

Adopt Canbury Gardens and Lower Ham Road Kingston



Adopted by Surrey Care Trust
Funded by CARA

The Setting

Canbury Gardens is a popular riverside park in Kingston used by local people and visitors to the town. Laid out in the Victorian times as a green lung for Kingston, the gardens provide a beautiful Thames-side promenade, open space, bandstand and sporting opportunities. The garden's gateway position between Kingston town centre and the Arcadian walks of Ham is significant. The open space is only a stone's throw from the Market Place and provides a venue for some amazing events such as the annual Kingston Dragon Boat Festival.

The Challenge

Between the raised promenade and the river is a wilder area of gravel supporting a range of riparian species giving people the opportunity to get close to the water.. Scrub growth along the river is a constant management problem however, from the Old Coal Dock, along Lower Ham Road to the Half Mile Tree, The area is also prone to considerable erosion from boat wash and high tides over-topping Teddington Weir.

The Opportunity

Volunteers could be used to manage the riverside, working to a 5-year coppice regime. Due to the sensitive ecology of the riverside, the best conservation option to manage the scrub and encourage a diverse ecology is through the use of volunteers using hand tools. Volunteers would be expected to work alongside staff and pay-back workers from the community narrowboat Swingbridge II. Access from the water is essential in this reach, the boat also provides a useful base for refreshments and toilet facilities.

Sponsorship opportunities exist – please contact the TLS at the address below.