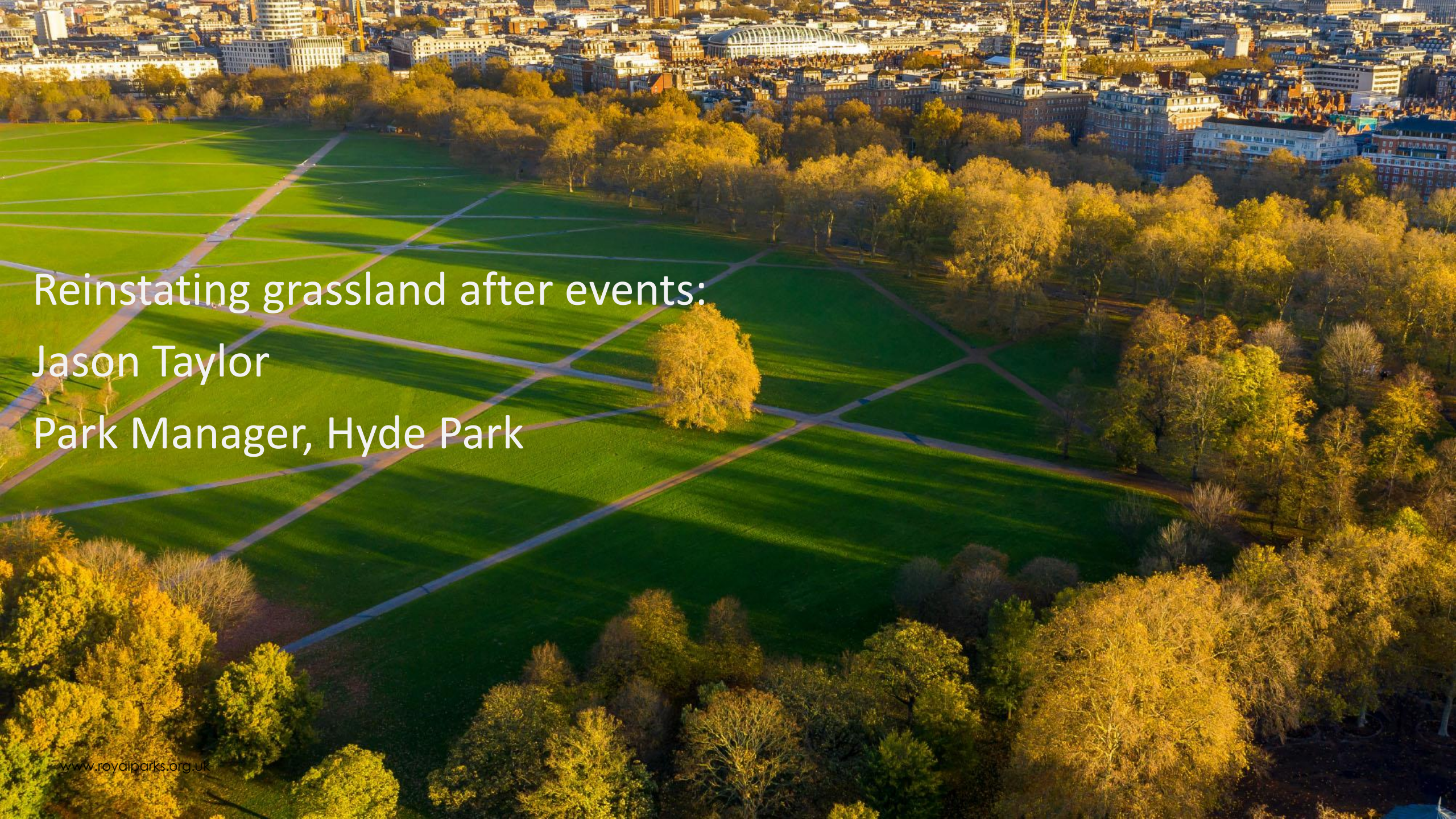
4th July 2023

Grass & grassland management



Parks for London

London Parks Benchmarking Group



Reinstating grassland after events:

Jason Taylor

Park Manager, Hyde Park

WHAT THE PARADE GROUND IS USED FOR

- Major venue for jubilees and celebrations.
- Military parades and gun salutes.
- Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. 26,000 school children were given a free meal as a gift.
- First rock concert held in Hyde Park in1968 featuring Pink Floyd and Jethro Tull.
- Live 8 in 2005, 120,000 audience.



BST CONCERTS

- 9 show days, plus open house during the week.
- 3 weekends of concerts.
- 8 weeks in total on site. Early June to mid July.
- 650,000 visitors in total.



AMERICAN EXPRESS
presents
BST HYDE PARK

WINTER WONDERLAND

- Seven week event.
- Open 7 days a week (other than Christmas day) from 10am to 10pm.
- Around 3,500 vehicle movements to build event.
- 3.5 million visitors
- Event on site for 4 months from October to February 1st.





MANAGEMENT OF REINSTATEMENT

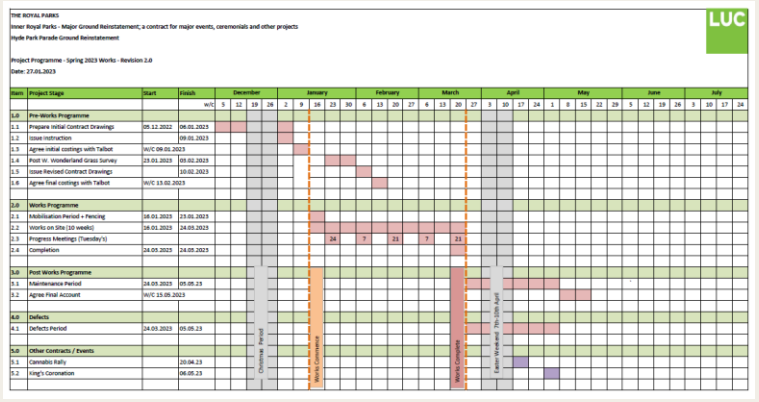
- The Royal Parks (TRP) take a bond from both events for reinstatement
- We employ a Landscape Architect to do an independent survey of the parade ground prior to the events coming on site.
- A further survey is done after they leave site.
- The damage is then costed based on pre agreed rates.
- The cost to reinstate is then divided up between the events and taken from the bonds.
- TRP have a dedicated contract for reinstatement, which is retendered every 5 years.
- The current contractor is Talbot Farms Landscapes.



SITE HAND BACK ON FEBRUARY 1ST

- Site handed back to TRP from Winter Wonderland on February 1st.
- TRP are responsible for the reinstatement.
- The reinstatement is managed as a yearly project.
- Project managed by the Landscape Architect (LUC).
- Fortnightly meetings and site visits with TRP, LUC and Talbot Farms.
- Reports from LUC and Talbots Farms at each meeting.
- Contractors report includes:
  - Health and Safety
  - Progress update against programme.
  - Weather report
  - Resources on site
  - Finance update
  - Architects report
- Looking for no surprises





REINSTATEMENT OF TURF

- Talbot Farms come on site from 1st February.
- 20 people on site.
- The site is fenced off, keeping agreed footpaths open.
- Whole area fenced and signs put up informing public of what is happening and paths that are open.
- Site cleared.
- Site decompacted
- Cultivated.
- Levelled, with soil added if need.
- Soil prepared for turfing.







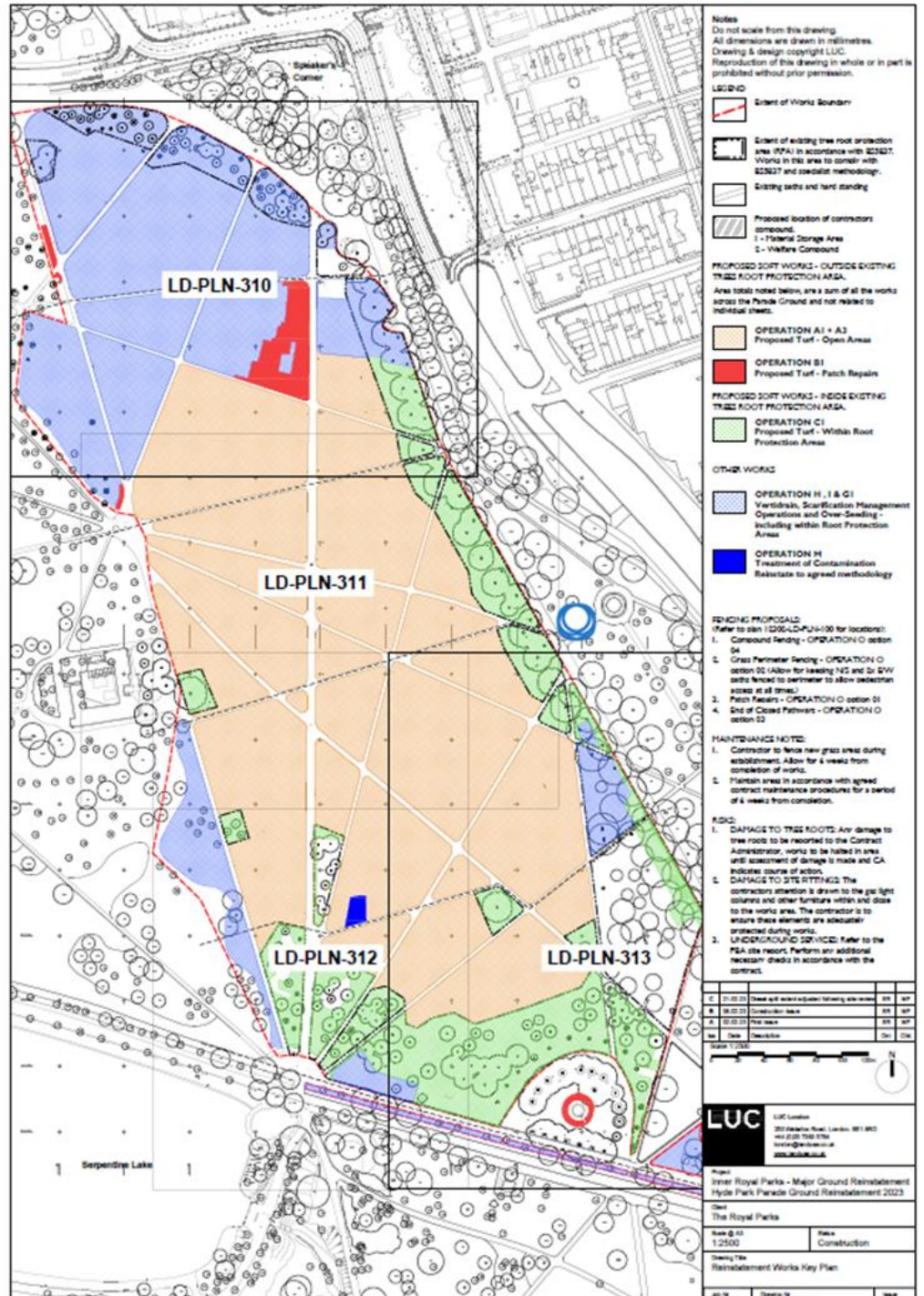
talbot group

talbotlandscapes

TURFING

- 14 Ha of turf laid in total.
- 200 tonnes of topsoil to replace lost soil.
- Large turf rolls are machine laid in orange area.
- Green areas are worked with pedestrian machinery and hand turfed with standard rolls.
- Blue areas are verti-drained and overseeded.
- Irrigation if needed.
- Look to remove fencing by Easter.
- The site is not handed back until May.









www.royalparks.org.uk

PROBLEMS

- Time of year.
- Weather, particularly rain.
- Poor drainage.
- Underground carpark.
- Turf supply, and conditions on turf farm.
- Transporting into London.
- Fuels costs.
- Reliance on key personnel.
- Availability of staff.
- Accommodation
- Gun salute for Queen Elizabeth II on April 21st.
- Very little slack in programme.
- Birds!





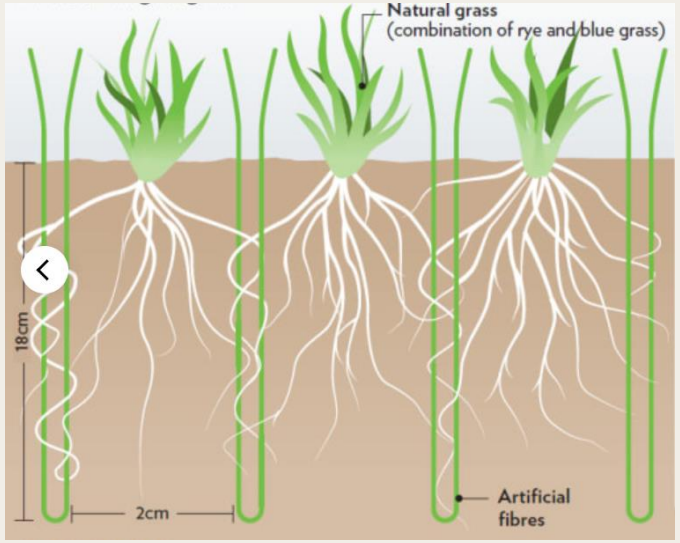
LESSONS

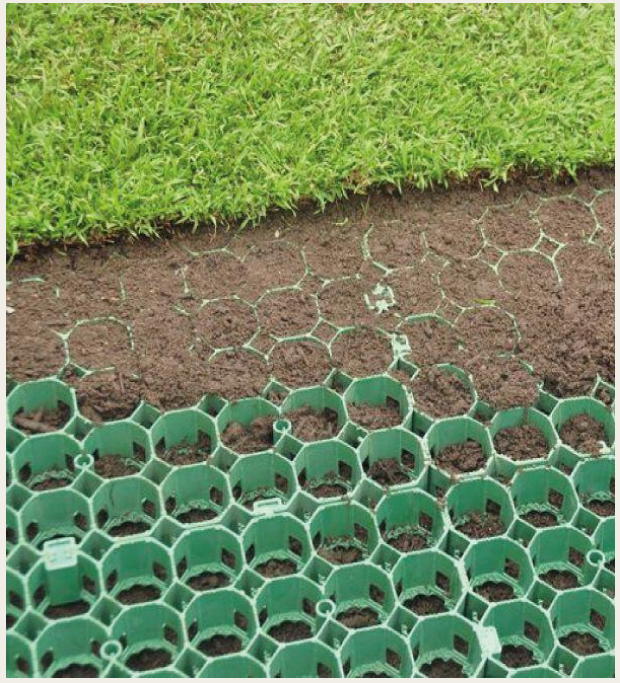
- Project brief, scope and timeline need to be agreed.
- Build good relationship with good contractors.
- Key people.
- Clear ownership and responsibilities.
- Work with the conditions, prioritise.
- Don’t finish a reinstatement contract on Jan 1st.
- Don’t underestimate the time that this project will take for all involved.
- Keep stakeholders updated.
- Protect/reduce damage to turf.
- Remember ‘it pays the bills’.



GOING FORWARD

- Be more sustainable.
- Source local supplies and suppliers
- Reduce damage in the first place.
- Reduce the area that needs turfing.
- Have a more flexible approach to turf reinstatement. Turfing v overseeding
- Look to learn from elsewhere. Synthetic systems, hybrid or reinforced turf
- Over seeding more using grow covers, heat and lights.
- Reduce reliance on external contractors.
- Not having events in winter?





THANK YOU - QUESTIONS







www.royalparks.org.uk

Visit our Resources Hub

https://parksforlondon.org.uk/resource/managing-grass



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