potential implications of said works – for example this may include assessing the potential impact on roosting bats in adjacent trees.

RIVER & RIVER BANKS

As mentioned above the river banks should be left untouched until water vole surveys have been carried out.



Photograph 11 – The River Wey along the southern boundary of the site.

4. MAINTENANCE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALISTS

PALACE SITE & KING'S GARDEN

No work by specialists is required in this area. There are no notable ecological receptors at risk through the proposed plans for the area, and the existing management by volunteer working parties will suffice to maintain the area.

OLDHALL COPSE

Dormice surveys should be carried out by a suitably qualified and licensed ecologist to identify the presence/absence of dormice within this area; these surveys (nest tube surveys) can be carried out April – November; and will confirm the distribution of dormice within the copse informing potential management works for the future. In the longer term, volunteer working parties should seek to clear the areas of scrub invasion and whip hazel planting to the south east of the copse and seek the creation of glades in this area. Should dormice be found to be present, then any further works surrounding vegetation removal will have to be completed under license, overseen by a suitably qualified ecologist. Similarly, understory scrub clearance along the southern perimeter of the copse should be carried out by volunteer working parties overseen by a suitably qualified ecologist during a suitable time of year. This time of year is dependent upon the findings of the dormice surveys and can therefore not be confirmed at this time.

Any clearance should be carried out using hand held tools such as strimmers. Other than avoiding nesting birds there is no specific methodology for clearance from an ecological perspective.

MOAT

Bat Emergence and Activity surveys should also be carried out by suitably qualified ecologists to determine the presence/absence of bats in the trees fringing the moat. As part of the heritage management plan the moat will be reinstated which will require the removal of a number of trees identified as being moderate-high value for bat roosting. Should bats be identified as being present roosting in trees earmarked for removal then suitable mitigation and management measures should be included specific to the circumstances and carried out by specialist parties. Measures will be detailed following the surveys in light of finalised plans.

Areas of the moat containing Himalayan Balsam should be cleared by a specialist with an understanding of the relevant legislation surrounding its removal.

PONDS

Should any works be planned for the ponds then a suitably qualified ecologist should review the plans. Otherwise there is no suggested work to be carried out by specialists in the ponds from an ecological perspective.

RIVER & RIVER BANKS

As mentioned above the river banks should be left untouched until water vole surveys have been carried out by a specialist May-October.

5. MONITORING SCHEDULE

For full details of timings for management measures please refer to the Activity Plan.

6. ACTION PLAN FOR MAINTENANCE

- Undertake measures listed in Activity Plan.
- Commission ecological surveys to determine the presence/absence of notable ecological receptors identified as potentially being present on site.
- Assess future management works in light of the findings from these surveys and finalised heritage plans. Before the commencement of any works surrounding heritage issues, consideration should be made of the potential impact on the ecology that is unforeseeable at this time without a thorough understanding of the potential plans.