

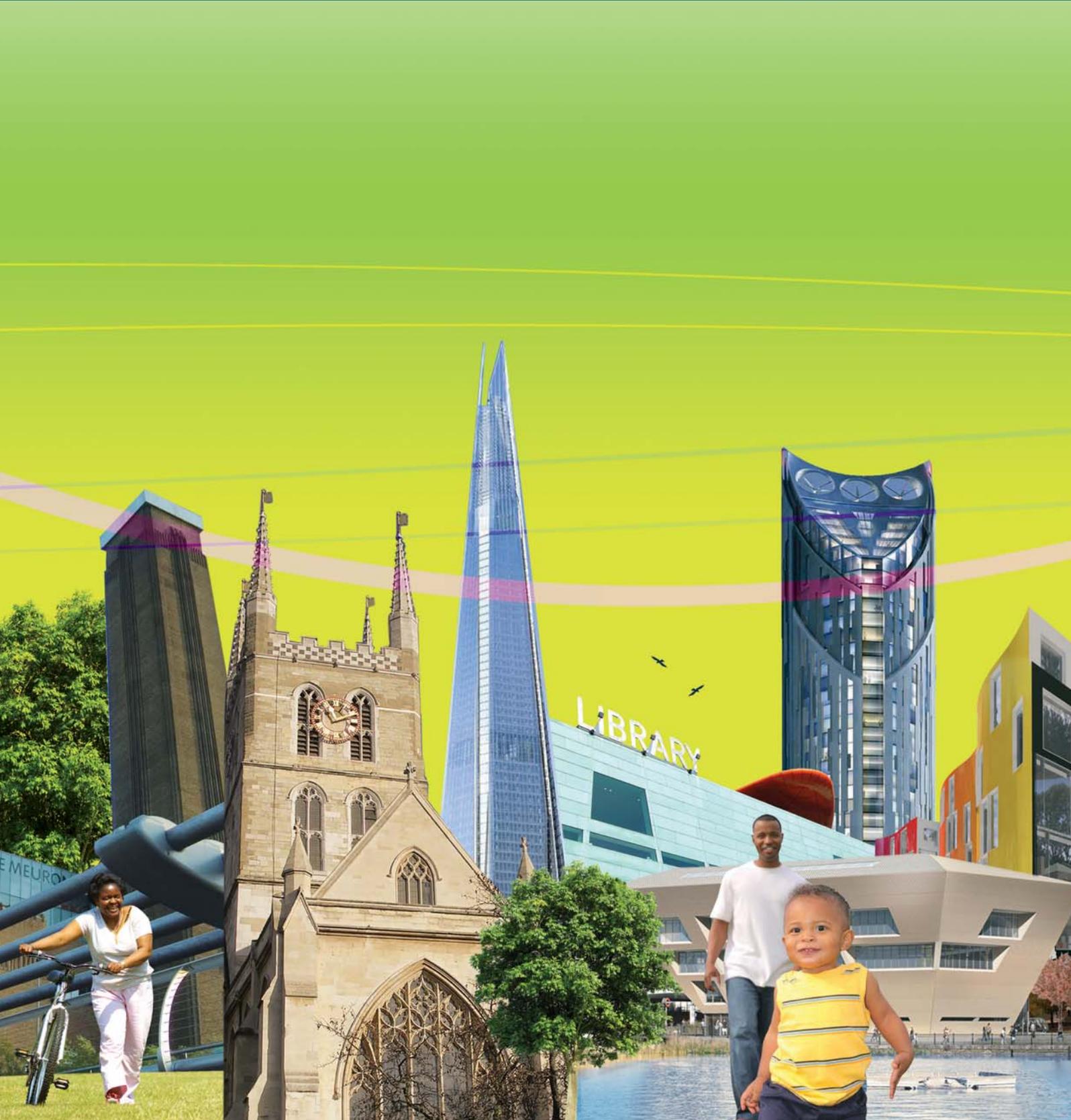
REVITALISE



Core strategy

CDB9. SINCS Background Paper

March 2010



1. Introduction

This document supports the designation of sites of importance for nature conservation as part of the Southwark Core Strategy. It explains what SINCs are and the reasons why the following sites should be designated:

- Bermondsey Spa
- Cherry Gardens
- Deal Porter's Walk
- Durands Wharf
- Greendale Playing Field
- Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting
- King Stairs gardens
- Long Meadow
- Nursery Row
- Warwick Gardens
- Surrey Canal Walk

The information is based on data from Greater London Authority and Greenspace Information for Greater London (www.gigl.org.uk/).

2. What are sites of importance for nature conservation?

There are three kinds of site, which are chosen on the basis of their importance to a particular defined geographic area. This use of search areas is an attempt, not only to protect the best sites in London, but also to provide each part of London with a nearby site, so that people are able to have access to enjoy nature.

2.1 Sites of Metropolitan Importance

Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation are those sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London.

They are of the highest priority for protection. The identification and protection of Metropolitan Sites is necessary, not only to support a significant proportion of London's wildlife, but also to provide opportunities for people to have contact with the natural environment.

The best examples of London's habitats include the main variants of each major habitat type, for example hornbeam woodland, wet heathland, or chalk downland. Habitats typical of urban areas are also included, e.g. various types of abandoned land colonised by nature ('wasteland' or 'unofficial countryside'). Those habitats which are particularly rare in London may have all or most of their examples selected as Metropolitan Sites.

Sites of Metropolitan Importance include not only the best examples of each habitat type, but also areas which are outstanding because of their assemblage of habitats, for example the Crane corridor, which contains the River Crane, reservoirs, pasture, woodland and heathland.

A small number of sites are selected which are of particular significance within heavily built up areas of London. Although these are of lesser intrinsic quality than those sites selected as the best examples of habitats on a London-wide basis they are outstanding oases and provide the opportunity for enjoyment of nature in extensive built environments. Examples

include St James's Park, Nunhead Cemetery, Camley Street Natural Park and Sydenham Hill Woods. In some cases (e.g. inner London parks) this is the primary reason for their selection. For sites of higher intrinsic interest it may only be a contributory factor. Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified.

Should one of these sites be lost or damaged, something would be lost which exists in a very few other places in London. Management of these sites should as a first priority seek to maintain and enhance their interest, but use by the public for education and passive recreation should be encouraged unless these are inconsistent with nature conservation.

The following SINCS of metropolitan Importance have been designated in Southwark:

Site	Area (ha)
Nunhead Cemetery	20.16
Sydenham Hill Wood and Dulwich Wood	28.11
River Thames	-

2.2 Sites of Borough Importance

These are sites which are important on a borough perspective in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the whole of London. Although sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, damage to these sites would mean a significant loss to the borough. As with Metropolitan sites, while protection is important, management of borough sites should usually allow and encourage their enjoyment by people and their use for education.

Since 1988 borough sites have been divided, on the basis of their quality, into two grades, but it must be stressed that they are all important on a borough-wide view.

In defining Sites of Borough Importance, the search is not confined rigidly to borough boundaries; these are used for convenience of defining areas substantially smaller than the whole of Greater London, and the needs of neighbouring boroughs should be taken into account. In the same way as for Sites of Metropolitan Importance, parts of some boroughs are more heavily built-up and some borough sites are chosen there as oases providing the opportunity for enjoyment of nature in extensive built environments.

The borough is an appropriate search area in relation to Planning Policy Guidance on nature conservation (1994) which, in paragraphs 15 and 25, states that local plans should identify, and include policies for, areas of local nature conservation importance.

Since essentially a comparison within a given borough is made when choosing Sites of Borough Importance, there is considerable variation in quality between those for different boroughs; for example, those designated in Barnet will frequently be of higher intrinsic quality than those in Hammersmith and Fulham, a borough comparatively deficient in wildlife habitat. Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified.

The following SINCS of borough Importance have been designated in Southwark:

Site	Grade	Area
Camberwell Old Cemetery	1	11.61
Canada and Surrey Waters	1	3.87
Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	1	33.79
Dulwich Park	1	29.58
Dulwich Upper Wood	1	2.14

Site	Grade	Area
Lavender Pond Nature Park	1	0.73
London Wildlife Trust's Centre for Wildlife Gardening	1	0.22
One Tree Hill	1	6.92
Peckham Rye Park	1	41.6
Russia Dock Woodland	1	13.3
Aquarius Golf Course	2	0.82
Belair Park	2	9.98
Brenchley Gardens	2	3.63
Burgess Park	2	48
Camberwell New Cemetery	2	20.09
Countisbury House Lawns	2	0.18
Dawson's Hill	2	2.68
Dulwich Mill Pond	2	0.86
Greenland Dock	2	11.31
Grove Park Cutting	2	10.64
Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	2	1.25
Hitherwood	2	0.37
James Allen's Girl's School Botany Garden	2	0.37
Lettsom Gardens	2	0.54
Nunhead Railway Embankments & Kirkwood Nature Garden	2	5.2
South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	2	2.29
Southwark Park	2	25.3
Sunray Gardens	2	1.58
Surrey Docks Farm	2	0.88
Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	2	9.86
Walworth Garden Farm	2	0.17

2.3 Sites of Local Importance

A Site of Local Importance is one which is, or may be, of particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools). These sites may already be used for nature study or be run by management committees mainly composed of local people. Where a Site of Metropolitan or Borough Importance may be so enjoyed it acts as a Local site, but further sites are given this designation in recognition of their role. This local importance means that these sites are also deserving protection in planning.

Local sites are particularly important in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites. To aid the choice of these further local sites, Areas of Deficiency (see below) are identified. Further Local sites are chosen as the best available to alleviate this deficiency; such sites need not lie in the Area of Deficiency, but should be as near to it as possible. Where no such sites are available, opportunities should be taken to provide them by habitat enhancement or creation, by negotiating access and management agreements, or by direct acquisition. Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified.

The following SINCS of local Importance have been designated in Southwark:

Site	Area
Aspinden Road Nature Garden	0.04
Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	0.07
Benhill Road Nature Garden	0.21
Bird-in-Bush Park	0.45
Consort Park	0.34

Site	Area
Dickens Fields	1.01
Dog Kennel Hill	1.29
Gallywall Road Nature Garden	0.08
Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	6.17
Goldsmiths Road Nature Garden	0.09
Herne Hill Stadium Meadow	8.3
Leathermarket Gardens	1.23
Lucas Gardens	1.72
McDermott Road Nature Garden	0.13
Nairne Grove Nature Garden	0.11
Northfield House Community Wildlife Garden	0.17
Plough Lane Pond	0.04
Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden	0.13
St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	0.7
St Mary's Gardens, Rotherhithe	0.23
Surrey Gardens	1.56
Surrey Square	1.22
Tabard Gardens	0.91
Varcoe Road Nature Garden	0.19
Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden	0.5

2.4 Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Land owned, leased or managed by Local Authorities and designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. A site of some nature conservation value managed for educational objectives — no need for SSSI status. In some cases it is managed by a non-statutory body (e.g. London Wildlife Trust). Local Authorities have the power to pass bylaws controlling (e.g.) access, special protection measures.

The following LNRs have been designated in Southwark:

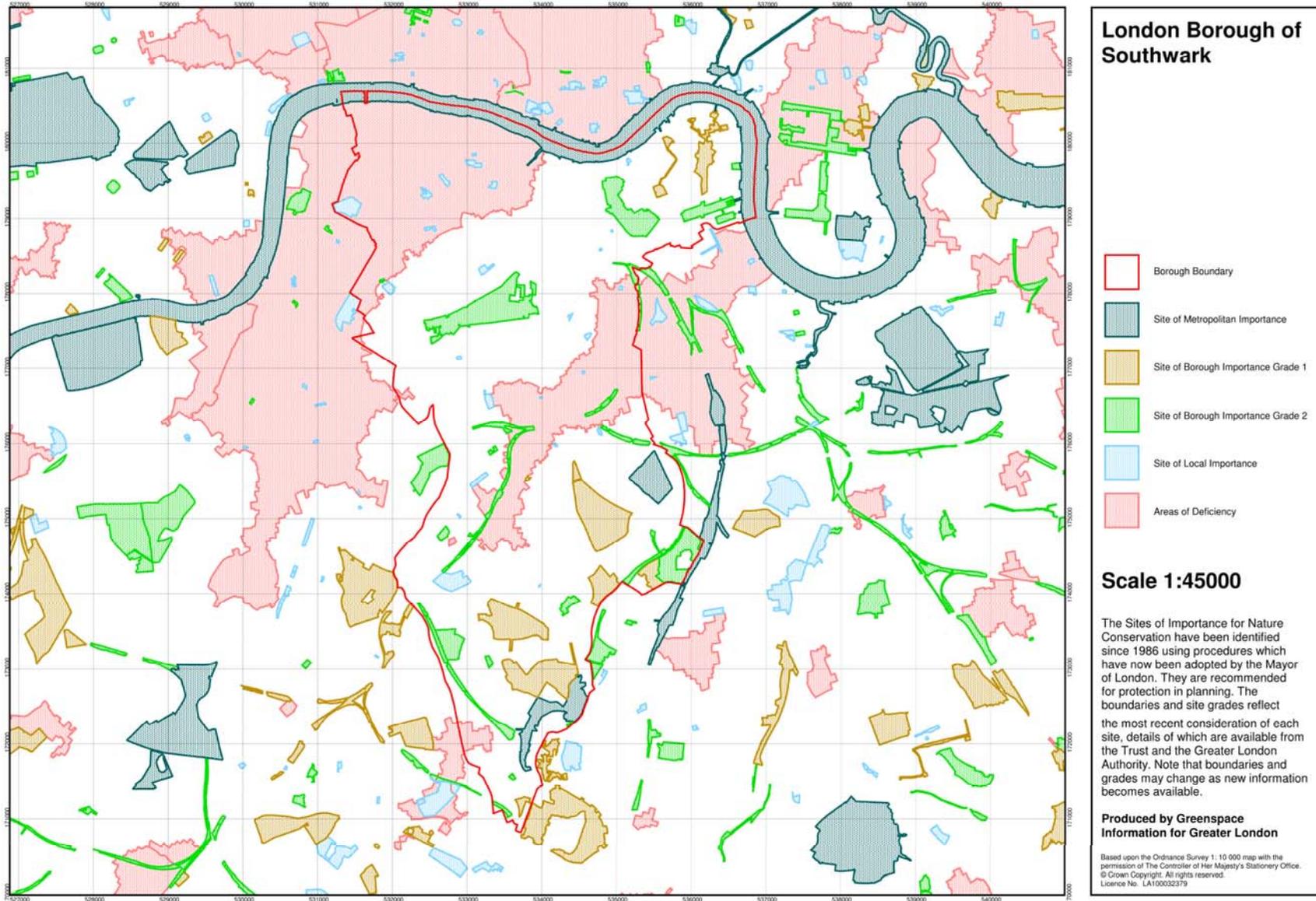
Site	Area
Nunhead Cemetery	20.17
Sydenham Hill Wood and Fern Bank	17.95
Sydenham Hill Wood and Fernbank	8.60

3 Areas of deficiency for access to nature

Areas of deficiency are defined by the Greater London Authority as built-up areas more than one kilometre actual walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough site. These aid the choice of Sites of Local Importance.

These are shown on Figure 1.

Figure 1: Areas of deficiency in access to nature



Source: Greater London Authority

4. Protected and priority species in Southwark

These are species that are globally threatened; are rapidly declining in the UK, ie. by more than 50% in the last 25 years or are particularly important to London. There are 1149 national and 113 London BAP species overall.

National BAP priority species (as revised 2007) are defined at: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>

London BAP priority species are defined in: <http://www.lbp.org.uk/>

The following species have been recorded in Southwark:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GROUP	Records count	From year	To year	Status
<i>Hericium cirrhatum</i>	Tiered Tooth	fungus	1	2007	2007	London
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	flowering plant	2	1994	1994	National
<i>Populus nigra</i> subsp. <i>betulifolia</i>	<i>Populus nigra</i> subsp. <i>betulifolia</i>	flowering plant	5	1994	1994	London
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	flowering plant	10	1995	2007	London
<i>Anisus (Disculifer) vorticulus</i>	<i>Anisus (Disculifer) vorticulus</i>	mollusc	2	2004	2005	London; National
<i>Ophonus (Metophonus) puncticollis</i>	<i>Ophonus (Metophonus) puncticollis</i>	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	1	2007	2007	National London;
<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Stag Beetle	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	190	1997	2009	National London;
<i>Cupido minimus</i>	Small Blue	insect - butterfly	1	2006	2006	National London;
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	insect - butterfly	2	1994	1995	National London;
<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Oak Hook-tip	insect - moth	1	2001	2001	National London;
<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	Latticed Heath	insect - moth	1	2007	2007	National London;
<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	August Thorn	insect - moth	1	2001	2001	National London;
<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	insect - moth	2	1988	1998	National London;
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	insect - moth	1	2007	2007	National
<i>Chrysis fulgida</i>	<i>Chrysis fulgida</i>	insect - hymenopteran	1	2005	2005	National London;
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	amphibian	36	1998	2007	National London;
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow-worm	reptile	2	1999	2005	National London;
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Common Lizard	reptile	1	2005	2005	National London;
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	bird	79	2004	2008	National London;
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	bird	1	1983	1983	National
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	bird	4	1980	2007	London
<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	bird	3	1980	1998	London
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Sky Lark	bird	3	1987	1987	London
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	bird	3	1980	1987	London
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Hedge Accentor	bird	45	1980	2008	London London;
<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart	bird	6	1987	2004	National
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	bird	30	1980	2008	London London;
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	bird	5	1980	1994	National

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GROUP	Records count	From year	To year	Status
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	bird	77	1980	2008	London London;
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	bird	270	1980	2007	National
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common Linnet	bird	9	1980	1994	London
<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Common Redpoll	bird	3	1980	1998	London
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Common Bullfinch	bird	11	1980	2002	London
<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Hawfinch	bird	1	1998	1998	London; National
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	bird	5	1980	1994	National
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Common Seal	mammal	7	2004	2006	National
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	West European Hedgehog	terrestrial mammal	36	1994	2008	London; National
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilionidae	terrestrial mammal	11	1983	2008	London; National
Myotis	Unidentified Bat	terrestrial mammal	1	2005	2005	London; National
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's Bat	terrestrial mammal	11	1996	2008	London; National
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's Bat	terrestrial mammal	1	2005	2005	London; National
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule Bat	terrestrial mammal	8	1996	2008	London; National
<i>Pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrellus	terrestrial mammal	18	1985	2006	London; National
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	terrestrial mammal	34	1997	2008	London; National
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano Pipistrelle	terrestrial mammal	11	2000	2008	London; National
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown Long-eared Bat	terrestrial mammal	3	2005	2007	London; National

5. Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats in Southwark

The following are habitats that are important in London:

Habitat type	Area
Lowland beech and yew woodland	0.00
Wet woodland	1.59
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	52.31
Traditional orchards	0.10
Wood-pasture and parkland	No data available
Hedgerows	0.63
Arable field margins	0.04
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	No data available
Lowland meadows	0.57
Lowland calcareous grassland	0.00
Lowland dry acid grassland	1.77
Lowland heathland	0.00
Reedbeds	0.08
Fens	No data available
Coastal saltmarsh	0.00
Intertidal mudflats	0.00
Rivers	11.15
Eutrophic standing waters	0.00
Ponds	6.98
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	No data available

6. Proposed new Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

The criteria developed by the London Ecology Unit and field and desktop assessment of the site provide evidence for each designation. A profile of each of the following sites are provided:

- Bermondsey Spa
- Cherry Gardens
- Deal Porter's Walk
- Durands Wharf
- Greendale Playing Field
- Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting
- King Stairs gardens
- Long Meadow
- Nursery Row
- Warwick Gardens
- Surrey Canal Walk

Assessment criteria

The criteria used to evaluate each site were developed by the London Ecology Unit and uses widely recognised criteria to evaluate the nature conservation importance of sites. These were first published in the document 'Planning for nature conservation in London in 1985', and revised in the report Policy, criteria and procedures for identifying nature conservation sites in London, published in January 1994. The latter report was endorsed by the London Planning Advisory Committee in 1995.

The following criteria are used to ascertain Local Importance:

"A Site of Local Importance is one which is or may be of particular value for nearby residents or schools. These sites may already be used by schools for nature study or be run by management committees mainly composed of local people. Local sites are particularly important in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites".

"Built-up areas more than one kilometre from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough site are defined as Areas of Deficiency. Further Local sites are chosen as the best available to alleviate this deficiency; such sites need not lie within the Area of Deficiency, but should be as close to it as possible. Where no such sites are available, opportunities should be taken to provide them by habitat enhancement or creation, by negotiating access and management agreements, or by direct acquisition".

6.1 Bermondsey Spa Gardens

It is proposed to designate Bermondsey Spa Gardens as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This relied on the Phase 1 Habitat Survey undertaken by Ecology Consultancy Ltd in 2008. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The park is 2.21ha in size and contains a mix of habitats. The park is close to Burgess Park and Southwark Park, large Borough Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark.

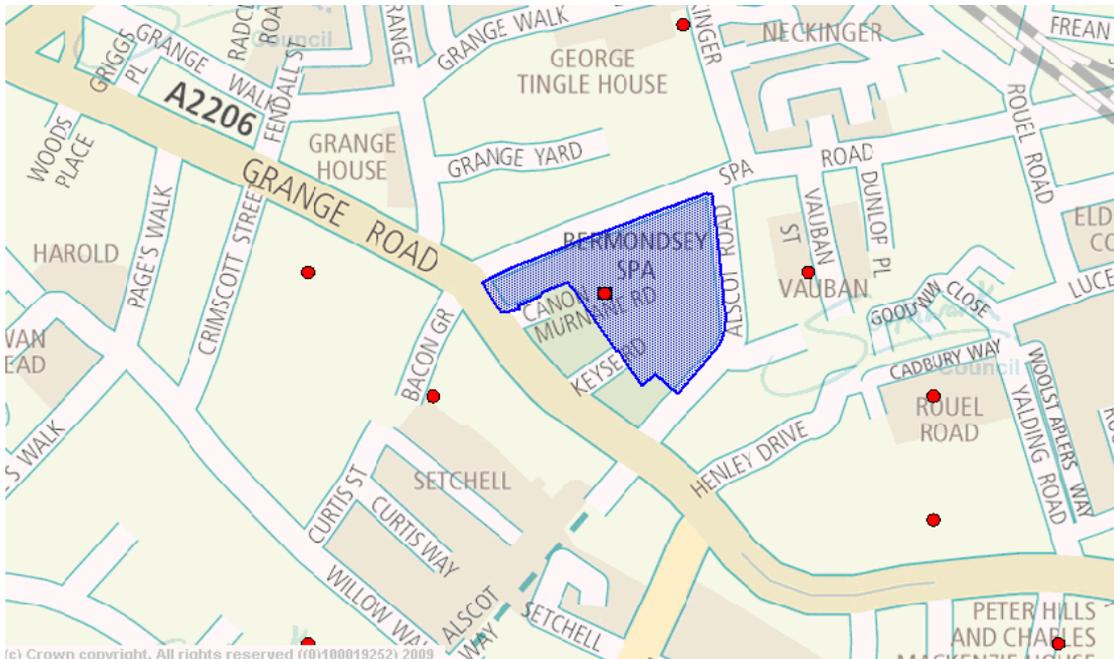


Figure 2: Bermondsey Spa Gardens ecological records.

From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: Shrubbery, hedge, bare open ground, scattered trees, amenity grassland, and deadwood.

Trees recorded on site include: Ash, Swedish Whitebeam, Poplar, field maple, Pear, Hornbeam, sycamore, poplar, Horse chestnut, London plane, and Rowan. The park has been re-landscaped recently and many fruit trees have been added to the park. A native hedge was planted in the spring of 2009 along the northern end of the park.

Shrubs include: hawthorn, buddleia, cotoneaster, dogwood, elder, and holly.

The birds recorded were 2 red data book species, the starling and House Sparrow. Also other birds recorded here include: House Martin, blackbird, Blue tit, Robin, Blackbird and Crow. The site offers good opportunity for nesting birds.

The site acts as a link between a number of small parks in the area where there is a area of natural deficiency.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to Burgess Park and Southwark Park and the matrix of small local parks are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may also highlight funding opportunities for the park.

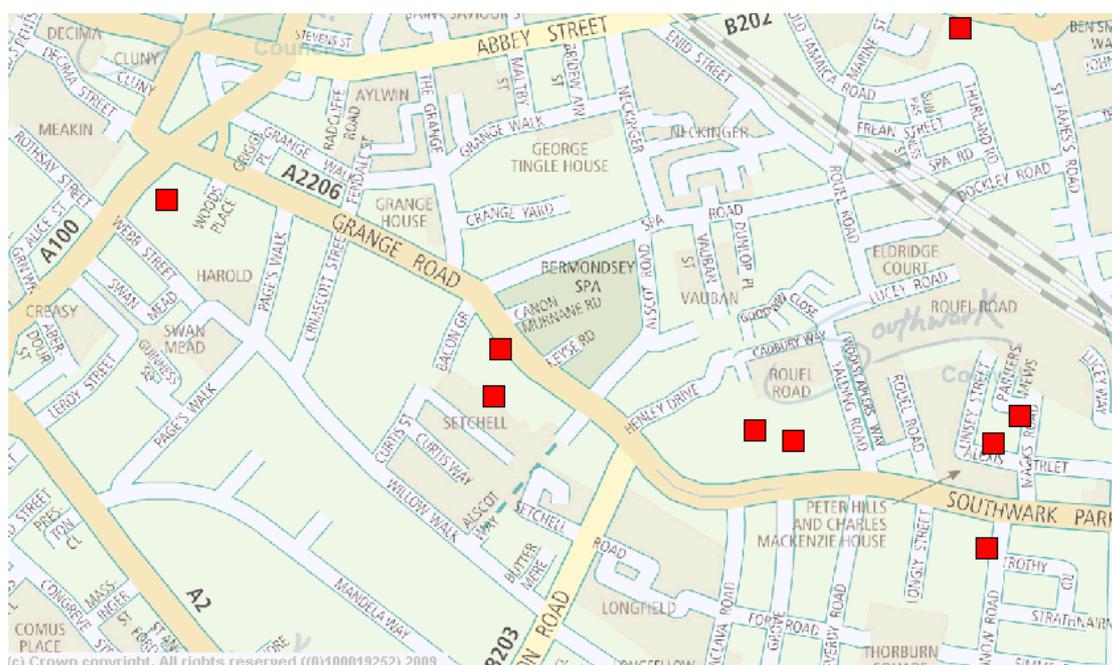


Fig 3: Schools close to Bermondsey Spa Gardens.

6.2 Cherry Gardens

It is proposed to designate Cherry Gardens as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The park is 0.41 ha in size and contains a mix of habitats. The park is adjacent to the River Thames, the largest Metropolitan Site of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark.



Figure 4: Cherry Gardens riverfront park.

From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: shrubbery, bare open ground, scattered trees, and deadwood.

Trees recorded on site include: Willow, buddleia, Birch, Cherry, Oak and hornbeam.

The site has great potential to be enhanced for biodiversity.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to the river, are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local importance for nature conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may also highlight funding opportunities for the park.

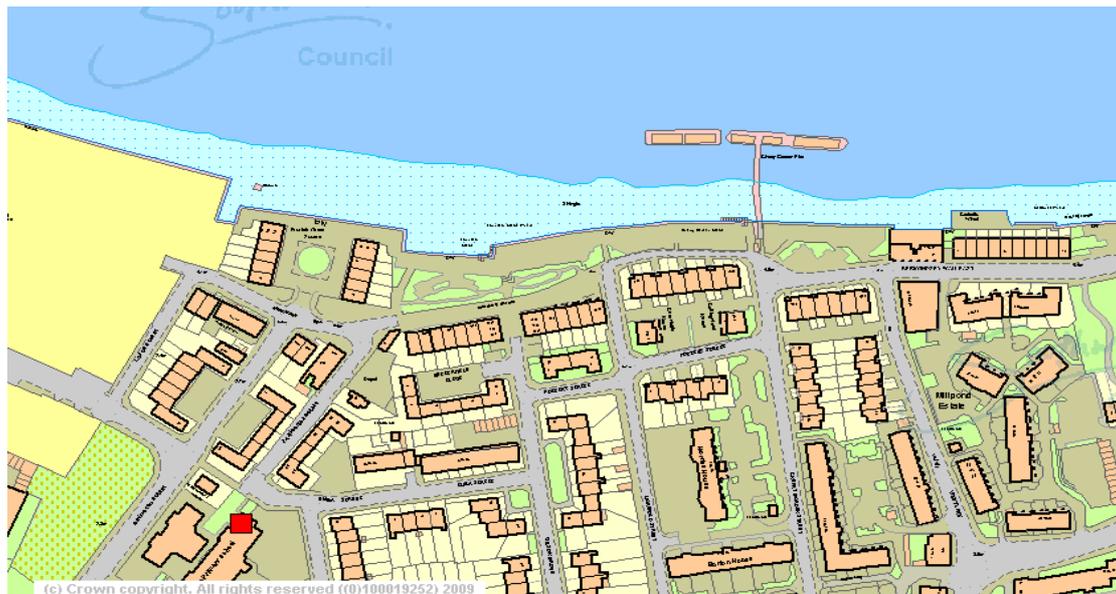


Figure 5: Schools close to Cherry Gardens.

6.3 Deal Porters Walk

It is proposed to designate Deal Porters Walk as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The park is 0.58 ha in size and contains a mix of habitats. The park is adjacent to the river Thames and also close to Albion Channel and links the existing Borough SINC's of Canada Water and Surrey Water.

From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: hedge, Scrub, bare open ground, scattered trees, and deadwood.

Trees recorded on site include: Ash, Lime, Birch, Alder, Oak, Hornbeam, sycamore, beech, Willow, poplar, Scots pine, and Rowan.

Herbs include: cow parsley, green alkanet, nettle, and bramble.

Bats have been recorded nearby so it is likely that the site offers commuting and foraging opportunities for bats.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to the River, are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local importance for nature conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may also highlight funding opportunities for the park.



Figure 6: Deal Porters Walk.

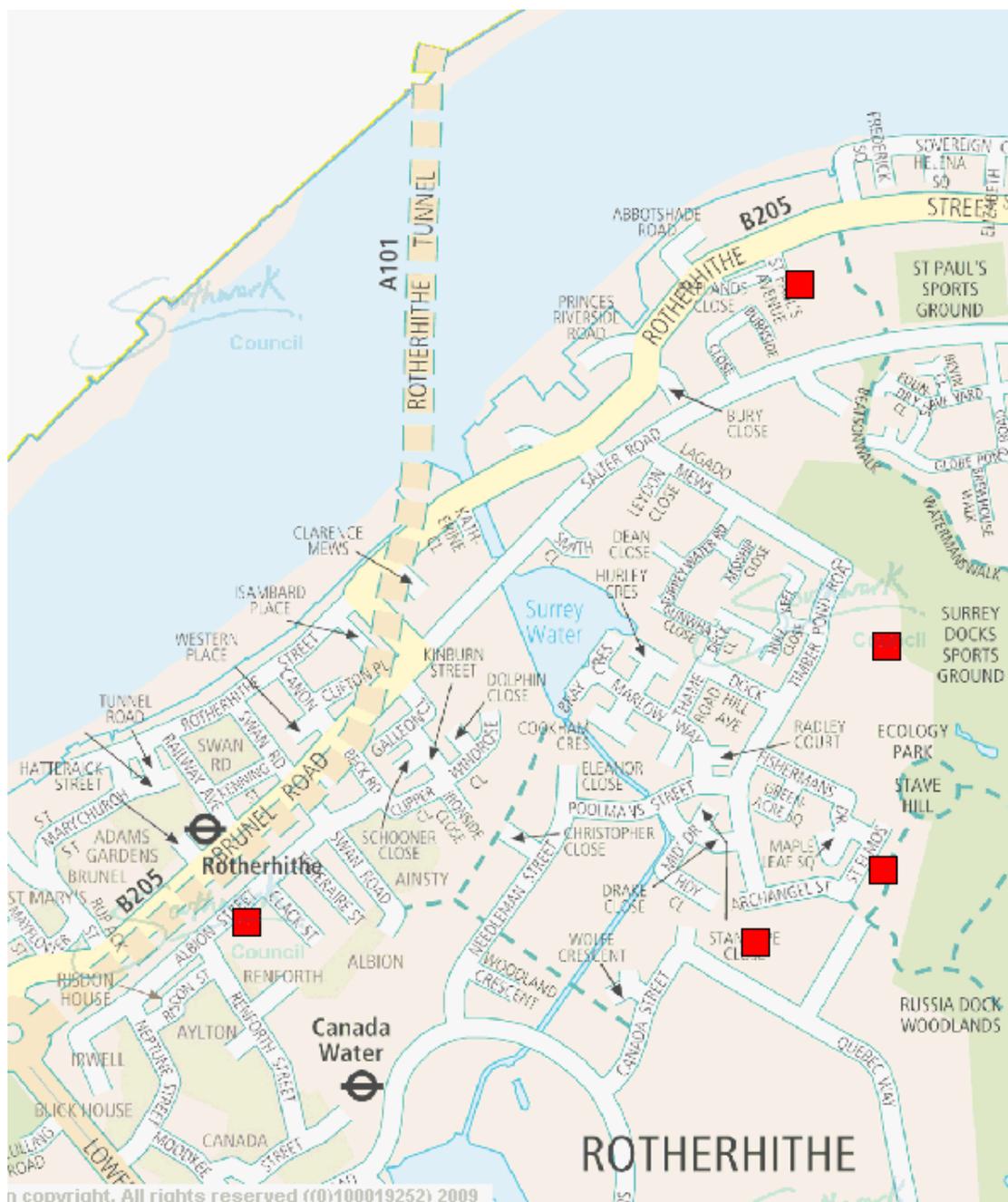


Figure 7: Schools close to Deal Porters Walk.

6.4 Durand's Wharf

It is proposed to designate Durand's Wharf as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The park is 0.97 ha in size and contains a mix of habitats. The park is adjacent to the River Thames, the largest Metropolitan Site of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark. Also the park borders Russia Dock Woodland in the west. This means that it contributes to an unbroken green corridor from Canada Water to the Thames which makes it a valuable wildlife resource.

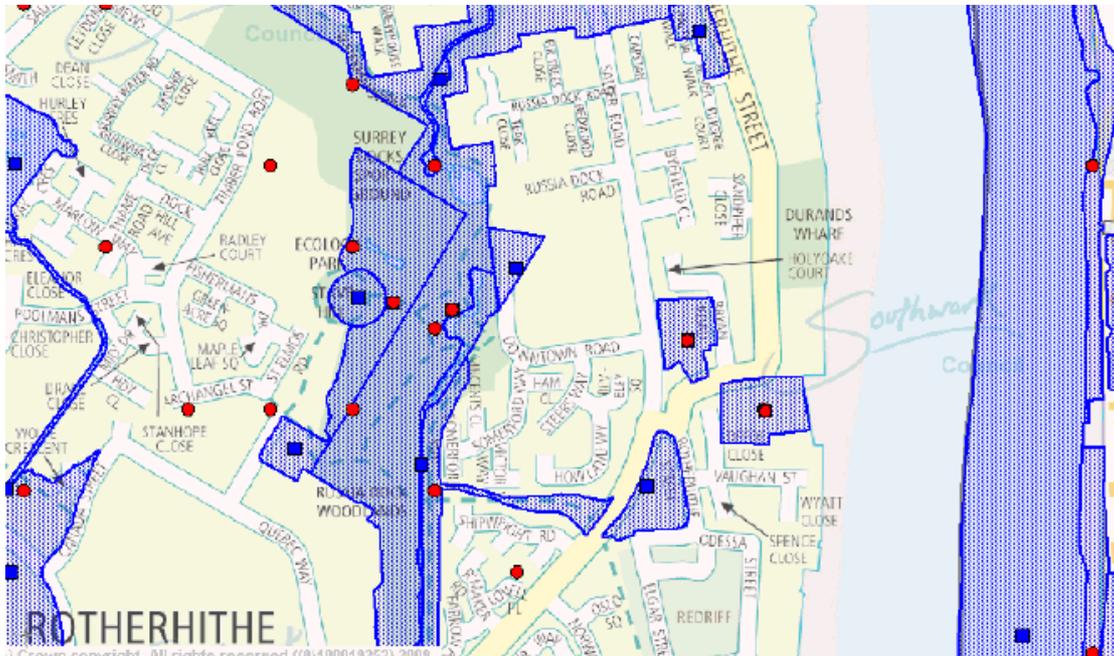


Figure 8: Rotherhithe ecological records.

The London Records Centre has a number of habitat and species records for the area, see Figure 8. Unfortunately there are no historical records for the park.

From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: Semi improved grassland, hedges, bare open ground, scrubland, scattered trees, woody areas, stag beetle loggeries, and deadwood. Individually these habitats are important for a number of species. Together they constitute a viable conservation unit that offers access to nature at a local and Borough Level. These combinations of habitats in area are not commonly found in Southwark along the Thames.

The notable species include 1 red data book bird species; the song thrush, and 1 amber data book species, Nightingale. Other birds recorded here include, robin, wren, black bird and blue tit and great tit. The song thrush is a regional priority species.

Plants recorded on site include: Ash, Hawthorn, buddleia, Oak, hazel, Elder, grey Poplar, Field maple, London Plane, Birch, Pyracantha, Alder, privet, dog rose and bramble. Herbs include: Cow parsley, Nettle, foxglove, green alkanet, and comfrey.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to the Thames, and Russia Dock Woodland are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local importance for nature conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

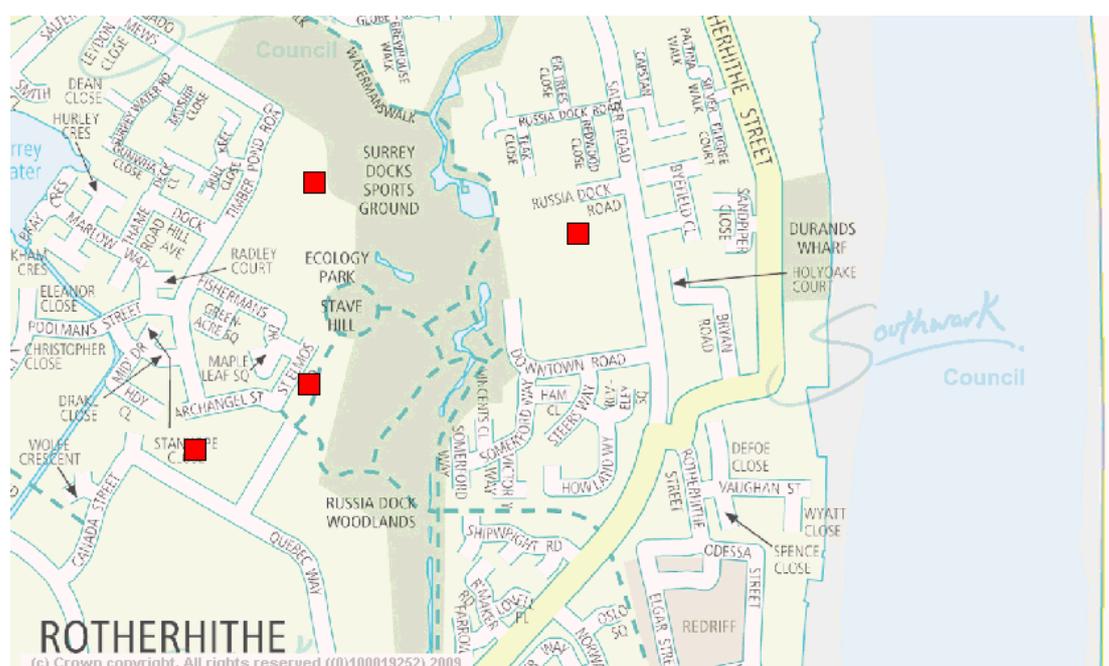


Figure 9: Schools close to Durand's Wharf.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may also highlight funding opportunities for the Gardens.

6.5 Greendale Playing Fields

It is proposed to designate the site as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

The playing fields are just under two hectares in size. An ecological assessment was undertaken on the 30th October 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a more general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. Bearing in mind the seasons there may be more spring and summer wildflowers present that were not evident in the autumn.

This assessment and the existing ecological records from the London Records Centre provide evidence of the sites ecological value.

The ecological value

The playing fields are the largest area of unmanaged semi improved grassland in the West of Southwark. To put this in context, the nearest comparable site is Burgess Park which is 2.3 km away and designated a site of Borough Importance for nature conservation. The site is adjacent to an area of natural deficiency, (see Figure 1). This means the sites also meets the criteria of being able to alleviate this natural deficiency.

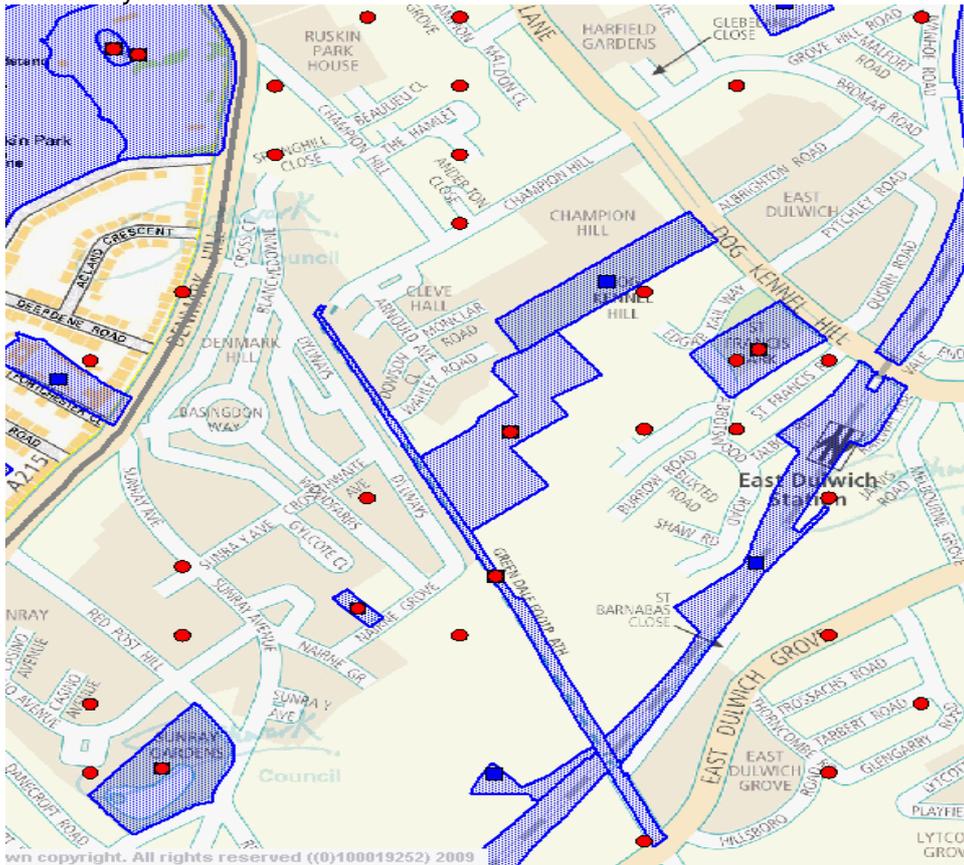


Figure10: Greendale playing fields showing habitat and species records in the area.

The London Records Centre has a number of habitat and species records for the site (see Figure 10).

The site contains a number of important habitat types of a ruderal nature, including: Semi improved grassland, bare open ground, scrubland, scattered trees, and deadwood. Individually these habitats are important for a number of species. Together they constitute a viable conservation unit that offers access to nature at a local and Borough Level. These combinations of habitats in area are not commonly found in Southwark outside its parks.

The notable species include 2 red data book bird species, house sparrow and starling, and 2 amber data book species, dunnock and green woodpecker. Other birds recorded here include sparrow hawk, robin, wren, and blue tit. The house sparrow is a national and regional Biodiversity Action Plan, (BAP), priority species.

The internationally rare stag beetle has been recorded here. The stag beetle is a national and regional priority BAP species. Other insects of note include the long winged cone head grasshopper and Roesel's bush cricket.

Plants recorded on site include: Ash, Hawthorn, Rowan, buddleia, Hop, Cirsium Sp, prunus avium, wild rose, and bramble. Herbs include: meadow vetchling, Burdock, herb robert, trifolium, and nettle.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, and it's proximity to an area or natural deficiency are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local importance for nature conservation.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey and a management plan produced to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may highlight funding opportunities for the playing fields.

6.6 King Stairs Gardens

It is proposed to designate King Stairs Gardens as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The Gardens are 3.46 ha in size and contain a mix of habitats. The gardens are adjacent to the River Thames the largest Metropolitan site of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark. They contain a mix of valuable habitat and the park also borders Southwark Park in the south. This means that it contributes to an unbroken green corridor from Surrey Quays to the Thames.



Figure 11: King Stairs Gardens ecological records.

The London Records Centre has a number of habitat and species records for the site, see Figure 11.

The Gardens contain a number of important habitat types, including: Semi improved grassland, hedge, bare open ground, scrubland, scattered trees, and deadwood. Individually these habitats are important for a number of species. Together they constitute a viable conservation unit that offers access to nature at a local and Borough Level. These combinations of habitats in area are not commonly found in Southwark outside its parks.

The notable species include 1 red data book bird species the starling, and 1 amber data book species, house martin. Other birds recorded here include, robin, wren, greenfinch and blue tit and great tit. The house martin is a regional priority species.

6.7 Long Meadow

It is proposed to designate Long Meadow as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The park is 1.46 ha in size and contains a mix of habitats. The park is adjacent to the Gipsy Hill railway cutting, a large Borough Site of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark.



Figure 13: Long Meadow Ecological records.

From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: hedge, bare open ground, scattered trees, Meadow grassland, and deadwood.

The site has been managed as a large meadow on the majority of the open grass. The edges have been managed as a native hedge with standard trees. The diversity of native trees make a positive contribution to the site ecological value.

Trees recorded on site include: Ash, Lime, Birch, Alder, Oak, Hornbeam, sycamore, beech, Willow, poplar, Scots pine, and Rowan.

Herbs include: Cow parsley, green alkanet, nettle, and bramble.

Bats have been recorded nearby so it is likely the site offers commuting and foraging opportunities for bats.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to the Railsides, are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local importance for nature conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

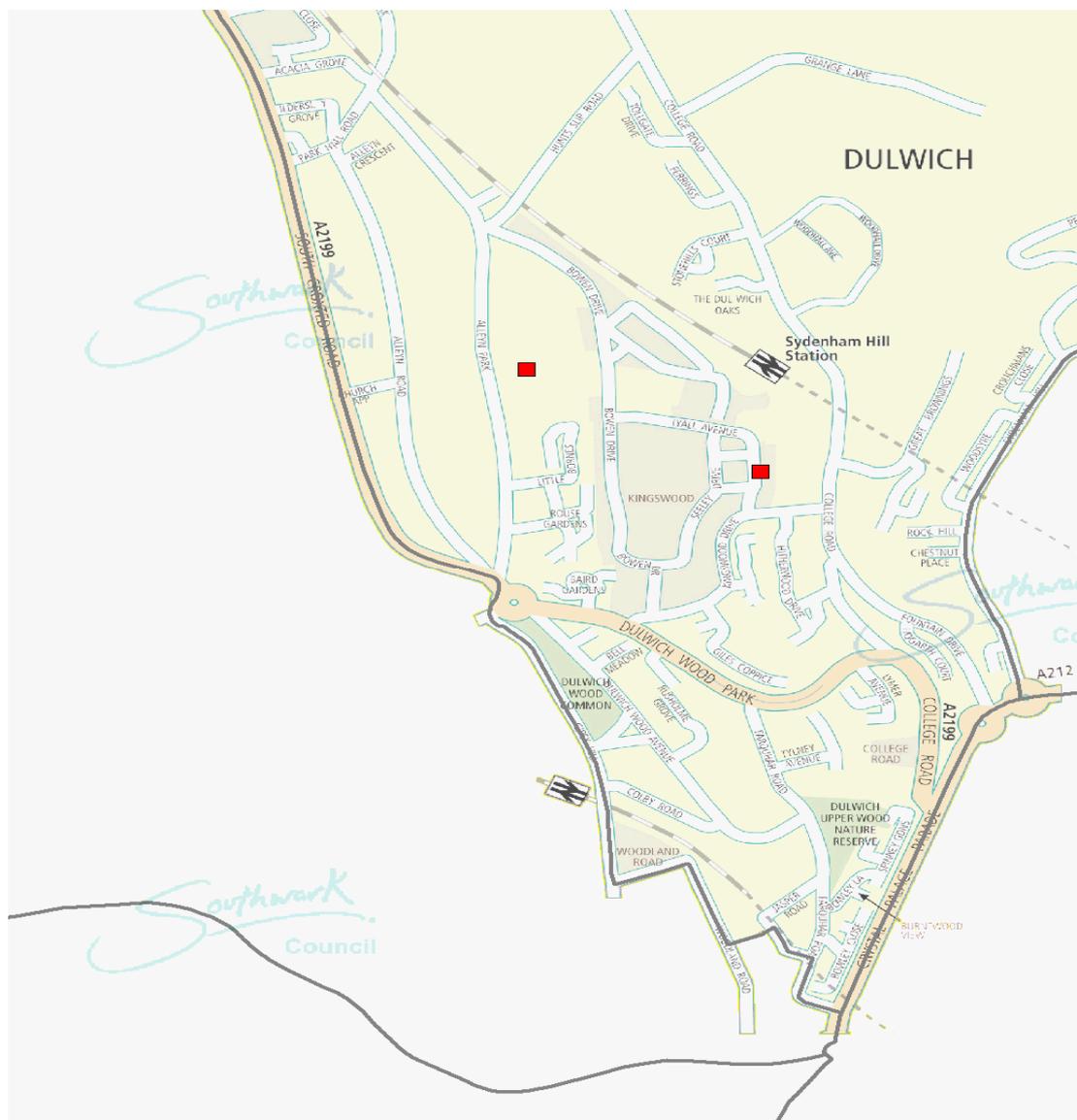


Figure 14: Schools close to Long Meadow.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may also highlight funding opportunities for the park.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to Burgess Park and the matrix of small local parks are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

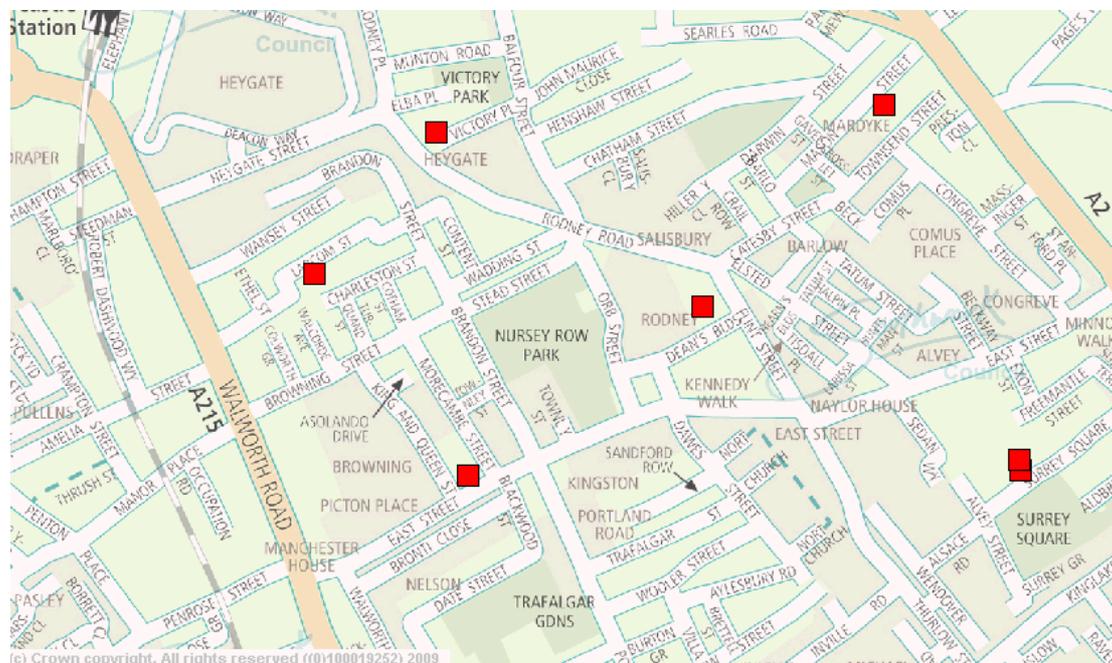


Figure 16: Schools close to Nursery Row

6.9 Warwick Gardens

It is proposed to designate Warwick Gardens as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The park is 1.53 ha in size and contains a mix of habitats. The park is adjacent to Grove Park and Peckham Rye to North Dulwich Railsides, a large borough Site of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark.



Figure 17: Warwick Gardens ecological records.

The London Records Centre has a number of habitat and species records for the Park, see Figure 17.

The site is adjacent to an area of natural deficiency (see Figure 1). This means the sites also meets the criteria of being able to alleviate this natural deficiency.

From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: Amenity grassland, shrubbery, bare open ground, scattered trees, and deadwood. Individually these habitats are important for a number of species. Together they constitute a viable conservation unit that offers access to nature at a local and Borough Level.

The notable species include 1 red data book bird species; the house sparrow. Other birds recorded here include, robin, wren, black bird and crow. The house sparrow is a regional priority species. The internationally rare stag beetle has been recorded nearby. The stag beetle is a Local, national and regional priority BAP species.

Plants recorded on site include: Ash, buddleia, Tree of heaven, Horse Chestnut, London plane, Birch, Russian Vine and bramble. Herbs include: Cow parsley, Nettle, green alkanet, and Silver ragwort.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to the Railsides, are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local importance for nature conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

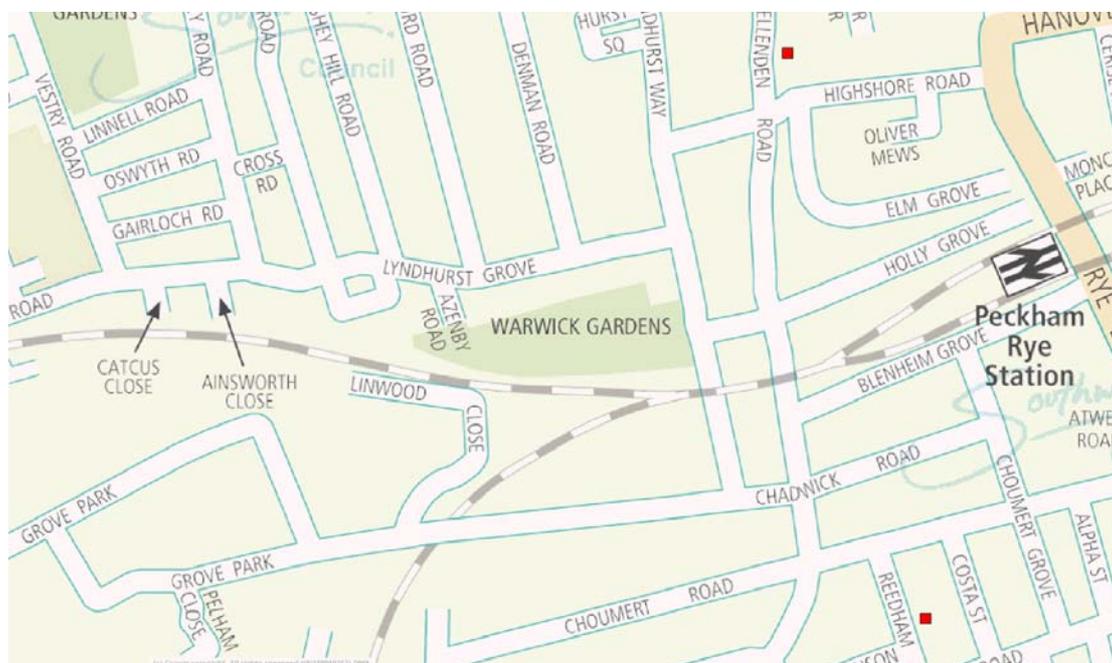


Figure 18: Schools close to Warwick Gardens.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may also highlight funding opportunities for the park.

6.10 Surrey Canal Walk

It is proposed to designate Surrey Canal Walk as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site assessment methodology

An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer. This was not a rigorous examination of the site but rather a general walkover assessment of plants and species present at the time. This was complimented by a desktop study of the site using records from the London Records Centre.

The ecological value

The park is 4.48 ha in size and contains a mix of habitats. The park is adjacent to Burgess Park and also provides a green corridor leading up to Rye Lane.

From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: Ruderal and ephemeral, hedge, roughland, bare open ground, scattered trees, shrubbery, and deadwood.

The park contains a number of notable species that benefit wildlife.

Birds include: 2 red data book species, the House Sparrow and Starling. One amber list species; the dunnock. Also Blackbird, wren, crow, robin, and blue tit.

Trees recorded on site include: Ash, Lime, Birch, Horse chestnut, false acacia, grey alder, Norway maple, sycamore, beech, Willow, poplar, London Plane, and Rowan.

Herbs include: Hedge mustard, creeping buttercup, dove's foot cranesbill, wall barley, white clover, oxford ragwort, medick, hogweed and charlock.

Bats have been recorded nearby so it is likely that the site offers commuting and foraging opportunities for bats.

The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to the River, are the reason it is proposed as a Site of Local importance for nature conservation. It is also close to several schools so it meets the criteria for providing educational opportunities.

Next steps

It would be advisable to undertake a Phase 1 habitat survey to provide a comprehensive audit of its biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. This may also highlight funding opportunities for the park.

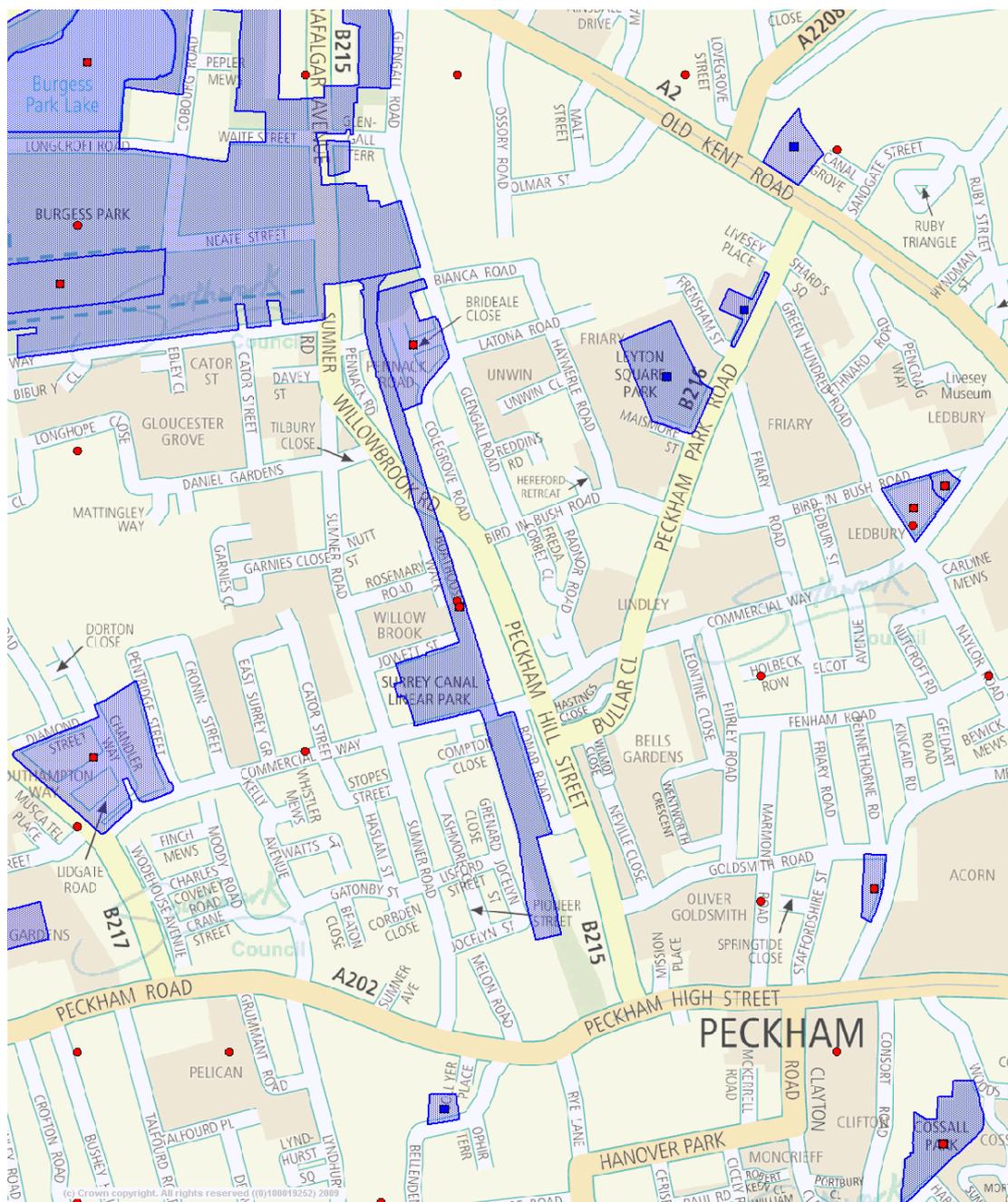


Figure 19: Surrey Canal Walk ecological records.

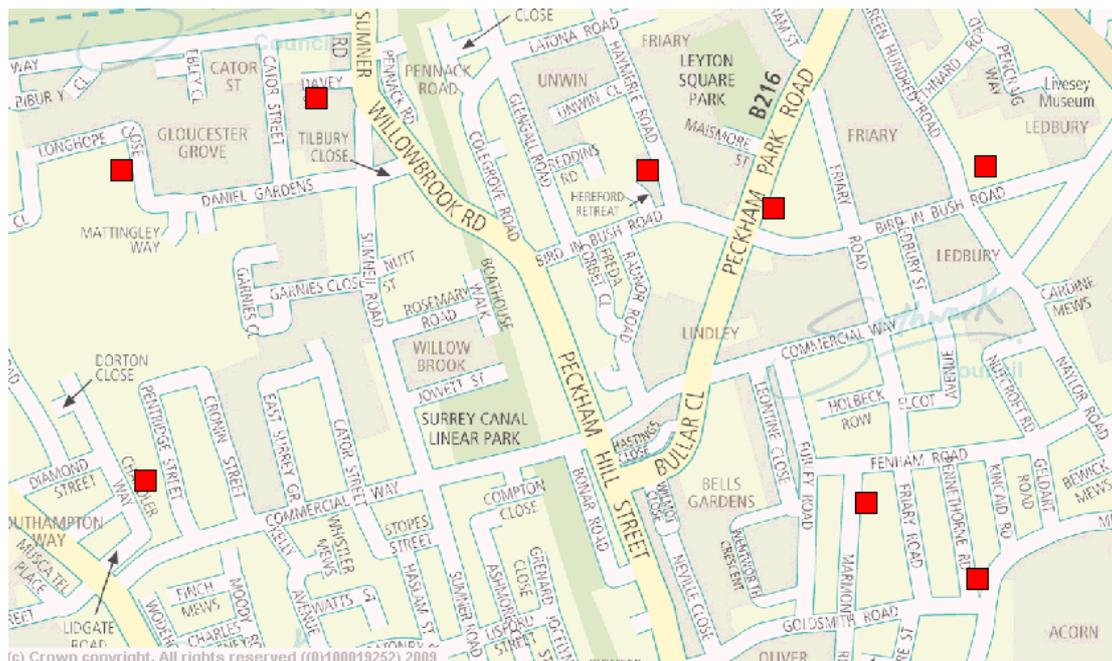


Figure 20: Schools close to Surrey Canal Walk.