

Mycenae Gardens & the Dell Management Plan

June 2015



Prepared by:

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens and Woodlands Dell and the Royal Borough of Greenwich

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PART I: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

INTRODUCTION

What is a Management Plan?

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

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

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

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces
Oxleas Woods Centre
Crown Woods Lane
London SE18 3JA

Telephone: 020 8854 8888

Email: parks@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

This site is allocated a Parks Strategy and Development Officer who can be contacted for any further information using the contact details provided above.

What is the purpose of this Management Plan?

As well as developing a Green Space Strategy, the production of individual Management Plans for each area is good practice and was one of the Action Points from the Green Space Strategy.

It is expected that the Plan will provide a framework within which any future decisions concerning this site will be taken and that the regular reviews will inform future strategic and management planning. In addition, it is hoped that the Management Plan for Mycenae Gardens and the Dell will assist with allocating and securing resources for developments on this site that this Management Plan specifies.

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

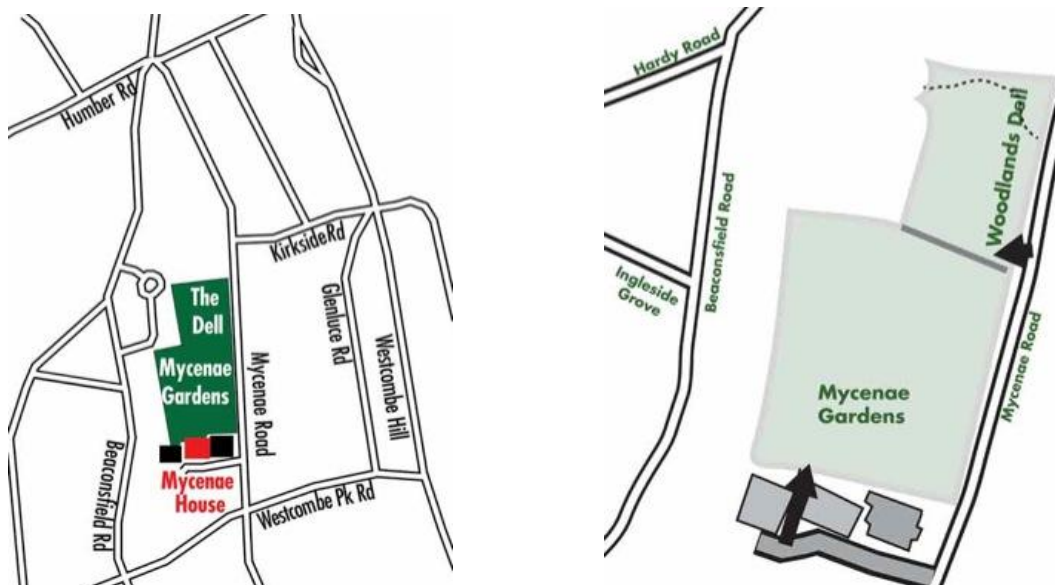
SITE DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION BASE

Brief Site Description

Mycenae Gardens and the Dell once formed part of Woodlands estate.

Mycenae Gardens are off Mycenae Road, and access is at 90 Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE. Walk along the drive beyond the vehicle barrier leading to Mycenae House Community Centre, past Greenwich Steiner School, then turn right between Mycenae House and the private Garden House beyond.

The Dell is accessed directly from Mycenae Road, to the North of Mycenae Gardens, and via a gate on the footpath between Mycenae Road and Beaconsfield Road. There is no direct access from Mycenae Gardens to the Dell or vice versa.



Mycenae Gardens and the Dell are separated by a wall and each space has developed a distinct character.

The immediate impression is that Mycenae Gardens consist of a large area of close-mown grass. Closer inspection reveals a row of beautiful London Plane trees and significant specimens, the planting of which would appear to be contemporary with the building of the villa. The margins of the area has a natural character with brambles.

The Dell has a natural character, is damp in parts and is overgrown with brambles. The row of London Plane trees continues through this space albeit affected by ivy.

Mycenae Gardens is heavily used, in comparison with the Dell, by the community, by Mycenae House Community Centre located at 90 Mycenae Road, and Greenwich Steiner School.

The Dell is primarily used by dog walkers.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) has responsibility for the maintenance of the site.

The school is separated from the Gardens by a green metal mesh fence. Mycenae House has direct access to the Gardens, and Garden House is separated by wooden fencing. The western side is separated from neighbouring properties by wooden fencing and the east and northern boundaries consist of brick walls.

The Dell is predominantly separated from the adjoining properties on Beaconsfield Road to the west and on Mycenae Road to the south by a metal mesh fence. The east boundary with the road has a wall.

The geology underlying the site is entirely soil type Claygate, but the surface soils have been heavily disturbed over the entire area and are notably compacted through heavy use and poor drainage in Mycenae Gardens.

Mycenae Gardens and the Dell are designated as *Community Open Space* and a *Site of Nature Conservation Importance*.

Mycenae Gardens and the Dell are open 365 days a year from daybreak until dusk.

History and Heritage

The researched history of Mycenae Gardens and the Dell is not extensive and there are no interpretation panels or displays on the history of the site. The history and heritage of the site usually focuses on Woodlands, the Grade II* Georgian villa that sits adjacent to Mycenae Road, and its most prestigious owner John Julius Angerstein, a Lloyd's underwriter.

For the purpose of the Management Plan, however, the focus is on the estate itself, how that changed over time and in turn how this might relate to the use of the land that was once the gardens of the villa today.

Woodlands was built by John Julius Angerstein by local architect George Gibson in 1776. It was described twenty years later in Daniel Lysons' *The Environs of London* (1796):

"Woodlands, the seat of John Julius Angerstein, Esq. (between East-Combe and West-Combe), occupies a situation uncommonly beautiful. The surrounding scenery is very picturesque; and the distant view of the river, and the Essex shore, is broken with good effect by the plantations near the house. The grounds were laid out, and the house built about the year 1772, by the present proprietor, who has a small but valuable collection of pictures; among which Sir Joshua Reynolds's celebrated portrait of Garrick between Tragedy and Comedy, the Venus, a well known picture, by the same artist; a fine portrait of Rubens, by Vandyke; and a very beautiful landscape, with cattle, by Cuyp, claim particular notice. The greenhouse is to be remarked for its collection of heaths."¹

Little documentation of the plantations near the house or layout of the grounds at this time has come to light.

¹ 'Greenwich', *The Environs of London*: volume 4: Counties of Herts, Essex & Kent (1796), pp. 426-93. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=45486&strquery=Woodlands%20Blackheath>.

Documents housed at London Metropolitan Archive and relevant Ordnance Survey maps suggest that the layout of the grounds was in the area now known as the Dell and at the lower end of Mycenae Road.

The 1876 Ordnance Survey Map also shows a pond and a cottage garden. By 1894 it would appear that the pond was no longer being maintained as a formal feature and the cottage garden had made way for both the railway and Victorian housing stock.

By overlaying these maps with the modern road layout it is relatively easy to interpret the key features in relation to what remains today.

The significance of the estate and its plantation and landscape layout were clearly lost by the end of the nineteenth century as the house and gardens were sold first to William Bristow and then to Sir Alfred Yarrow.

From Victorian times to today

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, the villa was bought by the shipbuilder Sir Alfred Yarrow as a family home. Yarrow further reduced the estate, selling the land to the south facing Mycenae, Beaconsfield and Westcombe Park Roads. Woodlands later served during the First World War as a hostel for Belgian refugees.

In 1923 Woodlands was sold to a Catholic religious order, the Little Sisters of the Assumption, for use as a convent. In 1933 they added the brick building immediately west of Woodlands to accommodate novices and created an artificial grotto in the gardens in imitation of the grotto at the Catholic shrine of Lourdes in France.

In 1967 the nuns decided to leave and Greenwich Council bought both buildings and the grounds. Woodlands was renovated and opened in 1972 as the borough art gallery and local history museum. The novices' building became a community centre, Kidbrooke House, named after its predecessor which was demolished as part of the modernisation of the Blackheath Tunnel approach road. It was later renamed Mycenae House.

At the beginning of the 21st century, to stem the rising costs of maintaining the Grade II* listed building, Woodlands, the Council sought a suitable occupier and fresh finance to keep up the fabric. Woodlands and a strip of land in the south and southwest corner of the grounds were sold in 2007 on a long lease to the Greenwich Steiner School. Twelve flats, known as Garden House, were built in the southwest portion.

Mycenae Gardens continues as a public open space, owned and maintained by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Sources:

Neil Rhind, *Blackheath Village and Environs 1790-1970, Volume 2*

London Borough of Greenwich *Westcombe Park Conservation Area Character Appraisal*
March 2010

Landscape of the Site

Mycenae Gardens is divided from the Dell by a wall; the overall area of the two sections is approximately 3 acres.

1. Mycenae Gardens

The area that we refer to today as Mycenae Gardens would once have been a section of lawn setting off the architecture of Woodlands at the crest of the hill. Today the lawn is maintained as amenity grass with a shrubbery in the centre and, consistent with research on the history of the site, there are no ornamental flower beds. A hedge of native shrubs was planted adjacent to the wall to the east of the site in 2012. A majestic row of London Plane trees runs to the west of the lawn. Spring sees the only display of colour in the gardens as the area under the trees adjacent to the lawn is heavily planted with spring bulbs. In addition there are one or two other significant arboreal specimens that, like the London Plane trees, would have been contemporaneous with the building of Woodlands villa.

To the west of the site, brambles appear to have overtaken the twentieth century “grotto.”

The gardens are walled, giving the impression of a peaceful haven. The wall to the east of the site also contains a bricked-up archway which would at one time have offered access to Mycenae Road.

2. The Dell

The Dell would once have been a continuous space with the gardens. Early Ordnance Survey Maps also reveal that this area previously contained an ornamental pond.

Today the area is something of a wilderness taken up with brambles and ivy under a heavy canopy of deciduous trees.

Paths and access to the site

Mycenae House and the Dell are accessible for pedestrians from the street via the driveway leading past Woodlands and Mycenae House.

The nearest train station is Westcombe Park which is 500 metres away at the north of Mycenae Road and has regular services from central London.

Buses running close by include the 53, 54, 108, 380, and 422.

As the Gardens are largely relatively flat, there is step free access. However, the lack of any formal paths within the Gardens and the Dell restrict access for mobility-impaired users.

There is free car parking on Mycenae Road.

Infrastructure

There are no buildings within the area identified as Mycenae Gardens and the Dell.

Maintenance of all infrastructure within RBG parks is the responsibility of the Council's Property Services Department.

Mycenae House

The Vanbrugh Community Association manages Mycenae House. It is a local charity commissioned by RBG, which owns the building, to provide a community centre, which is partly supported by RBG grants.

Open weekdays 9.00am to 10.30pm, Saturday mornings, and by prior arrangement Saturday afternoons and evenings. Mycenae House offers public amenities to users of Mycenae Gardens including a cafe and bar.

Fencing and Furniture

Fencing

The eastern perimeter of the Gardens and the Dell is separated from the road by a red brick wall, of varying height. The brick wall is not believed to be heritage listed.

The fencing where it separates the Gardens and the Dell from private residential properties and Greenwich Steiner School is the responsibility of the adjoining property owners. The fencing that separates the Dell from Beaconsfield Close is the responsibility of the RBG.

Signage

Direction signs for car drivers to "Mycenae House and Gardens" are prominently fixed to posts in Humber Road and Westcombe Park Road.

There are limited welcoming signs at the entrance to the Dell and no welcoming signs at the entrance to Mycenae Gardens, although the Gardens are noted on the notice board on Mycenae Road and the sign for Mycenae House.

The welcoming signs in the Dell fail to provide emergency numbers and incorrectly state that it is a dog free area.

A large noticeboard maintained by The Friends of Mycenae Gardens has been installed at the entrance to the gardens. A key is held in Mycenae House Community Centre.

Seats and Litter Bins

Three picnic tables are provided in Mycenae Gardens and limited provision is made for litter bins and dog bins in both Mycenae Gardens and the Dell. Dog walkers are required to clean up immediately after their dogs have fouled.

Pathways

There are no formal pathways within the area.

Biological Aspects

Trees

A tree survey of the site was carried out in December 2014.

There is a wide mix of tree species, many of which are mature specimens. The oldest trees on site are most likely the London Plane trees, thought to be at least contemporaneous but possibly predating the building of Woodlands Villa.

Tree management of the site will: -

- Comply with the overall Management Plan for the area
- Undertake the work identified within the Tree Survey
- Preserve and enhance the existing landscape by consideration of replacing a tree should one be removed and reviewing capacity for additional planting.

Wildlife and Ecology

Given that so much of the area is natural and without heavy landscaping, further research on the wildlife and ecology of the area is needed. Users of the Gardens and Dell will be encouraged to protect the flora and fauna in this Site of Nature Conservation Importance, and promote a diverse and rich habitat.

Demographics of the Ward

Occasional users of the area come from a relatively wide catchment area, especially because of the presence of Mycenae House and the Steiner School.

User information

Stakeholders associated with the site

RBG

- Community Safety & Environment (Parks, Estates and Open Spaces)
- Chief Executives (Communications/Community Engagement)
- Neighbourhood Services (Neighbourhood Panels/Representatives)
- Children's Services

Community

- Friends of Mycenae Gardens
- Beaconsfield Close Residents' Association
- Garden House Residents' Association
- The Westcombe Society

Agencies

- Police, Fire & Rescue Service

Business

- Mycenae House Community Centre
- Greenwich Steiner School

Politicians

- RBG Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Environment
- Ward Members
- MP

Management

Management Structure

The management of Mycenae Gardens and the Dell is the responsibility of the Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Department within the RBG.

The Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Department is located within the Directorate of Community Safety and Environment. The Parks and Open Spaces Senior Management Team is accountable for the overall management of the Service.

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

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

Staff Presence

Grounds' maintenance in the Royal Borough of Greenwich Parks is provided by the Council's own workforce. The District Manager responsible for the grounds' maintenance staff initially inspects standards.

A further check is carried out by a Parks Performance Officer, who is centrally based, reporting to the Parks Strategy and Development Manager. Senior management also carry out random checks.

The Council's horticultural grounds maintenance in most cases is carried out by a number of "mobile teams" which are allocated to specific parks. The number of staff comprising each mobile team can vary at any time, depending on workload. Individual supervisors have the discretion to transfer staff between mobile teams according to anticipated and actual workload.

Whilst not based on site, Parks Rangers staff routinely inspect to ensure the safety of the public visiting the site and to litter pick and empty bins.

Sustainability

The RBG Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Department has an Environmental Management System which is externally audited and certified against the internationally respected ISO 14001 environmental standard series.

The RBG Parks and Open Spaces Environmental Management System (EMS) is in 11 parts, the following sections are relevant to horticultural grounds' people and operational control:

EP6 - Operational Control

- Noisy work

- General waste
- Dog waste
- Collection of discarded material and skips.

EP7 - Emergency preparedness and response

- Fire
- Flood
- Injury
- Illness
- Theft
- Vehicle accidents
- Fuel and oil spills
- Pesticide spills and other spills.

EP8 - Monitoring and Measurement

- Monitoring pesticide usage (where, how much, who) with the specific aim of reducing use.
- Fuel reports (how much, where it gets used)
- Waste transfer notes (where, how much, who license)
- Noise monitoring reports (e.g. mowing etc - using modern, serviced equipment at the correct times and place - Decibel levels)
- Insurance info (damage to property, private and public) also theft.

EP10 - Internal Audit

- Self-Checking, plus independent verification by BSI.

Environmental Policy

In line with the RBG aim of protecting the environment, the directorate has adopted an environmental policy which aims to ensure that service is delivered in an environmentally friendly manner. In line with the Environmental policy, the directorate has also adopted the peat use policy, pesticide use policy, and contains initiatives to minimise fuel and energy usage. The following sections are brief descriptions of each policy.

Energy usage

The RBG Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Department aims to minimise energy usage in delivering the Service. Maintenance equipment is serviced regularly to ensure that fuel consumption of mechanical equipment is minimised. Low energy bulbs are used in lighting and external lighting is photo-sensitive and so is only on during hours of darkness.

Recycling

The Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Department reuses and recycles as much of its green and mixed waste as possible. Unfortunately due to space constraints, it is not possible to recycle green waste within the bounds of the site.

Green waste from the site is shredded and reused as a mulch within other RBG Parks, Estates and Open Spaces. Where possible mixed waste is separated and sent to the Council's Material Recycling Facility where it is separated and then sent for recycling. Other mixed waste which can't be recycled is sent to a local incinerator which produces heat and energy for the adjacent housing estate.

Small wood is chipped and either composted or used as a path dressing. Some large wood is reused to create wood piles to encourage increased bio-diversity and potential habitats for stag beetles and other invertebrates.

Peat Policy

One of the aims of the Environment Policy is to reduce or cut out the use of peat as it is not sustainable. The policy regarding the use of peat can be found in Appendix I.

Pesticide usage policy

In line with the department's environmental policy, Parks, Estates and Open Spaces aim to minimise pesticide usage. The policy regarding the use of pesticides can be found in Appendix I.

Marketing

Information about the Friends of Mycenae Gardens is primarily delivered through its website and local publications such as the Westcombe News.

Mycenae House is the site for a number of events through the year - these are marketed by the organisations that instigate them.

Information about local parks within the borough can be found on the RBG website www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk

PART II: WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO

VISION

The vision is:-

- to protect and promote Mycenae Gardens as a Community Open Space and a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and as a park that fosters the natural environment, wildlife, woodland and open space for the benefit, health and well-being of the whole community;
- to support the use of the Gardens for recreation, learning, as a place for enjoyment and study, and as an amenity for local people;
- to help balance the various uses and interests so as to improve and sustain the Gardens and to encourage a sense of community around the area of the Gardens.

The vision for Mycenae Gardens is to continue to maintain it in good condition, consistent with sustainable use, and where possible perform restoration work to restore features to their original condition, while maintaining the site as an appropriate setting for the activities occurring within Mycenae House and Woodlands.

The vision for the Dell is to first understand the wildlife and ecology of the site in order to understand its importance. Its future management needs careful consideration.

The site will be welcoming to all members of the community including disabled people, unaccompanied children, and dog walkers offering a safe and stimulating place.

ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

Historic remnants/artefacts

Mycenae Gardens and the Dell are not thought to contain significant artefacts and evidence from past uses that would be of potential interest to future historians.

Whilst evidence suggests that the Dell contained a pond it is not the ambition to have this refurbished at this time.

Although it is noted that, in the mid-term, restoration to its historical conditions may be of interest to local history and gardening enthusiasts, further consultation should be undertaken in order to establish users' and local community priorities.

Sightlines/visibility

There is very little anti-social behaviour (ASB) in this area due to the presence of stakeholders in Mycenae House and Woodlands.

It is noted that ASB is feared by some neighbours, given that some areas of Mycenae Gardens and the Dell have obstructed sightlines from the occupied properties.

Biological aspects

Ecology

The ecology warrants further detailed review. Potential improvements to the ecology may include:

- Installation of Bird and Bat boxes.
- Planting plants attractive to invertebrates

Bird and Bat Boxes may be of limited value but as they are relatively inexpensive it is recommended that some are installed and their use monitored. Additional plantings for the purpose of attracting invertebrate wildlife is practical, given that there is no historic planting scheme that must be maintained, provided that its execution is commensurate with the ability of the Friends of Mycenae Gardens to establish and foster a volunteer gardening group.

Horticultural and Tree Management

In order to encourage the grass to improve and to safeguard surfaces under the larger trees from damage, the Greenwich Steiner School has voluntarily adopted a programme to reduce the wear and tear on the grounds. As of 2013 half the classes of the school have been diverted to outdoor activities on the heath, some distance outside the gardens. This initiative is welcomed and the appearance of the gardens should be monitored regularly to assess the success of this policy.

Concern about damage to the roots of prominent specimen trees has been expressed. RBG has undertaken a programme of deep mulching beneath the planes and conifers to cushion the impact of sustained use of the grounds. The specimen trees should be regularly monitored to detect any signs of stress, and mulch levels should be maintained as required.

Access

At present, access to the Dell is not step free and neither space has footpaths that would support access. As information is gathered on the ecology of the site consideration should be given to enabling greater access.

Infrastructure

New signage has been installed in Mycenae Gardens. Improved signage for the Dell should be sited inside the gate but be sufficiently visible to invite interest.

Provision of furniture, and litter/dog waste bins within Mycenae Gardens should be in keeping with the Grade II* property.

Some parts of the infrastructure, in particular the litter/dog waste bins and gate to the Dell, are in poor condition and are in need of refurbishment.

Management

External Funding Bids

To date, no external funding bids have been submitted to restore or refurbish the area.

Dog control

Dogs may be off the lead in Mycenae Gardens and the Dell. Persons should be in control of their dog(s) and must:

- Clean up after their dog has fouled
- Not have more than 4 dogs in their control at one time.

Warranted Officers in the RBG and the Police are authorised to issue fixed penalties for breaches of Dog Control Orders.

STRENGTHS

- The site has an active Friends Group
- The site is distinct in character from other nearby community open space
- The site benefits from regular stakeholder presence in Mycenae House and Greenwich Steiner School and as a result the site does not suffer from anti-social behaviour
- The site has limited landscape garden history
- Mycenae Gardens and the Dell are much valued by many people
- Mycenae House is a well used and popular resource for the local and wider community and affords welfare facilities that support Mycenae Gardens and the Dell
- Woodlands (occupied by Greenwich Steiner School) is Grade II* listed and contributes a feeling of grandeur to the site.

CHALLENGES

- Information available on its wildlife and ecology is not currently sufficient to shape use of the site
- The stakeholders who occupy Woodlands and Mycenae House (Greenwich Steiner School and Vanburgh Community Association) heavily influence the location and level of wear and tear of the site
- Parts of the infrastructure are not in character with the site and are in poor condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Assess the state of the grounds annually and make a forward plan for works
- Undertake priority works identified in the 2014 arboricultural survey
- Undertake a wildlife and ecology assessment
- Install bird and bat boxes and monitor their use
- Continue efforts to secure funding for the infrastructure
- Continue cooperative efforts to identify solutions to wear and tear of the site.

PART III: HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

ACTION PLAN

Timescales as given in this document are as follows;

Short Term – Within one-two years from adoption of this plan

Medium Term – Within three-four years from the adoption of this plan

Long Term – Five years and more from the adoption of this plan

Action required	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long/Medium/ Short Term)	Responsibility	Status of Work
Assess the state of the grounds annually and make a forward plan for works	Review maintenance programme and amend if appropriate (amendments subject to available resources)	Short Term	Parks, Estates and Open Spaces and Friends Group	
Undertake priority works identified in the 2015 arboricultural survey	Detail and agree priority tree works	Short Term	Parks, Estates and Open Spaces	
Undertake a wildlife and ecology assessment	The Friends to liaise and coordinate with other groups and local education establishments	Short Term	Friends Group	
Continue efforts to secure funding for Mycenae Gardens furniture, litter/dog waste bins	Identify priorities for improvement (through consultation) Identify potential funding streams	Short term	Parks, Estates and Open Spaces	
Continue cooperative efforts to identify solutions to wear and tear of the site.	Regular meetings between Parks Strategy & Development Officers to identify and agree works	Short term	Parks, Estates and Open Spaces	

Action required	Detail of Specific action	Timescale (Long/Medium/ Short Term)	Responsibility	Status of Work
Install bird and bat boxes	Source funding for purchase and install boxes.	Medium Term	Friends Group	
Continue efforts to identify learning opportunities for users such as nature trail boards of flora and fauna that might be seen	Source funding.	Medium Term	Friends Group	
Monitor anti-social behaviour	Pass on general observations from the local community to the police, RBG and other agencies as appropriate If required develop a site-specific action plan to address issues identified	On-going	Friends Group/Parks, Estates and Open Spaces	

Important Note: Improvement actions requiring investment are subject to funding being secured. There are no additional funds available from the Council unless they have been identified against a specific action.

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

MONITORING AND REVIEW

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

Upon review, the new Management Plan will make note of the works performed and review the success of those works in the action plan section.

APPENDIX I

Policies and Legislation affecting Park Management

As highlighted earlier in the plan, the RBG Parks, Estates and Open Spaces department operates within a wide framework of national, regional and local policy statements and strategies. The main documents impacting on the development of this plan are listed below.

Greenwich Strategies

The Greenwich Strategy

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

The Cultural Strategy

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

Green Space Strategy

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

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

Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Service Plan

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

ISO 9001:2000 – Quality Management System

Quality Management System ISO 9001: 2008 is used by organisations to manage their activities and resources to guarantee a quality service. This management system is based on eight quality management principles:

- Customer Focus
- Leadership
- Involving People
- Process Approach
- System Approach to Management
- Continual Improvement
- Factual Approach to decision making

- Supplier relationship, which benefit both sides.

At the time of writing, the Parks and Open Spaces department is currently ISO 9001 accredited, and aims to maintain that accreditation indefinitely.

ISO 14001 – Environmental Management System

Parks and Open Spaces are committed to ensuring our activities are undertaken in an environmentally friendly manner and our effects on the environment are controlled. The services Environmental Management System is certified to the internationally respected ISO 14001 Environmental Standard.

Unitary Development Plan

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

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

Mycenae Gardens and the Dell both share the same designations in the UDP. Those designations are as follows: -

- **Community Open Space**
- **Conservation Area**

The UDP may be viewed at the Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills, Planning Department, Woolwich Centre, 5th floor, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ or alternatively at a local library.

Metropolitan Open Land

Community Benefits

- O10 The Council will seek to secure improvement and enhancement of existing parks and public open spaces, where major development places increased demand on existing areas, and, where appropriate, the creation of new parks and public open spaces in line with Policies O9 and C3, through planning obligations and conditions on planning permissions in line with Policy SC2.

Park Facilities

- O12 The Council will seek to enhance open space by the provision and encouragement of appropriate park facilities (e.g. seating, children's play equipment, refreshment facilities, outdoor tennis courts, pitch and putt, sports pitches and changing facilities and Arts, Culture and Entertainment facilities, such as open air performance spaces, sculpture and visual imagery and areas for cultural exhibition and study) within suitable parks and public open spaces. Facilities should be of a high standard of design and quality and respect local nature conservation interests. Such facilities should be safe to use and accessible to all. (See Policies D5, D6 and D7).

- O15 Existing footpaths will be safeguarded and new footpaths created to and through open spaces and places of interest, where they do not adversely affect nature conservation. The Council will endeavour to create a signposted network of continuous and circular routes.

Areas of Special Character

Also, the Greenwich UDP in part 2.6 refers to the parks as part of a larger area designated as Special Character of Metropolitan Character.

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

The Biodiversity Action plan

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

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

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

The Biodiversity Action Plan has been developed in partnership with local and regional groups and organisations and is currently in draft form awaiting adoption by the Council.

Conservation

Both Mycenae House and the Dell are part of a wider area designated as a Conservation Area. Section 2.6 of the UDP sets out the policies relating to Conservation areas and is too lengthy to reproduce in this document, but the main thrust of the policies is to conserve and enhance historic landscapes by use of urban design principles, design statements and ecological surveys to assess and approve any developments in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

Please see the 2006 adopted UDP part 2.6 for comprehensive details on Conservation areas, as the details are too lengthy to reproduce here.

Area of Archaeological Potential

- D30 The Council will expect applicants to properly assess and plan for the impact of proposed developments on archaeological remains where they fall within 'Areas of Archaeological Potential' as defined on the constraints Map 10. In certain instances preliminary archaeological site investigations may be required before proposals are considered. The Council will seek to secure the co-operation of developers in the excavation, recording and publication of archaeological finds before development takes place by use of planning conditions/legal agreements as appropriate.

Royal Borough of Greenwich

Community Safety and Environment

Parks and Open Spaces

Use of Peat/Peat Based Product Policy

Background:

Peat is a Heterogeneous mixture of decomposed plant material (humus) that has accumulated in a water-saturated environment and in the absence of oxygen.

Peat lands play an important role in the biosphere. They affect hydrological dynamics and water quality and provide important habitats for plant and animal species.

The extraction of peat for mans use has a major negative environmental impact in the long term.

In recent decades peat has been dug in vast quantities for use by the plant nursery industry and horticulture.

Peat has particular calculable water conductive properties. Plant production in the UK is somewhat organised to use peat as an alternative to mineral soils because of its consistent qualities and PH level.

It is a non- sustainable product

Our Policy:

- In Parks and Open Spaces we do not use peat as a soil ameliorant or mulch.
- We do not use peat or peat based product in relation to tree or shrub planting
- We encourage our suppliers to use products other than peat in the growing of trees, shrubs and bedding plants
- We train our staff in the rationale of not using peat based products

D.Squires

Head of Parks and Open Spaces

Royal Borough of Greenwich

Community Safety and Environment

Parks and Open Spaces

Pesticide Policy

(Authorised by the Head of Parks & Open Spaces)

As part of a continual move towards better environmental practice, we aim to minimise the use of pesticide where possible and to promote the use of alternative maintenance and curative procedures in relation to Mycenae Gardens and the Dell

We aim to:-

- Eliminate the hazards of pesticides
- Reduce the dependence of pesticides
- Promote alternatives to pesticides
- Communicate good practice through membership to PAN (Pesticide Action Network).

Objectives:-

- Control the problem of worm casting, without the use of lumbricides
- To limit the use of selective herbicide to the ornamental areas only
- To not use on insecticides
- To limit the use of fungicides to Bowling Greens within Greenwich's Parks
- To use organic fertilisers.

4.2 Environmental Policy

The Royal Borough of Greenwich recognises that environmental issues are of fundamental importance to our customers, and to our business success.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich aims to work towards the achievement of sustainable development and continual improvement.

Under the scope of its Environmental Management Systems, The Royal Borough of Greenwich strives to:

- Promote sustainability and the use of sustainable resources
- Promote conservation and environmental awareness
- Promote activities which enhance the environment
- Achieve continual improvements in environmental performance
- Prevent the release of pollution
- Minimise the release of waste, noise and emissions
- Minimise activities which have a negative effect on the environment
- Maximise activities which have a positive effect on the environment
- Comply with applicable legal and other requirements that relate to environmental aspects
- Work in partnership with other organisations in environmental management
- Set environmental targets built into the day to day running of the service
- Use products which have a minimum impact on the environment
- Provide training in environmental issues to all persons
- Communicate the Environmental Policy to all persons working for or on behalf of The Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Review Environmental objectives, targets and policy

Signed		Head of Parks & Open Spaces
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Parks, Estates & Open Spaces COSHH Statement

Parks & Open Spaces are committed to ensuring safe working practices and to minimising the negative effects on the environment from our activities.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health within Parks & Open Spaces is through implementation of risk assessments on all substances where exposure could lead to an adverse effect on health or danger to safety, and the introduction of appropriate control measures.

COSHH assessments are undertaken by a trained member of staff and are reviewed annually

Written records are kept to demonstrate that risks have been considered

Control measures highlighted in the assessment are implemented and maintained

Parks & Open Spaces employees only use products in conjunction with a COSHH assessment

Health surveillance is used to evaluate effectiveness of control measures

An up to date inventory is kept of all hazardous substances to which staff are likely to be exposed to during their work activities

No other products may be brought into use without prior Management Review product approval

Parks and Open Spaces Environmental Policy also sets guidelines for the use of substances hazardous to health.

Legislation

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

- Alcohol Consumption in Public Places Order 2003
- Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2004
- Control of Pesticide Protection Act 1986
- Country Code 1981
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and increments
- Countryside & Right of Way Act 2000
- Disability Discrimination Act 1998
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1998

- Litter Act 1983
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks & Open Spaces Act)1967
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957
- Road Traffic Act 1988 (as amended 1991)
- The 2004 Country Code
- The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003
- The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- The Weeds Act 1959
- The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- Safer Neighbourhood Act 2005

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

Dog control

Dog fouling was recognised as being a problem within a number of Greenwich's open spaces.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 makes it possible for Local Authorities to introduce Dog Control Orders. Greenwich Council has adopted 5 separate control orders which provide a fixed penalty for non-compliance.

These orders make it an offence for persons in control of their dog(s) to:

- Not clean up after their dog has fouled.
- Have more than 4 dogs in their control at one time.
- Not to have their dog on a lead in designated areas
- Not to have their dog on a lead and kept on a lead when instructed to do so by an authorised officer.
- To allow their dog(s) to access designated dog exclusion areas.

Warranted Officers, Officers from the RBG and the Police are authorised to issue fixed penalties.

APPENDIX 2

Mycenae Gardens Tree Survey December 2014

Tree No	Common name	Height	Vitality	Condition	Recommendations	Priority
57	Cherry	up to 5 meters	Fair	Bark wound over 20% of stem Moderate dead wood 25mm-150mm Main stem rot	Fell	High
56	Plane	Over 20 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
58	Laurel	5 to 10 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
59	Cypress	10 to 15 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
60	Maple	10 to 15 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
61	Plane	Over 20 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
62	Plane	Over 20 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
63	Plane	Over 20 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
64	Plane	Over 20 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
Grp/5		15 to 20 meters	Fair	Ivy-Unable to assess for defects Minor dead wood <25mm	Remove climbing plants	High
65	Pine	Over 20 meters	Fair	Minor dead wood < 25mm Moderate dead wood 25mm-150mm	Remove mod/major dead wood (>25mm)	Medium

66	Pine	Over 20 meters	Fair	Minor dead wood <25mm	Remove mod/major dead wood (>25mm)	Medium
				Moderate dead wood 25mm-150mm		
67	Pine	Over 20 meters	Fair	None recorded	None recorded	No action required
68	Larch	Over 20 meters	Good	None recorded	None recorded	No action required
69	Coast Redwood	Over 20 meters	Good	None recorded	None recorded	No action required
70	Lime	15 to 20 meters	Fair	Moderate dead wood 25mm-150mm	Remove mod/major dead wood (>25mm)	Medium
71	Lime	15 to 20 meters	Fair	Moderate dead wood 25mm-150mm	Remove mod/major dead wood (>25mm)	Medium
72	Lime	15 to 20 meters	Fair	Bark wound over 20% of stem	Remove mod/major dead wood (>25mm)	Medium
				Fungal fruiting bodies Moderate dead wood 25mm-150mm		
73	Maple	10 to 15 meters	Good	No significant defects noted	None recorded	No action required
74	Oak	10 to 15 meters	Good	None recorded	None recorded	No action required

