



19 January 2007

ROYAL PARKS FOUNDATION APPEALS FOR HELP TO SUPPORT THE TREES AFTER YESTERDAY'S STORM

The Royal Parks Foundation, the charity for London's eight Royal Parks, is today appealing for help to support the trees damaged in yesterday's storms.

Initial estimates suggest that across The Royal Parks over 100 trees were lost as 90mph gales were recorded whistling across the Serpentine in Hyde Park. The Parks were closed to the public when trees began to topple, a section of greenhouse roof flew off in the Hyde Park nurseries and a 200 ft section of wall was destroyed in Bushy Park at Hampton Court. There are no records of any injuries.

"The damage is significant" says Mark Camley, Chief Executive of The Royal Parks. "Our Park Managers have been out since early morning assessing the damage and it is already clear that we have lost over a hundred trees, a lot of them mature specimens. There are many more suffering from broken branches or crown-damage."

"It will cost tens of thousands of pounds to restore the parkland and replace the damaged trees," says Royal Parks Foundation charity Chief Executive, Sara Lom. "We desperately need the public's support to replace the lost trees and care for damaged specimens across the Parks. Some of the Parks' trees go back hundreds of years and have a rich history. Londoners were incredibly generous after the Great Storm of October 1987 – I know they will pull out all the stops to help the trees again today. If people want to help they can visit our website right now and pledge their support."

www.justgiving.com/parktrees

-Ends-

For further information, please contact:

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