

## Briefing: Brockwell Park post-event update 1

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Date drafted: **10 June 2025**

Service area: **Parks**

Required for: **information purposes**

Distribution: **John Bosley, Venetia Reid-Baptiste, Cllr Anyanwu, ward councillors, Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee (BPCP)**

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### 1. Introduction

These briefings will provide regular post-event updates following Brockwell Live and the Lambeth Country Show, covering ground restoration and enhancement, as well as related issues such as ecological appraisals.

Origin Amenity is the Council's chosen contractor for the remedial works, and under their previous name of Rigby Taylor have undertaken post-event remediation works for the authority over many years. All remedial works will be funded by Summer Events Ltd., however the parks team will be undertaking specific elements of the works, for example taking responsibility for areas of the park used exclusively for the Country Show.

### 2. Condition Summary (as of 9 June)

#### Staff Presence/Monitoring

The Head of Parks has taken a highly visible and proactive role in holding Brockwell Live accountable. Combined with structured event-day monitoring, this approach has led to a noticeable reduction in damage compared to last year. The parks team continues to work hard to safeguard the park.

This level of monitoring will continue throughout the derig period to ensure that the level of damage remains low.

#### Grass

The ground is in reasonable condition following this year's events, with only localised surface rutting (not exceeding 20mm) from vehicle movement. Grass appears chlorotic (yellow) in areas due to limited sunlight exposure, and varying levels of compaction have been observed, ranging from low (foot traffic) to high (areas with track matting). While matting helps reduce rutting and some compaction, complete avoidance of damage is challenging. Additionally, there is reduced

grass coverage and surface undulation caused by erosion from heavy footfall. The ground was assessed as being too hard for verti-draining to be undertaken immediately after the event as initially planned.

## **Trees**

This year, the service mandated enhanced tree protection measures, prompting the event organiser to commission an arboricultural survey in accordance with BS:5837. This led to the implementation of a tree protection method statement, which has been highly effective in reducing vehicle strikes and soil compaction. While there were two minor incidents involving low-level tree damage from vehicle contact, these have been documented for thorough post-event evaluation to support continuous improvement.

## **Infrastructure**

Before site occupation, a comprehensive survey was conducted to assess the condition of all infrastructure, including grass, paths, benches, Redgra surfaces, gates, fences, drain covers, bollards, and signage. This survey will be repeated post-event to identify any damage and inform necessary remedial works.

Ongoing monitoring has already identified several issues:

- Two damaged benches, with replacements being arranged.
- Superficial damage to the Redgra surface from vehicle turning, to be reassessed post-event.
- One entrance gate was struck by a vehicle; officers responded immediately and are specifying repairs.
- Tarmac surface damage in three areas; mitigation measures have been agreed with Brockwell Live, and monitoring is ongoing.

The significant improvements achieved this year would not have been possible without the commitment and due diligence of the Parks, Trees, and Events teams.

## **3. Works completed**

### **Monitoring**

Parks Officers maintained a strong on-site presence throughout the build and live event phases, enabling prompt resolution of emerging issues. This proactive approach helped prevent damage and, where incidents did occur, allowed for timely mitigation to avoid further deterioration.

### **Grass Reinstatement**

Pre-event works were undertaken as usual, including verti-draining and an application of seaweed-based fertiliser.

A site meeting was held with Origin Amenity (5 June), the contractor responsible for grass reinstatement works. The visit included a full site walk to assess current conditions and ensure a clear understanding ahead of works commencing next week.

09/06: rolling of light damage area adjacent to paths.

09/06: assessment of the cricket field (further update provided detailing remedial works specified) and works to commence.

## **Drainage**

Collaborative work has been undertaken to address a very longstanding area of marshy ground immediately below the copse of trees in the middle of the event site. Excavations undertaken by the park service just prior to event build commencing identified a very old clay land drain which had ruptured and is believed to have been causing the problem. Brockwell Live then funded a specialist sub-contractor via Origin Amenity to repair the drain.

The parks service also undertook extensive works to clear blocked drains on paths around the event site, prior to the events starting.

## **4. Works scheduled**

### **Handover**

Scheduled for 13 June with officers from Parks and Events alongside Summer Events and GMC Events. This will take several hours, and the output will be agreement on remedial works needed.

### **Monitoring**

Ongoing: parks officers will maintain monitoring throughout the break period and continue overseeing grass recovery, remedial works, and infrastructure repairs; liaising closely and regularly with the Brockwell Live team and Origin Amenity.

### **Condition Assessment**

A comprehensive assessment will be carried out on 13 June to evaluate the condition of all infrastructure, including grass, paths, benches, Redgra surface, gates, fences, drain covers, bollards, and signage. This will inform the specification of required remedial works.

### **Grass Remedial Works**

- 16/06: works consisting of overseeding (disc seeder application) and fertilising; with rolling-out ruts and undulations (if required).
- 16/06: parks assessment of the tri-tag field/Norwood Road fields and works to commence.
- Ongoing: irrigation of seeded areas, dependent on weather conditions.
- TBC: levelling and seeding or turfing of the football pitch. Options will be discussed in detail following de-rig, and officers will liaise with St Matthew's Project.
- TBC: specialist de-compaction works within root protection zones of trees within the event footprint.
- TBC: verti-draining of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC: supplementary autumn works.

## **Infrastructure**

- 13/06: assessment of Redgra and remedial works.
- TBC: two benches to be replaced.
- TBC: reinstatement of repaired / new gate posts and knee rail at the Lido entrance.
- TBC: resurfacing of internal roads.
- TBC: paving repairs inside Herne Hill gate.

## **5. Ecological assessments**

As part of the planning permission for the Country Show, Conditions 15 and 16 required baseline ecological assessments of the area of the park used for events. These were undertaken by Greengage Environmental Ltd. The expectation of Planning is that a follow-up Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be undertaken 2-3 months after the derig is complete and a mitigation strategy will be produced to address any identified deterioration in the site's ecological rating (using BNG assessment criteria). The Preliminary Ecological appraisal required by Planning recommended further ecological monitoring and reports, including a Phase 2 survey, an Ecological Impact Assessment and an Ecological Management Plan. The council will consider these recommendations through the summer.

## **6. General promotion**

### **Parks Investment Levy**

Officers will seek Cabinet Member approval for the use of the Brockwell Park PIL for 2025/26. A suggestion will be investment in the park's main play area. This was refurbished around 2012 with NLHF funding, using timber-based equipment, which is now reaching the end of its life. The £30,000 compensation for the cancellation of *Bounce* in 2024 is being used for play area enhancements, with spend in progress. Officers will work with the Communications team to better promote the benefits arising from the use of PIL within the park.

### **Brockwell Live Sustainability Strategy**

Summer Events Ltd have commissioned a strategic document to assess the benefits of Brockwell Live. It is expected that this will focus on three pillars: people; park and planet; and economic benefits. A draft is expected early July and the document will feature case studies on people and businesses positively impacted by the event as well as an assessment of the wider economic benefits deriving from the event.

### **Brockwell Live Community Fund**

This will be progressed over coming weeks, with councillors invited as usual to participate in the evaluation; and the outcome will be widely promoted.

## Briefing: Brockwell Park post-event update 2

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Date drafted: **17 June 2025**

Service area: **Parks**

Required for: **Information Purposes**

Distribution: **John Bosley, Venetia Reid-Baptiste, Cllr Anyanwu, Ward councillors, Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee (BPCP)**

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### 1. Introduction

These briefings will provide regular post-event updates following Brockwell Live and the Lambeth Country Show, covering ground restoration and enhancement, as well as related issues such as ecological appraisals.

Origin Amenity is the Council's chosen contractor for the remedial works, and under their previous name of Rigby Taylor have undertaken post-event remediation works for the authority over many years. All remedial works will be funded by Summer Events Ltd., however the parks team will be undertaking specific elements of the works, for example taking responsibility for areas of the park used exclusively for the Country Show.

### 2. Condition Summary (as of 16 June)

#### **Staff Presence/Monitoring**

Monitoring continued during the site derig to avoid seeing an increase in further damage to grass surface and parks infrastructure. On Monday the team were monitoring the works being undertaken by Origin Amenity ensuring that works in this phase were completed to specification.

#### **Grass**

Following the removal of all site infrastructure a full assessment could be conducted.

Track matting, track matting worked well to avoid vehicle damage such as rutting however it has resulted in areas of grass loss due to the lack of sunlight exposure. There are compaction issues following the localised nature of loading which will be addressed with remedial works once ground conditions allow.

Wider grass areas, areas that were chlorotic (yellow) have now started actively growing and producing chlorophyll (turning green). The areas of low grass coverage have seen a slight improvement of grass from the live roots and I expect this to improve and continue as we progress.

Localised light rutting in three areas across site as a result of water leaks and then vehicle driving over, not exceed 40mm.

## **Trees**

The final site works during derig did not result in any damage to trees, which has further demonstrated the effectiveness of the tree protection measures this.

## **Infrastructure**

Following the comprehensive site assessment of all infrastructure, including grass, paths, benches, Redgra surfaces, gates, fences, drain covers, bollards, and signage. I can confirm that damage identified is as follows

- Two damaged benches, with replacements being arranged.
- Superficial damage to the Redgra surface from vehicle turning.
- One entrance gate was struck by a vehicle; officers responded immediately and are specifying repairs.
- Tarmac surface damage in three areas.
- One drain grill has sunk
- Two holes from perimeter fencing

All the above works have been mapped and remedial works specified to rectify as quickly as possible

## **3. Works completed**

### **Monitoring/Site Handover**

Parks Officers maintained a strong on-site presence throughout the derig activities. Following the removal of all infrastructure a full comprehensive assessment with the Summer Events and GMC Events was undertaken to make a through condition assessment and note remedial works specifications. Monitoring continued during the first phase of grass remedial works undertaken by Origin Amenity to ensure that works were conducted as specified.

### **Grass Reinstatement**

09/06: rolling of light damage area adjacent to paths (works were completed however due to ground conditions it was not as effective as we need so this will be scheduled for when ground conditions improve.

09/06: assessment of the cricket field (further update provided detailing remedial works specified) and works to commence.

16/06: works consisting of overseeding (disc seeder application) and fertilising; with rolling-out ruts and undulations (if required) over entire site, the rolling was not as effective as we would like due to the hard dry conditions.

16/06: parks assessment of the tri-tag field/Norwood Road fields and works to commenced. Works were undertaken to top dress and overseed any areas that had slight undulations.

## **Infrastructure**

13/06: Assessment of Redgra site was undertaken and remedial works were completed, the site has been raked and brushed to address any of the identified issues.

17/06: Lido gate reinstatement.

17/06: Herne Hill gate reinstatement.

## **4. Works scheduled**

### **Condition Assessment**

Weekly detailed condition assessment to be undertaken to monitor the success of the remedial works.

### **Monitoring**

Ongoing: parks officers will schedule and monitor the planned works once conditions allow.

### **Grass Remedial Works**

- Ongoing: irrigation of seeded areas, dependent on weather conditions.
- TBC: levelling and seeding or turfing of the football pitch. Options will be discussed in detail following de-rig, and officers will liaise with St Matthew's Project.
- TBC: specialist de-compaction works within root protection zones of trees within the event footprint.
- TBC: verti-draining of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC: subsoiling works to alleviate compaction and assist with future drainage of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC rolling-out ruts and undulations across the entire, when conditions allow.
- TBC: supplementary autumn works.

## **Infrastructure**

- TBC: two benches to be replaced.
- TBC: reinstatement of knee rail at the Lido entrance.
- TBC: resurfacing of internal roads.
- TBC: paving repairs inside Herne Hill gate.
- TBC: Herne Hill gate reinstatement.

## **5. Ecological assessments**

As part of the planning permission for the Country Show, Conditions 15 and 16 required baseline ecological assessments of the area of the park used for events. These were undertaken by Greengage Environmental Ltd. The expectation of Planning is that a follow-up Biodiversity Net Gain

(BNG) assessment will be undertaken 2-3 months after the derig is complete and a mitigation strategy will be produced to address any identified deterioration in the site's ecological rating (using BNG assessment criteria). The Preliminary Ecological appraisal required by Planning recommended further ecological monitoring and reports, including a Phase 2 survey, an Ecological Impact Assessment and an Ecological Management Plan. The council will consider these recommendations through the summer.

## **6. General promotion**

### **Parks Investment Levy**

Officers will seek Cabinet Member approval for the use of the Brockwell Park PIL for 2025/26. A suggestion will be investment in the park's main play area. This was refurbished around 2012 with NLHF funding, using timber-based equipment, which is now reaching the end of its life. The £30,000 compensation for the cancellation of *Bounce* in 2024 is being used for play area enhancements, with spend in progress. Officers will work with the Communications team to better promote the benefits arising from the use of PIL within the park.

### **Brockwell Live Sustainability Strategy**

Summer Events Ltd have commissioned a strategic document to assess the benefits of Brockwell Live. It is expected that this will focus on three pillars: people; park and planet; and economic benefits. A draft is expected early July and the document will feature case studies on people and businesses positively impacted by the event as well as an assessment of the wider economic benefits deriving from the event.

### **Brockwell Live Community Fund**

This will be progressed over coming weeks, with councillors invited as usual to participate in the evaluation; and the outcome will be widely promoted.

## **7. Technical Overview of Remedial Works**

### **Overseeding**

On 16/06/2025, overseeding (mentioned in section 3) was carried out using a disc seeder, which applied the seed at a depth of approximately 2.5-3mm at a rate of 50 grams per square metre. Following inspection, I can confirm that the work was completed to the required standard. It is common to observe seeds on the surface at the start and end points where the tractor turns, which may attract birds to feed on them.



This year's seed mix has been carefully selected to align with the latest best practices in amenity turf management and sports turf management in the UK. The mix comprises 25% tetragame, a tetraploid perennial ryegrass known for its robustness, high disease tolerance, and ability to thrive in cold temperatures and drought conditions. Similarly, 25% tetragreen, another tetraploid perennial ryegrass, offers the same robust characteristics, ensuring resilience and sustainability. The mix also includes 25% Columbine, a perennial ryegrass that provides intense wear tolerance, fast recovery, and excellent winter colour. Finally, 25% Berlioz 1, a perennial ryegrass, has been chosen for its high wear tolerance and good recovery. This selection marks a change from last year, driven by the superior drought tolerance of these species, which will enhance germination rates and increase grass coverage more rapidly. In September, we plan to overseed with species that, while less drought-tolerant, will contribute to greater species diversity.

The team has initiated a trial at the Herne Hill entrance, employing top dressing and horticultural fleece to enhance the germination process. These efforts will help retain moisture and support germination. Additionally, the team is exploring other methods, such as the application of mulch, and will conduct a similar trial to evaluate its effectiveness. Should these trials prove successful, we plan to replicate the approach in other areas to further assist the germination process.

Last year, overseeding was performed post-event using a harrow air seeder. This year, we opted for a seed drill, which aligns with best practice in turf management by providing better seed-to-soil contact. Additionally, we are undertaking watering this year, which was not done last year, to assist with the germination of the drilled seed.

At the time of seed drilling, a liquid seaweed feed was applied to nourish the roots of the established grass. This, in conjunction with watering, will stimulate growth. The track matting was lifted more quickly this year, allowing the grass roots to start growing sooner as they create leaf material for photosynthesis.

These combined measures should result in faster grass recovery and establishment compared to last year and help tackle the ingress of weeds.

## **Turfing Considerations**

Turfing has been considered. Turf requires substantial watering as it is established grass that is lifted and then laid in its new location. When establishing turf in temperatures above 20°C, best practice and British standards recommend that turf should receive about 25-38 mm of water per square metre per week. As temperatures rise above 25°C, turf generally requires more water to stay healthy. Best practice and British standards suggest increasing the watering amount to about 38-50 mm per square metre and increasing watering regimes to three days per week. Achieving this watering regime is extremely difficult on such a large scale, compounded by the limited water points across the site. From experience, it is very difficult to avoid turf shrinking, which occurs when the turf dries out, resulting in gaps appearing between the joints.

## **Compaction and Soil Conditions**

Alleviating compaction has been challenging due to the very dry ground conditions, which have made the soil too hard for verti-draining, undertaking said works in these conditions would result in damage to the machinery. This situation is being monitored, and we will undertake verti-draining as soon as conditions allow.

Additionally, a grass area near Herne Hill gate is being top-dressed with loam soil over the drilled seed to see if this will improve germination. If successful, we will consider applying this method to targeted wider areas across the site.

Further works are planned for September to alleviate compaction and increase grass coverage.

## Briefing: Brockwell Park post-event update 3

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Date drafted: **24 June 2025**

Service area: **Parks**

Required for: **Information Purposes**

Distribution: **John Bosley, Venetia Reid-Baptiste, Cllr Anyanwu, ward councillors, Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee (BPCP)**

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Origin Amenity is the Council's chosen contractor for the remedial works, and under their previous name of Rigby Taylor have undertaken post-event remediation works for the authority over many years. All remedial works will be funded by Summer Events Ltd., however the parks team will be undertaking specific elements of the works, for example taking responsibility for areas of the park used exclusively for the Country Show.

### 2. Condition Summary (as of 24 June)

#### Grass

Overall grass coverage across the site is reduced, with significantly more localised damage evident in areas previously subjected to track matting. These sections are exhibiting signs of soil compaction and currently display minimal to no grass cover. Although these areas have been overseeded, there are presently no visible signs of germination.

In the broader grassed areas, previously chlorotic (yellowing) turf is now actively growing and exhibiting improved chlorophyll production, resulting in a healthier green appearance. This recovery has been supported by recent sunlight and the application of a seaweed based bio-stimulant.

Areas with low grass coverage have shown modest improvement, with new growth emerging from existing live root systems. Again, this has been aided by favourable sunlight and the seaweed feed. However, while sunlight is promoting photosynthetic activity, the current high temperatures are placing the grass under heat stress, which is inhibiting growth and slowing the rate of recovery.

## **Trees**

Trees previously assessed as being in good health continue to exhibit strong vitality, with no visible signs of physiological dysfunction or structural decline.

## **Infrastructure**

Following a comprehensive assessment of all on-site infrastructure including grassed areas, pathways, benches, Redgra surfaces, gates, fencing, drain covers, bollards, and signage. Two locations were identified as requiring immediate safety interventions. Temporary safety measures have been implemented at these sites using high-visibility cones to mitigate potential hazards. These areas will be regularly monitored to ensure the controls remain effective in preventing accidents and maintaining public safety.

## **3. Works completed**

### **Initial grass reinstatement**

Disc seeding and seaweed-based fertiliser application on 16 June (see Section 7 for full details). Daily watering is being carried out in targeted areas with the objective of maintaining optimal soil moisture levels to support seed germination and encourage healthy grass establishment. This consistent irrigation regime is intended to create favourable conditions for early root development and sustained turf growth.

18/06: The Brockwell Live team has installed rope and pin barriers to restrict foot traffic in areas that have sustained the most damage, with particular focus on trackway routes and the area directly in front of the main stage. This intervention is intended to minimise further wear and allow for recovery of the affected turf and soil structure.

### **Infrastructure**

Ongoing monitoring of cone placements is being carried out to ensure their effectiveness in mitigating potential trip hazards.

Herne Hill Gate reinstatement.

Lido gate and lower section of knee rail reinstated.

### **Improved grass-cutting regime**

In April we moved to a significantly improved grass-cutting regime without increasing resources used. By no longer cutting under tree canopies (to reduce soil compaction) and simplifying the tractor cutting path, we have moved from a 4-week cutting cycle to a 2-week cutting cycle for all amenity grass and sports pitches within the park.

## **4. Works scheduled**

### **Condition Assessment and Monitoring**

Weekly detailed condition assessments are being undertaken to monitor the success of the remedial works. Parks officers are monitoring all works and recovery on a regular basis.

## **Grass Remedial Works**

- Ongoing: irrigation of targeted seeded areas, dependent on weather conditions.
- TBC: levelling and seeding of the football pitch. Options are being discussed in detail and officers are liaising with Lee Dema of St Matthew's Project. The option assessment includes possible relocation of the pitch to an area of the park not used for events.
- TBC: specialist de-compaction works within root protection zones of trees within the event footprint.
- TBC: verti-draining of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC: subsoiling works to alleviate compaction and assist with future drainage of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC rolling-out ruts and undulations across the entire, when conditions allow.
- TBC: supplementary late summer / autumn works, which will include over-seeding. This programme will be scheduled over the next 2-3 weeks.

## **Infrastructure**

- TBC: two benches to be replaced.
- TBC: replacement of remaining section of knee rail at the Lido entrance.
- TBC: resurfacing of internal roads.
- TBC: remaining paving repairs inside Herne Hill gate.

## **Trees**

The tree management team has been instructed to undertake soil compaction assessments across the site. This initiative aims to build a comprehensive understanding, over time, of the impact that festival activities may have on tree health and root zone conditions.

Following the identification of compacted areas during testing, these locations will be prioritised for remedial works, including soil decompaction and the targeted application of biochar. These interventions are intended to enhance soil structure, improve root aeration, and support the long-term vitality and resilience of the trees.

The very large oak tree known as the Brockwell Oak

(<https://what3words.com/theme.decks.organs>) will shortly receive a tailored protection regime designed to extend its life as long as possible. Chestnut fencing will be placed around the canopy area, soil decompaction will be undertaken and a deep layer of mulch applied around the tree.

## **5. Ecological assessments**

As part of the planning permission for the Country Show, Conditions 15 and 16 required baseline ecological assessments of the area of the park used for events. These were undertaken by

Greengage Environmental Ltd. The expectation of Planning is that a follow-up Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be undertaken 2-3 months after the derig is complete and a mitigation strategy will be produced to address any identified deterioration in the site's ecological rating (using BNG assessment criteria). The Preliminary Ecological appraisal required by Planning recommended further ecological monitoring and reports, including a Phase 2 survey, an Ecological Impact Assessment and an Ecological Management Plan. The council will consider these recommendations through the summer.

## **6. General promotion**

### **Parks Investment Levy**

Officers will seek Cabinet Member approval for the use of the Brockwell Park PIL for 2025/26. A suggestion will be investment in the park's main play area. This was refurbished around 2012 with NLHF funding, using timber-based equipment, which is now reaching the end of its life. The £30,000 compensation for the cancellation of *Bounce* in 2024 is being used for play area enhancements, primarily to replace the zipline which is at the end of its functional life. Three organisations have been approached to provide quotations and once these have been received, we will carry out due diligence, evaluate the submissions, and subsequently appoint and instruct a suitable contractor. Officers will work with the Communications team to better promote the benefits arising from the use of PIL within the park.

### **Brockwell Live Sustainability Strategy**

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### **Brockwell Live Community Fund**

This will be progressed over coming weeks, with councillors invited as usual to participate in the evaluation; and the outcome will be widely promoted.

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### **Overseeding**

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common to observe seeds on the surface at the start and end points where the tractor turns, which may attract birds to feed on them.

This year's seed mix has been carefully selected to align with the latest best practice in amenity turf management and sports turf management in the UK. The mix comprises:

- 25% Tetragame, a tetraploid perennial ryegrass known for its robustness, high disease tolerance, and ability to thrive in cold temperatures and drought conditions.
- 25% Tetragreen, another tetraploid perennial ryegrass, offering the same robust characteristics, ensuring resilience and sustainability
- 25% Columbine, a perennial ryegrass that provides intense wear tolerance, fast recovery, and excellent winter colour.
- 25% Berlioz 1, a perennial ryegrass, chosen for its high wear tolerance and good recovery.

This selection marks a change from last year, driven by the superior drought tolerance of these species, which will enhance germination rates and increase grass coverage more rapidly. In September, we plan to overseed with species that, while less drought-tolerant, will contribute to greater species diversity.

The team has initiated a trial at the Herne Hill entrance, employing top dressing and horticultural fleece to enhance the germination process. These efforts will help retain moisture and support germination. Additionally, the team is exploring other methods, such as the application of mulch, and will conduct a similar trial to evaluate its effectiveness. Should these trials prove successful, we plan to replicate the approach in other areas to further assist the germination process.

Last year, overseeding was performed post-event using a harrow air seeder. This year, we opted for a seed drill, which aligns with best practice in turf management by providing better seed-to-soil contact. Additionally, we are undertaking watering this year, which was not done last year, to assist with the germination of the drilled seed.

At the time of seed drilling, a liquid seaweed feed was applied to nourish the roots of the established grass. This, in conjunction with watering, will stimulate growth. The track matting was lifted more quickly this year, allowing the grass roots to start growing sooner as they create leaf material for photosynthesis.

These combined measures should result in faster grass recovery and establishment compared to last year and help tackle the ingress of weeds.

## **Turfing Considerations**

Turfing has been considered. Turf requires substantial watering as it is established grass that is lifted and then laid in its new location. When establishing turf in temperatures above 20°C, best practice and British standards recommend that turf should receive about 25-38 mm of water per square metre per week. As temperatures rise above 25°C, turf generally requires more water to stay healthy. Best practice and British Standards suggest increasing the watering amount to about 38-

50 mm per square metre and increasing watering regimes to three days per week. Achieving this watering regime is extremely difficult on such a large scale, compounded by the limited water points across the site. From experience, including previous attempts to re-turf in the park after events, it is very difficult to avoid turf shrinking, which occurs when the turf dries out, resulting in gaps appearing between the joints. Turfing would also require removal of vast amounts of material from the site and extensive ground preparation, it is not a sustainable proposition for the area concerned.

### **Compaction and Soil Conditions**

Alleviating compaction has been challenging post-event due to the very dry ground conditions, which have made the soil too hard for verti-draining, undertaking said works in these conditions would result in damage to the machinery. This situation is being monitored, and we will undertake verti-draining as soon as conditions allow.

Additionally, a grass area near Herne Hill gate is being top-dressed with loam soil over the drilled seed to see if this will improve germination. If successful, we will consider applying this method to targeted wider areas across the site.

Further works are planned for September to alleviate compaction and increase grass coverage.



## Briefing: Brockwell Park post-event update 4

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Date drafted: **2 July 2025**

Service area: **Parks**

Required for: **Information Purposes**

Distribution: **Cllr Anyanwu, Venetia Reid-Baptiste, John Bosley, ward councillors, Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee (BPCP)**

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### 1. Introduction

These briefings will provide regular post-event updates following Brockwell Live and the Lambeth Country Show, covering ground restoration and enhancement, as well as related issues such as ecological appraisals. From this week we will start removing or summarising some of the older content in order to manage the length of the document.

### 2. Condition Summary (as of 1 July)

#### Grass

Overall grass coverage across the site is reduced, and this is significant in localised areas where track matting was laid. These sections are exhibiting signs of soil compaction and currently display minimal to no grass cover. Although these areas have been overseeded, there are presently no visible signs of germination.

In the larger grassed areas, the turf that was previously showing signs of chlorosis (yellowing) is now actively growing and displaying enhanced chlorophyll production, resulting in a healthier green hue. This improvement has been facilitated by extensive sunlight and the application of a seaweed-based bio-stimulant.

Areas with sparse grass coverage have exhibited some improvement, with new growth emerging from the existing live root systems due to the lower temperatures experienced last week. This progress has been supported by favourable sunlight and the application of a seaweed-based bio-stimulant. However the current high temperatures are causing heat stress, which is inhibiting growth and slowing the recovery rate.

## **Infrastructure**

Three relatively small areas of internal roadway require resurfacing. Temporary safety measures have been implemented at these sites using high-visibility cones to mitigate potential hazards. These areas will be regularly monitored to ensure the controls remain effective in preventing accidents and maintaining public safety. One area has experienced surface break-up and subsidence by approximately 200mm. Additionally, there is an area where track matting was placed on either side of the pathway, and vehicles dry steering caused the track mat to press into the surface, resulting in surface break-up with a depth of approximately 25-30mm. Furthermore, one drain grate has collapsed, leading to subsidence and a level change of approximately 40mm (see Appendix).

## **3. Works completed**

### **Initial grass reinstatement**

Disc seeding and seaweed-based fertiliser application on 16 June (see Section 7 for full details). Daily watering is being carried out in targeted areas with the objective of maintaining optimal soil moisture levels to support seed germination and encourage healthy grass establishment.

### **Grass restoration trial at Herne Hill Gate**

Following the commencement of the trial, we have been watering this area daily to determine if the application of soil and horticultural fleece will aid in moisture retention. As of now, we have not observed any germination, which is likely due to the extreme dry heat we are currently experiencing.

## **Infrastructure**

Lido gate and lower section of knee rail reinstated (see Appendix).

### **Improved grass-cutting regime**

In April we moved to a significantly improved grass-cutting regime without increasing resources used. By no longer cutting under tree canopies (to reduce soil compaction) and simplifying the tractor cutting path, we have moved from a 4-week cutting cycle to a 2-week cutting cycle for all amenity grass and sports pitches within the park.

### **Engagement with St Matthew's Project**

A meeting was held with Lee Dema on 19 June to review the current condition of the football pitch. It was agreed that due to the recent climatic conditions, it will be very challenging to alleviate the compaction and grass coverage issues and that it is unlikely the pitch could be in a playable condition by September. However, Parks staff proposed relocating the football pitch to the field located between the Park depot and the Hall. This site has a similar topography to the current pitch location, which is of great appeal to the organisation due to unsanctioned users being less inclined to use the pitch. Lee was open to a move which will be discussed in more detail during a site meeting on 10 July.

## 4. Works scheduled

### Grass Remedial Works

- Ongoing: irrigation of targeted seeded areas, dependent on weather conditions (see Appendix).
- Monitoring of all areas on weekly basis.
- TBC: levelling and seeding of the football pitch. Options are being discussed in detail and officers are liaising with Lee Dema of St Matthew's Project. The option assessment includes possible relocation of the pitch to an area of the park not used for events.
- TBC: specialist de-compaction works within root protection zones of trees within the event footprint.
- TBC: verti-draining of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC: subsoiling works to alleviate compaction and assist with future drainage of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC: rolling-out ruts and undulations across the entire, when conditions allow.
- TBC: supplementary late summer / autumn works, which will include over-seeding. This programme will be scheduled over the next 2-3 weeks.
- WC 14/07: Oil spill areas (Lido to Tennis Court path and Path near BMX track) Excavating and removing contaminated soils, reinstatement with fresh soil and seed to match existing level. This work is being undertaken by the Parks team with materials being charged to Brockwell Live.

### Infrastructure

- TBC: two benches to be replaced, benches are on order with a lead time of eight to ten weeks. The benches only suffered minor damage and are still in situ and fully usable, so there is no loss of amenity.
- TBC: replacement of remaining section of knee rail at the Lido entrance, the additional base plates for the replacement are in the process of being procured.
- TBC: resurfacing of internal roads, we are working with Highways colleagues to arrange the specification and undertaking of this works and hope to have works scheduled in the near future.
- TBC: remaining paving repairs inside Herne Hill gate. A purchase order has been raised for the replacement slabs.
- TBC: Lido gate repair following being hit by vehicle associated with Brockwell Live.

### Trees

The tree team will undertake soil compaction assessments across the site in the autumn. Following the identification of compacted areas during testing, these locations will be prioritised for remedial works, including soil decompaction and the targeted application of biochar. These interventions are intended to enhance soil structure, improve root aeration, and support the long-term vitality and resilience of the trees.

The very large oak tree known as the Brockwell Oak (<https://what3words.com/theme.decks.organs>) will shortly receive a tailored protection regime designed to extend its life as long as possible. Chestnut fencing will be placed around the canopy area, soil decompaction will be undertaken and a deep layer of mulch applied around the tree.

## **5. Ecological assessments**

As part of the planning permission for the Country Show, Conditions 15 and 16 required baseline ecological assessments of the area of the park used for events. These were undertaken by Greengage Environmental Ltd. The expectation of Planning is that a follow-up Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be undertaken 2-3 months after the derig is complete and a mitigation strategy will be produced to address any identified deterioration in the site's ecological rating (using BNG assessment criteria). The Preliminary Ecological appraisal required by Planning recommended further ecological monitoring and reports, including a Phase 2 survey, an Ecological Impact Assessment and an Ecological Management Plan. The council will consider these recommendations through the summer.

## **6. Agronomist report**

We have engaged the services of Tim Lodge, a professional agronomist with extensive experience in the field, to undertake a condition survey of the event area. Tim, who has been providing independent agronomy advice since 1995, is the owner and consultant at Agrostis Sports Surface Consulting. The survey will include an assessment of the current condition in relation to previous years and provide recommendations for repairing and improving the surface. We are currently forming up on a date and expect the survey to be undertaken sometime in August.

## **7. General promotion**

### **Parks Investment Levy**

Officers will seek Cabinet Member approval for the use of the Brockwell Park PIL for 2025/26. A suggestion will be investment in the park's main play area. This was refurbished around 2012 with NLHF funding, using timber-based equipment, which is now reaching the end of its life. The £30,000 compensation for the cancellation of *Bounce* in 2024 is being used for play area enhancements, primarily to replace the zipline which is at the end of its functional life. Three companies have been approached for quotations and once these have been received, we will carry out due diligence, evaluate the submissions, and subsequently appoint and instruct a suitable contractor.

Officers will work with the Communications team to better promote the benefits arising from the use of PIL within the park, once expenditure is fully mapped out.

## **Brockwell Live Sustainability Strategy**

Summer Events Ltd have commissioned a strategic document to assess the benefits of Brockwell Live. It is expected that this will focus on three pillars: people; park and planet; and economic benefits. A draft is expected early July and the document will feature case studies on people and businesses positively impacted by the event as well as an assessment of the wider economic benefits deriving from the event.

## **Brockwell Live Community Fund**

This will be progressed over coming weeks, with councillors invited as usual to participate in the evaluation; and the outcome will be widely promoted.

## **8. Technical Overview of Remedial Works**

### **Overseeding**

On 16 June, overseeding (mentioned in section 3) was carried out using a disc seeder, which applied the seed at a depth of approximately 2.5-3mm at a rate of 50 grams per square metre. Following inspection, officers confirm that the work was completed to the required standard. It is common to observe seeds on the surface at the start and end points where the tractor turns, which may attract birds to feed on them.

This year's seed mix has been carefully selected to align with the latest best practice in amenity turf management and sports turf management in the UK. The mix comprises:

- 25% Tetragame, a tetraploid perennial ryegrass known for its robustness, high disease tolerance, and ability to thrive in cold temperatures and drought conditions.
- 25% Tetragreen, another tetraploid perennial ryegrass, offering the same robust characteristics, ensuring resilience and sustainability
- 25% Columbine, a perennial ryegrass that provides intense wear tolerance, fast recovery, and excellent winter colour.
- 25% Berlioz 1, a perennial ryegrass, chosen for its high wear tolerance and good recovery.

This selection marks a change from last year, driven by the superior drought tolerance of these species, which will enhance germination rates and increase grass coverage more rapidly. In September, we plan to overseed with species that, while less drought-tolerant, will contribute to greater species diversity.

The team has initiated a trial at the Herne Hill entrance, employing top dressing and horticultural fleece to enhance the germination process. These efforts will help retain moisture and support germination. Additionally, the team is exploring other methods, such as the application of mulch, and will conduct a similar trial to evaluate its effectiveness. Should these trials prove successful,

we plan to replicate the approach in other areas to further assist the germination process. For update on this trial in section 3.

Last year, overseeding was performed post-event using a harrow air seeder. This year, we opted for a seed drill, which aligns with best practice in turf management by providing better seed-to-soil contact. Additionally, we are undertaking watering this year, which was not done last year, to assist with the germination of the drilled seed.

At the time of seed drilling, a liquid seaweed feed was applied to nourish the roots of the established grass. This, in conjunction with watering, will stimulate growth. The track matting was lifted more quickly this year, allowing the grass roots to start growing sooner as they create leaf material for photosynthesis.

These combined measures should result in faster grass recovery and establishment compared to last year and help tackle the ingress of weeds.

### **Compaction and Soil Conditions**

Alleviating compaction has been challenging post-event due to the very dry ground conditions, which have made the soil too hard for verti-draining, undertaking said works in these conditions would result in damage to the machinery. This situation is being monitored, and we will undertake verti-draining as soon as conditions allow.

Additionally, a grass area near Herne Hill gate is being top-dressed with loam soil over the drilled seed to see if this will improve germination. If successful, we will consider applying this method to targeted wider areas across the site (see appendix).

Further works are planned for September to alleviate compaction and increase grass coverage.

## Appendix 1 – Site photos

Footpath damage on path from Herne Hill gate to Hall.



Footpath damage on path from Lido to Tennis Courts.







New post and rail at Lido gate entrance





Site watering



Trials at Herne Hill Gate





## Briefing: Brockwell Park post-event update week 7

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Date drafted: **23 July 2025**

Service area: **Parks**

Required for: **Information Purposes**

Distribution: **Cllr Anyanwu, Venetia Reid-Baptiste, John Bosley, ward councillors, Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee (BPCP)**

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### 1. Introduction

These briefings will provide regular post-event updates following Brockwell Live and the Lambeth Country Show, covering ground restoration and enhancement, as well as related issues such as ecological appraisals. We will move to a fortnightly briefing as delivery has slowed.

### 2. Condition Summary (as of 23 July)

#### Grass

Grass recovery across the general site, excluding the areas where track matting was installed and the front of the main stage near the Herne Hill entrance, is progressing well. There is clear evidence of active germination and regrowth, supported by existing live root systems. These areas now demonstrate good overall sward density and are approaching pre-event standards in terms of grass coverage and health.

In the previously impacted zones, including the track matting areas, football pitch, and the front of stage sections, overseeding has yielded positive results. The recent drop in temperatures, combined with consistent rainfall, has significantly improved germination rates. These favourable conditions have enhanced grass establishment and are contributing to a steady improvement in overall turf quality.

Soil compaction continues to be monitored across the site. Encouragingly, despite recent periods of heavy rainfall, there has been no significant evidence of surface water pooling. This indicates that infiltration and surface drainage remain functional. Nonetheless, decompaction works will still be undertaken, as they are expected to deliver long-term benefits to soil structure, root development, and overall turf resilience.

The improved climatic conditions have also resulted in increased weed growth. This is being closely monitored and will be managed in accordance with best practice to ensure the continued health and competitiveness of the grass sward.

Overall, the site is showing strong signs of recovery, and conditions are improving in line with seasonal expectations and industry standards for amenity turf management.

The trial area near the Herne Hill gate has shown significant improvement in grass germination, attributed to the moisture retention properties of the fleece and soil application. This method has proven effective in supporting early-stage grass establishment. The fleece will remain in place until grass growth becomes more established, at which point it will be removed. We are also planning to apply this method to selected key areas across the site. These locations will be identified in consultation with the operations team.

As part of this process, we will assess the potential impact of implementing this approach more widely, particularly in relation to the temporary reduction in usable open space during the summer holiday period, which we aim to minimise.

### **Infrastructure**

Three relatively small sections of the internal roadway require resurfacing. Temporary safety measures have been implemented at these locations using high-visibility cones to mitigate potential hazards. These areas are being regularly monitored to ensure that the controls remain effective in preventing accidents and maintaining public safety.

One section has experienced surface deterioration and subsidence of approximately 200 millimetres. In another area, where track matting was placed on either side of the pathway, vehicle dry steering has caused the matting to press into the surface, resulting in surface break-up to a depth of approximately 25 to 30 millimetres.

Additionally, one drain grate has collapsed, leading to localised subsidence and a level change of approximately 40 millimetres. (see Appendix 1).

## **3. Works completed**

### **Initial grass reinstatement**

Disc seeding and seaweed-based fertiliser application on 16 June (see Section 7 for full details). Daily watering is being carried out in targeted areas with the objective of maintaining optimal soil moisture levels to support seed germination and encourage healthy grass establishment.

### **Grass restoration trial at Herne Hill Gate**

Following the commencement of the trial, we have been watering this area daily to determine if the application of soil and horticultural fleece will aid in moisture retention.

### **Infrastructure**

Lido gate and lower section of knee rail reinstated (see Appendix 1).

### **Improved grass-cutting regime**

In April we moved to a significantly improved grass-cutting regime without increasing resources used. By no longer cutting under tree canopies (to reduce soil compaction) and simplifying the

tractor cutting path, we have moved from a 4-week cutting cycle to a 2-week cutting cycle for all amenity grass and sports pitches within the park.

#### **Oil spill areas**

The two small areas damaged from oil (Lido to Tennis Court path and path near BMX track) have been restored by excavating and removing contaminated soils, reinstatement with fresh soil and seed to match existing level. This work was undertaken by the Parks team with materials being charged to Brockwell Live.

#### **Removal of rope and pin**

Following recent improvements to site conditions, the rope and pin safety barriers have now been removed.

#### **Football pitch feasibility**

The football pitch outline has been marked out on the field between the depot and the Hall to confirm that it fits within the available space and represents a feasible location.

#### **Pathway Damage Meeting**

A site meeting was held with the Capital Projects Team to inspect and assess each area of pathway damage. This assessment will inform the development of detailed specifications, which will be used to obtain quotations from the term contractor.

## **4. Works scheduled**

#### **Grass Remedial Works**

- Ongoing: irrigation of targeted seeded areas, dependent on weather conditions (see Appendix 1).
- Monitoring of all areas on weekly basis.
- TBC: 11x11 football pitch. Options are being discussed in detail and officers are liaising with Lee Dema of St Matthew's Project. Meeting due on site w/c 28 July to discuss and confirm the pitch relocation.
- TBC: specialist de-compaction works within root protection zones of trees within the event footprint.
- TBC: verti-draining of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC: subsoiling works to alleviate compaction and assist with future drainage of the whole site once ground conditions allow.
- TBC: rolling-out ruts and undulations across the entire, when conditions allow.
- TBC: supplementary late summer / autumn works, which will include over-seeding. This programme will be scheduled over the next 2-3 weeks.

#### **Infrastructure**

- TBC: two benches to be replaced, benches are on order with a lead time of eight to ten weeks. The benches only suffered minor damage and are still in situ and fully usable, so there is no loss of amenity.

- TBC: replacement of remaining section of knee rail at the Lido entrance, the additional base plates for the replacement are in the process of being fabricated, the other materials are being sourced to enable the installation to be undertaken as soon as the plates are fabricated.
- TBC: patching of three damaged areas on internal roads. Officers have met with Capital Studio to commission the repairs.
- TBC: remaining paving repairs inside Herne Hill gate. A purchase order has been raised for the replacement slabs but lead time for delivery is eight to ten weeks.
- TBC: Lido gate repair following vehicle strike. Brockwell Live have commissioned the repair from Waltham Engineering.

## **Trees**

The tree team will undertake soil compaction assessments across the site in the autumn. Following the identification of compacted areas during testing, these locations will be prioritised for remedial works, including soil decompaction and the targeted application of biochar. These interventions are intended to enhance soil structure, improve root aeration, and support the long-term vitality and resilience of the trees.

The very large oak tree known as the Brockwell Oak (<https://what3words.com/theme.decks.organs>) will shortly receive a tailored protection regime designed to extend its life as long as possible. 140 metres of post and rail chestnut fencing will be placed around the canopy area, soil decompaction will be undertaken and a deep layer of mulch applied around the tree. Quotes are currently being obtained from our usual fencing suppliers.

## **5. Ecological assessments**

As part of the planning permission for the Country Show, Conditions 15 and 16 required baseline ecological assessments of the area of the park used for events. These were undertaken by Greengage Environmental Ltd. The expectation of Planning is that a follow-up Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will be undertaken 2-3 months after the derig is complete and a mitigation strategy will be produced to address any identified deterioration in the site's ecological rating (using BNG assessment criteria). The Preliminary Ecological appraisal required by Planning recommended further ecological monitoring and reports, including a Phase 2 survey, an Ecological Impact Assessment and an Ecological Management Plan. The council will consider these recommendations through the summer.

## **6. Agronomist report**

We continue to engage the services of Tim Lodge, a professional agronomist with extensive experience in the field, to undertake condition surveys of the event area. Tim, who has been providing independent agronomy advice since 1995, is the owner and consultant at Agrostis Sports Surface Consulting. The next survey will include an assessment of the current condition in relation

to previous years and provide recommendations for repairing and improving the surface. We are currently firming up on a date and expect the survey to be undertaken sometime in August.

## **7. Linked issues**

### **Parks Investment Levy (PIL)**

Officers will seek Cabinet Member approval for the use of the Brockwell Park PIL for 2025/26. A suggestion will be investment in the park's main play area. This was last refurbished around 2012 with NLHF funding, using timber-based equipment, which is now reaching the end of its life. The £30,000 compensation for the cancellation of *Bounce* in 2024 is being used for play area enhancements, primarily to replace the zipline which is at the end of its functional life. Three quotations have been received, all of which are in budget and a decision will be made imminently, however we are reviewing the proposed surfacing material in an aim to reduce the environmental impact. The balance of the £30,000 will be used to replace and repair some additional items within the play area.

PIL is also being used to pay for the installation of a new bespoke Country Bench manufactured by Ogilvie Ltd. This will be placed onto the new platform created by removal of the vandalised shelter close to Norwood Road. See Appendix 1 for a manufacturer's photo of the bench.

Officers will work with the Communications team to better promote the benefits arising from the use of PIL within the park, once expenditure is fully mapped out.

### **Brockwell Live Sustainability Strategy**

Summer Events Ltd have commissioned a strategic document to assess the benefits of Brockwell Live. It is expected that this will focus on three pillars: people; park and planet; and economic benefits. A draft is expected by mid-August, and the document will feature case studies on people and businesses positively impacted by the event as well as an assessment of the wider economic benefits deriving from the event. So far Brockwell Live have received over 500 responses to their feedback survey.

### **Brockwell Live Community Fund**

Information went live on the website last week: <https://www.brockwell-live.com/local-community> and the closing date for applications is 22 August. Councillors will be invited as usual to participate in the evaluation; and the outcome will be widely promoted.



## 8. Technical Overview of Remedial Works

### Overseeding

On 16 June, overseeding (mentioned in section 3) was carried out using a disc seeder, which applied the seed at a depth of approximately 2.5-3mm at a rate of 50 grams per square metre. Following inspection, officers confirm that the work was completed to the required standard. It is common to observe seeds on the surface at the start and end points where the tractor turns, which may attract birds to feed on them.

This year's seed mix has been carefully selected to align with the latest best practice in amenity turf management and sports turf management in the UK. The mix comprises:

- 25% Tetragame, a tetraploid perennial ryegrass known for its robustness, high disease tolerance, and ability to thrive in cold temperatures and drought conditions.
- 25% Tetragreen, another tetraploid perennial ryegrass, offering the same robust characteristics, ensuring resilience and sustainability
- 25% Columbine, a perennial ryegrass that provides intense wear tolerance, fast recovery, and excellent winter colour.
- 25% Berlioz 1, a perennial ryegrass, chosen for its high wear tolerance and good recovery.

This selection marks a change from last year, driven by the superior drought tolerance of these species, which will enhance germination rates and increase grass coverage more rapidly. In September, we plan to overseed with species that, while less drought-tolerant, will contribute to greater species diversity.

The team has initiated a trial at the Herne Hill entrance, employing top dressing and horticultural fleece to enhance the germination process. These efforts will help retain moisture and support germination. Additionally, the team is exploring other methods, such as the application of mulch, and will conduct a similar trial to evaluate its effectiveness. Should these trials prove successful, we plan to replicate the approach in other areas to further assist the germination process. For update on this trial in section 3.

Last year, overseeding was performed post-event using a harrow air seeder. This year, we opted for a seed drill, which aligns with best practice in turf management by providing better seed-to-soil contact. Additionally, we are undertaking watering this year, which was not done last year, to assist with the germination of the drilled seed.

At the time of seed drilling, a liquid seaweed feed was applied to nourish the roots of the established grass. This, in conjunction with watering, will stimulate growth. The track matting was lifted more quickly this year, allowing the grass roots to start growing sooner as they create leaf material for photosynthesis.

These combined measures should result in faster grass recovery and establishment compared to last year and help tackle the ingress of weeds.



## **Compaction and Soil Conditions**

Alleviating compaction has been challenging post-event due to the very dry ground conditions, which have made the soil too hard for verti-draining, undertaking said works in these conditions would result in damage to the machinery. This situation is being monitored, and we will undertake verti-draining as soon as conditions allow.

Additionally, a grass area near Herne Hill gate is being top-dressed with loam soil over the drilled seed to see if this will improve germination. If successful, we will consider applying this method to targeted wider areas across the site (see Appendix 1).

Further works are planned for September to alleviate compaction and increase grass coverage.

## **Appendix 1 – Site photos**

Footpath damage on path from Herne Hill gate to Hall.



Footpath damage on path from Lido to Tennis Courts.



New post and rail at Lido gate entrance



Site watering



## Trials at Herne Hill Gate



Trials at Herne Hill Gate (inspection: 22/07/2025)





Country bench, to be installed shortly





Grass Improvements 22/07/25



## Briefing: Brockwell Park post-event update

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Date drafted: **5 September 2025**

Service area: **Parks**

Required for: **Information Purposes**

Distribution: **Cllr Anyanwu, Venetia Reid-Baptiste, John Bosley, ward councillors, Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee (BPCP)**

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### 1. Introduction

These briefings provide post-event updates following Brockwell Live and the Lambeth Country Show, covering ground restoration and enhancement, as well as related issues such as ecological appraisals.

### 2. Condition Summary (as of 4 September)

#### Grass

Across the site grass growth is pushing on now and we are seeing good levels of germination from the drilled seed following the event in the initial remedial works as well as regrowth from the existing grass that was damaged during the event. The rate of recovery in comparison to last year is significantly better, this can be attributed to better planning, better monitoring, and changes in remedial works from Parks officers, along with the experience from 2024 being used to improve practices for this year.

Areas where track matting was installed have shown good levels of growth from the drilled seed, but unfortunately, we have seen low levels of recovery of existing grass, which has resulted in a low sward count and relatively light grass coverage. But this will be addressed in the next phase of works.

Grass recovery across the wider site, excluding the track matting zones and the area in front of the main stage near the Herne Hill entrance, is progressing well. There is clear evidence of healthy new germination and grass regrowth, supported by existing live root systems. These sections now exhibit good sward density and are at pre-event standards in terms of grass coverage and overall health.

Soil compaction continues to be monitored throughout the site. Encouragingly, despite recent heavy rainfall, there has been no significant surface water pooling, indicating that infiltration and surface drainage remain effective. Nevertheless, decompaction works will be carried out to enhance soil structure, promote root development, and improve long term turf resilience.

Weed growth remains an issue with the increase in Greater Plantain making it a dominant species within the sward, creating a problem as it prevents grass growth and establishment by out competing grass and other species for sunlight and moisture. We are looking to reduce the level of plantain through mechanical methods.

Overall, the site is demonstrating strong signs of recovery, with conditions at pre-event standards across approximately 70%-80% of the site and we are focused on achieving 100% coverage and then improving quality and density.

### **Infrastructure**

Three relatively small sections of the internal roadway require resurfacing. Temporary safety measures have been implemented at these locations using high-visibility cones to mitigate potential hazards. These areas are being regularly monitored to ensure that the controls remain effective in preventing accidents and maintaining public safety.

One section has experienced surface deterioration and subsidence of approximately 200 millimetres. In another area, where track matting was placed on either side of the pathway, vehicle dry steering has caused the matting to press into the surface, resulting in surface break-up to a depth of approximately 25 millimetres.

Additionally, one drain grate has collapsed, leading to localised subsidence and a level change of approximately 40 millimetres (see Appendix 1).

## **3. Works completed**

### **Initial grass reinstatement**

Disc seeding and seaweed-based fertiliser application on 16 June (see Section 7 for full details). Daily watering carried out in targeted areas with the objective of maintaining optimal soil moisture levels to support seed germination and encourage healthy grass establishment has now stopped with the recent wetter weather.

### **Grass restoration trial at Herne Hill Gate**

Following the commencement of the trial, we were watering this area daily to determine if the application of soil and horticultural fleece will aid in moisture retention.

### **Infrastructure**

Lido gate and lower section of knee rail reinstated (see Appendix 1).

### **Improved grass-cutting regime**

In April we moved to a significantly improved grass-cutting regime without increasing resources used. By no longer cutting under tree canopies (to reduce soil compaction) and simplifying the tractor cutting path, we have moved from a 4-week cutting cycle to a 2-week cutting cycle for all amenity grass and sports pitches within the park.



### **Oil spill areas**

The two small areas damaged from oil (Lido to Tennis Court path and path near BMX track) have been restored by excavating and removing contaminated soils, reinstatement with fresh soil and seed to match existing level. This work was undertaken by the Parks team with materials being charged to Brockwell Live. The fleece has now been removed.

### **Removal of rope and pin**

Following recent improvements to site conditions, the rope and pin safety barriers have now been removed.

### **Football pitch**

A new 11x11 football pitch outline has been marked out on the field between the depot and the Hall to confirm that it fits within the available space and represents a feasible location. Discussions regarding pitch relocation have been ongoing, with officers liaising closely with Lee Dema from the St Matthew's Project. A site meeting took place during the week commencing 11 August to review and confirm the proposed location.

Lee Dema is grateful for the alternative location, but because of the distance from the pavilion will continue to use the existing pitch above the copse, once it is usable again. The Parks team will proceed with installing goal post sockets in the first week of October and making the new pitch available for hire as well as back-up use for St. Matthew's Project. This will enable the provision of an additional pitch within the park, supporting wider community use and access and helping to cater for unmet demand for pitches.

### **Pathway damage meeting**

A site meeting was held with the Capital Studio to inspect and assess each area of pathway damage. This assessment has informed the development of detailed specifications, which are being used to obtain quotations from the Highways term contractor.

### **Rolling**

Rolling has taken place in conjunction with mowing across the entire site.

## **4. Works scheduled**

### **Grass Remedial Works**

- Monitoring of all areas on weekly basis.
- Visit by our external agronomist on 17 September to assess progress and make recommendations for the autumn phase of works.
- Autumn works will start late September and will include:
  - vertidrainage of the whole site
  - use of natural fertilisers
  - overseeding
- TBC: subsoiling works to alleviate compaction and assist with future drainage of the whole site once ground conditions allow.

## Infrastructure

- Two benches to be replaced. The benches only suffered minor damage and are still in situ and fully usable, so there is no loss of amenity. The new benches have been delivered and will be installed imminently.
- Replacement of remaining section of knee rail at the Lido entrance. The base plates for the replacement have been delivered and installation will be complete by 4 October.
- TBC: patching of three damaged areas on internal roads.
- TBC: remaining paving repairs inside Herne Hill gate. A purchase order has been raised for the replacement slabs but lead time for delivery was eight to ten weeks and they have not been delivered yet.
- TBC: Lido gate repair following vehicle strike. Brockwell Live have commissioned the repair from Waltham Engineering and area awaiting a date.

## Trees

The tree team will undertake soil compaction assessments across the site in the autumn. Following the identification of compacted areas during testing, these locations will be prioritised for remedial works, including soil decompaction and the targeted application of biochar. These interventions are intended to enhance soil structure, improve root aeration, and support the long-term vitality and resilience of the trees.

The very large oak tree known as the Brockwell Oak (<https://what3words.com/theme.decks.organs>) will shortly receive a tailored protection regime designed to extend its life as long as possible. 140 metres of post and rail chestnut fencing will be placed around the canopy area, soil decompaction will be undertaken and a deep layer of mulch applied around the tree. Quotes are currently being obtained from fencing suppliers.

## 5. Ecological assessments

As part of the planning permission for the Country Show, Conditions 15 and 16 required a baseline Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of the area of the park used for the Country Show. This was undertaken by Greengage Environmental Ltd. prior to the Country Show build. The expectation of Planning is that a follow-up BNG assessment will be undertaken 2-3 months after the derig was completed and a mitigation strategy will be produced to address any identified deterioration in the site's ecological rating (using BNG assessment criteria). This second assessment has been scheduled in for September.

Planning also required a full ecological assessment to be undertaken. Because of the tight timescales following Planning Committee, a Preliminary Ecological appraisal was undertaken as a partial discharge. The full assessment has also been commissioned to be undertaken by Greengage during September.

## 6. Agronomist report

We continue to engage the services of Tim Lodge, a professional agronomist with extensive experience in the field, to undertake condition surveys of the event area. Tim, who has been providing independent agronomy advice since 1995, is the owner and consultant at Agrostis Sports Surface Consulting. The next survey will include an assessment of the current condition in relation to previous years and provide recommendations for repairing and improving the surface. This assessment will be conducted on 17 September with the subsequent report to follow.

## 7. Linked issues

### **Parks Investment Levy (PIL)**

Officers have liaised with the Cabinet Member over approval for the use of the Brockwell Park PIL for 2025/26. A significant proportion is to be used for investment in the park's main play area. This was last refurbished around 2012 with NLHF funding, using timber-based equipment, which is now reaching the end of its life. A focus group of users has been created to help advise on priorities for replacing equipment and any other changes.

The £30,000 compensation for the cancellation of *Bounce* in 2024 is being used for play area enhancements, primarily to replace the zipline which is at the end of its functional life. Three quotations have been received, all of which are in budget and the work has been awarded to Kompan who are finalising details in preparation for installation. We are reviewing the proposed surfacing material in an aim to reduce the environmental impact and switching to bark. The balance of the £30,000 will be used to replace and repair two additional small items within the play area.

PIL is also being used to pay for the installation of a new bespoke Country Bench manufactured by Ogilvie Ltd. This will be placed onto the new platform created by removal of the vandalised shelter close to Norwood Road. See Appendix 1 for a manufacturer's photo of the bench.

Officers will work with the Communications team to better promote the benefits arising from the use of PIL within the park, once expenditure is fully mapped out.

### **Brockwell Live Sustainability Strategy**

Summer Events Ltd have commissioned a strategic document to assess the benefits of Brockwell Live. It is expected that this will focus on three pillars: people; park and planet; and economic benefits. A draft is expected by the end of September, and the document will feature case studies on people and businesses positively impacted by the event as well as an assessment of the wider economic benefits deriving from the event. So far Brockwell Live have received over 500 responses to their feedback survey.

## **Brockwell Live Community Fund**

Information went live on the Brockwell Live website: <https://www.brockwell-live.com/local-community> and the closing date for applications was 22 August. A total of 42 applications have been received and three ward councillors have been invited as usual to participate in the evaluation; and the outcome will be widely promoted. The evaluation session will take place on 16 September.

## **Other reports**

Both post-event sound reports have been received and the report commissioned by Lambeth will be circulated shortly – it confirmed that no breaches of the licensed sound levels were recorded.

A parking stress report was also required to discharge one of the planning conditions and the draft has just been received from Steer consultants. The final version will be sent to Planning shortly.

## **8. Technical Overview of Remedial Works**

### **Overseeding**

On 16 June, overseeding (mentioned in section 3) was carried out using a disc seeder, which applied the seed at a depth of approximately 2.5-3mm at a rate of 50 grams per square metre. Following inspection, officers confirm that the work was completed to the required standard. It is common to observe seeds on the surface at the start and end points where the tractor turns, which may attract birds to feed on them.

This year's seed mix has been carefully selected to align with the latest best practice in amenity turf management and sports turf management in the UK. The mix comprises:

- 25% Tetragame, a tetraploid perennial ryegrass known for its robustness, high disease tolerance, and ability to thrive in cold temperatures and drought conditions.
- 25% Tetragreen, another tetraploid perennial ryegrass, offering the same robust characteristics, ensuring resilience and sustainability
- 25% Columbine, a perennial ryegrass that provides intense wear tolerance, fast recovery, and excellent winter colour.
- 25% Berlioz 1, a perennial ryegrass, chosen for its high wear tolerance and good recovery.

This selection marks a change from last year, driven by the superior drought tolerance of these species, which will enhance germination rates and increase grass coverage more rapidly. In September, we plan to overseed with species that, while less drought-tolerant, will contribute to greater species diversity.

The team has initiated a trial at the Herne Hill entrance, employing top dressing and horticultural fleece to enhance the germination process. These efforts will help retain moisture and support germination. Additionally, the team is exploring other methods, such as the application of mulch,

and will conduct a similar trial to evaluate its effectiveness. Should these trials prove successful, we plan to replicate the approach in other areas to further assist the germination process. For update on this trial in section 3.

Last year, overseeding was performed post-event using a harrow air seeder. This year, we opted for a seed drill, which aligns with best practice in turf management by providing better seed-to-soil contact. Additionally, we are undertaking watering this year, which was not done last year, to assist with the germination of the drilled seed.

At the time of seed drilling, a liquid seaweed feed was applied to nourish the roots of the established grass. This, in conjunction with watering, will stimulate growth. The track matting was lifted more quickly this year, allowing the grass roots to start growing sooner as they create leaf material for photosynthesis.

These combined measures should result in faster grass recovery and establishment compared to last year and help tackle the ingress of weeds.

### **Compaction and Soil Conditions**

Alleviating compaction has been challenging post-event due to the very dry ground conditions, which have made the soil too hard for verti-draining, undertaking said works in these conditions would result in damage to the machinery. This situation is being monitored, and we will undertake verti-draining as soon as conditions allow.

Additionally, a grass area near Herne Hill gate is being top-dressed with loam soil over the drilled seed to see if this will improve germination. If successful, we will consider applying this method to targeted wider areas across the site (see Appendix 1).

Further works are planned for September to alleviate compaction and increase grass coverage.

## Appendix 1 – Site photos

**Footpath damage on path from Herne Hill gate to Hall.**



**Footpath damage on path from Lido to Tennis Courts.**





**New post and rail at Lido gate entrance**





## Site watering



## Trials at Herne Hill Gate







**Trials at Herne Hill Gate (inspection: 22/07/2025)**



**Country bench, to be installed shortly**





## Grass Improvements 22/07/25



## Grass Recovery Monitoring

### Location 1a



### Location 1b



### Location 3a



### Location 3b





## Location 5



## Location 6



### Location 7a



### Location 7b

