

Canada Water Area Action Plan

Background Paper: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
(CDCWB14)

April 2011



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This background paper has been prepared to provide further information on the Canada Water Area Action Plan changes to the Publication/Submission version. The document aims to explain our approach to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the Canada Water Area Action Plan (AAP). The paper sets out which sites in the area we are proposing as SINCs and why. The paper will also demonstrate how this has been carried out in conformity with the guidance set out in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.
- 1.2 The Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation background paper is split into different sections:
- Section 1 provides an introduction.
 - Section 2 sets out the policy background.
 - Section 3 describes what Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are
 - Section 4 sets out protected species and habitats in Southwark
 - Section 5 sets out the criteria for proposing Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
 - Section 6 describes the proposed SINCs in the Canada Water AAP
- 1.3 Throughout this background paper we have referenced the core documents (CDs) that have informed the AAP and a full list of these documents is in section 7 of this paper.

2. POLICY BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The policy context for Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Southwark is set out below. Further information is also set out in the core strategy background paper (CDB9).

NATIONAL

Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating Sustainable Communities 2005 (CDN1)

- 2.2 Paragraph 20 states that development plan policies should take account of environmental issues including the protection of the wider countryside and the impact of development on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats and the promotion of biodiversity.
- 2.3 Paragraph 27, point 9 states that development plans should "enhance as well as protect biodiversity, natural habitats, the historic environment and landscape and townscape character."

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (CDN6)

- 2.4 PPS9 sets out the Government's national policies on biodiversity and geological conservation. Paragraph 5, point 1 states that local development frameworks should indicate the location of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity, making clear distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national, regional and locally designated sites.

- 2.5 PPS9 recognises that sites of regional and local biodiversity interest, which include have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets; contributing to the quality of life and the well-being of the community; and in supporting research and education.

Draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment (CDN102)

- 2.6 This draft PPS sets out the Governments objective that planning should conserve and enhance the natural environment, including the quality, character and value of the biodiversity by ensuring that the natural environment is integrated into the strategic vision of Communities and that construction, development and regeneration has minimal impacts on biodiversity and should enhance it wherever possible to contribute to the overall aim of no net loss to biodiversity.

REGIONAL

The London Plan Consolidated with Alterations (2008) (CDR1)

- 2.7 Policy 3D.8 states that the Mayor will work with strategic partners to protect the many benefits of open space, including those associated with biodiversity.
- 2.8 Policy 3D.14 states that the Mayor will work with partners to ensure a proactive approach to the protection, promotion and management of biodiversity in support of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. This policy also sets out a requirement for planning of new development and regeneration to have regard to nature conservation and biodiversity.
- 2.9 Policy 3D.14 also sets out how the Mayor will identify Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMIs), which, in addition to internationally and nationally designated sites, includes land of strategic importance for nature conservation and biodiversity across London. Boroughs are required to give strong protection to these sites in their DPDs. It is also stated that Boroughs should use the procedures adopted by the Mayor in his Biodiversity Strategy to identify sites of Borough or Local Importance for Nature Conservation and should accord them a level of protection commensurate with their borough or local significance.

Draft Replacement London Plan (October 2009) (CDR2)

- 2.10 Policy 2.18 states that the Mayor will work with all relevant strategic partners to protect, promote, expand and manage access to London's green infrastructure of multi-functional green and open spaces and to secure benefits including, but not limited to, biodiversity.
- 2.11 Policy 7.19 sets out that the Mayor will work with all relevant partners to ensure a proactive approach to the protection, promotion and management of biodiversity in support of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. This means planning for nature from the beginning of the development process. It is a requirement for Boroughs to use the procedures in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy to identify Sites of Borough and Local Importance for Nature Conservation in their LDFs.

The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (CDR26)

- 2.12 The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy sets out the criteria and procedures for identifying land of importance for London's biodiversity for protection in LDFs and identifying areas of deficiency in access to nature. The land of importance includes Sites of Metropolitan Importance (which include all biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest and further areas of regional importance), sites of Borough and Local Importance, Green Corridors and other local designations. Protecting this framework of strategic importance for biodiversity serves to protect the significant areas of BAP priority habitat in London and most priority species.

LOCAL

Southwark Plan: The Southwark Unitary Development Plan (2007) (CDL1)

- 2.13 Strategic Policy 15 Open space and biodiversity requires all developments to, where appropriate, create, preserve and enhance biodiversity.
- 2.14 Policy 3.28 Biodiversity sets out how biodiversity will be taken into account in the determination of all planning applications and will encourage the inclusion in developments of features which enhance biodiversity, requiring an ecological assessment where relevant. The policy also states that Developments will not be permitted which would damage the nature conservation value of sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs) and where, exceptionally, such developments are permitted, the Council will seek mitigation and/or compensation for the damage to biodiversity.
- 2.15 Where new sites of importance for nature conservation and local nature reserves are identified, these sites will be afforded protection under policy 3.28 and policy 3.27, Other Open Spaces. Appendix 14 of the Southwark Plan sets out a schedule of Sites of importance for nature conservation in the borough.

Adopted Core Strategy April 2010 (CDCS3)

- 2.16 Strategic targets objective 2C states that the borough will offer more housing and a choice of housing types, including more family housing.
- 2.17 Strategic Objective 2B states that new developments will be built to high environmental standards to reduce the impact on the environment and adapt to climate change, focussing on flood risk, waste management, biodiversity and water quality.
- 2.18 Strategic Objective 2F states that open spaces and biodiversity will be protected, made more accessible and improved.
- 2.19 Core strategy Strategic Policy 11 Open spaces and wildlife sets out how development will be required to protect and improve habitats for a variety of wildlife. This will include continuing to protect important open spaces from inappropriate development. These will sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs).

- 2.20 The core strategy also states that SINC's are identified upon the proposals map; more may be identified through future planning documents. The existing SINC's in the borough are shown on the map below.

3. RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

3.1 What are sites of importance for nature conservation?

- 3.1.1 SINC's are open spaces considered very important for nature conservation due to their wildlife and biodiversity value. They provide opportunities for people to access and experience nature as well as help protect important plants and animals. A map showing all of the SINC's in Southwark is shown in appendix 1 of this document.
- 3.1.2 There are three kinds of SINC's, which are chosen on the basis of their importance to a particular defined geographic area, this includes; sites of metropolitan importance, sites of borough importance and sites of local importance.

3.2 Sites of Metropolitan Importance

- 3.2.1 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.
- 3.2.2 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.
- 3.2.3 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.
- 3.2.4 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.
- 3.2.5 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.

3.2.6 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.

3.2.7 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	-

3.3 Sites of Borough Importance

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 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.

3.3.3 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.

3.3.4 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.

3.3.5 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.

3.3.6 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
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

3.4 Sites of Local Importance

- 3.4.1 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 also deserve protection in planning.
- 3.4.2 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.

3.4.3 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
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

4. PROTECTED SPECIES AND HABITATS IN SOUTHWARK

4.1 Protected and priority species in Southwark

4.1.1 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.

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

4.1.3 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</i> (<i>Disculifer</i>) <i>vorticulus</i>	<i>Anisus</i> (<i>Disculifer</i>) <i>vorticulus</i>	mollusc	2	2004	2005	London; National

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GROUP	Records count	From year	To year	Status
Ophonus (Metophonus) puncticollis	Ophonus (Metophonus) puncticollis	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	1	2007	2007	National London;
Lucanus cervus	Stag Beetle	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	190	1997	2009	National London;
Cupido minimus	Small Blue	insect - butterfly	1	2006	2006	National London;
Coenonympha pamphilus	Small Heath	insect - butterfly	2	1994	1995	National London;
Watsonalla binaria	Oak Hook-tip	insect - moth	1	2001	2001	National London;
Chiasmia clathrata	Latticed Heath	insect - moth	1	2007	2007	National London;
Ennomos quercinaria	August Thorn	insect - moth	1	2001	2001	National London;
Arctia caja	Garden Tiger	insect - moth	2	1988	1998	National London;
Tyria jacobaeae	Cinnabar	insect - moth	1	2007	2007	National
Chrysis fulgida	Chrysis fulgida	insect - hymenopteran	1	2005	2005	National London;
Bufo bufo	Common Toad	amphibian	36	1998	2007	National London;
Anguis fragilis	Slow-worm	reptile	2	1999	2005	National London;
Zootoca vivipara	Common Lizard	reptile	1	2005	2005	National London;
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	bird	79	2004	2008	National London;
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	bird	1	1983	1983	National
Larus argentatus	Herring Gull	bird	4	1980	2007	London
Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	bird	3	1980	1998	London
Alauda arvensis	Sky Lark	bird	3	1987	1987	London
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	bird	3	1980	1987	London
Prunella modularis	Hedge Accentor	bird	45	1980	2008	London
Phoenicurus ochruros	Black Redstart	bird	6	1987	2004	National
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	bird	30	1980	2008	London
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	bird	5	1980	1994	National
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	bird	77	1980	2008	London
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	bird	270	1980	2007	National
Carduelis cannabina	Common Linnet	bird	9	1980	1994	London
Carduelis flammea	Common Redpoll	bird	3	1980	1998	London
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Common Bullfinch	bird	11	1980	2002	London
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Hawfinch	bird	1	1998	1998	London;
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting	bird	5	1980	1994	National
Phoca vitulina	Common Seal	marine mammal	7	2004	2006	National
Erinaceus europaeus	West European Hedgehog	terrestrial mammal	36	1994	2008	London;
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilionidae	terrestrial mammal	11	1983	2008	National
Myotis	Unidentified Bat	terrestrial mammal	1	2005	2005	London;

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GROUP	Records count	From year	To year	Status
Myotis daubentonii	Daubenton's Bat	mammal terrestrial	11	1996	2008	National London;
Myotis nattereri	Natterer's Bat	mammal terrestrial	1	2005	2005	National London;
Nyctalus noctula	Noctule Bat	mammal terrestrial	8	1996	2008	National London;
Pipistrellus	Pipistrellus	mammal terrestrial	18	1985	2006	National London;
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	mammal terrestrial	34	1997	2008	National London;
Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Soprano Pipistrelle	mammal terrestrial	11	2000	2008	National London;
Plecotus auritus	Brown Long-eared Bat	mammal	3	2005	2007	National

4.2 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

5. CRITERIA FOR PROPOSING NEW SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

5.1 The policy, criteria and procedures for identifying nature conservation sites

- 5.1.1 Appendix 1 of the Mayor's Biodiversity strategy updates the previous adopted policy of the London Ecology committee, which described the policy, criteria and procedures used to identify and recommend land to be protected because of its nature conservation (biological or ecological) value.

- 5.1.2 The previous policy report was adopted by the London ecology committee on the 25th January 1994 and by the London Planning Advisory Committee for use in the review of Unitary Development Plans in March 1995. As a result, this SINC's schedule was included in the adopted Southwark Plan, 2007.
- 5.1.3 We are seeking to designate three additional SINC's through the Canada Water AAP. These sites are;
- Deal Porters Walk
 - Durands Wharf
 - King Stairs Gardens
- 5.1.4 In accordance with the requirements set out in the Mayor's biodiversity strategy we have collected survey information to inform our reasons for choosing these three sites as new SINC's. Southwark's Ecology Officer identified the sites as areas of potential higher nature conservation value.
- 5.1.5 We have obtained information on species in a consistent and standardised manner as required by the Mayor's biodiversity strategy. We obtained reports from Greenspace Information for Greater London (www.gigl.org.uk/) on the proposed sites. Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) is the capital's open space and biodiversity records centre. GiGL collates, manages and makes available detailed information on London's wildlife, parks, nature reserves, gardens and other open spaces. We obtained reports for three sites including Deal Porters Walk, Durands Wharf and King Stairs Gardens.
- 5.1.6 However, the information obtained from GiGL is limited as it relies on recordings being entered into the database from local residents and stakeholders and therefore it does not provide a complete report of the species and habitats at each site. The reports received reflect the number of recordings that have been received for each site rather than give a true representation of the sites' biological and ecological value.
- 5.1.7 We used the GiGL information as well as recommendations from our Ecology Officer and other local stakeholders to determine whether a Phase 1 Habitat survey should be carried out on the sites. The Phase 1 habitat survey identifies the habitats that are contained within or make up a site, and the key plant species for each of those habitat types. It also provides target notes on important aspects of the site, for example, the presence of rare plants or animals, or a special habitat feature such as an ancient hedgerow.
- 5.1.8 Phase 1 habitat surveys were carried out for Kings Stairs Gardens, Durands Wharf and Deal Porter's Walk in 2011 by The Ecology Consultancy. These surveys confirmed that the sites had high nature conservation value.
- 5.1.9 Having assembled all the survey information, as per the Mayor's Biodiversity strategy we identified appropriate criteria for assessing sites in an urban context. The criteria used were based on those recommended in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (Figure 1) which closely corresponds to those used by the Nature Conservancy Council and its successor bodies.

Criteria	Explanation (taken from the Mayor's Biodiversity strategy)
Representation.	The best examples of each major habitat type are selected. These include typical urban habitats such as abandoned

	land colonised by nature (.wasteland.). Where a habitat is not extensive in the search area it will be appropriate to conserve all or most of it, whereas where it is more extensive a smaller percentage will be conserved.
Habitat rarity	The presence of a rare habitat makes a site important, because the loss of, or damage to, only a few sites threatens the survival of the habitat in the search area.
Species rarity.	The presence of a rare species makes a site important in a way that parallels rare habitat.
Habitat richness.	Protecting a site with a rich selection of habitat types not only conserves those habitats, but also the wide range of organisms that live within them and the species that require more than one habitat type for their survival. Rich sites also afford more opportunities for enjoyment and educational use.
Species richness.	Generally, sites that are rich in species are to be preferred, as this permits the conservation of a correspondingly large number of species. However, some habitats, such as reed beds, heaths and acid woodlands, are intrinsically relatively poor in species.
Size	Large sites are usually more important than small sites. They may allow for species with special area requirements. Large sites may be less vulnerable to small-scale disturbance, as recovery is sometimes possible from the undisturbed remainder. They are also more able to withstand visitors, by diluting their pressure within a wider space. Size is also related to the richness of habitat and species, and so is used as a surrogate for these other two criteria where information is incomplete.
Important populations of species	Some sites are important because they hold a large proportion of the population of a species for the search area (eg waterfowl populations or colonial birds such as herons or jackdaws).
Ancient character.	Some sites have valuable ecological characteristics derived from long periods of traditional management, or even a continuity in time to the woodlands and wetlands which occupied the London area before agriculture. Ancient woodlands, old parkland trees and traditionally managed grasslands tend to have typical species that are rare elsewhere. These habitats deserve protection also because of the ease with which they are damaged by changes in management, ploughing, fertiliser and herbicide treatment.
Recreatability	Habitats vary in the ease with which they can be recreated and the length of time required; for example ponds can be created from scratch with reasonable success within a few years, but woods not only take much longer - at least decades - to mature, but even then they do not contain the same flora and fauna as ancient woods on undisturbed soils. In addition to the ecological reasons why certain habitats cannot be recreated, many sites are not capable of being recreated because of practical reasons such as land availability and cost. The more difficult it is to recreate a site.s habitats the more important it is to retain it.
Typical character	urban Features such as canals, abandoned wharves, walls, bridges, tombstones and railway sidings colonised by nature often have a juxtaposition of artificial and wild features. Some of these habitats are particularly rich in species and have rare species and communities of species. Their substrates may have a particular physical

	and chemical nature which allows species to thrive that are rare elsewhere. They may also have particular visual qualities. Such areas are often useful for the study of colonisation and ecological succession.
Cultural or historic character	Sites such as historic gardens with semi-wild areas, garden suburbs, churchyards and Victorian cemeteries which have reverted to the wild may have a unique blend of cultural and natural history.
Geographic position	This criterion is operated through the use of search areas and areas of deficiency
Access.	Access is an important consideration, especially in areas where there may be few places for large urban populations to experience the natural world. Nature conservation is not restricted to the preservation of wildlife, but goes hand in hand with the enjoyment of it by all people, from the specialist naturalist to the casual visitor. Some access is desirable to all but the most sensitive of sites, but direct physical access to all parts of a site may not be desirable.
Use	The importance of a site can include its established usage (eg for education, research, or quiet enjoyment of nature).
Potential	Where a site can be enhanced given modest changes in management practices this gives it value. Opportunity exists where a site is likely to become available for nature conservation use, or where there is considerable local enthusiasm about it, or where a voluntary group is willing to use and manage it. Potential in this context can be for habitat enhancement through management, for educational or nature conservation amenity use. Where such potential could remedy a deficiency, or is readily capitalised, it is considered important.
Aesthetic appeal	This factor is the most difficult to measure, but it includes such factors, which contribute to the enjoyment of the experience of visiting a site, as seclusion, views, variety of landscape and habitat structure, colour, and natural sounds and scents.

Figure 1: Criteria for identifying new SINCs (adapted from the Mayor’s Biodiversity strategy, 2002)

5.1.10 The guidance states that “for some sites only one or a few of the criteria may be important, but for others it may be all or most of them.” The most appropriate criteria for identifying sites of local importance in this area were considered to be;

- i. Geographic position
- ii. Species richness
- iii. Use
- iv. Aesthetic appeal
- v. Access

5.2 Areas of deficiency for access to nature

5.2.1 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. This can be used as a consideration when determining the choice of Sites of Local Importance. A map showing the areas of deficiency in Southwark is set out in appendix 2.

6. THE PROPOSED SINCS IN CANADA WATER AAP

6.1 Deal Porters Walk

- 6.1.1 It is proposed to designate Deal Porters Walk as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.
- 6.1.2 An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer which included an 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.
- 6.1.3 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 the Albion Channel and links the existing borough SINCS of Canada Water and Surrey Water.
- 6.1.4 From the site assessment a number of important habitat types were recorded, including: hedge, scrub, bare open ground, scattered trees, and deadwood.
- 6.1.5 Trees recorded on site include: ash, lime, birch, alder, oak, hornbeam, sycamore, beech, willow, poplar, scots pine, and rowan.
- 6.1.6 Herbs include cow parsley, green alkanet, nettle, and bramble.
- 6.1.7 Bats have been recorded nearby so it is likely that the site offers commuting and foraging opportunities for bats.
- 6.1.8 The site's 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.

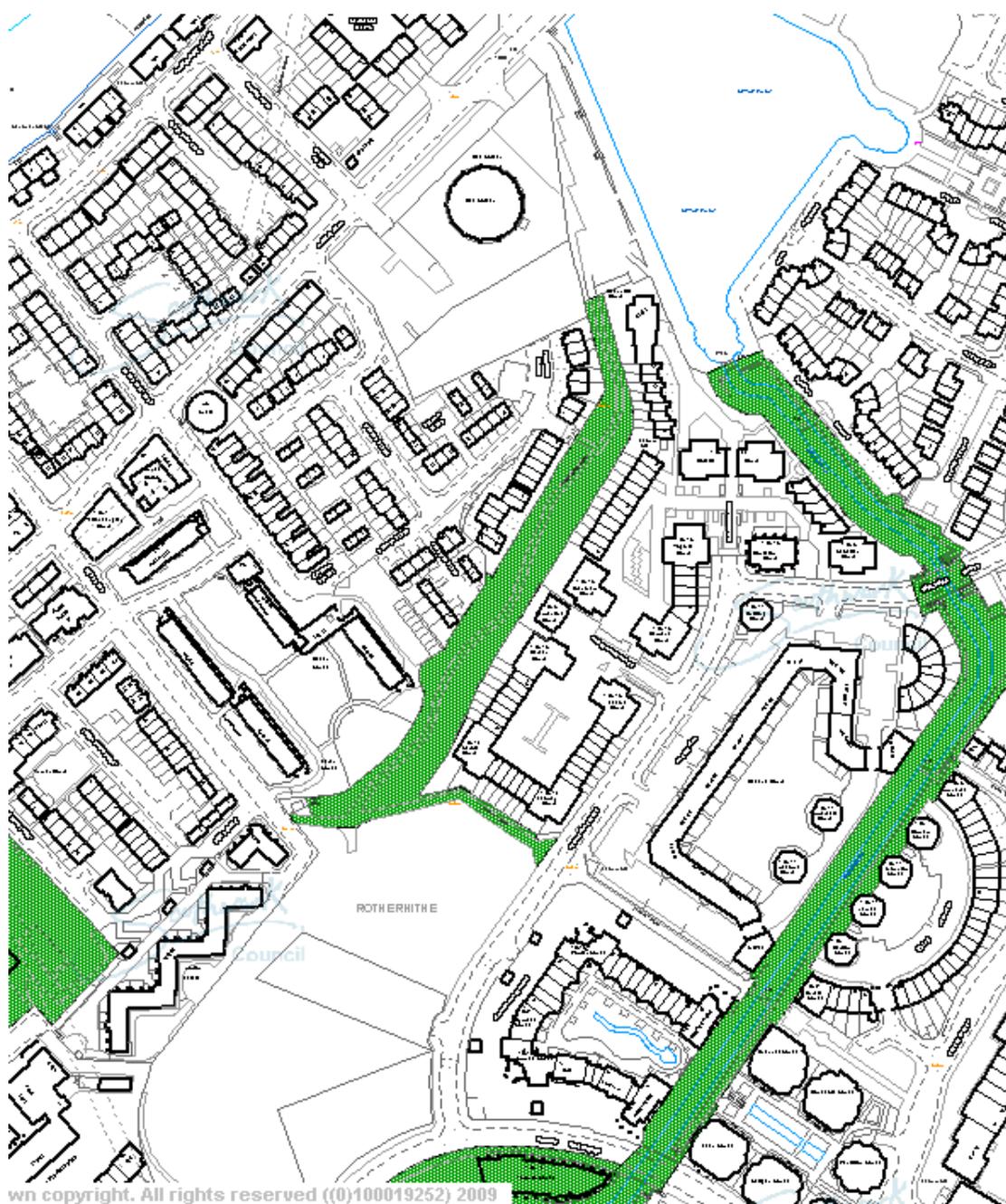


Figure 2: Deal Porters Walk.

6.1.9 The GiGL report for Deal Porter’s Walk (appendix 3) identifies a significant number of new species in the area post 1996 records. This includes several Biodiversity Action Plan national priority species including, the stag beetle and the house sparrow.

6.1.10 A Phase 1 habitat survey (appendix 4) was carried out to provide a comprehensive audit of the sites biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. The survey showed that the habitats at Deal Porters Walk are of ecological importance in the context of the local area.

6.1.11 The habitats at the site corresponded with the following London Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat types: parks and urban greenspaces, and woodland, and the following Southwark BAP habitats: Parks and Open spaces.

- 6.1.12 The site is likely to support foraging and commuting bats which are UK BAP species, and certain common and widespread but declining species of bird including house sparrow which is a UK, regional or local BAP species. A review of existing data, the status of these species in London and Southwark, and assessment of onsite and surrounding habitat suggests that the populations present are of ecological importance in the local (Canada Water) context.
- 6.1.13 In conclusion, when assessed based on the criteria taken from the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, this site is proposed as a local SINC due to the presence of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered trees, grassland, scrub and hedge which are locally uncommon. In addition the site is likely to be of value for foraging and commuting bats, and common birds and invertebrates, and is also likely to be of local value in this regard.

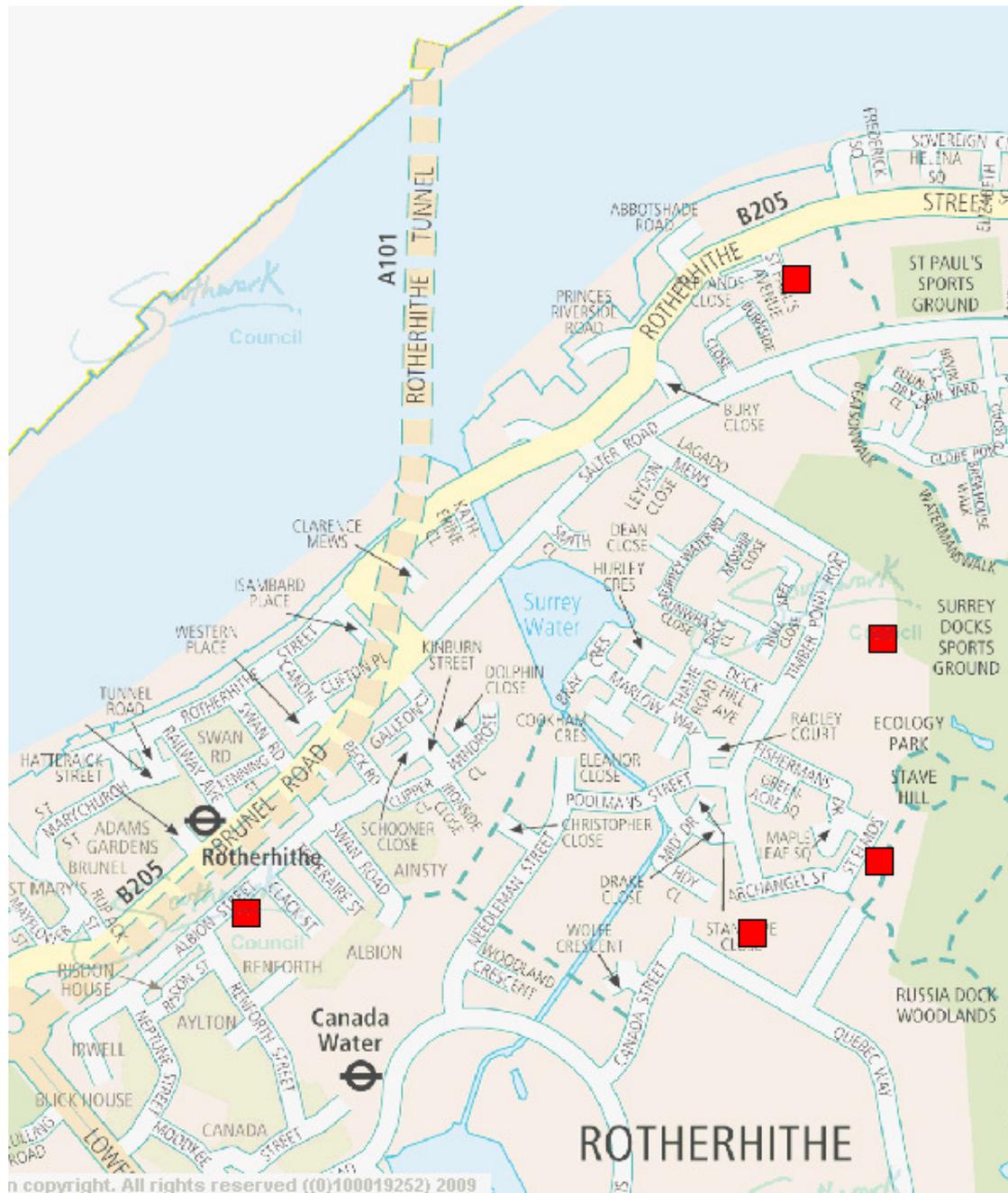


Figure 3: Schools close to Deal Porters Walk.

6.2 Durand's Wharf

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

6.2.2 An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer this included an 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.

6.2.3 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.

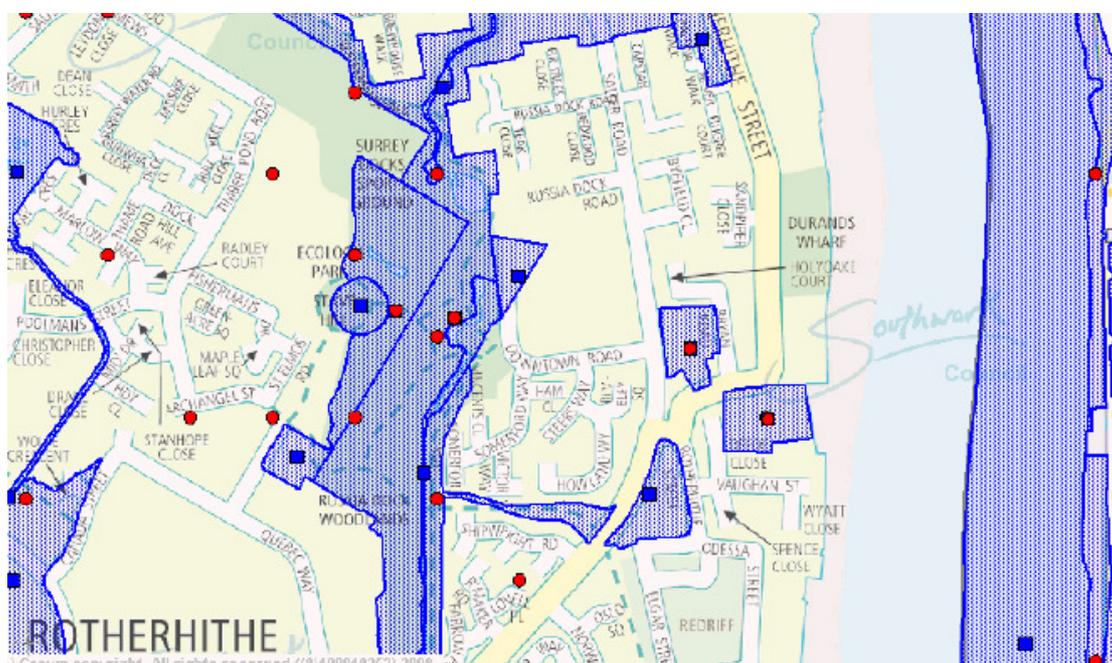


Figure 4: Rotherhithe ecological records.

6.2.4 The London Records Centre has a number of habitat and species records for the area, see Figure 4.

6.2.5 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.

6.2.6 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.

6.2.7 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.

6.2.8 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.

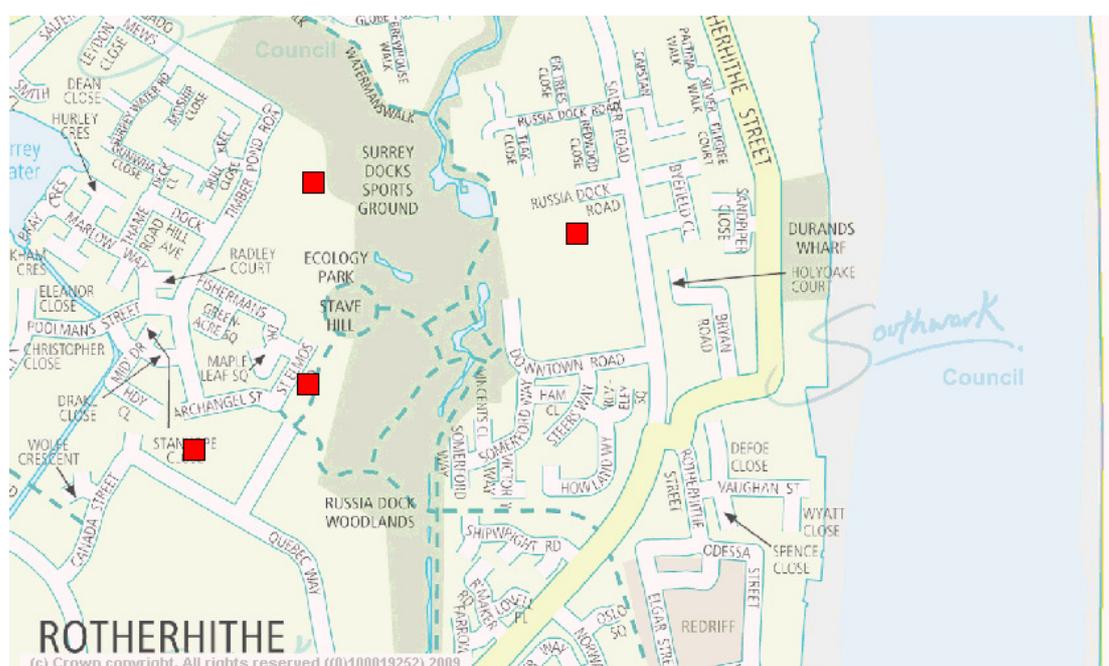


Figure 5: Schools close to Durand's Wharf.

6.2.9 The GiGL report for Durand's Wharf (appendix 5) did not identify any new species post 1996 records however as discussed earlier this may be because no studies have been carried out in the area or those that might have been have not submitted the data for inclusion on the GiGL database.

6.2.10 A Phase 1 habitat survey (appendix 6) was carried out to provide a comprehensive audit of the sites biodiversity and to advise the maintenance of the site. The survey showed that the habitats at Durand's Wharf do not meet local criteria for designating Sites of Metropolitan, or Borough Importance for Nature Conservation; however the site does meet some criteria for Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

6.2.11 The habitats at the Durand's Wharf were of ecological importance in the context of the local area. The habitats at the site corresponded with the following London Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitat types: built structures, parks and urban greenspaces, and woodland, and parks and open spaces in the Southwark BAP.

6.2.12 In conclusion, when assessed using the criteria taken from the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, this site is proposed as a local SINC as the site is likely to support certain common and widespread but declining species of bird included house sparrow which is a UK, regional or local BAP species. A review of existing data, the status of these species in London and Southwark,

and assessment of onsite and surrounding habitats suggests that the populations present are of ecological importance in the local (Canada Water) context.

6.3 King Stairs Gardens

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

6.3.2 An ecological assessment was undertaken in 2009 by the Ecology Officer including an 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.

6.3.3 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 habitats and the park also borders Southwark Park to the south. This means that it contributes to an unbroken green corridor from Surrey Quays to the Thames.



Figure 6: King Stairs Gardens ecological records.

6.3.4 The London Records Centre has a number of habitat and species records for the site, see Figure 6.

6.3.5 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 the area are not commonly found in Southwark outside its parks.

- 6.3.6 The notable species include one red data book bird species, the starling and one amber data book species, the house martin. Other birds recorded here include, robin, wren, greenfinch and blue tit and great tit. The house martin is a regional priority species.
- 6.3.7 Plants recorded on site include: ash, hawthorn, buddleia, oak, hazel, elder, grey poplar, field maple, and London plane. Herbs include: weld, and hoary mustard.
- 6.3.8 The sites habitats, the size of the area, it's proximity to the Thames, and Southwark Park 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.

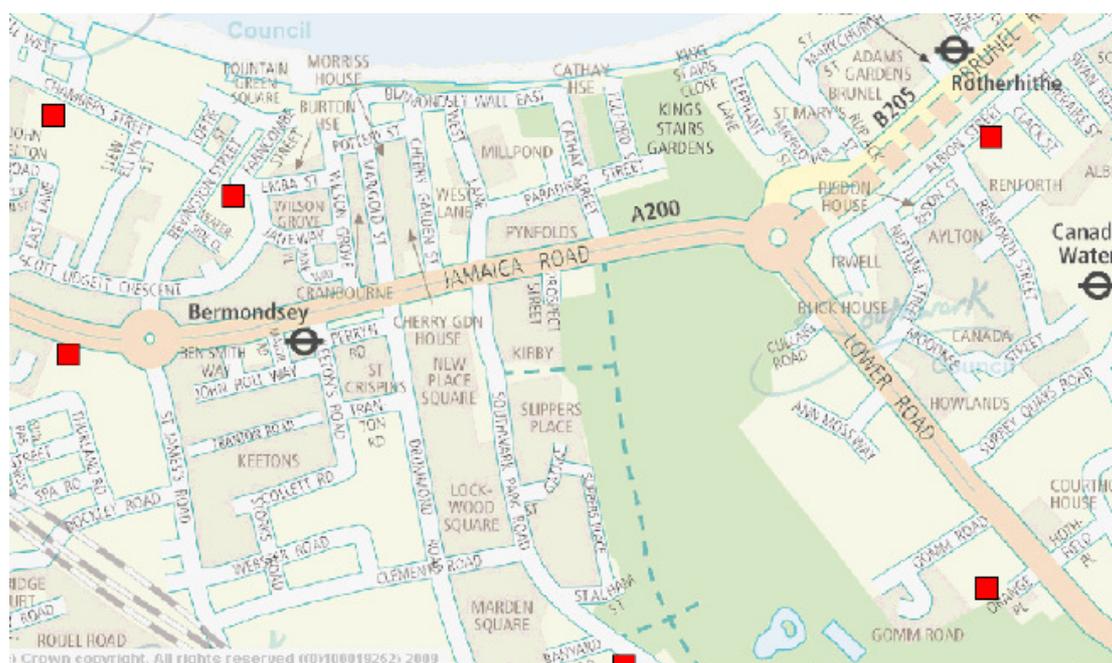


Figure 7: Schools close to King Stairs Gardens.

- 6.3.9 The GiGL report for Kings Stairs Gardens (appendix 5) only identified one species post 1996 records. However as discussed earlier, this may be because no studies have been carried out in the area or because those that might have been undertaken have not submitted the data for inclusion on the GiGL database. A common seal was recorded and this is a BAP priority species.
- 6.3.10 A Phase 1 habitat survey (appendix 7) was carried out to provide a comprehensive audit of the sites biodiversity and to advise on the maintenance of the site. The report shows that the habitats at King Stairs Gardens are of ecological importance in the context of the local area.
- 6.3.11 The habitats at the site corresponded with the following London BAP Habitat types: built structures, parks and urban greenspaces, and woodland, and parks and open spaces in the Southwark BAP.
- 6.3.12 The site is likely to support foraging and commuting bats which are UK BAP species, and certain common and widespread but declining species of bird included house sparrow which is a UK, regional or local BAP species. A

review of existing data, the status of these species in London and Southwark, and assessment of onsite and surrounding habitats suggests that the populations present are of ecological importance in the local (Canada Water) context.

6.3.13 Based on the criteria from the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, this site is proposed as a local SINC due to the presence of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, grassland, scrub and planted shrub. These habitats are of limited extent and recent origin, are readily re-creatable predominantly planted. Such habitats are likely to be common within the borough but appear to be locally uncommon and the close association of shrubs and secondary woodland is of note in the local context. In addition the site is likely to be of value for foraging and commuting bats, and common birds and invertebrates, and is also likely to be of local value in this regard.

7. CONSULTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Consultation

7.1.1 As set out in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy it is equally important that the judgment of the Local Authority is subject to additional consideration by a wide range of interested parties. Through the preparation of the preferred options Core Strategy (CDCS9) and through the issues and options stage of the Canada Water AAP (CDCW8) we consider that we have carried out widespread consultation with individuals and organisations with knowledge of the sites and of nature. This is set out in more detail in our consultation statement that accompanies the adopted core strategy (CDCS 16) and the consultation statement that accompanies the preferred option Canada Water AAP (CDCW6).

7.1.2 As part of the preferred options consultation on the core strategy we consulted on the proposed SINCS including, Kings Stairs Gardens, Deal porters Walk and Durand's Wharf. The consultation included a map and a schedule of sites recommended for protection in planning. Also as part of the Canada Water AAP we set out the possibility option of designating these sites as SINCS at the issues and options stage.

7.2 Protection in planning policies

7.2.1 In accordance with the guidance set out in the London Plan and the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, we recommend that the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation all be afforded protection in the Canada Water AAP to protect against future development proposals that may harm their nature conservation value.

8. DOCUMENT REFERENCES

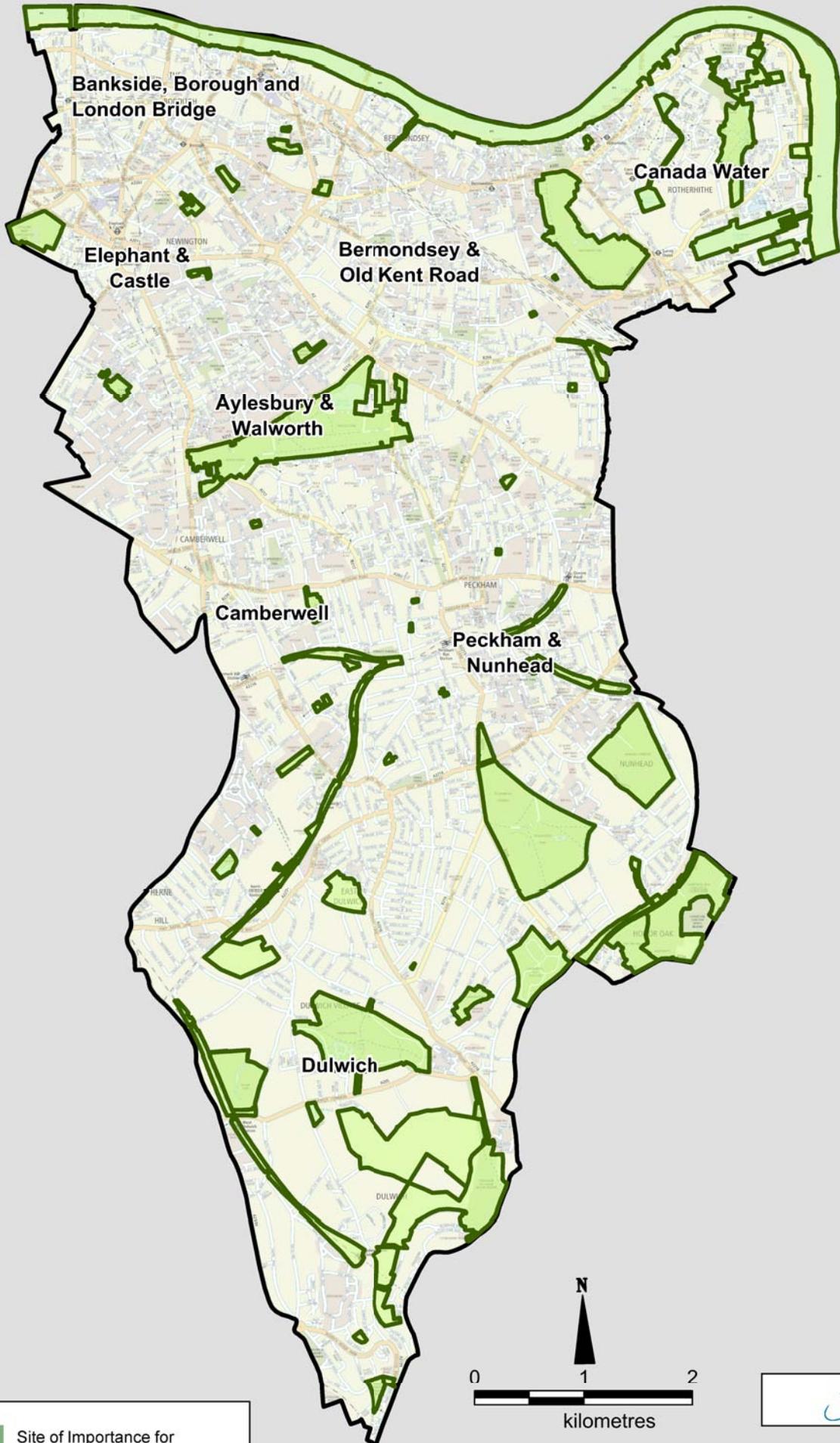
CDB9	SINCS background paper
CDN1	Planning Policy Statement 1 Planning for Sustainable Development (2005)
CDN6	Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)
CDN102	Draft PPS Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment (2010)

CDNR1	The London Plan Consolidated with alterations (2008)
CDNR2	Consultation draft replacement London Plan (October 2009)
CDNR26	Mayor of London – Biodiversity Strategy (2002)
CDL1	Southwark Plan (2007)
CDCS3	Adopted Core Strategy April 2011
CDCS9	Core strategy preferred options report 2009
CDCW8	Canada Water AAP Issues and Options 2008
CDCS16	Core Strategy submission consultation report and appendices 2010
CDCW6	Canada Water AAP Consultation Statement Preferred Options 2009
CDCW15	Further changes to the Canada Water AAP Publication/Submission Version (Dwelling sizes and sites of importance for nature conservation)
CDCW18	Plan for publicising further changes to the Canada Water AAP Publication/Submission Version (Dwelling sizes and sites of importance for nature conservation)

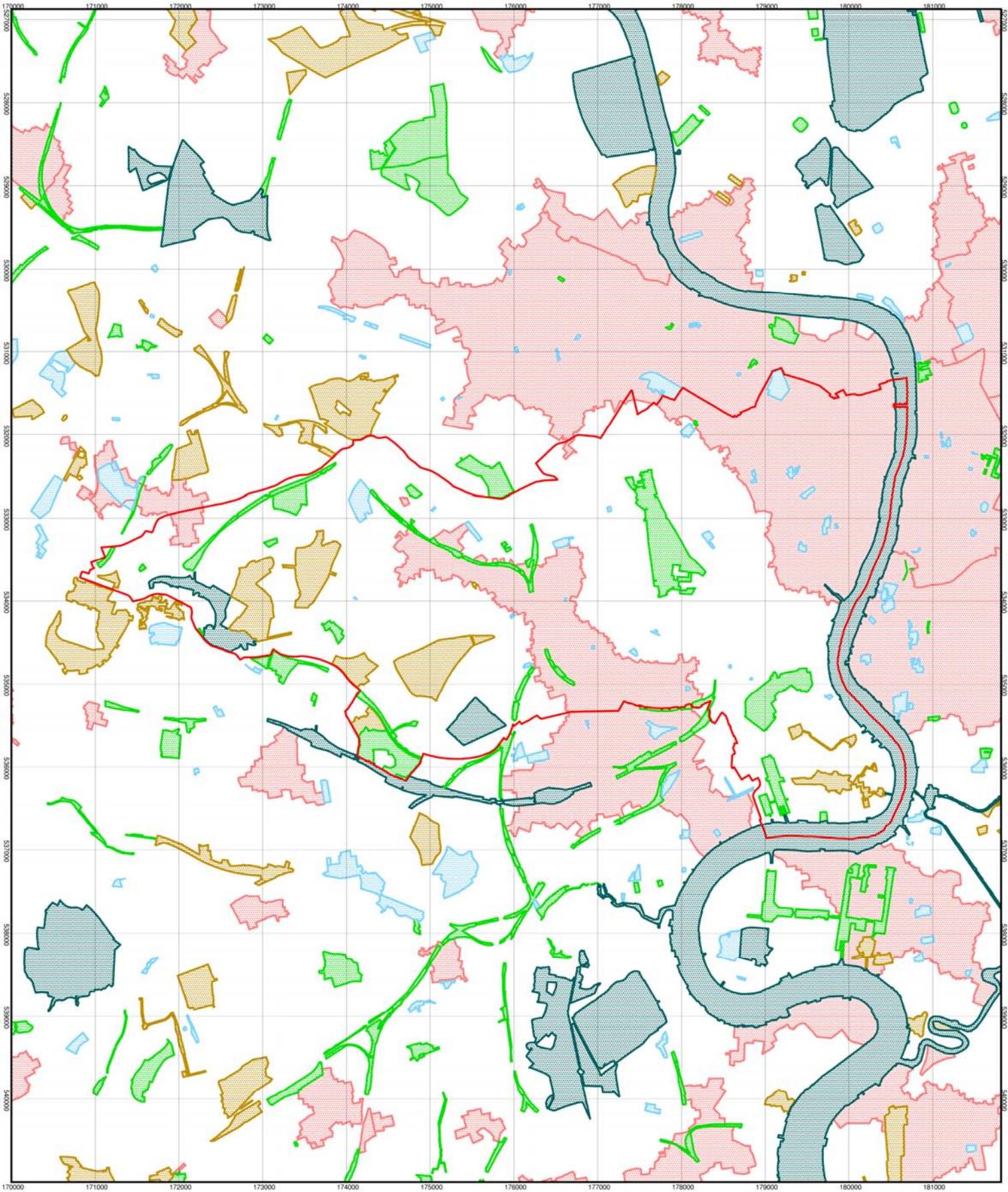
Appendices

Appendix 1: Map of SINC in Southwark

Southwark Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation



Appendix 2: Areas of deficiency in access to nature



London Borough of Southwark

-  Borough Boundary
-  Site of Metropolitan Importance
-  Site of Borough Importance Grade 1
-  Site of Borough Importance Grade 2
-  Site of Local Importance
-  Areas of Deficiency

Scale 1:45000

The Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation have been identified since 1986 using procedures which have now been adopted by the Mayor of London. They are recommended for protection in planning. The boundaries and site grades reflect the most recent consideration of each site, details of which are available from the Trust and the Greater London Authority. Note that boundaries and grades may change as new information becomes available.

Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London

Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved. © Crown Copyright. Licence No. LA100023273

Appendix 3: GiGI report for Deal Porter's Walk



Greenspace Information for Greater London
the capital's environmental records centre

An Ecological Data Search for Deal Porter's Walk

On behalf of
London Borough of Southwark

Report reference 11/148b



Prepared on 04 April 11
by Chloë Smith, Data Officer

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2.0	Species.....	3
2.1	Post 1996 records	4
2.2	Pre 1997 records	7
3.0	Contacts	9

Annex A - Maps

Search area

1.0 Introduction

An ecological data search for Deal Porter's Walk, searched as a 300m radius, on behalf of Southwark.

The following report was compiled by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) on behalf of Southwark, to provide ecological information for the above site for conservation/land management. This report may include information on statutory sites, non-statutory sites, species records, habitat or open space information held by GiGL, as requested for the above search area. The boundaries of this search area are defined in the maps in Annex A and lie within the London Borough of Southwark.

Important information about this report

The data provided within this report is for the **internal** use of GiGL partner London Borough of Southwark to inform understanding of the site of interest in accordance with SLA terms and conditions.

The data provided must not be distributed or published for an external or public audience, for example within the appendix of a report.

The report is compiled using data held by GiGL at the time of the request. GiGL takes the accuracy of our data holdings very seriously and the Recorder Advisory Group is set up to help with this important task to ensure what we provide to you is the best data possible for your needs.

GiGL is constantly striving to improve the coverage and currency of its data holdings. We would be interested in hearing from you if you are able to submit species or habitat data arising from field surveys.

2.0 Species

A list of these species can be seen on the following pages:

- Species since 1996 (including protected species*)
- Species pre 1997 (including protected species*)

Note that GiGL does not currently hold comprehensive species data for all areas. Even where data is held, a lack of records for a species in a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that the species does not occur there – the area may simply not have been surveyed.

Grid references are supplied as this is a SLA report. Note that because the resolution of grid references varies between surveys the accuracy of these figures will also vary.

The species were recorded from a broad range of surveys - from public and species specific surveys to formal surveys carried out during the GLA's rolling program.

If you would like further information regarding rare, notable and protected species please contact a relevant person listed in the Further Contacts section of this report.

Please note: As of April 2010, the London Bat Group has asked us to stop providing bat roost information with immediate effect. If you require this information you can contact the London Bat Group directly: enquires@londonbats.org.uk or lbgr@hotmail.co.uk. Records of bat sightings are presented in the report if found in the search area.

* Protected species are those listed on EC Habitats Directive – Annexes II and IV, EC Birds Directive – Annex I, Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 – Schedules 2 & 4, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – Schedules 1, 5 & 8, Protection of Badgers Act 1992

* Protected species are those listed on EC Habitats Directive – Annexes II and IV, EC Birds Directive – Annex I, Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 – Schedules 2 & 4, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – Schedules 1, 5 & 8, Protection of Badgers Act 1992

2.1 Post 1996 records

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Date recorded between		Grid Reference
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		01/01/1999	31/12/1999	TQ354798
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		01/01/1999	31/12/1999	TQ354798
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		01/01/1999	31/12/1999	TQ354798
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		01/01/1999	31/12/1999	TQ354798
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		01/01/1999	31/12/1999	TQ354798
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		01/01/1999	31/12/1999	TQ354798
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		01/01/2000	31/12/2000	TQ355799
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		01/01/2000	31/12/2000	TQ355799
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National; Hab&Spp Dir Anx 2; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5a; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5b	01/01/2000	31/12/2000	TQ355799
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		01/01/2000	31/12/2000	TQ355799
Triturus	<i>Triturus</i>		01/01/2000	31/12/2000	TQ355799
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		01/01/2000	31/12/2000	TQ355799
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5a; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5b	01/01/2000	31/12/2000	TQ355799
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National; Hab&Spp Dir Anx 2; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5a; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5b	01/05/2000	30/06/2000	TQ355799
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP	01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ353798

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Date recorded between		Grid Reference
		Priority National			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National	01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ354798
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National	01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ354798
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National	01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ354800
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National	01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ355799
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National	01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ358799
Creeping Yellow-cress	<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>		01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ355797
Water Bent	<i>Polypogon viridis</i>		01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ355797
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National	01/01/2002	31/12/2002	TQ357796
Andrena (Andrena) fulva	<i>Andrena (Andrena) fulva</i>		20/04/2009	20/04/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		20/04/2009	20/04/2009	TQ355796
Syrphus ribesii	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>		20/04/2009	20/04/2009	TQ355796
Anthophora (Anthophora) plumipes	<i>Anthophora (Anthophora) plumipes</i>		20/04/2009	20/04/2009	TQ356801
Apis mellifera	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		20/04/2009	20/04/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Bombus) terrestris	<i>Bombus (Bombus) terrestris</i>		20/04/2009	20/04/2009	TQ355796
Melecta albifrons	<i>Melecta albifrons</i>		20/04/2009	20/04/2009	TQ356801
Anthophora (Anthophora) plumipes	<i>Anthophora (Anthophora) plumipes</i>		01/05/2009	01/05/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		01/05/2009	01/05/2009	TQ355796

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Date recorded between		Grid Reference
Bombus (Bombus) terrestris	<i>Bombus (Bombus) terrestris</i>		01/05/2009	01/05/2009	TQ355796
Melecta albifrons	<i>Melecta albifrons</i>		01/05/2009	01/05/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Bombus) lucorum	<i>Bombus (Bombus) lucorum</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Megabombus) hortorum	<i>Bombus (Megabombus) hortorum</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Pyrobombus) pratorum	<i>Bombus (Pyrobombus) pratorum</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Bombus) lucorum	<i>Bombus (Bombus) lucorum</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ356801
Apis mellifera	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ356801
Andrena (Simandrena) dorsata	<i>Andrena (Simandrena) dorsata</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ356801
Eristalis tenax	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>		21/05/2009	21/05/2009	TQ356801
Bombus	<i>Bombus</i>		25/06/2009	25/06/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Megabombus) hortorum	<i>Bombus (Megabombus) hortorum</i>		25/06/2009	25/06/2009	TQ356801
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		25/06/2009	25/06/2009	TQ355796
Apis mellifera	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		25/06/2009	25/06/2009	TQ355796
Apis mellifera	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		25/06/2009	25/06/2009	TQ356801
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		31/07/2009	31/07/2009	TQ355796
Megachile (Megachile) centuncularis	<i>Megachile (Megachile) centuncularis</i>		31/07/2009	31/07/2009	TQ355796
Volucella inanis	<i>Volucella inanis</i>		31/07/2009	31/07/2009	TQ355796

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Date recorded between		Grid Reference
Apis mellifera	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		31/07/2009	31/07/2009	TQ355796
Myathropa florea	<i>Myathropa florea</i>		31/07/2009	31/07/2009	TQ355796
Episyrrhus balteatus	<i>Episyrrhus balteatus</i>		08/08/2009	08/08/2009	TQ355796
Eupeodes luniger	<i>Eupeodes luniger</i>		08/08/2009	08/08/2009	TQ355796
Scaeva pyrastris	<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>		08/08/2009	08/08/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		08/08/2009	08/08/2009	TQ355796
Apis mellifera	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		08/08/2009	08/08/2009	TQ355796
Myathropa florea	<i>Myathropa florea</i>		08/08/2009	08/08/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		12/09/2009	12/09/2009	TQ355796
Eupeodes luniger	<i>Eupeodes luniger</i>		12/09/2009	12/09/2009	TQ355796
Syrirta pipiens	<i>Syrirta pipiens</i>		12/09/2009	12/09/2009	TQ355796
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>		21/09/2009	21/09/2009	TQ355796

2.2 Pre 1997 records

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Date recorded between		Grid Reference
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		24/07/1987	24/07/1987	TQ353798
Rigid Hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003
Fennel Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Date recorded between		Grid Reference
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003
Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003
Common Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3569080003
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602
Greater Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		20/09/1994	20/09/1994	TQ3567979602

3.0 Contacts

The following contacts work closely with GiGL and are the best source for further advice or interpretation of the data provided by us. They are widely recognised in Greater London as the experts in their fields, and have provided the following information as the preferred method of contact.

Areas of expertise	SINCs, open space and habitat survey data advice
<i>Name</i>	Chloë Smith
<i>Organisation</i>	GiGL – Greenspace Information for Greater London
<i>Email</i>	chloe.smith@gigl.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.gigl.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Black redstarts, birds, brown and green roofs
<i>Name</i>	Dusty Gedge
<i>Organisation</i>	Livingroofs.org
<i>Email</i>	dustygedge@yahoo.co.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.livingroofs.org

Areas of expertise	Bats
<i>Organisation</i>	London Bat Group
<i>Email</i>	enquiries@londonbats.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.londonbats.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Regional biodiversity action plans
<i>Name</i>	Nick White
<i>Organisation</i>	London Biodiversity Partnership
<i>Email</i>	nwhite@lbp.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.lbp.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Plant galls
Name	Ken Hill
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	Ken@kenneth17.fsnet.co.uk
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Odonata - Dragonflies and damselflies
Name	Neil Anderson
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	neil@anders42.freeserve.co.uk
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Invertebrates
Name	Colin W Plant
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	cpauk1@ntlworld.com
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Lichens and Fungi
Name	Ted Tuddenham
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	mycorec@blueyonder.co.uk
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Butterflies
Name	Leslie Williams
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	leslie.williams1597@btinternet.com
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Vascular plants
<i>Name</i>	Mark Spencer
<i>Organisation</i>	London Natural History Society
<i>Email</i>	Lnhs_plant_recorder@hotmail.co.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Area recorders for birds
<i>Organisation</i>	London Natural History Society
<i>Essex</i>	Roy Woodward
<i>Email</i>	roy.rkwoodward@ntlworld.com
<i>Hertfordshire</i>	Joan Thompson
<i>Email</i>	lnhshertsrecorder@jksthompson.plus.com
<i>Middlesex</i>	Mark Pearson
<i>Email</i>	nazemark@yahoo.com
<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	Andrew Moon
<i>Email</i>	andrew.moon@talk21.com
<i>Surrey</i>	Steve Spooner
<i>Email</i>	sjspooner@ntlworld.com
<i>Kent</i>	John Archer
<i>Email</i>	john_archer@gofast.co.uk
<i>Inner London</i>	Richard Bonser
<i>Email</i>	richbonser8181@hotmail.com
<i>Website</i>	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	General conservation advice
<i>Name</i>	Conservation Programmes Manager
<i>Organisation</i>	London Wildlife Trust
<i>Email</i>	enquiries@wildlondon.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.wildlondon.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Statutory site advice
<i>Name</i>	Conservation Officer
<i>Organisation</i>	Natural England
<i>Email</i>	london@naturalengland.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.naturalengland.org.uk

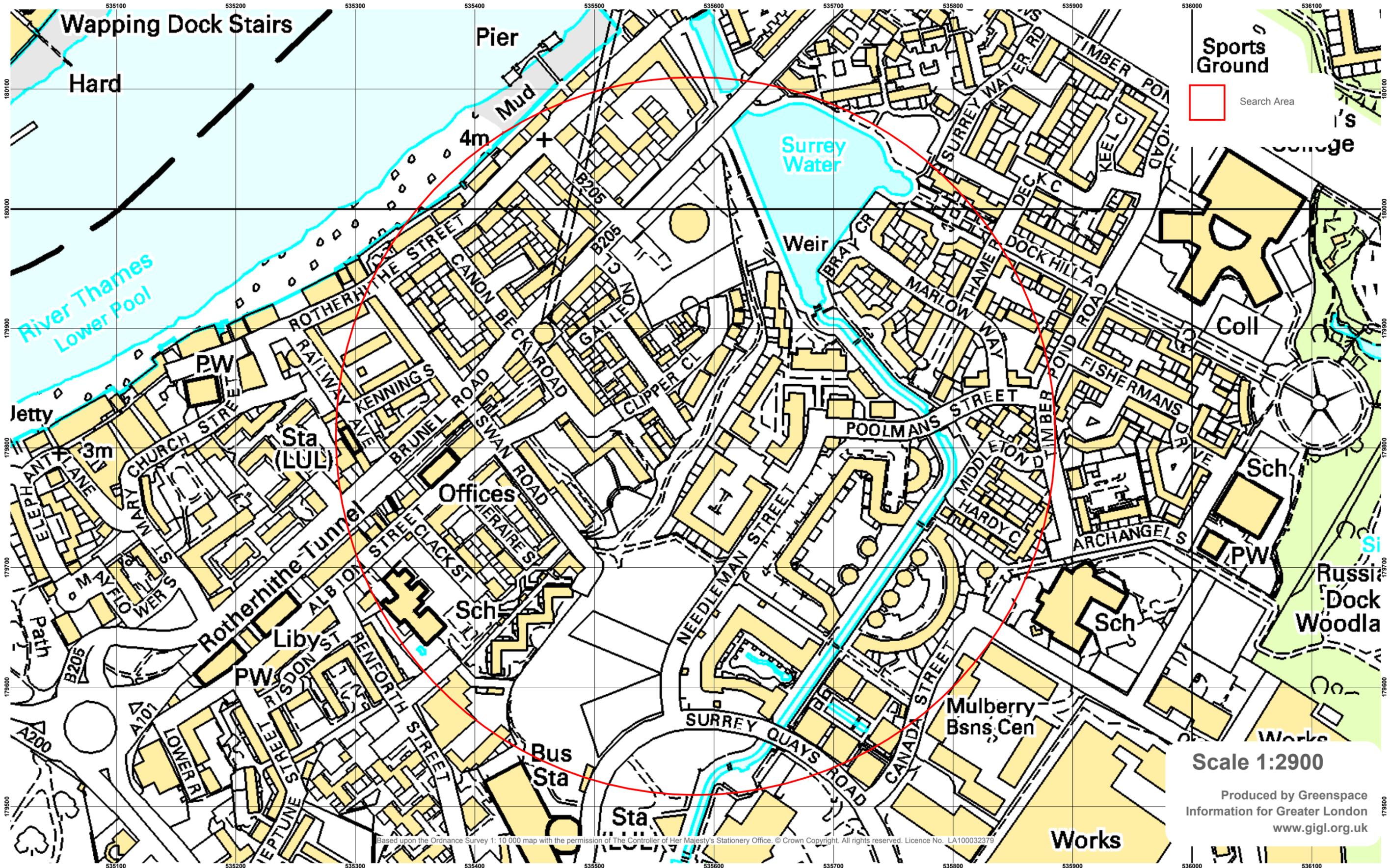
Annex A - MAPS

Search area

Search Area

Ecological Data Search 11/148b for LB Southwark
Deal Porter's Walk 4 April 2011

GiGL



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Appendix 4: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Deal Porters Walk



Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water, Southwark

Baseline Ecology Survey

Report for Southwark LB

Job No:	110289		
Author	Sabrina Bremner BSc. (Hons.)		
	Date	Checked by	Approved by
Initial	210411	JR	JR/JK
Revision			
Revision			

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Executive Summary

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark to carry out an extended Phase 1 habitat survey and nature conservation evaluation of Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water, in the London Borough of Southwark. The survey was commissioned in order to support the proposals for designation of the site as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) as part of the Canada Water Area Action Plan (London Borough of Southwark, 2010). The main findings of the surveys are as follows.

- The great majority of the site comprised recent secondary broadleaved woodland and planted trees and shrub, as well as smaller areas of amenity grassland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. Such habitat mosaics are uncommon locally and considered to be of value in the Local context.
- None of the habitats present were rare, long established or notable for other reasons but some, notably self-established secondary woodland, are unlikely to be common locally.
- The site accords with the London BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) for Parks and Urban Greenspaces and Woodland and the Southwark BAP for Parks and Open Spaces. These BAPs relate mainly to opportunities for enhancement rather than current ecological value of the habitats present. A number of flagship species associated with the Southwark BAP Parks and Open Spaces are likely to be present and others could be encouraged through further habitat enhancements.
- Plant species diversity was low (c47 self established species), none were rare.
- Woodland and trees, dense shrubs and grassland present at the site are likely to provide foraging and breeding habitat for a range of common birds including some Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species such as house sparrow. Although numbers present would be limited by available habitat there is the potential for locally significant populations to be present.
- Tall ruderal, scrub, planted shrub and woodland edge habitats are likely to support a range of common invertebrates.
- Trees at the site were of negligible potential for roosting bats. On-site bat foraging habitat was of limited extent, however connectivity to off-site habitat was good and levels of light pollution likely to be low. It is considered that the likelihood of roosting bats being present at the site is negligible, but the site is likely to be used by foraging and commuting bats.

- In summary the site is considered to be of local value for nature conservation due to the presence of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered trees, grassland, scrub and hedge. These habitats are of limited extent and recent origin, are readily re-creatable predominantly planted. Such habitats are likely to be common within the Borough but appear to be locally uncommon and the close association of shrubs and secondary woodland and trees is of note in the local context. In addition the site is likely to be of value for foraging and commuting bats, and common birds and invertebrates, and is also likely to be of local value in this regard.

1 Introduction

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the baseline ecological conditions at Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water. The site is located in the Rotherhithe area of the London Borough of Southwark and is centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TQ 355 798. This report contains the results of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey carried out on the 13th April 2011. It describes the key ecological features of the site and provides an evaluation of the importance of ecological features at the site and provides recommendations for enhancing the ecological value of the site.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.2 This report is based on a desk top study and field survey using standard Phase 1 survey methodology (JNCC 2010)¹ as adapted for use in Greater London by the GLA (GLA 2002)². This approach is designed to identify broad habitat types at a site, to identify the potential of habitats to support protected species, and to assist in providing an overview of the ecological interest at a site. It is generally the most widely used and professionally recognised method for initial ecological site appraisal.
- 1.3 Ecological receptors at the site were evaluated according to a geographic scale as recommended in Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom³ and the GLAs criteria for selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in London.

SITE CONTEXT AND STATUS

- 1.4 The site extends to approximately 0.5ha and is a public path leading from Needleman Street and Swan Road to Surrey Water and the B205, with paths bisecting grassland and planted and self-established vegetation. The great majority of the site comprised broadleaved woodland, planted trees and shrub, as well as smaller areas of amenity grassland, scattered scrub and tall herb and ruderal vegetation.
- 1.5 The site is bounded to the north by Surrey Water, and the B205 (Salter Road) and to the south east by Needleman Street and a housing development site; by Swan Road

¹ JNCC, (2010), Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit, ISBN 0 86139 636 7

² Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002) Connecting with London's Nature, The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy

³ Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2006) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom* (version 7 July 2006). <http://www.ieem.org.uk/ecia/index.html>

and residential homes to the south west; and further residential development to the west and east. The surrounding landuse is predominantly residential with small and scattered areas of green open space., The most notable nearby ecological features are Surrey Water - a large man made waterbody immediately to the north of the site; Albion Channel- an adjacent waterway running parallel to the site approximately 180m to the south east, linking Surrey Water to Canada Water (270m to the south) and the River Thames approximately 280 metres to the north, which are respectively sites of Borough Grade 1 and Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

- 1.6 None of the site is covered by statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations. The nearest statutory designated site is the nearest being Lavender Pond Local Nature Reserve (LNR) located approximately 720m north east of the Deal Porters Walk site. The nearest non-statutory site is Canada and Surrey Waters Sites of Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), located immediately to the north.

2 Methodology

EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

- 2.1 A walkover survey of Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water site was carried out by Sabrina Bremner (Ecologist) on the 13th April 2011. This followed standard Phase 1 methodology (JNCC 2010) mapping the habitats and noting dominant flora species present. This was supplemented by a desk-top study using on-line mapping services for information on statutory designated sites (www.magic.gov.uk and <http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/map.aspx>). In addition, The UK (JNCC, 2010), London (London Biodiversity Partnership, 2010: <http://www.lbp.org.uk>) and the Southwark's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (London Borough of Southwark, 2007) were reviewed for those species and habitats that may, or have the potential to be, present at the site.
- 2.2 A habitat plan of the site is provided in Appendix 1. Photographs of the site are shown at Appendix 2. A full list of plant species identifiable at the site, along with an assessment of their abundance, appears in Appendix 3.
- 2.3 Incidental records of birds and other fauna noted during the course of the habitat survey were also compiled. Scientific names are given after the first mention of a species, thereafter, common names only are used. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species.

SITE EVALUATION

- 2.4 The assessment of the site's ecological features and attributes has been undertaken in line with the 2006 Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). These guidelines aim to provide consistency in the approach to evaluating the importance of ecological features and any impact that a new development would have upon them.
- 2.5 The value of ecological features is defined according to the following geographical scale:
- International;
 - UK;
 - National (i.e. England/Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales);
 - Regional;

- County (or Metropolitan - e.g. in London);
- District (or Unitary Authority, City, or Borough);
- Local or Parish;
- Within zone of influence only (which might be the project Site or a larger area);
and
- Negligible value.

2.6 The assessment of value for a given feature draws on a range of ecological attributes including:

- The presence of designated sites or BAP habitats or BAP species;
- The presence of rare species or significant populations of species, or populations at the edge of a species' distribution;
- The presence of ancient, rare, fragile or vulnerable habitats and those that are good examples of their type;
- The presence of rare or diverse assemblages of habitats or species; and
- The potential value where there is a possibility of increasing habitat or population size or connectivity or of improving habitat quality.

2.7 In addition, the site has been evaluated using local criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in *Connecting with London's nature the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy* (GLA 2002).

LIMITATIONS

2.8 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.

2.9 This Phase 1 habitat survey does not constitute a full botanical survey, or a Phase 2 pre-construction survey that would include accurate GIS mapping for invasive or protected plant species.

2.10 The site evaluation provides an overview of the site's ecological value using recognised locally developed criteria and is therefore sufficient to support any decisions for designation in the Area Plan. However, it is not based on detailed surveys. While unlikely it should be recognised that any future more detailed surveys

could provide records for rare species that would not have been detected in the current survey.

3 Results

DESK STUDY

- 3.1 The following information regarding the present and historical ecological interest of the site was supplied by the online desk study. The data covers a standard 1 km radius search area.
- 3.2 It is important to note that, even where data is held, a lack of records for a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may be simply under-recorded.
- 3.3 Records include information on the following:

Nature conservation designations

- 3.4 ***Statutory sites of nature conservation importance:*** The site is not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations. The desk-based search shows that there are no sites with European or National statutory designations within a 1km radius of the site. The nearest nationally important site is Gilbert's Pit Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its geological interest, located 6.2km to the southeast. The nearest Local Nature Reserve is Lavender Pond (also a Site of Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature Conservation), designated for its reedbed, pond and aquatic invertebrate interest; located approximately 720m to the north east of the site.
- 3.5 ***Non-statutory sites of nature conservation importance:*** The nearest Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the 1km search area is the Canada and Surrey Waters SINC (of Borough Grade 1 Importance). This site supports standing water, marginal vegetation, and aquatic invertebrates. Russia Dock Woodlands SINC (of Borough Grade 1 Importance) – an area of woodland, grassland and ponds, is also located 400m to the south east.

HABITAT SURVEY

Overview

- 3.6 The great majority of the site comprised recent secondary broadleaved woodland, planted trees and shrub, as well as smaller areas of amenity grassland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. Target notes highlighting features of ecological interest are described below and denoted as TN1 etc on the habitat plan in Appendix 1.

Recent secondary broadleaved woodland

- 3.7 This habitat type dominated the western half of the site (TN2, Appendix 1) and was composed of young hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The shrub layer was sparse with occasional bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, young hazel, elder *Sambucus nigra*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and field maple; the ground flora was typically sparse. However in one central strip (TN 4, Appendix 1) garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, greater celandine *Chelidonium majus*, bellflowers *Campanula* sp., dominated, with occasional pellitory of the wall *Parietaria judaica*, white bryony *Bryonia alba*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, lesser celandine *Ficaria verna*, wood avens *Geum urbanum* field forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis* and cleavers *Galium aparine*

Amenity grassland

- 3.8 Amenity grassland was present in linear strips adjacent to the central path, and was typically close-mown. It was dominated by perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* with frequent daisy *Bellis perennis*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium* and dandelion *Taraxacum agg.* Species rarely or occasionally observed included bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, cut-leaved crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum* and dove's foot cranes-bill *Geranium molle*.

Planted shrub and trees

- 3.9 Formal planted beds predominantly at the southern limit of the site and the eastern section of the site were dominated by densely planted shrubs (TN3, Appendix 1) - forming hedges along the south eastern boundary and young trees. Species of shrub included laurustinus *Viburnum tinus*, Wilson's honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida*, barberry *Berberis* spp., and cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*. Tree species included rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, whitebeam *Sorbus aria* and willows *Salix* spp.,

Tall herb and ruderal vegetation

- 3.10 Ruderal vegetation was present in the margins of the grassland, woodland and scrub; species included creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, lesser burdock *Arctium minus*, black horehound *Ballota nigra*, garlic mustard, nettle and cleavers.

Scattered scrub

- 3.11 Self-established bramble, elder, butterfly bush and ivy *Hedera helix* dominated scrub was present within planted beds.

Hardstanding and bark paths

- 3.12 A central path (hardstanding) forms the 'spine' of the walk; informal paths with chipped bark bisected the western half of the site in two places.

Invasive species

- 3.13 Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* was noted immediately to the south of the site (TN1, Appendix 1). Japanese knotweed is listed in Section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Cotoneasters *Cotoneaster spp.* were occasionally present within planted beds. Following a review, certain species of Cotoneaster are now included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is therefore illegal to plant both of the above species in, or cause them to grow in the wild. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England and Wales) Order came into force on 6 April 2010.

FAUNA

- 3.14 The following bird species were recorded at the time of the site survey:

- Blackbird *Turdus merula*;
- Blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*; and
- Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

EVALUATION

Geographic evaluation

- 3.15 **Features of international importance:** Features of international importance are principally sites covered by international legislation or conventions. Special Protection Areas (SPAs), together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) form the Natura 2000 network. The Government is obliged to identify and classify SPAs under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC)) on the Conservation of Wild Birds). The regulations deal mainly with protection afforded to habitats, however, they also give protection to certain species of flora and fauna including bats and great crested newts.
- 3.16 The site does not form part of a site of international importance for nature conservation and is distant from any such sites. Based on habitat quality and review of existing data, it is not considered likely that the site would support roosting bats. However, the site comprised a corridor of linear vegetation leading to a large water body indicating that this could be of value for commuting and foraging bats at the local level.

- 3.17 **Features of national importance:** Features of national importance include SSSIs which are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as species such as common reptile species which are subject to national legislation rather than international legislation. The site does not form part of a site of national importance for nature conservation and is distant from any such sites. The site may support breeding birds, which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The site may also support species covered by the UK BAP and which are therefore material considerations in determining planning applications. The UK BAP species present or potentially present at the site include house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and possibly certain species of bat. Due to the limited extent of suitable habitat at the site it considered that populations present would be of no more than local importance.
- 3.18 **Features of regional (i.e. Greater London) importance:** Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (i.e. sites considered to be of London-wide importance for wildlife) are defined as being ‘... *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...*’
- 3.19 As shown in the site evaluation using local criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites⁴ in Table 3 below, the site lacks any features that would justify designation at the metropolitan level.
- 3.20 The London BAP habitats and species present or potentially present at the site are: parks and urban green spaces, woodland, bats and house sparrow. The London BAPs for parks and urban green spaces relate to the potential for enhancing their wildlife value rather than intrinsic ecological importance of existing habitats. Woodland and tree habitats on site are not considered to be of value at this level due to their limited extent and recent origin. As discussed below, populations of house sparrow and bats are unlikely to exceed local value.
- 3.21 **Features of borough (i.e. Southwark) importance:** Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation are defined as being ‘...*sites which are important on a borough perspective in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the*

⁴ *Connecting with London’s nature* The Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy Greater London Authority 2002

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...' A review of sites of Borough (grade I and II) Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the vicinity of the site and the application of local criteria below shows that the site is not likely to be important at the borough level in terms of its habitats or species.

- 3.22 The Southwark BAP for Parks and Open Spaces is applicable to the site. This relates largely to the potential for enhancing their wildlife value and are intended to encourage opportunities for wildlife through land management. Associated with each BAP habitat are a number of 'flagship species' (London Borough of Southwark, 2007) which are characteristic or of specific importance to parks and open spaces in Southwark and for which conservation actions should be developed.
- 3.23 Of these species the site is currently considered suitable for house sparrow, buttercups *Ranunculus* spp., holly blue *Celastrina argiolus* and meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* and commuting and foraging bats, although this is likely to be at the local level only, due to the limited extent and quality of existing habitats.
- 3.24 **Features of local (i.e. Canada Water) importance:** The GLA defines *Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation as those that '...are, or may be, of particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools)...'* It also notes that '*Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified*'.
- 3.25 As shown in Table 1 below the recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and tree habitats at the site are of value for nature conservation in this context, as despite their limited extent they are locally uncommon. Therefore, the site does contain some (limited) habitats of local importance for nature conservation. Such habitats have the potential to be of importance to foraging and commuting bats, and breeding birds, also at the local level. The site is freely accessible by members of the public, and is therefore of value to the local community as an area of open space.
- 3.26 **Features of importance within the zone of influence only (within the site and immediate vicinity):** With reference to Paragraph 3.24 above and Table 1 below it can be seen that the following habitats at the site are of value within the site and

immediate vicinity only: amenity grassland, planted shrub and trees and ruderal vegetation.

- 3.27 **Secondary or supporting value:** The site appears to form supplementary habitat to the Surrey and Canada Waters Site of Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature Conservation. In particular is likely to be of supporting value for commuting and foraging bats.

Evaluation using local criteria

- 3.28 Table 1 below provides an evaluation using GLA criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites. The application of local criteria to the site allows a more complete assessment of whether they are of significance for nature conservation at the regional, borough or local scale.

Table 1 – Evaluation of nature conservation interest at Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water using GLA criteria

GLA Criteria	Remarks
Representation	The site comprises areas of amenity green space with grassland and scattered trees, amenity planting that are typical of inner urban residential areas in terms of their wildlife value. The site also contains small areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland and scattered tree and scrub are typical of their inner urban location, not exception examples of their type and likely to support a limited and typical assemblage of birds and invertebrates.
Habitat rarity	The site was dominated by recent secondary broadleaved woodland and scattered scrub, planted shrubs and trees, with smaller areas of amenity grassland, and tall ruderal vegetation. While none of these habitats are rare in the London and borough context, based on a review of aerial photography this habitat mosaic is locally uncommon, other than the example at Russia Dock Woodland Site of Borough Grade1 importance for Nature Conservation. Woodland occupies only 4% of Southwark (London Borough of Southwark 2007)
Species rarity	No rare plants were recorded and the site lacks habitat likely to support rare invertebrates or birds, although some common but declining bird species covered by UK and London BAPs are likely to be present.
Habitat richness	The site supported a limited range of locally uncommon habitats comprising recent secondary broadleaved woodland, grassland and scattered scrub,
Species richness	The site did not support a diverse flora and the site’s location and the nature and extent of habitats present indicate that it will not be likely to support diverse assemblages of birds or invertebrates.
Size	All habitats at the site were of very limited extent which reduces the potential for large populations or diverse assemblages of species
Important	The site may support populations of common bird species including

Table 1 – Evaluation of nature conservation interest at Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water using GLA criteria

GLA Criteria	Remarks
populations of species	certain BAP species, but the limited extent of habitats present will limit population size and significance for nature conservation. The site may also be important for local populations of bats
Ancient character	Not applicable. All habitats at the site are of recent origin.
Fragility	All habitats at the site are resilient to most impacts other than extreme disturbance, drought or gross inputs of pollution. Due to the site's location all associated fauna will be habituated to noise, a degree of night-time lighting, disturbance etc. Therefore none of the habitats at the site are of conservation significance due to their fragility, while bats are vulnerable to lighting and habitat fragmentation amongst other things
Recreatability	All habitats at the site are readily recreatable in the medium term including mature trees likely to be c40 years old.
Typical urban character	The site is typical of urban areas; however urban habitats of particularly high value for nature conservation such as canals, species rich wasteland and old parkland are not present.
Cultural or historic character	Not applicable
Geographic position	The site appears to –provide supplementary habitat to Surrey and Canada Waters, in respect of foraging and commuting bats. With others of woodland trees, notable Russia Dock Woodland and Southwark Park it is likely to provide habitat for local populations of birds.
Access	Full public access.
Use	Recreational/access.
Potential	Enhancements to planting and maintenance could provide opportunities to implement the London BAPs for Parks and Urban Greenspaces and Woodland; and the Southwark BAP for Parks and Open Spaces
Aesthetic appeal	The site is actively used as a public thoroughfare and is an attractive area for the public.

3.29 The evaluation as a whole shows that habitats at Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water do not meet local criteria for designating Sites of Metropolitan, or Borough Importance for Nature Conservation; however the site does meet some criteria for Local Importance for Nature Conservation. The standards for designating sites at each of these geographic levels are summarised in Paragraphs 3.20 to 3.25 above.

4 Conclusions and recommendations

CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The habitats at Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water were of ecological importance in the context of the local area only.
- 4.2 The habitats at the site corresponded with the following London BAP Habitat types: parks and urban greenspaces, and woodland, and the following Southwark BAP habitats: Parks and Open spaces. These BAPs relate largely to opportunities for enhancement rather than current ecological value of the habitats covered.
- 4.3 The site is likely to support foraging and commuting bats which are UK BAP species, and certain common and widespread but declining species of bird including house sparrow which is a UK, regional or local BAP species. A review of existing data, the status of these species in London and Southwark, and assessment of onsite and surrounding habitat suggests that the populations present are of ecological importance in the local (Canada Water) context.
- 4.4 Recommendations to enhance the nature conservation value of the Deal Porters Walk site by improving the quality of existing London and Southwark BAP habitats, with specific aims to enhance for BAP species such as house sparrow, dunnock *Prunella modularis* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, and for Southwark's flagship species associated with uncut grassland such as buttercups and certain species of butterfly are made below:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Invasive species

- 4.5 Japanese knotweed and species of cotoneaster listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act were noted at the site. Appropriate site management and a control programme will be necessary to preclude the possibility of Japanese knotweed being disturbed and spread during the course of works. Treatment may comprise a combination of cutting, spraying, and on-site burial or offsite removal to a landfill site, and must be carried out in compliance with relevant environmental legislation. Further information on the correct disposal of Japanese knotweed is available from the Environment Agency Managing Japanese Knotweed on Development Sites:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/acrobat/japnkot1a1463028.pdf

- 4.6 During maintenance it is recommend that where cotoneasters are cut the top part of the plant and the main roots are either burnt on site or disposed of to landfill where plants are unlikely to reproduce vegetatively or from seed.

Breeding birds

- 4.7 The site contains habitat suitable for breeding birds which are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence, amongst other things, to kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Therefore measures to avoid the destruction of nests, eggs and young birds will be required if enhancement measures are undertaken that would affect trees, scrub and hedges.

Enhancements

- 4.8 The following enhancement measures are recommended in line with the relevant London and Southwark BAPs.
- 4.9 **Landscape planting:** Additional wildlife garden planting should be incorporated into site designs to complement existing recent secondary woodland and ruderal habitat and planted shrubs to provide foraging, cover and nesting for birds and invertebrates, including BAP species house sparrow.
- 4.10 Where possible, areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland and scattered trees should be under-planted with shrubs and herbaceous material to create greater structure within the planting and to provide denser cover for wildlife, in particular for foraging birds and bats. A list of recommended species is provided in Appendix 5.
- 4.11 The decline in house sparrows has been linked to reduction in invertebrate food for chicks and the inclusion of planting likely to provide suitable foraging for this species. Planting should involve native deciduous shrubs and trees and a diversity of grasses and forbs to set seed and remain in situ throughout the winter would promote the abundance of a range of foliar invertebrates. These recommendations could be incorporated through the under-planted of standard trees with shrubs of appropriate species, as well as inclusion of meadow grassland and plantings of ornamental perennials and grasses.
- 4.12 House sparrows require dense cover for roosting that could be achieved through dense plantings of mixed deciduous and evergreen shrubs. This would also provide nesting habitat for dunnock and the inclusion of berrying species would benefit

foraging starling, both London BAP species. The use of bark chippings or other organic mulched would improve foraging for all three species.

4.13 **Enhancement of amenity grassland for invertebrates:** The inclusion of a good variety of low-growing wildflowers such as birds-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, ladies bedstraw *Galium verum* and hawkbits *Leontodon* spp. to create a daisy lawn in any areas within the site. This will provide foraging for invertebrates throughout the summer if cutting is not too frequent. This would enhance the quality of such grassland and potentially for Southwark flagship plant and invertebrate species (London Borough of Southwark, 2007): buttercups, holly blue and meadow brown.

4.14 **Nest boxes:** Bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities should be included through the provision of a range of open and hole-fronted boxes on trees/fences bordering the site. It is recommended that Schwegler's range of 'woodcrete' boxes are used as they retain more warmth and are longer lasting than ordinary wooden boxes:

- Erect Schwegler 'woodcrete' bat boxes on buildings/trees. Model 2F for smaller bats including brown long-eared bat, is generally recommended but advice should be sought from an experienced bat ecologist on type and number.
- Erect open-fronted and hole-fronted bird nesting boxes on suitable trees/fences. The following models are most appropriate: 1B hole-fronted, 26mm entrance hole and 32mm entrance hole, and 2H open-fronted 120mm opening. Ideally boxes should be positioned so they face in an easterly or westerly direction. They should be at least 3 metres above ground level and ideally considerable higher. They should be attached to the tree using Schwegler fixings. Boxes should be cleaned annually in the autumn with old nests removed annually between October and January, and boxes repaired or replaced as necessary.

4.15 **Good horticultural practice:** Good horticultural practice should be utilised in any landscaping scheme and should include the following simple methods to minimise off-site ecological impacts:

- The use of peat-free composts and soil conditioners to reduce the loss of important peat bogs.

- Feeding of plants using organic based fertilisers and improving the soil structure by incorporating organic material, preferably composted waste.
- The use of mulches to lock moisture into the soil. 'Water-wise gardening' helps reduce consumption of drinking water which is especially important during drought periods.
- The use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and slug pellets etc) should be discouraged to prevent cumulative fatal effects to animals via the food chain, particularly invertebrates, birds and/or mammals. Any pesticides used should be non-residual.

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Appendix 1 Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Photographs

Photograph 1

Dense scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and scattered young trees in the southern extent of the site



Photograph 2

Ornamental shrub and tree planting along eastern side, with narrow strip of amenity grassland



Photograph 3

Narrow section of broadleaved trees with sparse ground flora.



Photograph 4
Japanese knotweed stems beyond
southern limit of site



Photograph 5
Ornamental trees and shrub



Photograph 6
Northern extent of site



Appendix 3: Plant Species List

Plant Species List for Deal Porters Walk, Canada Water

Scientific nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species and Blockeel & Long (1998) for bryophyte species. Vascular plant common names follow the Botanical Society of the British Isles 2003 list, published on its web site, www.bsbi.org.uk. Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 Habitat survey, does not constitute a full botanical survey and should be read in conjunction with the associated Phase 1 Report.

Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale and using qualifiers as follows:

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare

T= tree, S=seedling, C= clumped (localised), P= planted/ some planted, Y = young, S = seedling or sapling, H = hedge

Scientific name	English name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	A	sty
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	R	tp
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	F	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	R	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	R	sty
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	LD	e
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	R	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	R	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound	R	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	F	
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	Barberry	F	p
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White bryony	R	
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush	R	s
<i>Campanula sp.</i>	Bellflower	R	
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy bitter-cress	R	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	R	tsp
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	R	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	LD	e
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	R	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	R	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	R	
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian fleabane	R	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	F	sty
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneasters	R	p
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O	sty
<i>Crepis sp.</i>	Hawk's-beard	R	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	R	s
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	F	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R	ty
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O	

Scientific name	English name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	O	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	O	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	R	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	O-LD	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	R	
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	R	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	O	s
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle	R	
<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>	Privet	F	s
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass	LD	
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Wilson's honeysuckle	O	p
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty	O	
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not	O	
<i>Narcissus sp.</i>	Daffodil	R	p
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	R	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	O	
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane	R	tp
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	F	
<i>Populus sp.</i>	Poplar	R	tp
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	O	
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry laurel	O	phe
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry	O	tp
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	O	s
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	R	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine	R	
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	Rose	F	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O	
<i>Salix sp.</i>	Willow	O	tp
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	F	s
<i>Sorbus sp.</i>	Whitebeam	R	ty
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed	R	
<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	Dandelion	O	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	R	
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurustinus	O	p
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	A	sty
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	R	tp
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	F	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	R	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	R	sty
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	LD	e
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	R	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	R	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound	R	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	F	
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	Barberry	F	p
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White bryony	R	
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush	R	s
<i>Campanula sp.</i>	Bellflower	R	
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy bitter-cress	R	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	R	tsp

Scientific name	English name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	R	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	LD	e
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	R	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	R	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	R	
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian fleabane	R	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	F	sty
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneasters	R	p
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O	sty
<i>Crepis sp.</i>	Hawk's-beard	R	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	R	s
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	F	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R	ty
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	O	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	O	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	R	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	O-LD	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	R	
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	R	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	O	s
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle	R	
<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>	Privet	F	s
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass	LD	
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Wilson's honeysuckle	O	p
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty	O	
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not	O	
<i>Narcissus sp.</i>	Daffodil	R	p
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	R	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	O	
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane	R	tp
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	F	
<i>Populus sp.</i>	Poplar	R	tp
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	O	
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry laurel	O	phe
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry	O	tp
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	O	s
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	R	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine	R	
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	Rose	F	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O	
<i>Salix sp.</i>	Willow	O	tp
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	F	s
<i>Sorbus sp.</i>	Whitebeam	R	ty
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed	R	
<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	Dandelion	O	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	R	
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurustinus	O	p

Appendix 4: Legislation and Policy

Important Notice: This section contains details of legislation and planning policy applicable in Britain only (i.e. not including the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or the Channel Islands) and is provided for general guidance only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this section should not be relied upon as a definitive statement of the law.

A Invasive Plant Species

Certain species of plant, including Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* are listed on Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect to Section 14(2). Such species are generally non-natives whose establishment or spread in the wild may be detrimental to native wildlife. Inclusion on Part II of Schedule 9 therefore makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.

How is the legislation pertaining to invasive plants liable to affect development works?

Although it is not an offence to have these plants on your land *per se*, it is an offence to *cause* these species to grow in the wild. Therefore, if they are present on site and development activities (for example movement of spoil, disposal of cut waste or vehicular movements) have the potential to cause the further spread of these species to new areas, it will be necessary to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent this happening prior to the commencement of works.

B NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATION AFFORDED TO HABITATS

Statutory Designations: National

Nationally important areas of special scientific interest, by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features, are notified by the countryside agencies as statutory **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSIs) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and latterly the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As well as underpinning other national designations (such as **National Nature Reserves** which are declared by the countryside agencies under the same legislation), the system also provides statutory protection for terrestrial and coastal sites which are important within a European context (Natura 2000 network) and globally (such as Wetlands of International Importance). See subsequent sections for details of these designations. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs have been introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) also provides for the making of **Limestone Pavement Orders**, which prohibit the disturbance and removal of limestone from such designated areas, and the designation of **Marine Nature Reserves**, for which byelaws must be made to protect them.

Statutory Designations: International

Special Protection Areas (SPAs), together with **Special Areas of Conservation** (SACs) form the **Natura 2000** network. The Government is obliged to identify and classify SPAs under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC)) on the Conservation of Wild Birds). SPAs are areas of the most important habitat for rare (listed on Annex I of the Directive) and migratory birds within the European Union. Protection afforded SPAs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles (nm) is given by The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended) provide a mechanism for the designation and protection of SPAs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

The Government is obliged to identify and designate SACs under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna

and Flora). These are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive within the European Union. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are protected under The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended) provide a mechanism for the designation and protection of SACs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, in particular recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are globally important for biodiversity conservation. Wetlands can include areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water and may be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary. Wetlands may also incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands. Ramsar sites are underpinned through prior notification as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and as such receive statutory protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) with further protection provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Policy statements have been issued by the Government in England and Wales highlighting the special status of Ramsar sites. This effectively extends the level of protection to that afforded to sites which have been designated under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives as part of the Natura 2000 network (e.g. SACs & SPAs).

Statutory Designations: Local

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 **Local Nature Reserves** (LNRs) may be declared by local authorities after consultation with the relevant countryside agency. LNRs are declared for sites holding special wildlife or geological interest at a local level and are managed for nature conservation, and provide opportunities for research and education and enjoyment of nature.

Non-Statutory Designations

Areas considered to be of local conservation interest may be designated by local authorities as a **Wildlife Site**, under a variety of names such as **County Wildlife Sites** (CWS), **Listed Wildlife Sites** (LWS), **Local Nature Conservation Sites** (LNCS), **Sites of Biological**

Importance (SBIs), **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation** (SINCs), or **Sites of Nature Conservation Importance** (SNICIs). The criteria for designation may vary between counties.

Together with the statutory designations, these are defined in local and structure plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined. The level of protection afforded to these sites through local planning policies and development frameworks may vary between counties.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside land holding statutory designations such as SSSIs. Locally-developed criteria are used to select these sites, according to their value for education, scientific study, historical significance or aesthetic qualities. As with local Wildlife Sites, RIGS are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 are intended to protect 'important' countryside hedgerows from destruction or damage. A hedgerow is considered important if (a) has existed for 30 years or more; and (b) satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

Under the Regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. Hedgerows on or adjacent to common land, village greens, SSSIs (including all terrestrial SACs, NNRs and SPAs), LNRs, land used for agriculture or forestry and land used for the keeping or breeding of horses, ponies or donkeys are covered by these regulations. Hedgerows *'within or marking the boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling-house'* are not.

C NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

Guidance on nature conservation is issued by the Government in the form of Planning Policy Statement 9: Nature Conservation (PPS 9) and circular 06/2005 on biodiversity and the planning system. The key principles in this guidance include the aim that all planning decisions should prevent harm to biodiversity.

PPS 9 offers the following guidance on Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity designated under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (which generally comprise UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats species):

“Planning authorities should ensure that these species and habitats are protected from the adverse effects of development, where appropriate, by using planning conditions and obligations. Planning authorities should refuse permission where harm to the species or their habitats would result unless the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh that harm.”

PPS 9 also states that in the case of previously developed land or ‘wasteland’:

“where such sites have significant biodiversity interest of recognised local importance, local planning authorities, together with developers, should aim to retain this interest or incorporate it into any development of the site.”

In general, planning authorities should also

“maximise opportunities for building in beneficial biodiversity features as part of good design ... using planning obligations where appropriate.”

D LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Southwark’s Unitary Development Plan (2007) contains the following saved policies from Section 3: Environmental Principles that are relevant to the site:

Policy 3.1 Environmental effects

“Planning permission for the establishment of uses that would cause material adverse effects on the environment will not be granted, and proposals for activities that will have a material adverse impact on the environment and quality of life will be refused”.

Policy 3.13 Urban design

“Principles of good urban design must be taken into account in all developments.....In designing new developments, consideration must be given to:

vi) Landscaping – Where appropriate, developments should include landscape design that enhances the area and biodiversity, for example through the use of green roofs”

Policy 3.26 Borough Open Land (BOL)

Within Borough Open Land planning permission will not be granted for development unless:

- i. It is ancillary to the use of the open space; and
- ii. It is small in scale; and
- iii. It does not detract from the site's open nature and character; and
- iv. It is required to enhance activities associated with the particular open space; and
- v. It positively contributes to the setting and quality of the open space.

Policy 3.28 Biodiversity

"The LPA will take biodiversity into account in its determination of all planning applications and will encourage the inclusion in developments of features which enhance biodiversity, requiring an ecological assessment where relevant.

Developments will not be permitted which would damage the nature conservation value of sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs) and local nature reserves (LNRs) and/or damage habitats, populations of protected species or priority habitats/species identified in the United Kingdom, London or the Southwark biodiversity action plan. Where, exceptionally, such developments are permitted, the Council will seek mitigation and/or compensation for the damage to biodiversity.

Where new sites of importance for nature conservation and local nature reserves are identified, these sites will be afforded protection under this policy and policy 3.27, Other Open Spaces".

Reasons

The council has an obligation to protect biological diversity under national and international legislation, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), The Habitats Directive (1992), National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The council has a responsibility to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout Southwark and particularly to protect areas of nature conservation. Due to the intense pressure on land for development, it is important that areas of nature conservation value or ecological importance are identified and the flora and fauna associated with these areas are protected and enhanced as outlined in the council's biodiversity action plan.

Access to wildlife also enables people to experience wildlife in an otherwise intensely urban environment, promoting well-being and providing a number of educational benefits.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves are listed in Appendix 14.

SP 15: Open space and biodiversity

“All developments should where appropriate create, preserve and enhance open spaces, green corridors, traffic free routes and biodiversity. The benefits of open space include those associated with health, sport, recreation, children’s play, regeneration, the economy, culture, biodiversity and the environment”

E UK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

The UK BAP was initiated to comply with obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992. It describes the UK’s biological resources and commits to developing detailed plans to conserve these resources. The UK BAP comprises Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs). In addition, local authorities promote habitat and species conservation at a regional level through development of Local BAPs (LBAPs).

F REGIONAL AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS

The site is covered by the regional BAP for London and the local BAP for the London Borough of Southwark. The habitats and species covered by the BAPs are reproduced below:

- Parks & urban greenspaces
- Woodland
- Parks and Open Spaces
- House sparrow.

Appendix 5: Species of Value to Wildlife

Ornamental and Native Species of Wildlife Value

The list below gives some easily sourced plants which are of proven value to wildlife. It includes a number of ornamental species which are not native and can be used in combination with native species in more formal situations. In informal landscapes the emphasis should be on the use of native species.

Where ornamental trees and shrub planting are proposed it is recommended that species producing abundant nectar rich flowers or berries palatable to birds are used. Such species include (non-invasive) varieties of Cotoneaster⁵ and firethorn *Pyracantha*. Additionally climbers should be planted on bare walls and fences where they will attract foraging birds and invertebrates.

Different horticultural varieties of the following species are commonly available, but where possible standard stock is advised, especially for native species. Single flowering plants should be chosen over double flowering plants. With exception of * (biennials) and ** (annuals) all species are perennial. **E** = Exotic, **N** = Native. Note: the list includes species that may be harmful if handled or ingested. Numerous sources of further information are available. See for instance *Poisonous Plants and Fungi: An Illustrated Guide*, M.R. Cooper, A.W. Johnson and E. Dauncey, TSO: 2nd edition, 2003 ISBN 100117028614

TREE

Cherry *Prunus spp.*, *P. avium* (wild cherry) **N**

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* **N**

Crab apple *Malus sylvestris* **N**

Pear *Pyrus spp.* *Pyrus calleryana*

Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* (or similar hybrid) **N**

Silver birch *Betula pendula* **N**

Yew *Taxus baccata* **N**

Foxglove tree *Pawlonia tomentosa* **E**

Lacebarks *Hoheria spp.* *H. glabrata*, *H. lyallii* **E**

Tulip tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* **E**

nb: many of the shrub species below will form small trees when mature

⁵ Please refer to <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife/management/non-native/documents/schedule9-list.pdf> for invasive species that should be avoided in landscaping plans.

LARGE SHRUBS

Shrubby veronica *Hebe spp.* E

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* N

Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* N

Rose *Rosa canina* (dog rose) *R. arvensis* (field rose) *R. pimpinellifolia* (burnet rose) N

Elder *Sambucus nigra* N

California lilac *Ceanothus arborea / spp.* E

Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* N/E

Common holly *Ilex aquifolium* N

Barberry *Berberis darwinii*, *B. thunbergii*, *B. x stenophylla* E

Daisy bush *Olearia x hastii*, *O. macrodonta* and *O. traversii* E

Firethorn *Pyracantha coccinea* E

Hazel *Corylus avellana* N

Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* N

Wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana* N

Buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, *B. alternifolia*, *B. globosa* E

Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* N

Broom *Cytisus scoparius* N

Mexican orange bush *Choisya ternata* E

Laurustinus *Viburnum tinus* E

Portuguese laurel *Prunus lusitanica* E

Flowering currant *Ribes sanguineum* E

Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* E

Escallonia *Escallonia macrantha* E

Hardy fuchsia *Fuchsia magellanica* E

Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* N

Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* N

Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum* N

Yew *Taxus baccata* N

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS AND SMALL SHRUBS

Tree mallow *Lavatera spp.* *L. obliquo*, *L. thuringiaca* E

Ice plant *Sedum spectabile* E

Lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*, *L. x intermedia* E

Globe thistle *Echinopsis ritro* E

Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea** or *D. lutea*, *D. x mertonensis* **N/E**

Michaelmas daisy *Aster novi-belgii* **E**

Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum** **N**

Sunflowers *Helianthus annuus*** **E**

Red valerian *Centranthus rubra* **E**

Hemp agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum* **N**

Common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* **N**

Black-eyed susan *Rudbeckia hirta*** or *R. fulgida* **E**

Rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis* **E**

Rock rose *Cistus spp.* **E**

CLIMBERS

Jasmine *Jasminum officinale* **E**

Ivy *Hedera helix* **N**

Climbing hydrangea *Hydrangea petiolaris* **E**

Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* or *L. japonica*, *L. fragrantissima*, *L. standishii* **N/E**

Spindle *Euonymus spp. E. fortunei* **N/E**

Clematis spp. *Clematis vitalba* or *C. armandii*, *C. alpina*, *C. montana*, *C. tangutica* **N/E**

Firethorn *Pyracantha atalantioides* **E**

Nasturtium *Tropaeolum majus*** **E**



The



Ecology Consultancy

■ **London**

Head Office
6-8 Cole Street
London
SE1 4YH

T. 020 7378 1914

E. enquiries@ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

W. www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

■ **Lewes**

The Old Granary
Upper Stoneham Farm
Lewes
East Sussex BN8 5RH

T. 01273 897365

E. enquiries@ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

W. www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

■ **Norwich**

Unit 7 Lodge Farm Barns
New Road
Bawburgh
Norwich NR9 3LZ

T. 01603 271811

E. enquiries@ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

W. www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

Appendix 5: GiGI report for King's Stairs Garden and Durand's Wharf



Greenspace Information for Greater London
the capital's environmental records centre

An Ecological Data Search for King's Stairs Garden and Durand's Wharf

On behalf of
London Borough of Southwark

Report reference 11/148



Prepared on 04 April 11
by Chloë Smith, Data Officer

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Annex A - Maps

Search areas

1.0 Introduction

An ecological data search for King's Stairs Garden and Durand's Wharf, searched as a 200m radius, on behalf of Southwark.

The following report was compiled by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) on behalf of Southwark, to provide ecological information for the above sites for conservation/land management. This report may include information on statutory sites, non-statutory sites, species records, habitat or open space information held by GiGL, as requested for the above search area. The boundaries of this search area are defined in the maps in Annex A and lie within the London Borough of Southwark.

Important information about this report

The data provided within this report is for the **internal** use of GiGL partner London Borough of Southwark to inform understanding of the site of interest in accordance with SLA terms and conditions.

The data provided must not be distributed or published for an external or public audience, for example within the appendix of a report.

The report is compiled using data held by GiGL at the time of the request. GiGL takes the accuracy of our data holdings very seriously and the Recorder Advisory Group is set up to help with this important task to ensure what we provide to you is the best data possible for your needs.

GiGL is constantly striving to improve the coverage and currency of its data holdings. We would be interested in hearing from you if you are able to submit species or habitat data arising from field surveys.

2.0 Species

A list of these species can be seen on the following pages:

- Species since 1996 (including protected species*)
- Species pre 1997 (including protected species*)

Note that GiGL does not currently hold comprehensive species data for all areas. Even where data is held, a lack of records for a species in a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that the species does not occur there – the area may simply not have been surveyed.

Grid references are supplied as this is a SLA report. Note that because the resolution of grid references varies between surveys the accuracy of these figures will also vary.

The species were recorded from a broad range of surveys - from public and species specific surveys to formal surveys carried out during the GLA's rolling program.

If you would like further information regarding rare, notable and protected species please contact a relevant person listed in the Further Contacts section of this report.

Please note: As of April 2010, the London Bat Group has asked us to stop providing bat roost information with immediate effect. If you require this information you can contact the London Bat Group directly: enquires@londonbats.org.uk or lbgr@hotmail.co.uk. Records of bat sightings are presented in the report if found in the search area.

* Protected species are those listed on EC Habitats Directive – Annexes II and IV, EC Birds Directive – Annex I, Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 – Schedules 2 & 4, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – Schedules 1, 5 & 8, Protection of Badgers Act 1992

* Protected species are those listed on EC Habitats Directive – Annexes II and IV, EC Birds Directive – Annex I, Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 – Schedules 2 & 4, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – Schedules 1, 5 & 8, Protection of Badgers Act 1992

2.1 King's Stairs Garden

Post 1996 records

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Seen between dates		Grid reference
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	BAP Priority National; Hab&Spp Dir Anx 2	18/02/2005	18/02/2005	TQ350799

Pre 1997 records

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Seen between dates		Grid reference
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Grey Poplar	<i>Populus alba x tremula = P. x canescens</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Salix	<i>Salix</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	BAP Priority London	15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone agg.</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
London Plane	<i>Platanus occidentalis x orientalis = P. x</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Seen between dates		Grid reference
	<i>hispanica</i>				
Populus	<i>Populus</i>		15/08/1994	15/08/1994	TQ3494279674
Hoary Mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>		01/01/1996	31/12/1996	TQ349797
Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>		01/01/1996	31/12/1996	TQ349797

2.2 Durand's Wharf records

Pre 1997 records

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protected Status	Seen between dates		Grid reference
Corvus corone subsp. corone	<i>Corvus corone subsp. corone</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National	21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Corvus corone subsp. corone	<i>Corvus corone subsp. corone</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Sorbus	<i>Sorbus</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785
London Plane	<i>Platanus occidentalis x orientalis = P. x hispanica</i>		21/09/1994	21/09/1994	TQ3650779785

3.0 Contacts

The following contacts work closely with GiGL and are the best source for further advice or interpretation of the data provided by us. They are widely recognised in Greater London as the experts in their fields, and have provided the following information as the preferred method of contact.

Areas of expertise	SINCs, open space and habitat survey data advice
<i>Name</i>	Chloë Smith
<i>Organisation</i>	GiGL – Greenspace Information for Greater London
<i>Email</i>	chloe.smith@gigl.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.gigl.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Black redstarts, birds, brown and green roofs
<i>Name</i>	Dusty Gedge
<i>Organisation</i>	Livingroofs.org
<i>Email</i>	dustygedge@yahoo.co.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.livingroofs.org

Areas of expertise	Bats
<i>Organisation</i>	London Bat Group
<i>Email</i>	enquiries@londonbats.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.londonbats.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Regional biodiversity action plans
<i>Name</i>	Nick White
<i>Organisation</i>	London Biodiversity Partnership
<i>Email</i>	nwhite@lbp.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.lbp.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Plant galls
Name	Ken Hill
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	Ken@kenneth17.fsnet.co.uk
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Odonata - Dragonflies and damselflies
Name	Neil Anderson
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	neil@anders42.freeserve.co.uk
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Invertebrates
Name	Colin W Plant
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	cpauk1@ntlworld.com
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Lichens and Fungi
Name	Ted Tuddenham
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	mycorec@blueyonder.co.uk
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Butterflies
Name	Leslie Williams
Organisation	London Natural History Society
Email	leslie.williams1597@btinternet.com
Website	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Vascular plants
<i>Name</i>	Mark Spencer
<i>Organisation</i>	London Natural History Society
<i>Email</i>	Lnhs_plant_recorder@hotmail.co.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Area recorders for birds
<i>Organisation</i>	London Natural History Society
<i>Essex</i>	Roy Woodward
<i>Email</i>	roy.rkwoodward@ntlworld.com
<i>Hertfordshire</i>	Joan Thompson
<i>Email</i>	lnhshertsrecorder@jksthompson.plus.com
<i>Middlesex</i>	Mark Pearson
<i>Email</i>	nazemark@yahoo.com
<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	Andrew Moon
<i>Email</i>	andrew.moon@talk21.com
<i>Surrey</i>	Steve Spooner
<i>Email</i>	sjspooner@ntlworld.com
<i>Kent</i>	John Archer
<i>Email</i>	john_archer@gofast.co.uk
<i>Inner London</i>	Richard Bonser
<i>Email</i>	richbonser8181@hotmail.com
<i>Website</i>	www.lnhs.org.uk

Areas of expertise	General conservation advice
<i>Name</i>	Conservation Programmes Manager
<i>Organisation</i>	London Wildlife Trust
<i>Email</i>	enquiries@wildlondon.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.wildlondon.org.uk

Areas of expertise	Statutory site advice
<i>Name</i>	Conservation Officer
<i>Organisation</i>	Natural England
<i>Email</i>	london@naturalengland.org.uk
<i>Website</i>	www.naturalengland.org.uk

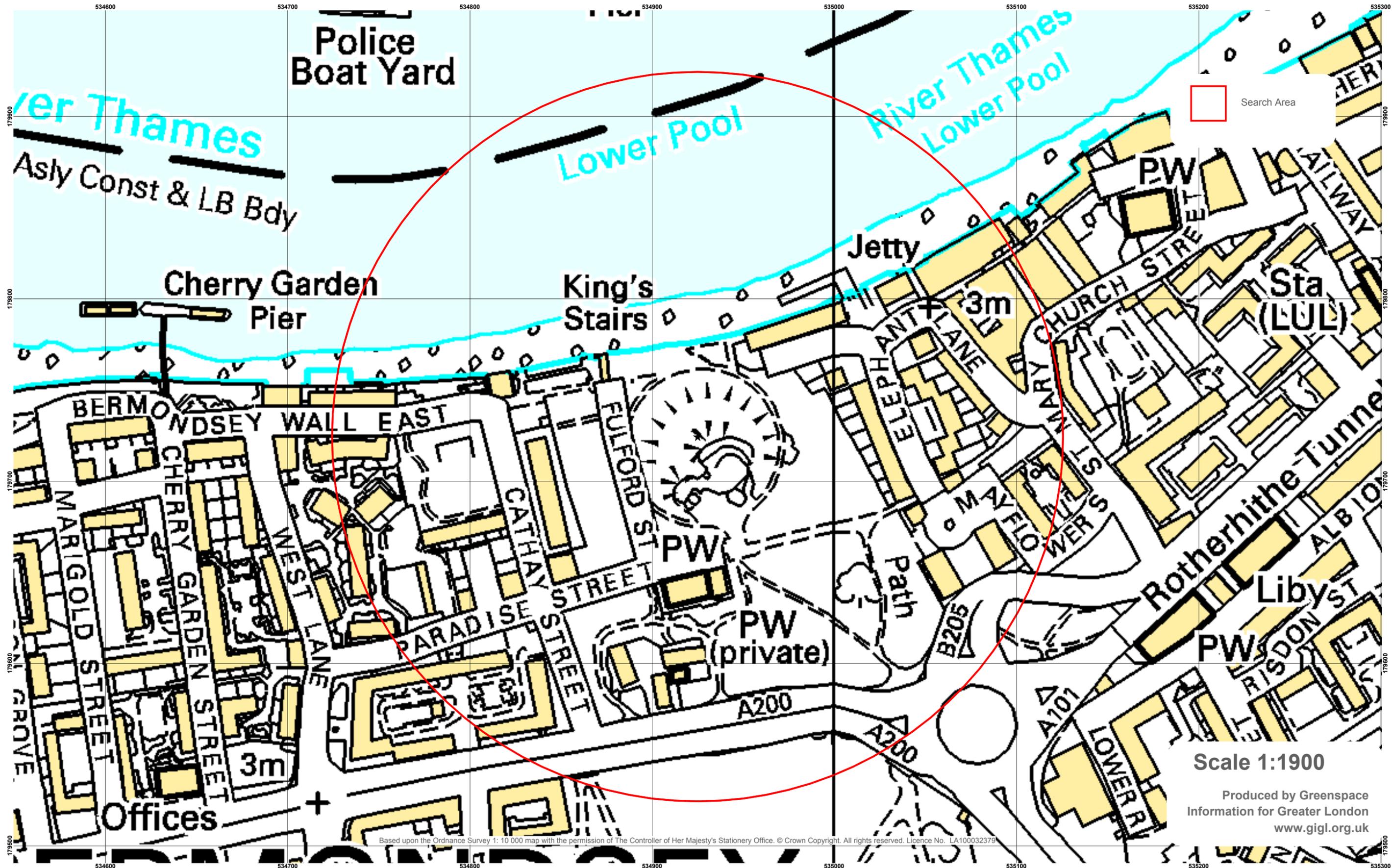
Annex A - MAPS

Search areas

Search Area

Ecological Data Search 11/148 for LB Southwark
King's Stairs Garden 1 April 2011

GiGL

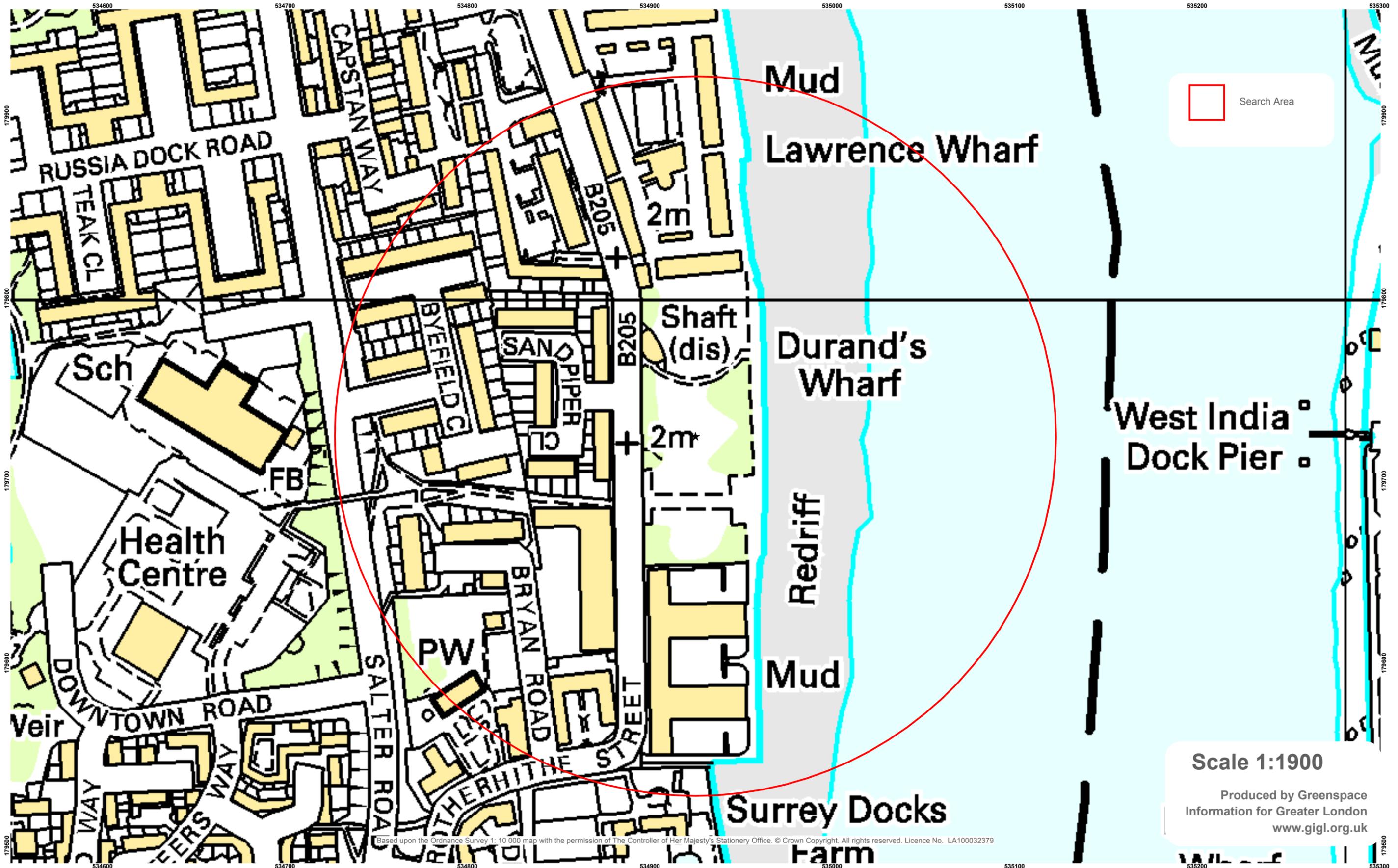


Scale 1:1900

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Search Area

Ecological Data Search 11/148 for LB Southwark
Durand's Wharf 1 April 2011



Scale 1:1900

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Appendix 6: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Durand's Wharf

The



Ecology Consultancy

Durands Wharf, Canada Water / Ecology Survey / Report for Southwark LB



Durand's Wharf, Canada Water, Southwark

Baseline Ecology Survey

Report for Southwark LB

Job No:	110289		
Author	Sabrina Bremner BSc. (Hons.)		
	Date	Checked by	Approved by
Initial	200411	JR	JR/JK
Revision			
Revision			

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Executive Summary

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark to carry out an extended Phase 1 habitat survey and nature conservation evaluation of Durand's Wharf, Canada Water, in the London Borough of Southwark. The survey was commissioned in order to support the proposals for designation of the site as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation as part of the Canada Water Area Action Plan (London Borough of Southwark, 2010). The main findings of the surveys are as follows.

- The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, recent secondary broadleaved woodland, planted trees and shrubs, with smaller areas of scattered scrub and ruderal vegetation. None of the habitats present were rare, long established or notable for other reasons but some, notably self-established secondary woodland, are unlikely to be common locally.
- The site accords with the London BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) for Parks and Urban Greenspaces and Woodland and the Southwark BAP Parks and Open Spaces. These BAPs relate mainly to opportunities for enhancement rather than current ecological value of the habitats present. A number of flagship species associated with the Southwark BAP Parks and Open Spaces are likely to be present and others could be encouraged through further habitat enhancements.
- Plant species diversity was low (c45 self established species), none were rare.
- Mature trees, shrubs and climbers present at the site are likely to provide foraging and breeding habitat for a range of common birds including some Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species such as house sparrow. Although numbers present would be limited by available habitat there is the potential for locally significant populations to be present.
- Tall ruderal, hedges, scrub and woodland edge habitat are likely to support a range of common invertebrates.
- Trees and a building at the site were of negligible potential for roosting bats. On-site bat foraging habitat was limited, connectivity to off-site habitat was poor and levels of light pollution likely to be high. It is considered that the likelihood of roosting bats being present at the site is negligible.
- In summary, the site is considered to be of local value for nature conservation due to the presence of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, grassland, scrub and hedge. These habitats are of limited extent and recent origin, are readily re-creatable predominantly planted. Such habitats are likely to be

common within the Borough but appear to be locally uncommon and the close association of shrubs and secondary woodland is of note in the local context.

1 Introduction

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the baseline ecological conditions at the Durands Wharf, Canada Water site. The site is located in the Rotherhithe area of the London Borough of Southwark and is centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TQ 361 797. This report contains the results of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey carried out on the 13th April 2011. It describes the key ecological features of the site and provides an evaluation of the importance of ecological features at the site and provides recommendations for enhancing the ecological value of the site.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.2 This report is based on a desk top study and field survey using standard Phase 1 survey methodology (JNCC 2010)¹ as adapted for use in Greater London by the GLA (GLA 2002)². This approach is designed to identify broad habitat types at a site, to identify the potential of habitats to support protected species, and to assist in providing an overview of the ecological interest at a site. It is generally the most widely used and professionally recognised method for initial ecological site appraisal.
- 1.3 Ecological receptors at the site were evaluated according to a geographic scale as recommended in Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom³ and the GLA's criteria for selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in London.

SITE CONTEXT AND STATUS

- 1.4 The site extends to approximately 0.3ha and is a small public park, with park benches and paths bisecting planted vegetation. The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, broadleaved woodland, planted trees and shrub, as well as smaller areas of scattered scrub and ruderal vegetation.
- 1.5 The site is bounded to the north and to the south by residential development, to the west by the B205 (Rotherhithe Street) and further residential development beyond,

¹ JNCC, (2010), Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit, ISBN 0 86139 636 7

² Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002) Connecting with London's Nature, The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy

³ Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2006) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom* (version 7 July 2006). <http://www.ieem.org.uk/ecia/index.html>

and to the east by pavement and The River Thames beyond. The surrounding landuse is predominantly residential with small and scattered areas of green open space. The most notable nearby ecological features are the River Thames approximately 6 metres (m) to the east and Russia Dock Woodland 370m to the west, which are respectively sites of Metropolitan and Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature.

- 1.6 None of the site is covered by statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations. The nearest sites are Lavender Ponds Local Nature Reserve (LNR) approximately 420m to the northwest of the site and River Thames and Tidal Tributaries Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation 6m to the east of the site, respectively.

2 Methodology

EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

- 2.1 A walkover survey of the Durand Wharf, Canada Water site was carried out by Sabrina Bremner (Ecologist) on the 13th April 2011. This followed standard Phase 1 methodology (JNCC 2010) mapping the habitats and noting dominant flora species present. This was supplemented by a desk-top study using on-line mapping services for information on statutory designated sites (www.magic.gov.uk and <http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/map.aspx>). In addition, The UK (JNCC, 2010), London (London Biodiversity Partnership, 2010: <http://www.lbp.org.uk>) and the Southwark's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (London Borough of Southwark, 2007) were reviewed for those species and habitats that may, or have the potential to be, present at the site.
- 2.2 A habitat plan of the site is provided in Appendix 1. Photographs of the site are shown at Appendix 2. A full list of plant species identifiable at the site, along with an assessment of their abundance, appears in Appendix 3.
- 2.3 Incidental records of birds and other fauna noted during the course of the habitat survey were also compiled. Scientific names are given after the first mention of a species, thereafter, common names only are used. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species.

SITE EVALUATION

- 2.4 The assessment of the site's ecological features and attributes has been undertaken in line with the 2006 Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). These guidelines aim to provide consistency in the approach to evaluating the importance of ecological features and any impact that a new development would have upon them.
- 2.5 The value of ecological features is defined according to the following geographical scale:
- International;
 - UK;
 - National (i.e. England/Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales);
 - Regional;

- County (or Metropolitan - e.g. in London);
- District (or Unitary Authority, City, or Borough);
- Local or Parish;
- Within zone of influence only (which might be the project Site or a larger area);
and
- Negligible value.

2.6 The assessment of value for a given feature draws on a range of ecological attributes including:

- The presence of designated sites or BAP habitats or BAP species;
- The presence of rare species or significant populations of species, or populations at the edge of a species' distribution;
- The presence of ancient, rare, fragile or vulnerable habitats and those that are good examples of their type;
- The presence of rare or diverse assemblages of habitats or species; and
- The potential value where there is a possibility of increasing habitat or population size or connectivity or of improving habitat quality.

2.7 In addition, the site has been evaluated using local criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in *Connecting with London's nature the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy* (GLA 2002).

LIMITATIONS

2.8 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.

2.9 This Phase 1 habitat survey does not constitute a full botanical survey, or a Phase 2 pre-construction survey that would include accurate GIS mapping for invasive or protected plant species.

2.10 The site evaluation provides an overview of the site's ecological value using recognised locally developed criteria and is therefore sufficient to support any decisions for designation in the Area Plan. However, it is not based on detailed surveys. While unlikely, it should be recognised that any future more detailed surveys

could provide records for rare species that would not have been detected in the current survey.

3 Results

DESK STUDY

- 3.1 The following information regarding the present and historical ecological interest of the site was supplied by the online desk study. The data covers a standard 1 km radius search area.
- 3.2 It is important to note that, even where data is held, a lack of records for a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may be simply under-recorded.
- 3.3 Records include information on the following:

Nature conservation designations

- 3.4 ***Statutory sites of nature conservation importance:*** The site is not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations. The desk-based search shows that there are no sites with European or National statutory designations within a 1km radius of the site. The nearest nationally important site is Gilbert's Pit Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its geological interest, located 5.3km to the southeast. The nearest Local Nature Reserve is Lavender Pond (also a Site of Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature Conservation), designated for its reedbed, pond and aquatic invertebrate interest; located approximately 420m to the north west of the site.
- 3.5 ***Non-statutory sites of nature conservation importance:*** The nearest Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the 1km search area is the River Thames and tidal tributaries SINC (of Metropolitan Importance). This site supports some of London's best examples of inter tidal mudflats, salt marsh and reed bed, and all UK BAP habitats are present. Russia Dock Woodlands SINC (of Borough Grade 1 Importance) – an area of woodland, grassland and ponds, is also located 370m to the west.

HABITAT SURVEY

Overview

- 3.6 The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, recent secondary broadleaved woodland, planted trees, shrub, hedges and herbaceous perennials as well as smaller areas of scattered scrub and ruderal vegetation. Target notes highlighting features of ecological interest are described below and denoted as TN1 etc on the habitat plan in Appendix 1.

Amenity grassland

- 3.7 Amenity grassland was the most extensive vegetation type at site. It was dominated by perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* with frequent daisy *Bellis perennis* and dandelion *Taraxacum agg.* Species rarely or occasionally observed included white clover *Trifolium repens*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and dove's foot cranes-bill *Geranium molle*.

Broadleaved woodland

- 3.8 This habitat type dominated the western section of the site (TN1, Appendix 1) and was composed of young hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre*, and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The shrub layer was dominated by butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus*; the ground flora was sparse and included garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, lesser celandine *Ficaria verna*, lesser burdock *Arctium minus* and cleavers *Galium aparine*.

Scattered trees

- 3.9 An avenue of mature planted London plane *Platanus x hispanica* trees dominated the paving that divides the southern third of the site from the remainder of the park. Other planted tree species included with poplar *Populus* sp., birch *Betula* spp, cherry *Prunus* sp., crack willow *Salix fragilis*, alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Norway maple *Acer platanoides*. Site trees were judged to have negligible potential value for roosting bats, although bat boxes were mounted in several of the London plane trees (TN4, Appendix 1).

Planted shrub, hedges and herbaceous perennials

- 3.10 Formal planted beds contained shrubs and herbaceous perennials and were bordered by young hedges. Species of shrub included snowberry *Symphoricarpos* sp., barberry *Berberis* spp., shrub honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida*, hedge veronica *Hebe* sp. Hedging species were dominated by hawthorn, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and firethorn *Pyracantha* sp with occasional young hazel and planted field maple. Herbaceous perennials included ornamental species such as pampas grass *Cortaderia selloana* within the western beds (TN2, Appendix1) and woodland plants including wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, and ramsons *Allium ursinum* were planted along the eastern beds (TN3, Appendix 1).

Ruderal vegetation

3.11 Ruderal vegetation was present in disturbed areas of formal flowerbeds –particularly in the southern section of the site (TN5, Appendix 1), and along the site boundaries. Locally dominant or abundant species included garlic mustard, nettle and cleavers. Species rarely or only occasionally noted included broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, field poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, lesser celandine, hedge bindweed *Calystegia sepium*. Species present in cobbles and paving around the site included annual meadow grass *Poa annua*, chickweed *Stellaria media*, pellitory of the wall *Parietaria judaica* and common whitlow-grass *Erophila verna*. Species noted in the southern and western sections of the site included cow parsley and wood avens *Geum urbanum* and cleavers

Scattered scrub

3.12 Self-established bramble, butterfly bush and ivy *Hedera helix* dominated scrub was present within planted beds.

Building and hardstanding

3.13 Paths bisected planting areas and surrounded the site. One building (The Shaft) was located in the north western limit of the site. This building was considered to be of low bird nesting potential and negligible bat roosting potential.

Dead wood

3.14 A small area of standing dead wood (TN2, Appendix1), was located within planted beds along the western section of the site.

Invasive species

3.15 Cotoneasters *Cotoneaster* spp. were occasionally present within planted beds. Following a review, certain species of Cotoneaster are now included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it illegal to plant them in, or cause them to grow in the wild. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England and Wales) Order came into force on 6 April 2010.

FAUNA

3.16 The following bird species were recorded at the time of the site survey:

- Blackbird *Turdus merula*;
- Blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*;
- Carrion crow *Corvus corone*;

- Magpie *Pica pica*. and
- Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

EVALUATION

Geographic evaluation

- 3.17 **Features of international importance:** Features of international importance are principally sites covered by international legislation or conventions. Special Protection Areas (SPAs), together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) form the Natura 2000 network. The Government is obliged to identify and classify SPAs under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC)) on the Conservation of Wild Birds). The regulations deal mainly with protection afforded to habitats, however, they also give protection to certain species of flora and fauna including bats and great crested newts.
- 3.18 The site does not form part of a site of international importance for nature conservation and is distant from any such sites. Based on habitat quality and review of existing data, it is not considered likely that the site would support roosting bats, and very limited foraging activity. The site's value for bats is unlikely to be important in the local context.
- 3.19 **Features of national importance:** Features of national importance include SSSIs which are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as species such as common reptile species which are subject to national legislation rather than international legislation. The site does not form part of a site of national importance for nature conservation and is distant from any such sites. The site may support breeding birds, which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The site may also support species covered by the UK BAP and which are therefore material considerations in determining planning applications. The UK BAP species present or potentially present at the site is house sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Due to the limited extent of suitable habitat at the site it considered that populations present would be of no more than local importance.
- 3.20 The site does not meet the criteria for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land, due to the limited extent and quality of this habitat at the site.

- 3.21 **Features of regional (i.e. Greater London) importance:** Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (i.e. sites considered to be of London-wide importance for wildlife) are defined as being ‘... *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...*’
- 3.22 As shown in the site evaluation using local criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites⁴ in Table 3 below, the site lacks any features that would justify designation at the metropolitan level.
- 3.23 The London BAP habitats and species present or potentially present at the site are as follows: built structures, parks and urban green spaces, woodland, and house sparrow. The London BAPs for built structures, and parks and urban green spaces relate to the potential for enhancing their wildlife value rather than intrinsic ecological importance of existing habitats. As discussed below, populations of house sparrow are unlikely to exceed local value.
- 3.24 **Features of borough (i.e. Southwark) importance:** Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation are defined as being ‘...*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...*’ A review of sites of Borough (grade I and II) Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the vicinity of the site and the application of local criteria below shows that the site is not likely to be important at the borough level in terms of its habitats or species.
- 3.25 The Southwark BAP for Parks and Open Spaces is applicable to the site. This relates largely to the potential for enhancing their wildlife value and are intended to encourage opportunities for wildlife through land management. Associated with each BAP habitat are a number of ‘flagship species’ (London Borough of Southwark, 2007) which are characteristic or of specific importance to parks and open spaces in Southwark and for which conservation actions should be developed. Of these species the site is currently considered suitable for house sparrow, buttercups *Ranunculus* spp., holly blue *Celastrina argiolus* and meadow

⁴ Connecting with London’s nature the Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy Greater London Authority 2002

brown *Maniola jurtina* although this is likely to be at the Local level only, due to the limited extent and quality of existing habitats.

3.26 **Features of local (i.e. Canada Water) importance:** The GLA defines *Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation* as those that ‘...are, or may be, of particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools)...’ It also notes that ‘Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified’. As shown in Table 1 below the secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered tree and scrub habitats at the site are of value for nature conservation in this context, as despite their limited extent they are locally uncommon. Therefore, the site does contain some (limited) habitats of local importance for nature conservation. The site is freely accessible by local residents and other members of the public, and is therefore of value to the local community as an area of open space and for enjoying common wildlife.

3.27 **Features of importance within the zone of influence only (within the site and immediate vicinity):** With reference to Paragraph 3.25 above and Table 1 below it can be seen that the following habitats at the site are of value within the site and immediate vicinity only: amenity grassland, planted shrub and ruderal vegetation. The habitat survey, data search and isolation from suitable habitat indicate that the site’s importance for invertebrates is also at this geographic level.

3.28 **Features of negligible importance:** Other than low possible value for nesting birds the building at the site was of negligible importance for wildlife.

3.29 **Secondary or supporting value:** The site does not appear to form part of any ecological corridors and does not support the habitats present within the nearby River Thames and is separated from it by buildings and infrastructure.

Evaluation using local criteria

3.30 Table 1 below provides an evaluation using GLA criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites. The application of local criteria to the site allows a more complete assessment of whether they are of significance for nature conservation at the regional, borough or local scale.

Table 1 – Evaluation of nature conservation interest at Durand’s Wharf, Canada Water using GLA criteria

GLA Criteria	Remarks
Representation	The site comprises areas of amenity green space with grassland and scattered trees, amenity planting that are typical of inner urban residential areas in terms of their wildlife value. The site also contains small areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland and scattered tree and scrub are typical of their inner urban location and likely to so support a limited and typical assemblage of birds and invertebrates.
Habitat rarity	The site was dominated by amenity grassland, planted shrubs and mature planted trees, with smaller areas of broadleaved woodland scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. While none of these habitats are rare in the London and borough context, based on a review of aerial photography this habitat mosaic is locally uncommon. Woodland occupies 4% of Southwark (London Borough of Southwark 2007).
Species rarity	No rare plants were recorded and the site lacks habitat likely to support rare invertebrates or birds, although some common but declining bird species covered by UK and London BAPs are likely to be present.
Habitat richness	The site supported a limited range of locally uncommon habitats comprising recent secondary broadleaved woodland, ruderal vegetation and scattered scrub,
Species richness	The site did not support a diverse flora and the site’s location and the nature and extent of habitats present indicate that it will not support diverse assemblages of birds or invertebrates.
Size	All habitats at the site were of very limited extent which reduces the potential for large populations or diverse assemblages of species
Important populations of species	The site may support populations of common bird species including certain BAP species, but the limited extent of habitats present will limit population size and significance for nature conservation.
Ancient character	Not applicable. All habitats at the site are of recent origin.
Fragility	All habitats at the site are resilient to most impacts other than extreme disturbance, drought or gross inputs of pollution. Due to the site’s location all associated fauna will be habituated to noise, night-time lighting, disturbance etc. Therefore none of the species and habitats at the site are conservation significance due to their fragility.
Recreatibility	All habitats at the site are readily recreatable in the medium term including mature trees likely to be c40 years old.
Typical urban character	The site is typical of urban areas, however urban habitats of high value for nature conservation such as canals, species rich wasteland and old parkland are not present.
Cultural or historic character	Not applicable
Geographic position	The site does not appear to form part of any ecological corridors and is separated the corridors of the River Thames by development and infrastructure.

Table 1 – Evaluation of nature conservation interest at Durand’s Wharf, Canada Water using GLA criteria

GLA Criteria	Remarks
Access	Full public access.
Use	Recreational
Potential	Enhancements to planting and maintenance could provide opportunities to implement the London BAPs for Parks and Urban Greenspaces and Woodland, and the Southwark BAP for Parks and open Spaces
Aesthetic appeal	The site is actively used as a public park and is an attractive area for the public.

3.31 The evaluation as a whole shows that habitats at Durand’s Wharf, Canada Water do not meet local criteria for designating Sites of Metropolitan, or Borough Importance for Nature Conservation; however the site does meet some criteria for Local Importance for Nature Conservation. The standards for designating sites at each of these geographic levels are summarised in Paragraphs 3.20 to 3.25 above.

4 Conclusions and recommendations

CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The habitats at the Durand's Wharf, Canada Water site were of ecological importance in the context of the local area only, and built habitats were of negligible importance.
- 4.2 The habitats at the site corresponded with the following London BAP Habitat types: built structures, parks and urban greenspaces, and woodland, and Parks and Open Spaces in the Southwark BAP. These BAPs relate largely to opportunities for enhancement rather than current ecological value of the habitats covered.
- 4.3 The site is likely to support certain common and widespread but declining species of bird included house sparrow which is a UK, regional or local BAP species. A review of existing data, the status of these species in London and Southwark, and assessment of onsite and surrounding habitat suggests that the populations present are of ecological importance in the local (Canada Water) context.
- 4.4 Recommendations to enhance the nature conservation value of the Durand's Wharf site by improving the quality of existing London and Southwark BAP habitats, with specific aims to enhance for BAP species such as house sparrow, dunnock *Prunella modularis* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, and for Southwark's flagship species associated with uncut grassland grassland such as buttercups and certain species of butterfly are made below:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Invasive species

- 4.5 Species of cotoneaster listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act were noted at the site. During maintenance is recommend that where such species are cut the top part of the plant and the main roots are either burnt on site or disposed of to landfill where plants are unlikely to reproduce vegetatively or from seed.

Breeding birds

- 4.6 The site contains habitat suitable for breeding birds which are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence, amongst other things, to kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Therefore measures

to avoid the destruction of nests, eggs and young birds will be required if enhancement measures are undertaken that would affect trees, scrub and hedges.

Enhancements

- 4.7 The following enhancement measures are recommended in line with the relevant London and Southwark BAPs.
- 4.8 **Landscape planting:** Additional wildlife garden planting should be incorporated into site designs to complement existing woodland and ruderal habitat and planted hedges to provide foraging, cover and nesting for birds and invertebrates, including BAP species house sparrow. Where possible, areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, hedge and scattered scrub should be under-planted with shrubs and herbaceous material to create greater structure within the planting and to provide denser cover for wildlife. A list of recommended species is provided in Appendix 5.
- 4.9 The decline in house sparrows has been linked to reduction in invertebrate food for chicks and the inclusion of planting likely to provide suitable foraging. Planting should involve native deciduous shrubs and trees and a diversity of grasses and forbs to set seed and remain in situ throughout the winter would promote the abundance of a range of foliar invertebrates. These recommendations could be incorporated through under-planted standard trees with shrubs of appropriate species, as well as inclusion of areas of meadow grassland and plantings of ornamental perennials and grasses.
- 4.10 House sparrows require dense cover for roosting that could be achieved through dense plantings of mixed deciduous and evergreen shrubs. This would also provide nesting habitat for dunnoek and the inclusion of berrying species would benefit foraging starling, both London BAP species. The use of bark chippings or other organic mulched would improve foraging for all three species.
- 4.11 **Enhancement of amenity grassland for invertebrates:** The inclusion of a good variety of low-growing wildflowers such as birds-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, ladies bedstraw *Galium verum* and hawkbits *Leontodon* spp. to create a daisy lawn in any areas within the site. This will provide foraging for invertebrates throughout the summer if cutting is not too frequent. This would enhance the quality of such grassland and potentially improve habitat for Southwark flagship plant and invertebrate species (London Borough of Southwark, 2007): buttercups, holly blue and meadow brown.

4.12 **Nest boxes:** Bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities should be included through the provision of a range of open and hole-fronted boxes on buildings/trees/fences bordering the site. It is recommended that Schwegler's range of 'woodcrete' boxes are used as they retain more warmth and are longer lasting than ordinary wooden boxes:

- Erect Schwegler 'woodcrete' bat boxes on buildings/trees. Model 2F for smaller bats including brown long-eared bat, is generally recommended but advice should be sought from an experienced bat ecologist on type and number.
- Erect open-fronted and hole-fronted bird nesting boxes on suitable buildings/trees/fences. The following models are most appropriate: 1B hole-fronted, 26mm entrance hole and 32mm entrance hole, and 2H open-fronted 120mm opening. Ideally boxes should be positioned so they face in an easterly or westerly direction. They should be at least 3 metres above ground level and ideally considerable higher. They should be attached to the tree using Schwegler fixings. Boxes should be cleaned annually in the autumn with old nests removed annually between October and January, and boxes repaired or replaced as necessary.

4.13 **Good horticultural practice:** Good horticultural practice should be utilised in any landscaping scheme and should include the following simple methods to minimise off-site ecological impacts:

- The use of peat-free composts and soil conditioners to reduce the loss of important peat bogs.
- Feeding of plants using organic based fertilisers and improving the soil structure by incorporating organic material, preferably composted waste.
- The use of mulches to lock moisture into the soil. 'Water-wise gardening' helps reduce consumption of drinking water which is especially important during drought periods.
- The use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and slug pellets etc) should be discouraged to prevent cumulative fatal effects to animals via the food chain, particularly invertebrates, birds and/or mammals. Any pesticides used should be non-residual.

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Appendix 1 Habitat Plan



A0082 Durand's Wharf - Ecology Consultancy v.1.1

Job title
**Durand's Wharf:
 Canada Water Proposed SINC**
 ECL Job no. 110289

Client
Southwark LB

Drawing title
HABITAT SURVEY MAP

Section: N/A Scale (at A3): 1:750

Date of survey
 13/04/2011

Surveyor
 Sabrina Bremner

Drawn: GS Checked: CC

Approved: SB Date: 20/04/2011

KEY

- Site boundary
- Scattered trees (locations only indicative)
- Hedge, intact, species poor
- Introduced shrub
- Scattered scrub
- Woodland, broadleaved
- Tall ruderal
- Amenity grassland
- Bare ground
- Buildings
- Hardstanding/chipped bark paths
- Target note

This plan is provided solely for the purpose of supporting the description of the ecological features of the site as contained in the accompanying report

Appendix 2: Photographs

Photograph 1

Dense scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and scattered young trees in the southern extent of the site



Photograph 2

Amenity grassland in the centre of the site, facing south. The Shaft building can be seen to the west (on the right hand side), ornamental planting to the east (on the left hand side) and the avenue of London plane in the background



Photograph 3

Broadleaved woodland with sparse ground flora along north western section of the site.



Photograph 4

Dense shrubbery and tall herb within central planting beds along the eastern site boundary



Photograph 5

Mature ornamental hedging along eastern boundary. Cobbled slope sparsely vegetated by ruderal vegetation



Photograph 6

Dense ruderal species and shrub along western boundary



Appendix 3: Plant Species List

Plant Species List for Durand's Wharf, Canada Water

Scientific nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species and Blockeel & Long (1998) for bryophyte species. Vascular plant common names follow the Botanical Society of the British Isles 2003 list, published on its web site, www.bsbi.org.uk. Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 Habitat survey, does not constitute a full botanical survey and should be read in conjunction with the associated Phase 1 Report.

Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale and using qualifiers as follows:

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare

T= tree, S=seedling, C= clumped (localised), P= planted/ some planted, Y = young, S = seedling or sapling, H = hedge, ? = identification uncertain

Scientific name	English name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	O	yse
<i>Acer platanooides</i>	Norway maple	O	tp
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	O	tsp
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	LD	e
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	LF	p
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	R	t
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood anemone	LF	p
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	O	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	R	
<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	Deadly nightshade	R	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	F	
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	Barberry	F	p
<i>Betula sp.</i>	Birch	O	tp
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia	O	s
<i>Cerastium sp.</i>	Mouse-ear	R	
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen	R	
<i>Cirsium sp.</i>	Thistle	O	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	O	
<i>Cornus spp.</i>	Dogwoods	F	shp
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas-grass	LF	p
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneasters	R	sp
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	F	hp
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty spurge	R	
<i>Euphorbia sp</i>	Spurge	R	p
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	Fritillary	R	p
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goat's-rue	R	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O-LD	e
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	F	
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot crane's-bill	O	e
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	R	e

Scientific name	English name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Hebe sp.</i>	Koromiko sp	R	p
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	F	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	O	
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell	R	
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	R	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass	D	
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Wilson's honeysuckle	F	p
<i>Luzula sp.</i>	Wood-rush	R	p
<i>Mahonia spp.</i>	Oregon-grapes	O	
<i>Malva sp.</i>	Mallow	R	
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not	R	
<i>Narcissus sp.</i>	Daffodil	R	p
<i>Papaver sp.</i>	Poppy	R	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	R	e
<i>Penstemon sp.</i>	Penstemon	R	p
<i>Pittosporum sp.</i>	Pittosporum	R	p
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	O	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	O	
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane	D	tp
<i>Populus sp.</i>	Poplar	R	tpe
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry laurel	F	hpes
<i>Pyracantha spp.</i>	Firethorns	F	hpe
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	R	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine	R	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	R	
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Flowering currant	R	p
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	Rose	O	p
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	R	
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock	O	
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack-willow	R	stp
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	R	se
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common ragwort	R	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	R	
<i>Symphoricarpos sp.</i>	Snowberries	O	ep
<i>Symphytum orientale</i>	White comfrey	O	p
<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>	Russian comfrey	O	
<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	Dandelion	F	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	F	
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	R	p
<i>Ulmus sp.</i>	Elm	R	sp
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	LF	e
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	R	sp
<i>Vicia sp.</i>	Vetch	R-LF	

Appendix 4: Legislation and Policy

Important Notice: This section contains details of legislation and planning policy applicable in Britain only (i.e. not including the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or the Channel Islands) and is provided for general guidance only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this section should not be relied upon as a definitive statement of the law.

A Invasive Plant Species

Certain species of plant, including Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* are listed on Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect to Section 14(2). Such species are generally non-natives whose establishment or spread in the wild may be detrimental to native wildlife. Inclusion on Part II of Schedule 9 therefore makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.

How is the legislation pertaining to invasive plants liable to affect development works?

Although it is not an offence to have these plants on your land *per se*, it is an offence to *cause* these species to grow in the wild. Therefore, if they are present on site and development activities (for example movement of spoil, disposal of cut waste or vehicular movements) have the potential to cause the further spread of these species to new areas, it will be necessary to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent this happening prior to the commencement of works.

B NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATION AFFORDED TO HABITATS

Statutory Designations: National

Nationally important areas of special scientific interest, by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features, are notified by the countryside agencies as statutory **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSIs) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and latterly the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As well as underpinning other national designations (such as **National Nature Reserves** which are declared by the countryside agencies under the same legislation), the system also provides statutory protection for terrestrial and coastal sites which are important within a European context (Natura 2000 network) and globally (such as Wetlands of International Importance). See subsequent sections for details of these designations. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs have been introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) also provides for the making of **Limestone Pavement Orders**, which prohibit the disturbance and removal of limestone from such designated areas, and the designation of **Marine Nature Reserves**, for which byelaws must be made to protect them.

Statutory Designations: International

Special Protection Areas (SPAs), together with **Special Areas of Conservation** (SACs) form the **Natura 2000** network. The Government is obliged to identify and classify SPAs under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC)) on the Conservation of Wild Birds). SPAs are areas of the most important habitat for rare (listed on Annex I of the Directive) and migratory birds within the European Union. Protection afforded SPAs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles (nm) is given by The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended) provide a mechanism for the designation and protection of SPAs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

The Government is obliged to identify and designate SACs under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna

and Flora). These are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive within the European Union. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are protected under The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended) provide a mechanism for the designation and protection of SACs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, in particular recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are globally important for biodiversity conservation. Wetlands can include areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water and may be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary. Wetlands may also incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands. Ramsar sites are underpinned through prior notification as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and as such receive statutory protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) with further protection provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Policy statements have been issued by the Government in England and Wales highlighting the special status of Ramsar sites. This effectively extends the level of protection to that afforded to sites which have been designated under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives as part of the Natura 2000 network (e.g. SACs & SPAs).

Statutory Designations: Local

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 **Local Nature Reserves** (LNRs) may be declared by local authorities after consultation with the relevant countryside agency. LNRs are declared for sites holding special wildlife or geological interest at a local level and are managed for nature conservation, and provide opportunities for research and education and enjoyment of nature.

Non-Statutory Designations

Areas considered to be of local conservation interest may be designated by local authorities as a **Wildlife Site**, under a variety of names such as **County Wildlife Sites** (CWS), **Listed Wildlife Sites** (LWS), **Local Nature Conservation Sites** (LNCS), **Sites of Biological**

Importance (SBIs), **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation** (SINCs), or **Sites of Nature Conservation Importance** (SNICIs). The criteria for designation may vary between counties.

Together with the statutory designations, these are defined in local and structure plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined. The level of protection afforded to these sites through local planning policies and development frameworks may vary between counties.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside land holding statutory designations such as SSSIs. Locally-developed criteria are used to select these sites, according to their value for education, scientific study, historical significance or aesthetic qualities. As with local Wildlife Sites, RIGS are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 are intended to protect 'important' countryside hedgerows from destruction or damage. A hedgerow is considered important if (a) has existed for 30 years or more; and (b) satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

Under the Regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. Hedgerows on or adjacent to common land, village greens, SSSIs (including all terrestrial SACs, NNRs and SPAs), LNRs, land used for agriculture or forestry and land used for the keeping or breeding of horses, ponies or donkeys are covered by these regulations. Hedgerows *'within or marking the boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling-house'* are not.

C NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

Guidance on nature conservation is issued by the Government in the form of Planning Policy Statement 9: Nature Conservation (PPS 9) and circular 06/2005 on biodiversity and the planning system. The key principles in this guidance include the aim that all planning decisions should prevent harm to biodiversity.

PPS 9 offers the following guidance on Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity designated under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (which generally comprise UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats species):

“Planning authorities should ensure that these species and habitats are protected from the adverse effects of development, where appropriate, by using planning conditions and obligations. Planning authorities should refuse permission where harm to the species or their habitats would result unless the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh that harm.”

PPS 9 also states that in the case of previously developed land or ‘wasteland’:

“where such sites have significant biodiversity interest of recognised local importance, local planning authorities, together with developers, should aim to retain this interest or incorporate it into any development of the site.”

In general, planning authorities should also

“maximise opportunities for building in beneficial biodiversity features as part of good design ... using planning obligations where appropriate.”

D LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Southwark’s Unitary Development Plan (2007) contains the following saved policies from Section 3: Environmental Principles that are relevant to the site:

Policy 3.1 Environmental effects

“Planning permission for the establishment of uses that would cause material adverse effects on the environment will not be granted, and proposals for activities that will have a material adverse impact on the environment and quality of life will be refused”.

Policy 3.13 Urban design

“Principles of good urban design must be taken into account in all developments.....In designing new developments, consideration must be given to:

vi) Landscaping – Where appropriate, developments should include landscape design that enhances the area and biodiversity, for example through the use of green roofs”

Policy 3.26 Borough Open Land (BOL)

Within Borough Open Land planning permission will not be granted for development unless:

- i. It is ancillary to the use of the open space; and
- ii. It is small in scale; and
- iii. It does not detract from the site's open nature and character; and
- iv. It is required to enhance activities associated with the particular open space; and
- v. It positively contributes to the setting and quality of the open space.

Policy 3.28 Biodiversity

"The LPA will take biodiversity into account in its determination of all planning applications and will encourage the inclusion in developments of features which enhance biodiversity, requiring an ecological assessment where relevant.

Developments will not be permitted which would damage the nature conservation value of sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs) and local nature reserves (LNRs) and/or damage habitats, populations of protected species or priority habitats/species identified in the United Kingdom, London or the Southwark biodiversity action plan. Where, exceptionally, such developments are permitted, the Council will seek mitigation and/or compensation for the damage to biodiversity.

Where new sites of importance for nature conservation and local nature reserves are identified, these sites will be afforded protection under this policy and policy 3.27, Other Open Spaces".

Reasons

The council has an obligation to protect biological diversity under national and international legislation, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), The Habitats Directive (1992), National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The council has a responsibility to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout Southwark and particularly to protect areas of nature conservation. Due to the intense pressure on land for development, it is important that areas of nature conservation value or ecological importance are identified and the flora and fauna associated with these areas are protected and enhanced as outlined in the council's biodiversity action plan.

Access to wildlife also enables people to experience wildlife in an otherwise intensely urban environment, promoting well-being and providing a number of educational benefits. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves are listed in Appendix 14.

SP 15: Open space and biodiversity

“All developments should where appropriate create, preserve and enhance open spaces, green corridors, traffic free routes and biodiversity. The benefits of open space include those associated with health, sport, recreation, children’s play, regeneration, the economy, culture, biodiversity and the environment”

E UK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

The UK BAP was initiated to comply with obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992. It describes the UK’s biological resources and commits to developing detailed plans to conserve these resources. The UK BAP comprises Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs). In addition, local authorities promote habitat and species conservation at a regional level through development of Local BAPs (LBAPs).

F REGIONAL AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS

The site is covered by the regional BAP for London and the local BAP for the London Borough of Southwark. The habitats and species covered by the BAPs are reproduced below:

- Parks & urban greenspaces
- Built structures
- Woodland
- Built Up Areas and Gardens
- House sparrow.
- Grassland
- Hedge & scrub

Appendix 5: Species of Value to Wildlife

Ornamental and Native Species of Wildlife Value

The list below gives some easily sourced plants which are of proven value to wildlife. It includes a number of ornamental species which are not native and can be used in combination with native species in more formal situations. In informal landscapes the emphasis should be on the use of native species.

Where ornamental trees and shrub planting are proposed it is recommended that species producing abundant nectar rich flowers or berries palatable to birds are used. Such species include (non-invasive) varieties of Cotoneaster⁵ and firethorn *Pyracantha*. Additionally climbers should be planted on bare walls and fences where they will attract foraging birds and invertebrates.

Different horticultural varieties of the following species are commonly available, but where possible standard stock is advised, especially for native species. Single flowering plants should be chosen over double flowering plants. With exception of * (biennials) and ** (annuals) all species are perennial. **E** = Exotic, **N** = Native. Note: the list includes species that may be harmful if handled or ingested. Numerous sources of further information are available. See for instance *Poisonous Plants and Fungi: An Illustrated Guide*, M.R. Cooper, A.W. Johnson and E. Dauncey, TSO: 2nd edition, 2003 ISBN 100117028614

TREE

Cherry *Prunus spp.*, *P. avium* (wild cherry) **N**

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* **N**

Crab apple *Malus sylvestris* **N**

Pear *Pyrus spp.* *Pyrus calleryana*

Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* (or similar hybrid) **N**

Silver birch *Betula pendula* **N**

Yew *Taxus baccata* **N**

Foxglove tree *Pawlonia tomentosa* **E**

Lacebarks *Hoheria spp.* *H. glabrata*, *H. lyallii* **E**

Tulip tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* **E**

nb: many of the shrub species below will form small trees when mature

⁵ Please refer to <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife/management/non-native/documents/schedule9-list.pdf> for invasive species that should be avoided in landscaping plans.

LARGE SHRUBS

- Shrubby veronica *Hebe spp.* E
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* N
- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* N
- Rose *Rosa canina* (dog rose) *R. arvensis* (field rose) *R. pimpinellifolia* (burnet rose) N
- Elder *Sambucus nigra* N
- California lilac *Ceanothus arborea / spp.* E
- Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* N/E
- Common holly *Ilex aquifolium* N
- Barberry *Berberis darwinii*, *B. thunbergii*, *B. x stenophylla* E
- Daisy bush *Olearia x hastii*, *O. macrodonta* and *O. traversii* E
- Firethorn *Pyracantha coccinea* E
- Hazel *Corylus avellana* N
- Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* N
- Wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana* N
- Buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, *B. alternifolia*, *B. globosa* E
- Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* N
- Broom *Cytisus scoparius* N
- Mexican orange bush *Choisya ternata* E
- Laurustinus *Viburnum tinus* E
- Portuguese laurel *Prunus lusitanica* E
- Flowering currant *Ribes sanguineum* E
- Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* E
- Escallonia *Escallonia macrantha* E
- Hardy fuchsia *Fuchsia magellanica* E
- Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* N
- Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* N
- Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum* N
- Yew *Taxus baccata* N

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS AND SMALL SHRUBS

- Tree mallow *Lavatera spp.* *L. obliquo*, *L. thuringiaca* E
- Ice plant *Sedum spectabile* E
- Lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*, *L. x intermedia* E
- Globe thistle *Echinopsis ritro* E

Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea** or *D. lutea*, *D. x mertonensis* **N/E**

Michaelmas daisy *Aster novi-belgii* **E**

Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum** **N**

Sunflowers *Helianthus annuus*** **E**

Red valerian *Centranthus rubra* **E**

Hemp agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum* **N**

Common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* **N**

Black-eyed susan *Rudbeckia hirta*** or *R. fulgida* **E**

Rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis* **E**

Rock rose *Cistus spp.* **E**

CLIMBERS

Jasmine *Jasminum officinale* **E**

Ivy *Hedera helix* **N**

Climbing hydrangea *Hydrangea petiolaris* **E**

Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* or *L. japonica*, *L. fragrantissima*, *L. standishii* **N/E**

Spindle *Euonymus spp. E. fortunei* **N/E**

Clematis spp. *Clematis vitalba* or *C. armandii*, *C. alpina*, *C. montana*, *C. tangutica* **N/E**

Firethorn *Pyracantha atalantioides* **E**

Nasturtium *Tropaeolum majus*** **E**



The



Ecology Consultancy

■ **London**

Head Office
6-8 Cole Street
London
SE1 4YH

T. 020 7378 1914

E. enquiries@ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

W. www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

■ **Lewes**

The Old Granary
Upper Stoneham Farm
Lewes
East Sussex BN8 5RH

T. 01273 897365

E. enquiries@ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

W. www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

■ **Norwich**

Unit 7 Lodge Farm Barns
New Road
Bawburgh
Norwich NR9 3LZ

T. 01603 271811

E. enquiries@ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

W. www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk

Appendix 7: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Kings Stairs Garden

King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water, Southwark

Baseline Ecology Survey

Report for LB Southwark

Job No:	110289		
Author	Sabrina Bremner BSc. (Hons.)		
	Date	Checked by	Approved by
Initial	210411	JR	JR/JK
Revision			
Revision			

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Executive Summary

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark to carry out an extended Phase 1 habitat survey and nature conservation evaluation of King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water, in the London Borough of Southwark. The survey was commissioned in order to support the proposals for designation of the site as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation as part of the Canada Water Area Action Plan (London Borough of Southwark, 2010). The main findings of the surveys are as follows.

- The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, planted trees and shrubs, with smaller areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation.
- None of the habitats present were rare, long established or notable for other reasons but are some, notably self-established secondary woodland are unlikely to be common locally.
- The site accords with the London BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) for Parks and Urban Greenspaces and Woodland and the Southwark BAP Parks and Open Spaces. These BAPs relate mainly to opportunities for enhancement rather than current ecological value of the habitats present. A number of flagship species associated with the Southwark BAP Parks and Open Spaces are likely to be present and others could be encouraged through further habitat enhancements.
- Plant species diversity was low (c36 self established species), none were rare.
- Mature trees, shrubs and climbers present at the site are likely to provide foraging and breeding habitat for a range of common birds including some Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species such as house sparrow. Although numbers present would be limited by available habitat there is the potential for locally significant populations to be present.
- Tall ruderal vegetation, scrub, planted shrubs and woodland edge habitats are likely to support a range of common invertebrates.
- Trees were of negligible potential for roosting bats, buildings were not assessed for bat roosting potential. On-site bat foraging habitat was extensive, connectivity to off-site habitat was good. However, levels of light pollution are likely to be high. It is considered that the likelihood of roosting bats being present at the site is negligible.
- In summary, the site is considered to be of local value for nature conservation due to the presence of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, grassland,

scrub and planted shrub. These habitats are of limited extent and recent origin, are readily re-creatable predominantly planted. Such habitats are likely to be common within the Borough but appear to be locally uncommon and the close association of shrubs and secondary woodland is of note in the local context. In addition the site is likely to be of value for foraging and commuting bats, and common birds and invertebrates, and is also likely to be of local value in this regard.

1 Introduction

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the baseline ecological conditions at the King Stairs Garden, Canada Water site. The site is located in the Rotherhithe area of the London Borough of Southwark and is centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TQ 349 797. This report contains the results of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey carried out on the 13th April 2011. It describes the key ecological features of the site and provides an evaluation of the importance of ecological features at the site and provides recommendations for enhancing the ecological value of the site.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.2 This report is based on a desk top study and field survey using standard Phase 1 survey methodology (JNCC 2010)¹ as adapted for use in Greater London by the GLA (GLA 2002)². This approach is designed to identify broad habitat types at a site, to identify the potential of habitats to support protected species, and to assist in providing an overview of the ecological interest at a site. It is generally the most widely used and professionally recognised method for initial ecological site appraisal.
- 1.3 Ecological receptors at the site were evaluated according to a geographic scale as recommended in Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom³ and the GLAs criteria for selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in London.

SITE CONTEXT AND STATUS

- 1.4 The site extends to approximately 2.8ha and is a large public park, with paths throughout, and a children's play area in the centre. The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, planted trees and shrub, as well as smaller areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation.

¹ JNCC, (2010), Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit, ISBN 0 86139 636 7

² Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002) Connecting with London's Nature, The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy

³ Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2006) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom* (version 7 July 2006). <http://www.ieem.org.uk/ecia/index.html>

- 1.5 The site is bounded to the east and west by residential development, roads and pavements, to the south by the A200 (Southwark Bridge Road/Jamaica Road) and Southwark Park beyond, and to the north by the River Thames. The surrounding landuse is predominantly residential with large areas of green open space to the south. The most notable nearby ecological features are the River Thames approximately 5 metres (m) to the north and Southwark Park approximately 30m to the south, which are respectively sites of Metropolitan and Borough Grade 2 Importance for Nature Conservation.
- 1.6 None of the site is covered by statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations. The nearest sites are the River Thames and Tidal Tributaries Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation 5m to the north of the site, and Burgess Park Site of Borough Grade 2 Importance for Nature Conservation 30m to the south.

2 Methodology

EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

- 2.1 A walkover survey of the King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water site was carried out by Sabrina Bremner (Ecologist) on the 13th April 2011. This followed standard Phase 1 methodology (JNCC 2010) mapping the habitats and noting dominant flora species present. This was supplemented by a desk-top study using on-line mapping services for information on statutory designated sites (www.magic.gov.uk and <http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/map.aspx>). In addition, The UK (JNCC, 2010), London (London Biodiversity Partnership, 2010: <http://www.lbp.org.uk>) and the Southwark's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (London Borough of Southwark, 2007) were reviewed for those species and habitats that may, or have the potential to be, present at the site.
- 2.2 A habitat plan of the site is provided in Appendix 1. Photographs of the site are shown at Appendix 2. A full list of plant species identifiable at the site, along with an assessment of their abundance, appears in Appendix 3.
- 2.3 Incidental records of birds and other fauna noted during the course of the habitat survey were also compiled. Scientific names are given after the first mention of a species, thereafter, common names only are used. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species.

SITE EVALUATION

- 2.4 The assessment of the site's ecological features and attributes has been undertaken in line with the 2006 Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). These guidelines aim to provide consistency in the approach to evaluating the importance of ecological features and any impact that a new development would have upon them.
- 2.5 The value of ecological features is defined according to the following geographical scale:
- International;
 - UK;
 - National (i.e. England/Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales);
 - Regional;

- County (or Metropolitan - e.g. in London);
- District (or Unitary Authority, City, or Borough);
- Local or Parish;
- Within zone of influence only (which might be the project Site or a larger area);
and
- Negligible value.

2.6 The assessment of value for a given feature draws on a range of ecological attributes including:

- The presence of designated sites or BAP habitats or BAP species;
- The presence of rare species or significant populations of species, or populations at the edge of a species' distribution;
- The presence of ancient, rare, fragile or vulnerable habitats and those that are good examples of their type;
- The presence of rare or diverse assemblages of habitats or species; and
- The potential value where there is a possibility of increasing habitat or population size or connectivity or of improving habitat quality.

2.7 In addition, the site has been evaluated using local criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in *Connecting with London's nature the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy* (GLA 2002).

LIMITATIONS

2.8 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.

2.9 This Phase 1 habitat survey does not constitute a full botanical survey, or a Phase 2 pre-construction survey that would include accurate GIS mapping for invasive or protected plant species.

The site evaluation provides an overview of the site's ecological value using recognised locally developed criteria and is therefore sufficient to support any decisions for designation in the Area Plan. However, it is not based on detailed surveys. While unlikely it should be recognised that any future more detailed surveys

could provide records for rare species that would not have been detected in the current survey.

3 Results

DESK STUDY

- 3.1 The following information regarding the present and historical ecological interest of the site was supplied by the online desk study. The data covers a standard 1 km radius search area.
- 3.2 It is important to note that, even where data is held, a lack of records for a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may be simply under-recorded.
- 3.3 Records include information on the following:

Nature conservation designations

- 3.4 ***Statutory sites of nature conservation importance:*** The site is not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations. The desk-based search shows that there are no sites with European or National statutory designations within a 1km radius of the site. The nearest nationally important site is Gilbert's Pit Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its geological interest, located more than 5km to the southeast.
- 3.5 ***Non-statutory sites of nature conservation importance:*** The nearest Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the 1km search area is the River Thames and tidal tributaries SINC (of Metropolitan Importance). This site supports some of London's best examples of inter tidal mudflats, salt marsh and reed bed, and all UK BAP habitats are present. Southwark Park SINC (of Borough Grade 1 Importance) designated for the lake, meadow, parkland habitats and for the presence of bats and birds, and is located 30m to the south of the site,

HABITAT SURVEY

Overview

- 3.6 The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, planted trees, shrub, hedges and herbaceous perennials as well as smaller areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. Target notes highlighting features of ecological interest are described below and denoted as TN1 etc on the habitat plan in Appendix 1.

Amenity grassland

- 3.7 Amenity grassland was the most extensive vegetation type at site. It was dominated by perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* with frequent daisy *Bellis perennis* and dandelion *Taraxacum agg.* Species rarely or occasionally observed included white clover *Trifolium repens*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, common chickweed *Stellaria media* and dove's foot cranes-bill *Geranium molle*.

Scattered trees

- 3.8 Planted trees were present throughout the site predominantly within amenity grassland or along hardstanding paths. Species included Lombardy poplar *Populus nigra italica*, London plane *Platanus x hispanica*, poplar *Populus sp.*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, ash *Fraxinus spp.*, Norway maple *Acer platanoides*, cherry *Prunus sp.*, and lime *Tilia sp.* On-site trees were judged to have negligible potential value for roosting bats.

Planted shrub

- 3.9 Informal areas within amenity grassland (TN2, Appendix 1) and bordering paths and buildings contained mature planted shrubs. Species included firethorn *Pyracantha sp.*, dogwood *Cornus sp.*, kerria *Kerria japonica*, castor-oil plant *Ricinus communis*, cotoneasters *Cotoneaster spp.* and Portugal laurel *Prunus lusitanica*.

Recent secondary broadleaved woodland

- 3.10 This habitat type dominated the southern section of the site (TN1, Appendix 1) and was composed of young field maple *Acer campestre*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, and Norway maple. The ground flora was sparse and dominated by Norway maple and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* saplings with occasional wood avens *Geum urbanum*, and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Scattered scrub

- 3.11 Self-established bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.*, butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii* and ivy *Hedera helix* dominated scrub was occasionally present within planted beds.

Tall ruderal vegetation

- 3.12 Tall ruderal vegetation was present in disturbed areas of formal flowerbeds and along the site boundaries. Species included pellitory of the wall *Parietaria judaica*, large bindweed *Calystegia silvatica*, red dead-nettle *Lamium purpureum*, and wood avens.

Building and hardstanding

3.13 Paths bisected planting areas and surrounded the site. One building (St. Peter and the Guardian Angels RC Church) was located in the north western limit of the site. This building was not assessed for bat roosting potential. Bosco Centre – a children’s nursery within the site boundary (TN3, Appendix 1) was not accessible – from boundary fences this appeared to be a complex of buildings used as a children’s nursery. In the centre of the park was a small area of children’s play equipment.

Invasive species

3.14 Cotoneasters *Cotoneaster* spp. were occasionally present within planted beds. Following a review, certain species of Cotoneaster are now included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it illegal to plant them in, or cause them to grow in the wild. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England and Wales) Order came into force on 6 April 2010.

FAUNA

3.15 The following bird species were recorded at the time of the site survey:

- Blackbird *Turdus merula*,
- Magpie *Pica pica*. and
- Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

EVALUATION

Geographic evaluation

3.16 **Features of international importance:** Features of international importance are principally sites covered by international legislation or conventions. Special Protection Areas (SPAs), together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) form the Natura 2000 network. The Government is obliged to identify and classify SPAs under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC)) on the Conservation of Wild Birds). The regulations deal mainly with protection afforded to habitats, however, they also give protection to certain species of flora and fauna including bats and great crested newts.

3.17 The site does not form part of a site of international importance for nature conservation and is distant from any such sites. Based on habitat quality and review of existing data, it is not considered likely that the site would support roosting bats; however it is likely to be of local value to commuting and foraging bats.

- 3.18 **Features of national importance:** Features of national importance include SSSIs which are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as species such as common reptile species which are subject to national legislation rather than international legislation. The site does not form part of a site of national importance for nature conservation and is distant from any such sites.
- 3.19 The site may support breeding birds, which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The site may also support species covered by the UK BAP and which are therefore material considerations in determining planning applications. The UK BAP species present or potentially present at the site include house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and possibly certain species of bat. Due to the limited extent of suitable habitat at the site it considered that populations present would be of no more than local importance.
- 3.20 **Features of regional (i.e. Greater London) importance:** Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (i.e. sites considered to be of London-wide importance for wildlife) are defined as being ‘... *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...*’
- 3.21 As shown in the site evaluation using local criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites in Table 3 below, the site lacks any features that would justify designation at the metropolitan level.
- 3.22 The London BAP habitats and species present or potentially present at the site are as follows: built structures, parks and urban green spaces, woodland, bats and house sparrow. The London BAPs for built structures and parks and urban green spaces relate to the potential for enhancing their wildlife value rather than intrinsic ecological importance of existing site habitats. Woodland habitats on site are not considered to be of value at this level due to their limited extent and recent origin. As discussed below, populations of house sparrow and bats are unlikely to exceed local value.
- 3.23 **Features of borough (i.e. Southwark) importance:** Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation are defined as being ‘...*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...*’ A

review of sites of Borough (grade I and II) Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the vicinity of the site and the application of local criteria below shows that the site is not likely to be important at the borough level in terms of its habitats or species.

- 3.24 The Southwark BAP for Parks and Open Spaces is applicable to the site. This relates largely to the potential for enhancing their wildlife value and are intended to encourage opportunities for wildlife through land management. Associated with each BAP habitat are a number of ‘flagship species’ (London Borough of Southwark, 2007) which are characteristic or of specific importance to parks and open spaces in Southwark and for which conservation actions should be developed. Of these species the site is currently considered suitable for house sparrow, buttercups *Ranunculus spp.*, holly blue *Celastrina argiolus* and meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* although this is likely to be at the local level only, due to the limited extent and quality of existing habitats.
- 3.25 **Features of local (i.e. Canada Water) importance:** The GLA defines *Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation as those that ‘...are, or may be, of particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools)...’* It also notes that *‘Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified’*. As shown in Table 1 below the secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered tree and scrub and amenity grassland habitats at the site are of value for nature conservation in this context, as despite their limited extent they are locally uncommon. Therefore, the site does contain some (limited) habitats of local importance for nature conservation. Such habitats have the potential to be of importance to foraging and commuting bats, and breeding birds, also at the local level. The site is freely accessible by members of the public, and is therefore of value to the local community as an area of open space.
- 3.26 **Features of importance within the zone of influence only (within the site and immediate vicinity):** With reference to Paragraph 3.25 above and Table 1 below it can be seen that the following habitats at the site are of value within the site and immediate vicinity only: planted shrub and tall ruderal vegetation.
- 3.27 **Secondary or supporting value:** The site appears to form supplementary habitat to the River Thames and tidal tributaries SINC (of Metropolitan Importance) to the north- and to Southwark Park SINC (Borough Grade II Importance) to the south. Although it does not support the habitats present within the adjacent River Thames, the site is likely to be of supporting value for commuting and foraging bats.

Evaluation using local criteria

3.28 Table 1 below provides an evaluation using GLA criteria for designation of non-statutory wildlife sites. The application of local criteria to the site allows a more complete assessment of whether they are of significance for nature conservation at the regional, borough or local scale.

Table 1 – Evaluation of nature conservation interest at King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water using GLA criteria

GLA Criteria	Remarks
Representation	The site comprises areas of amenity green space with grassland and scattered trees, amenity planting that are typical of inner urban residential areas in terms of their wildlife value. The site also contains small areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland and scattered tree and scrub are typical of their inner urban location and not exceptional examples of their type, and likely to support a limited and typical assemblage of bats, birds and invertebrates.
Habitat rarity	The site was dominated by amenity grassland, planted shrubs and mature planted trees, with smaller areas of broadleaved woodland scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. While none of these habitats are rare in the London and borough context, based on a review of aerial photography this habitat mosaic is locally uncommon- with the exception of the adjacent Southwark Park SINC (Borough Grade II) site. Woodland occupies only 4% of Southwark (London Borough of Southwark 2007)
Species rarity	No rare plants were recorded and the site lacks habitat likely to support rare invertebrates or birds, although some common but declining bird species covered by UK and London BAPs are likely to be present.
Habitat richness	The site supported a limited range of locally uncommon habitat mosaics comprising recent secondary broadleaved woodland, grassland, mature trees and scattered scrub.
Species richness	The site did not support a diverse flora and the site's location and the nature and extent of habitats present indicate that it will be unlikely to support diverse assemblages of birds or invertebrates.
Size	All habitats at the site were of very limited extent which reduces the potential for large populations or diverse assemblages of species
Important populations of species	The site may support populations of common bird species including certain BAP species, but the limited extent of habitats present will limit population size and significance for nature conservation.
Ancient character	Not applicable. All habitats at the site are of recent origin.
Fragility	All habitats at the site are resilient to most impacts other than extreme disturbance, drought or gross inputs of pollution. Due to the site's location all associated fauna will be habituated to noise, night-time lighting along paths, disturbance etc. Therefore none of the species and habitats at the site are of conservation significance due to their fragility, while bats are vulnerable to lighting and habitat fragmentation amongst other things.
Recreatibility	All habitats at the site are readily recreatable in the medium term

Table 1 – Evaluation of nature conservation interest at King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water using GLA criteria

GLA Criteria	Remarks
	including mature trees likely to be c40 years old.
Typical urban character	The site is typical of urban areas; however urban habitats of particularly high value for nature conservation such as canals, species rich wasteland and old parkland are not present.
Cultural or historic character	Not applicable
Geographic position	The site appears to provide supplementary habitat to Southwark Park in terms of additional foraging and commuting habitat for bats, and provides additional nesting and foraging habitat for birds.
Access	Full public access.
Use	Recreational and access.
Potential	Enhancements to planting and maintenance could provide opportunities to implement the London BAPs for Parks and Urban Greenspaces and Woodland, and the Southwark BAP for Parks and open Spaces
Aesthetic appeal	The site is actively used as a public park and children’s play area and is an attractive area for the public.

3.29 The evaluation as a whole shows that habitats at King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water do not meet local criteria for designating Sites of Metropolitan, or Borough Importance for Nature Conservation; however the site does meet some criteria for Local Importance for Nature Conservation. The standards for designating sites at each of these geographic levels are summarised in Paragraphs 3.16 to 3.27 above.

4 Conclusions and recommendations

CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The habitats at the King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water site were of ecological importance in the context of the local area only.
- 4.2 The habitats at the site corresponded with the following London BAP Habitat types: Built Structures, Parks and Urban Greenspaces, and Woodland, and Parks and Open Spaces in the Southwark BAP. With the exception of woodland, these BAPs relate largely to opportunities for enhancement rather than current ecological value of the habitats covered.
- 4.3 The site is likely to support foraging and commuting bats which are UK BAP species, and certain common and widespread but declining species of bird included house sparrow which is a UK, regional or local BAP species. A review of existing data, the status of these species in London and Southwark, and assessment of onsite and surrounding habitat suggests that the populations present are of ecological importance in the local (Canada Water) context.
- 4.4 Recommendations to enhance the nature conservation value of the King Stairs Gardens site by improving the quality of existing London and Southwark BAP habitats, with specific aims to enhance the site for BAP species such as house sparrow, dunnock and starling, and for Southwark's flagship species associated with uncut grassland such as buttercups and certain species of butterfly are made below:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Invasive species

- 4.5 Species of cotoneaster listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act were noted at the site. During maintenance it is recommended that where such species are cut the top part of the plant and the main roots are either burnt on site or disposed of to landfill where plants are unlikely to reproduce vegetatively or from seed.

Breeding birds

- 4.6 The site contains habitat suitable for breeding birds which are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence, amongst other things, to kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Therefore measures

to avoid the destruction of nests, eggs and young birds will be required if enhancement measures are undertaken that would affect trees, scrub and hedges.

Enhancements

- 4.7 The following enhancement measures are recommended in line with the relevant London and Southwark BAPs.
- 4.8 **Landscape planting:** Additional wildlife garden planting should be incorporated into site designs to complement existing woodland habitat and planted trees to provide foraging, cover and nesting for birds and invertebrates, including BAP species house sparrow. Where possible, areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, shrub and scattered scrub should be under-planted with shrubs and herbaceous material to create greater structure within the planting and to provide denser cover for wildlife such as birds, and foraging and commuting habitat for bats. A list of recommended species is provided in Appendix 5.
- 4.9 The decline in house sparrows has been linked to reduction in invertebrate food for chicks and the inclusion of planting likely to provide suitable foraging. Planting should involve native deciduous shrubs and trees and a diversity of grasses and forbs to set seed and remain in situ throughout the winter would promote the abundance of a range of foliar invertebrates. These recommendations could be incorporated through under-planted standard trees with shrubs of appropriate species, as well as inclusion of areas of meadow grassland and plantings of ornamental perennials and grasses.
- 4.10 House sparrow require dense cover for roosting that could be achieved through dense plantings of mixed deciduous and evergreen shrubs and planting large evergreen climbers on walls. This would also provide nesting habitat for dunnock and the inclusion of berrying species would benefit foraging starling, both London BAP species. The use of bark chippings or other organic mulched would improve foraging for all three species.
- 4.11 **Enhancement of amenity grassland for invertebrates:** The inclusion of a good variety of low-growing wildflowers such as birds-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, ladies bedstraw *Galium verum* and hawkbits *Leontodon* spp. to create a daisy lawn in any areas within the site. This will provide foraging for invertebrates throughout the summer if cutting is not too frequent. This would enhance the quality of such grassland and potentially improve this habitat for

Southwark flagship plant and invertebrate species (London Borough of Southwark, 2007): buttercups, holly blue and meadow brown.

4.12 **Nest boxes:** Bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities should be included through the provision of a range of open and hole-fronted boxes on buildings/trees/fences bordering the site. It is recommended that Schwegler's range of 'woodcrete' boxes are used as they retain more warmth and are longer lasting than ordinary wooden boxes:

- Erect Schwegler 'woodcrete' bat boxes on buildings/trees. Model 2F for smaller bats including brown long-eared bat, is generally recommended but advice should be sought from an experienced bat ecologist on type and number.
- Erect open-fronted and hole-fronted bird nesting boxes on suitable buildings/trees/fences. The following models are most appropriate: 1B hole-fronted, 26mm entrance hole and 32mm entrance hole, and 2H open-fronted 120mm opening. Ideally boxes should be positioned so they face in an easterly or westerly direction. They should be at least 3 metres above ground level and ideally considerable higher. They should be attached to the tree using Schwegler fixings. Boxes should be cleaned annually in the autumn with old nests removed annually between October and January, and boxes repaired or replaced as necessary.

4.13 **Good horticultural practice:** Good horticultural practice should be utilised in any landscaping scheme and should include the following simple methods to minimise off-site ecological impacts:

- The use of peat-free composts and soil conditioners to reduce the loss of important peat bogs.
- Feeding of plants using organic based fertilisers and improving the soil structure by incorporating organic material, preferably composted waste.
- The use of mulches to lock moisture into the soil. 'Water-wise gardening' helps reduce consumption of drinking water which is especially important during drought periods.

- The use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and slug pellets etc) should be discouraged to prevent cumulative fatal effects to animals via the food chain, particularly invertebrates, birds and/or mammals. Any pesticides used should be non-residual.

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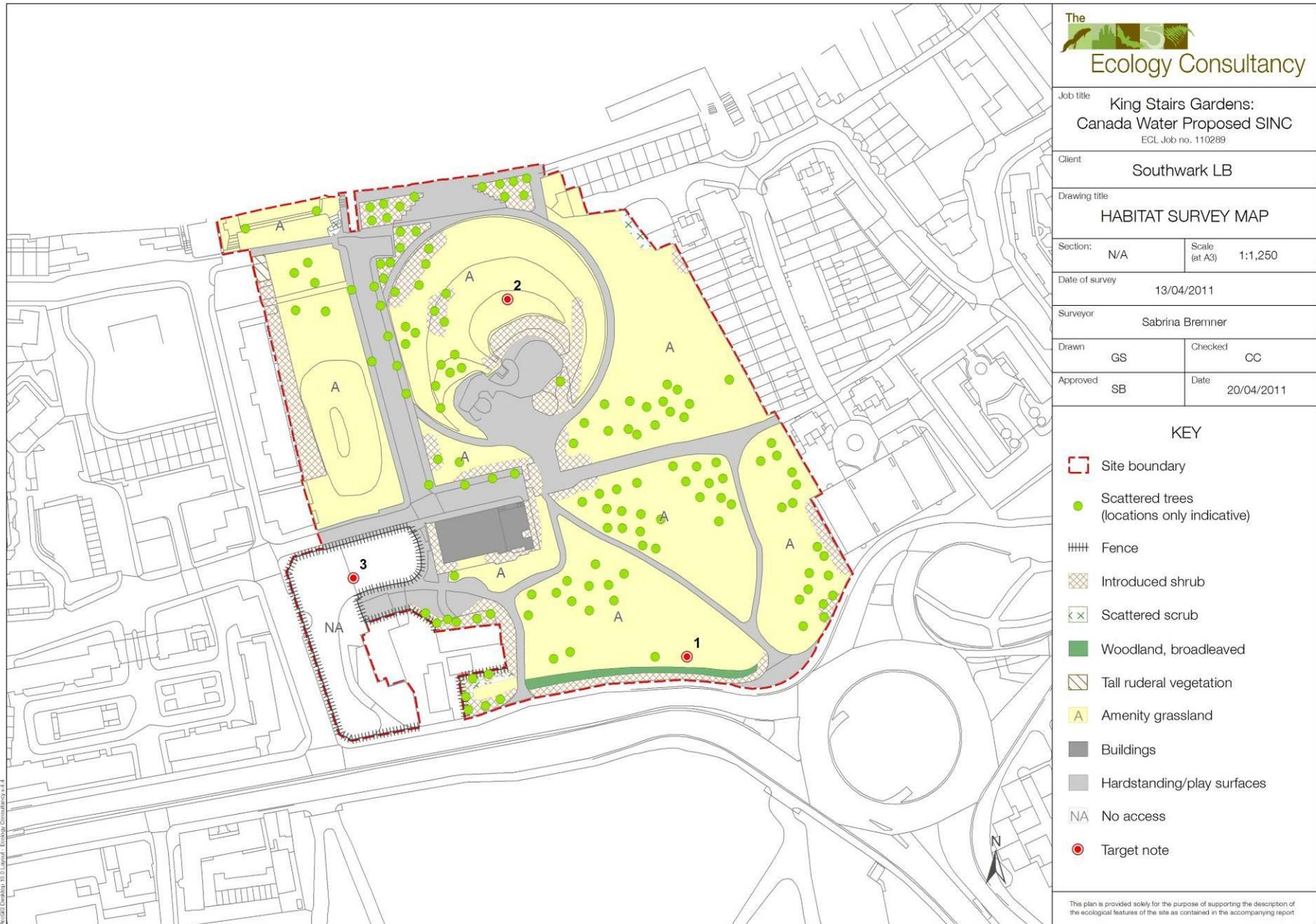
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Appendix 1 Habitat Plan



KEY

- Site boundary
- Scattered trees (locations only indicative)
- #### Fence
- Introduced shrub
- Scattered scrub
- Woodland, broadleaved
- Tall ruderal vegetation
- Amenity grassland
- Buildings
- Hardstanding/play surfaces
- NA No access
- Target note

The plan is provided solely for the purpose of supporting the description of the ecological features of the site as contained in the accompanying report.

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Appendix 2: Photographs

Photograph 1

Broadleaved woodland in the southern extent of the site



Photograph 2

Scattered tree and scrub in central site areas



Photograph 3

Large areas of amenity grassland with scattered trees.



Photograph 4

Children's play area within centre of park



Photograph 5

St. Peter and the Guardian Angels RC
Church



Appendix 3: Plant Species List

Plant Species List for King Stairs Gardens, Canada Water

Scientific nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species and Blockeel & Long (1998) for bryophyte species. Vascular plant common names follow the Botanical Society of the British Isles 2003 list, published on its web site, www.bsbi.org.uk. Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 Habitat survey, does not constitute a full botanical survey and should be read in conjunction with the associated Phase 1 Report.

Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale and using qualifiers as follows:

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare

T= tree, S=seedling, P= planted/ some planted, Y = young, S = seedling or sapling,

Scientific name	English name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	O	yse
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	O	tp
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	O	tsp
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	R	t
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	R	
<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	Deadly nightshade	R	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound	R	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	F	
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	Barberry	R	p
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch	F	tp
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White bryony	R	
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large bindweed	R	
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy bitter-cress	R	
<i>Choisya ternata</i>	Mexican orange	R	p
<i>Cirsium sp.</i>	Thistle	R	
<i>Cornus spp.</i>	Dogwoods	O	sp
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneasters	O	sp
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	R	se
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R	tp
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	O	
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot crane's-bill	R	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	R	e
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	O	
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Kerria	LF	p
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle	R	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass	D	
<i>Mahonia spp.</i>	Oregon-grapes	O	p
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not	R	
<i>Narcissus sp.</i>	Daffodil	F	p
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	R	e
<i>Phyllostachys sp.</i>	Bamboo	R	p

Scientific name	English name	Abundance	Qualifier
<i>Pittosporum sp.</i>	Pittosporum	R	p
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	R	
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane	D	tp
<i>Populus nigra italica</i>	Lombardy poplar	R	tp
<i>Populus sp.</i>	Poplar	R	tpe
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	O	
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Portugal laurel	O	p
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry	R	s
<i>Pyracantha spp.</i>	Firethorns	R	pe
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak	R	tp
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	R	
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil-plant	R	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	R	e
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock	O	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	R	
<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	Dandelion	F	
<i>Tilia sp.</i>	Lime	R	t
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	F	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	R	e
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater periwinkle	R	p

Appendix 4: Legislation and Policy

Important Notice: This section contains details of legislation and planning policy applicable in Britain only (i.e. not including the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or the Channel Islands) and is provided for general guidance only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this section should not be relied upon as a definitive statement of the law.

A Invasive Plant Species

Certain species of plant, including Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* are listed on Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect to Section 14(2). Such species are generally non-natives whose establishment or spread in the wild may be detrimental to native wildlife. Inclusion on Part II of Schedule 9 therefore makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.

How is the legislation pertaining to invasive plants liable to affect development works?

Although it is not an offence to have these plants on your land *per se*, it is an offence to *cause* these species to grow in the wild. Therefore, if they are present on site and development activities (for example movement of spoil, disposal of cut waste or vehicular movements) have the potential to cause the further spread of these species to new areas, it will be necessary to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent this happening prior to the commencement of works.

B NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATION AFFORDED TO HABITATS

Statutory Designations: National

Nationally important areas of special scientific interest, by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features, are notified by the countryside agencies as statutory **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSIs) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and latterly the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As well as underpinning other national designations (such as **National Nature Reserves** which are declared by the countryside agencies under the same legislation), the system also provides statutory protection for terrestrial and coastal sites which are important within a European context (Natura 2000 network) and globally (such as Wetlands of International Importance). See subsequent sections for details of these designations. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs have been introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) also provides for the making of **Limestone Pavement Orders**, which prohibit the disturbance and removal of limestone from such designated areas, and the designation of **Marine Nature Reserves**, for which byelaws must be made to protect them.

Statutory Designations: International

Special Protection Areas (SPAs), together with **Special Areas of Conservation** (SACs) form the **Natura 2000** network. The Government is obliged to identify and classify SPAs under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC)) on the Conservation of Wild Birds). SPAs are areas of the most important habitat for rare (listed on Annex I of the Directive) and migratory birds within the European Union. Protection afforded SPAs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles (nm) is given by The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended) provide a mechanism for the designation and protection of SPAs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

The Government is obliged to identify and designate SACs under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna

and Flora). These are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive within the European Union. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are protected under The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended) provide a mechanism for the designation and protection of SACs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, in particular recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are globally important for biodiversity conservation. Wetlands can include areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water and may be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary. Wetlands may also incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands. Ramsar sites are underpinned through prior notification as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and as such receive statutory protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) with further protection provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Policy statements have been issued by the Government in England and Wales highlighting the special status of Ramsar sites. This effectively extends the level of protection to that afforded to sites which have been designated under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives as part of the Natura 2000 network (e.g. SACs & SPAs).

Statutory Designations: Local

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 **Local Nature Reserves** (LNRs) may be declared by local authorities after consultation with the relevant countryside agency. LNRs are declared for sites holding special wildlife or geological interest at a local level and are managed for nature conservation, and provide opportunities for research and education and enjoyment of nature.

Non-Statutory Designations

Areas considered to be of local conservation interest may be designated by local authorities as a **Wildlife Site**, under a variety of names such as **County Wildlife Sites** (CWS), **Listed Wildlife Sites** (LWS), **Local Nature Conservation Sites** (LNCS), **Sites of Biological**

Importance (SBIs), **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation** (SINCs), or **Sites of Nature Conservation Importance** (SNICIs). The criteria for designation may vary between counties.

Together with the statutory designations, these are defined in local and structure plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined. The level of protection afforded to these sites through local planning policies and development frameworks may vary between counties.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside land holding statutory designations such as SSSIs. Locally-developed criteria are used to select these sites, according to their value for education, scientific study, historical significance or aesthetic qualities. As with local Wildlife Sites, RIGS are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 are intended to protect 'important' countryside hedgerows from destruction or damage. A hedgerow is considered important if (a) has existed for 30 years or more; and (b) satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

Under the Regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. Hedgerows on or adjacent to common land, village greens, SSSIs (including all terrestrial SACs, NNRs and SPAs), LNRs, land used for agriculture or forestry and land used for the keeping or breeding of horses, ponies or donkeys are covered by these regulations. Hedgerows *'within or marking the boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling-house'* are not.

C NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

Guidance on nature conservation is issued by the Government in the form of Planning Policy Statement 9: Nature Conservation (PPS 9) and circular 06/2005 on biodiversity and the planning system. The key principles in this guidance include the aim that all planning decisions should prevent harm to biodiversity.

PPS 9 offers the following guidance on Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity designated under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (which generally comprise UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats species):

“Planning authorities should ensure that these species and habitats are protected from the adverse effects of development, where appropriate, by using planning conditions and obligations. Planning authorities should refuse permission where harm to the species or their habitats would result unless the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh that harm.”

PPS 9 also states that in the case of previously developed land or ‘wasteland’:

“where such sites have significant biodiversity interest of recognised local importance, local planning authorities, together with developers, should aim to retain this interest or incorporate it into any development of the site.”

In general, planning authorities should also

“maximise opportunities for building in beneficial biodiversity features as part of good design ... using planning obligations where appropriate.”

D LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Southwark’s Unitary Development Plan (2007) contains the following saved policies from Section 3: Environmental Principles that are relevant to the site:

Policy 3.1 Environmental effects

“Planning permission for the establishment of uses that would cause material adverse effects on the environment will not be granted, and proposals for activities that will have a material adverse impact on the environment and quality of life will be refused”.

Policy 3.13 Urban design

“Principles of good urban design must be taken into account in all developments.....In designing new developments, consideration must be given to:

vi) Landscaping – Where appropriate, developments should include landscape design that enhances the area and biodiversity, for example through the use of green roofs”

Policy 3.26 Borough Open Land (BOL)

Within Borough Open Land planning permission will not be granted for development unless:

- i. It is ancillary to the use of the open space; and
- ii. It is small in scale; and
- iii. It does not detract from the site's open nature and character; and
- iv. It is required to enhance activities associated with the particular open space; and
- v. It positively contributes to the setting and quality of the open space.

Policy 3.28 Biodiversity

“The LPA will take biodiversity into account in its determination of all planning applications and will encourage the inclusion in developments of features which enhance biodiversity, requiring an ecological assessment where relevant.

Developments will not be permitted which would damage the nature conservation value of sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs) and local nature reserves (LNRs) and/or damage habitats, populations of protected species or priority habitats/species identified in the United Kingdom, London or the Southwark biodiversity action plan. Where, exceptionally, such developments are permitted, the Council will seek mitigation and/or compensation for the damage to biodiversity.

Where new sites of importance for nature conservation and local nature reserves are identified, these sites will be afforded protection under this policy and policy 3.27, Other Open Spaces”.

Reasons

The council has an obligation to protect biological diversity under national and international legislation, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), The Habitats Directive (1992), National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The council has a responsibility to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout Southwark and particularly to protect areas of nature conservation. Due to the intense pressure on land for development, it is important that areas of nature conservation value or ecological importance are identified and the flora and fauna associated with these areas are protected and enhanced as outlined in the council's biodiversity action plan.

Access to wildlife also enables people to experience wildlife in an otherwise intensely urban environment, promoting well-being and providing a number of educational benefits.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves are listed in Appendix 14.

SP 15: Open space and biodiversity

“All developments should where appropriate create, preserve and enhance open spaces, green corridors, traffic free routes and biodiversity. The benefits of open space include those associated with health, sport, recreation, children’s play, regeneration, the economy, culture, biodiversity and the environment”

E UK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

The UK BAP was initiated to comply with obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992. It describes the UK’s biological resources and commits to developing detailed plans to conserve these resources. The UK BAP comprises Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs). In addition, local authorities promote habitat and species conservation at a regional level through development of Local BAPs (LBAPs).

F REGIONAL AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS

The site is covered by the regional BAP for London and the local BAP for the London Borough of Southwark. The habitats and species covered by the BAPs are reproduced below:

- Parks & urban greenspaces
- Built structures
- Woodland
- Built Up Areas and Gardens
- House sparrow.
- Grassland
- Hedge & scrub

Appendix 5: Species of Value to Wildlife

Ornamental and Native Species of Wildlife Value

The list below gives some easily sourced plants which are of proven value to wildlife. It includes a number of ornamental species which are not native and can be used in combination with native species in more formal situations. In informal landscapes the emphasis should be on the use of native species.

Where ornamental trees and shrub planting are proposed it is recommended that species producing abundant nectar rich flowers or berries palatable to birds are used. Such species include (non-invasive) varieties of Cotoneaster⁴ and firethorn *Pyracantha*. Additionally climbers should be planted on bare walls and fences where they will attract foraging birds and invertebrates.

Different horticultural varieties of the following species are commonly available, but where possible standard stock is advised, especially for native species. Single flowering plants should be chosen over double flowering plants. With exception of * (biennials) and ** (annuals) all species are perennial. **E** = Exotic, **N** = Native. Note: the list includes species that may be harmful if handled or ingested. Numerous sources of further information are available. See for instance *Poisonous Plants and Fungi: An Illustrated Guide*, M.R. Cooper, A.W. Johnson and E. Dauncey, TSO: 2nd edition, 2003 ISBN 100117028614

TREE

Cherry *Prunus spp.*, *P. avium* (wild cherry) **N**

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* **N**

Crab apple *Malus sylvestris* **N**

Pear *Pyrus spp.* *Pyrus calleryana*

Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* (or similar hybrid) **N**

Silver birch *Betula pendula* **N**

Yew *Taxus baccata* **N**

Foxglove tree *Pawlonia tomentosa* **E**

Lacebarks *Hoheria spp.* *H. glabrata*, *H. lyallii* **E**

Tulip tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* **E**

nb: many of the shrub species below will form small trees when mature

⁴ Please refer to <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife/management/non-native/documents/schedule9-list.pdf> for invasive species that should be avoided in landscaping plans.

LARGE SHRUBS

- Shrubby veronica *Hebe spp.* E
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* N
- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* N
- Rose *Rosa canina* (dog rose) *R. arvensis* (field rose) *R. pimpinellifolia* (burnet rose) N
- Elder *Sambucus nigra* N
- California lilac *Ceanothus arborea / spp.* E
- Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* N/E
- Common holly *Ilex aquifolium* N
- Barberry *Berberis darwinii*, *B. thunbergii*, *B. x stenophylla* E
- Daisy bush *Olearia x hastii*, *O. macrodonta* and *O. traversii* E
- Firethorn *Pyracantha coccinea* E
- Hazel *Corylus avellana* N
- Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* N
- Wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana* N
- Buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, *B. alternifolia*, *B. globosa* E
- Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* N
- Broom *Cytisus scoparius* N
- Mexican orange bush *Choisya ternata* E
- Laurustinus *Viburnum tinus* E
- Portuguese laurel *Prunus lusitanica* E
- Flowering currant *Ribes sanguineum* E
- Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* E
- Escallonia *Escallonia macrantha* E
- Hardy fuchsia *Fuchsia magellanica* E
- Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* N
- Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* N
- Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum* N
- Yew *Taxus baccata* N

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS AND SMALL SHRUBS

- Tree mallow *Lavatera spp.* *L. olblio*, *L. thuringiaca* E
- Ice plant *Sedum spectabile* E
- Lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*, *L. x intermedia* E
- Globe thistle *Echinopsis ritro* E

Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea** or *D. lutea*, *D. x mertonensis* **N/E**

Michaelmas daisy *Aster novi-belgii* **E**

Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum** **N**

Sunflowers *Helianthus annuus*** **E**

Red valerian *Centranthus rubra* **E**

Hemp agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum* **N**

Common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* **N**

Black-eyed susan *Rudbeckia hirta*** or *R. fulgida* **E**

Rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis* **E**

Rock rose *Cistus spp.* **E**

CLIMBERS

Jasmine *Jasminum officinale* **E**

Ivy *Hedera helix* **N**

Climbing hydrangea *Hydrangea petiolaris* **E**

Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* or *L. japonica*, *L. fragrantissima*, *L. standishii* **N/E**

Spindle *Euonymus spp. E. fortunei* **N/E**

Clematis spp. *Clematis vitalba* or *C. armandii*, *C. alpina*, *C. montana*, *C. tangutica* **N/E**

Firethorn *Pyracantha atalantioides* **E**

Nasturtium *Tropaeolum majus*** **E**