Green Dale Open Space

Improvement Project - Phase I
Stage C Report - 2ND DRAFT
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Introduction and Brief

LUC has been commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark to undertake Phase One of the Greendale Open Space Improvement Project (GOSIP).

Greendale Open Space covers 2.2 hectares of land, designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) in the London Borough of Southwark. It is classified as ‘natural or semi natural greenspace’ in the Council’s Open Space Strategy. The site is accessed from Dog Kennel Hill, East Dulwich, London, SE22 or via the pedestrian and cycle paths along its western and southern boundaries. It is unusual in having no roads along its boundaries, creating an high level of separation from the noise and visual clutter of the city and its traffic.

The aspiration of the GOSIP is to enhance Greendale Open Space through high quality design, improving public access into and around the open space, whilst enhancing and protecting existing wildlife habitats. The design must reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities and provide a real community asset. The design must seek to improve the site whilst working with the existing landscape levels to make Greendale Open Space into an asset for the community, by providing welcoming safe entrances, access and circulation, providing reasons for people to stay by providing furniture and activities whilst retaining the open character and semi-natural habitat aspects of the site. This must be achieved without breaching the existing maintenance capacity of LBS, and in accordance with the local development plan documents, the London Plan and the wider national planning policy framework.

Phase One entails attaining a comprehensive knowledge of the existing site and its context, and using this knowledge to produce costed concept design proposals for the improvement of the Open Space.

Our brief is to commission a range of surveys to properly understand the ecology and habitats and species present, and to have a fully informed picture of the constraints and opportunities these provide, to produce a report to interpret the survey findings and to make recommendations for improvements; and subsequently to produce outline sketch design proposals.

This report is in four parts. Part 1 is a study of the context, including relevant policies, history, and surrounding land use. Part 2 presents a summary of the site surveys and their recommendations, part 3 is our landscape appraisal, including an existing site plan explaining the constraints, features, levels etc of the site.
Location

Green Dale Open Space is within the London Borough of Southwark, and is designated as Metropolitan Open Land. South Camberwell Ward is described as a multicultural inner city area of London. The area surrounding the site is a mixture of residential, educational, commercial and private recreation lands. The site cover 2.2 hectares on a south-facing slope from Champion Hill, and is flanked by a major cycle route into central London.
The site is owned by the London Borough of Southwark. It is currently leased to Dulwich Hamlet Football Club, a local club with youth and senior teams. The lease expires in 2015.

Green Dale Open Space lies on the southern slope of a hill.

It is flanked on the west by a Sainsbury’s superstore open from 7am to midnight containing a cafe, chemist and three 24 hour ATMs. The Sainsbury’s car park has 400 places and cycle parking, contains a private children’s nursery (Dulwich Nursery), electric car charging points, and the closest bus stop to the site. There are pedestrian and cycle links from Sainsbury’s through Dog Kennel Hill Open Space to Champion Hill Estate and beyond, and to the Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground.

The southern boundary of the site flanks a well-used pedestrian path connecting many local facilities, schools and residential areas, and a securely fenced private recreational sports field (owned by a local independent school).

To the north of the site, at the top of a steep bank, is a children’s nursery (Mother Goose Nursery) and Cleve Hall Estate and Denmark Hill Estate (Southwark housing).

Along the eastern boundary runs Green Dale - an important cycle route (No.23) and pedestrian link, designated a ‘safe route to school’. It is lit at night and well-used. Also nearby are schools, sports grounds and more residential areas. This network of pedestrian paths surrounding the site connect the community by traffic-free means. The site links directly into a small wooded area informally named Dog Kennel Hill Woods and is part of a park called Dog Kennel Hill Open Space which is managed by Southwark Council and has an active local friends group. The Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground is nearby, providing facilities and youth groups for children outside of school hours. The diagram opposite shows the current land use in the area immediately surrounding the site.
Planning and Policy Context

The aims of the GOSIP support key elements of the following current planning guidance and policies, with the most relevant policy elements included below:

National Policy


- Recognise that a healthy functioning natural environment is the foundation for sustained economic growth, prosperous communities and personal wellbeing
- Facilitate greater local action to protect and improve nature, including New Green Areas Designations, empowering communities to protect local environments that are important to them (links to NPPF para 130)
- Support the creation of a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other
- Strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both
- Improving public health locally, by making high-quality green space available to everyone.

Regional Policy

The London Plan 2011

Promotes the provision of an integrated network across London that performs as green infrastructure, in particular to support:

- A city of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods – creating a high quality environment for everyone to enjoy
- A city that delights the senses, making the most of and extending its wealth of open and green spaces and waterways, realising its potential for improving Londoner's health, welfare and development
- A city that becomes a world leader in improving the environment and tackling climate change
- A city where it is easy, safe and convenient for everyone to access jobs, opportunities and facilities emphasising the roles of cycling and walking.

All London Green Grid (ALGG) 2012

The three aims of the ALGG are to:

- Protect, conserve and enhance London's strategic network of green and open natural and cultural spaces.
- Encourage greater use of, and engagement with, London’s green infrastructure; fostering a greater appreciation of London’s natural and cultural landscapes; enhancing visitor facilities and extending and upgrading the walking and cycling networks in between to promote a sense of place and ownership.
- Secure a network of high quality, well designed and multifunctional green and open spaces to establish a crucial component of urban infrastructure able to address the environmental challenges of the 21st century – most notably climate change.

Policies highlighted in the London Plan that are directly relevant to the GOSIP include:

- Adapt to climate change and promote urban greening
- Increase access to open space
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and increase access to nature
- Improve sustainable travel connections
- Promote healthy living
- Conserve and enhance heritage features, geodiversity and landscape character.

Local Policy

Southwark Open Space Strategy January 2013

The vision of Southwark's Open Space Strategy is as follows:

“To encourage a diverse network of sustainable open space of high quality which meets the needs of those living and working within the borough and encourages the development of more inclusive communities, safeguards natural resources and cultural heritage, improves access to natural greenspace, provides recreational and educational opportunities and helps to promote sustainable development.”

This includes general aims and objectives for the area, with focus on:

- Improving opportunities for wildlife and reducing pollution
- Improving green infrastructure links
- Ensuring that open spaces are accessible and continue to support tourism and businesses as well as meeting the needs of local residents
- Improving natural surveillance of areas and general safety
- Improving educational aspects and outdoor learning
- Improving opportunities for young people
- Providing multifunctional open spaces with a range of recreation types available
- Promoting active travel between open spaces and along green chains, networks and corridors
- Promote sustainable use of water and water management
- Encouraging local involvement and promoting a sense of ownership.

The policy also has particular focus on the Green Dale site and the surrounding area:

"Camberwell has a number of spaces that are not fulfilling their current potential, many of which are located in the south of the sub-area closer to Dulwich. Figure 7.6 (shown opposite) shows all spaces which are below the borough average for quality and value. Quality improvements are particularly required to:

- Nairn Grove Nature Garden (OS134)
- Greendale Playing Field (OS128)
- Benhill Road Nature Garden (OS97)
- Greendale Artificial Pitch (OS129)."

The Open Space Strategy also highlights issues affecting the local area of Camberwell and its demand for more public open space:
Planning and Policy Context

"The Camberwell sub-area has a total of 0.27ha of park provision per 1,000 population, which is below the standard of 0.72ha per 1,000 population. This is expected to fall to 0.23ha per 1,000 population in 2026 as a result of population growth. The area is also deficient in the amount of natural greenspace available, with 0.47ha per 1,000 population (which will fall to 0.42ha per 1,000 population in 2026) compared to a standard of 1.5ha per 1,000 population. Camberwell has a relatively high population density and high child densities."

Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan 2013 – 2019

Southwark’s Biodiversity Action Plan has general guidance on improving environmental awareness, management and biodiversity value through both open green spaces and the built environment.

The aims of the policy are listed below:
- Improved open space and safer parks
- Increased educational opportunities through events and training
- Increased health through promotion of walks and volunteering activities
- Greening the borough through habitat management and creation
- Increased cultural and leisure opportunities
- Improved environmental management
- Increased awareness of wildlife and conservation
- Increased populations of endangered species
- Increased sustainability of the built environment through green roofs and SUDs schemes.

The policy includes guidance on both the flora and fauna of the area as well as key habitats of ecological importance to Southwark. (See section 2 - Ecology.)
Local Ecological Context

The ecology of Green Dale Open Space needs to be considered in the wider local context in order to have a clearer idea of its significance, and to help inform specific ecological enhancement proposals. The main features of the Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Southwark that are in closest proximity to Greendale Open Space are summarised below.

- **Green Dale Open Space Site Boundary**
- **London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening (OS 121)**
- **Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to North Dulwich Railsides (OS 110)**
- **Sunray Gardens (OS 138)**
- **James Allen’s School Botany Garden (OS 140)**
- **Alleyn School Playing Fields (OS 140)**
- **Lettsom Gardens (OS 114)**
- **Dog Kennel Hill (OS 119)**
- **Nairne Grove Nature Garden (OS 134)**
1. London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening
   Borough Grade I SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)
   - Size: 0.3 ha
   - Key Habitats/Species: Ponds, wildflower plots, meadow, common frog, smooth newt, stag beetle
   - Managed by: London Wildlife Trust
   - Notes: It was originally an old council depot, but since the late 1980s it has been home to a wildflower nursery, demonstration gardens and an award-winning visitors’ centre demonstrating innovative environmental building techniques, which provides a base for school parties.

2. Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to North Dulwich Railsides
   Borough Grade II SINC
   - Size: 12 ha
   - Key Habitats/Species: Secondary woodland, roughland, hawthorn, ivy, bramble
   - Managed by: Network Rail

3. Sunray Gardens
   Borough Grade II SINC
   - Size: 1.6 ha
   - Key Habitat/Species: Standing water, parkland, reedbed, marginal vegetation, waterfowl, coarse fish
   - Managed by: Southwark Parks
   - Notes: Funding required for plans to build a boardwalk to increase access to the lake. Has active friends group "Sunray Gardens Friends Group".
   - Management Plan: Yes

   Borough Grade II SINC
   - Size: 0.7 ha
   - Key Habitat/Species: Secondary woodland, oak, greater spotted woodpecker
   - Managed by: James Allen’s School

5. Alleyn School Playing Fields
   Borough Grade II SINC
   - Size: 4.95 ha
   - Key Habitat/Species: Trees, grassland
   - Managed by: Alleyn’s School

6. Lettsom Gardens
   Borough Grade II SINC
   - Size: 0.5 ha
   - Key Habitat/Species: Secondary woodland, grassland, mulberry, wild angelica
   - Managed by: Lettsom Gardens Association

7. Dog Kennel Hill Woods
   Local SINC
   - Size: 0.9 ha
   - Key Habitat/Species: Woodland, parkland
   - Managed by: Southwark Parks
   - Notes: This site is adjacent to Green Dale Open Space and is the closest open space managed for wildlife to the site. It has an active friends group "Friends of Dog Kennel Hill Wood" that organises events, monitors the site and collates information and progress of the park via its website: http://www.friendsofdkhwood.org/. The site has several bird boxes and bird watching areas with information boards, biodiversity enhancements, a community orchard, living willow domes and dens and adventure playground.
   - Management Plan: The Friends of Dog Kennel Hill Wood website has the Dog Kennel Hill Management Plan for the years 2007 to 2012. This divides the site up into 3 character areas or main habitats, listing their key species and characteristics. Key aims of the management plan are "To conserve the existing biodiversity of the reserve, and enhance it where appropriate" and "To maintain the reserve for the quiet enjoyment and understanding by people". More specific instructions are stated, such as, removal of limbs on trees that are considered unsafe and for all arisings should be retained on site as dead wood habitat. Other instructions include coppicing, mowing less around the margins of the amenity grassland areas, maintaining paths, removing hedges and replacing with hedgerows, controlling the Japanese Knotweed etc.

   It is interesting that the sites connections with Green Dale Open Space is referred to: "The unofficial access path to Greendale Playing Fields should be either made safe by repairing the fence or blocked as a matter of priority. The damaged area of fencing on the boundary with Sainsburys will presumably be repaired once the work has been completed on the buildings.

   "Ideally the chainlink fence on the western boundary should be removed as it is unattractive. This would then allow official access to the woodland from the west rather than the unofficial hole in the fence which is there at present."

8. Nairne Grove Nature Garden - Local SINC
   - Size: 0.2 ha
   - Key Habitat/Species: Grassland, pond, scrub, common frog
   - Managed by: Bessemer Grange School
Green Dale Open Space Improvement Project
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7. Dog Kennel Hill - Community orchard planted by Friends of Dog Kennel Hill

7. Dog Kennel Hill - Bird watching area

7. Dog Kennel Hill - Path running north - south towards Champion Hill
Community interest and events

The Friends of Dog Kennel Hill group hold annual walks around Green Dale Open Space with local residents and London Wildlife Trust highlighting interest in the wildlife and management of the site.
Historic development

This 18th Century map (John Roque 1766) shows the rural context of the site at this time. The area was primarily used for agriculture and was a key area for droving livestock to markets in London. Council records indicate that Green Dale Open Space itself may never have been built upon. Few dwellings existed in the area at this time, with the houses that did exist belonging to the wealthy.

This map highlights the rapid development of the area in the 19th century, with the arrival of the railway bringing more dwellings to the area, although these were still generally very large with very generous landscaped gardens, as seen to the north of the site.

It is interesting to see that an orchard (in yellow) once occupied the northern part of the site where the defunct tennis courts are currently located. A croquet lawn is also present (in green).

Several ponds (highlighted in blue) are mapped, but no streams are shown, however it poses questions to whether a natural water source can be found passing underneath the Greendale Open Space. It is known that several tributaries of the River Effra rise in the area, since culverted, but precise locations are difficult to find.

"Green Lane" is highlighted in yellow, showing that what we now know as Green Dale (cycle and pedestrian route) has existed as a public route for at least 140 years.

Twenty years later, Camberwell Workhouse has been built alongside the railway, and a number of terraced houses have been built, as well as Champion Hill Cricket and Lawn Tennis Ground, to the east and a running track to the south.

One of the large residential dwellings to the north of the site has become Pelican House College for girls (purple) and the eastern half of the site has become a part of Champion Hill Cricket and Lawn Tennis Ground. The running track to the south was probably part of the Alleyn’s independent school sports facilities.
Historic development

By the 1910’s, Dulwich Hamlet Athletic Ground has been developed in the current location of the Astroturf. Tennis courts were also built on the site of the croquet court to the north of the Green Dale site.

It is interesting to see the site labelled Dulwich Grove and Wren Recreational Ground. Champion Hill Cricket and Lawn Tennis Ground still dominates the current location of Dulwich Hamlet Football Stadium and Dulwich Hamlet Athletic Ground also seem to have acquired a site to the east, adjacent to Dog Kennel Hill.

Between the 1910’s and 1950’s a large amount of housing development occurred in the area.

A housing boom meant that the majority of the open space to the west of the site was developed into semi detached and terrace housing. To the north of the site, the large, historic dwellings were replaced by large blocks of flats set within a generous amount of open space. Camberwell Workhouse became St Francis Hospital, and Dulwich Hamlet Football Ground was created, with a cricket pitch and tennis courts to the north of this. An additional tennis court is built within the northern half of the Green Dale site, with the remainder of the site labelled as playing fields, with numerous pavilions.

All ponds that previously were shown on the plans have disappeared, probably filled in and any existing water sources culverted.

This present day aerial photograph highlights the change in land use that can be seen from the 1950’s map (left). The overgrown tennis courts are the same location that can be seen from the 1910’s map. Generally, the overall layout of the site itself has changed very little over the last 100 years, with the biggest change being the all weather surface that has been laid to service Dulwich Hamlet FC.

The 1960’s saw an even greater increase in the density of the housing in the area with the addition of Cleve Hall Estate, Denmark Hall estate and Champion Hill Estate. Sainsbury’s supermarket has been built on the site of the old football ground that was situated to the north of Dulwich Hamlet Football Stadium.

The historic “Green Lane” access still exists as a shared pedestrian and cycle route (no.23) running north to south, west of the site boundary.
Local Open Space and Parks

Green Dale Open Space has a number of good quality parks with public playgrounds and sports facilities within a 40 minute walk, although within a more realistic maximum walking time of 20 minutes there are far fewer.

Sport and recreational facilities for all ages in the wider vicinity include football pitches, a Velodrome, BMX track, bowling greens, ball courts, playgrounds, woods, flower gardens, outdoor gyms and fitness trails, sand and water play, nature trails and pond-dipping.

There is only limited access to allotments within a reasonable walking distance, and those allotments further afield have waiting lists of several years.
Local Open Space and Play Provision

Green Dale Open Space is situated in a diverse, medium density area of Southwark. There are a high number of schools in the proximity, with more than 10,000 pupils attending 20 schools within a 2.5 mile radius. A high proportion of the surrounding residential buildings are housing estates without private gardens.

KEY

Existing Park Playgrounds within a 15min walk
- 1. Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground
- 2. St Francis Park Playground
- 3. Goose Green Playground
- 4. Sunray Gardens Playground
- 5. Ruskin Park Playground

Existing Nearby Schools and Nurseries
- A. Mother Goose Nursery
- B. Dulwich Nursery
- C. Dog Kennel Hill School
- D. Bessemer Grange Primary School
- E. The Charter Secondary School
- F. James Allens Girls School
- G. Alleyns School and Junior School

Existing Playgrounds and Educational Facilities
- Playgrounds - 6 within a 15min walk
- Nurseries - 4 within a 15min walk
- Primary Schools - 5 within a 15min walk
- Secondary Schools - 3 within a 15min walk
- After school club/children’s centre - 4 within a 15min walk

Existing Green Space
- Parks and open spaces - 5 within a 15min walk
- Semi-natural green spaces
- Allotments
- Private sports grounds and green space
Local Play Provision

1. Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground
   - Public
   - Established early 1970’s
   - Ages 8 - 16
   - Open 3pm - 7pm Monday - Friday, closed weekends
   - Football
   - Basketball
   - Table tennis
   - Challenging bespoke climbing structures
   - Climbing wall
   - Swings - single and group
   - Gardening and food growing
   - Music workshops
   - Arts and crafts
   - Fire pit
   - Sand play

2. St Francis Park Playground
   - Public
   - Fixed play equipment
   - Suitable for under 5’s
   - Formal fenced play area
   - Average condition
   - Tarmac and wetpour surfaces
   - Seating for parents

3. Goose Green Playground
   - Public
   - £300,000 refurbishment in 2011
   - Good condition
Local Play Provision in Playgrounds and Schools

4. Sunray Gardens Playground

- Public
- Open 7.30am until 4.30 - 9.30pm depending on time of year
- Adjacent sports courts
- Park setting

5. Ruskin Park Playground

- Public
- Open 7.30am until 4.30 - 9.30pm depending on time of year
- Park setting

G. Alleyn’s School and Junior School

- Independent
- Co-ed
- Ages 4-18
- 950 children
- Extensive outdoor sports facilities
- Swimming pool
Local Schools and Nurseries

A. Mother Goose Nursery
- Private
- Co-ed
- Ages 0-5
- 36 children
- Open 8am-6pm
- Wildlife garden
- Food growing opportunities

B. Dulwich Nursery
- Private
- Co-ed
- Ages 3mths - 5yrs
- 33 children
- Open 7am-7pm
- Refurbished, newly extended garden facilities

C. Dog Kennel Hill School
- Co-ed community school
- Ages 3-11
- 470 children
- Pond
- Orchard
- Vegetable garden
D. Bessemer Grange Primary School
• Co-ed community school
• Ages 3-11
• 408 children
• Family Centre

E. The Charter Secondary School
• Co-ed community school
• Ages 11-18
• 1080 children
• 121 after school clubs
• Outdoor gym
• Astroturf
• Sports hall

F. James Allen Girls School
• Independent
• Girls
• Ages 4-18
• 780 children
• 2 Swimming pools
Example of a thriving local community group - website home page of Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground

Example of a thriving local community group - website home page of the Friends of Dog Kennel Hill Woods
Stakeholders and Community involvement

Southwark Council has already identified strong local interest in Green Dale Open Space, with good potential for the creation of a Friends Group. As Southwark recognises, it will be essential to engage with existing local groups at the next stage of GOSIP to gauge the issues and concerns and understand aspirations for the site. The council holds an extensive list of stakeholders including Ward Councillors, local residents, current users, local organisations and community groups. Interest has also been expressed to the Ward Councillors in food growing, and in general for the site to remain as Metropolitan Open Land. There is currently active political interest in this project.

Consultation will also need to take place with a number of internal Council departments, including the Community Safety Team, the Borough Ecology Officer, the Parks department.

We would also suggest approaching Sainsbury’s to discuss their interest in the project in case there is the possibility of any funding as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

As part of our research for this report we have identified the following relevant groups and organisations:

- The Friends of Dog Kennel Hill Wood
- Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground group
- Keeping Greendale Green blog with members
- Dulwich Hamlet Football Club, current leaseholders
- Friends of Ruskin Park
- Dulwich and Herne Hill Safe Routes to School
- Dulwich Young Cyclists
- London Wildlife Trust, (nearby Centre for Wildlife Gardening on Marsden road) who have organised nature walks on site in conjunction with the Friends of Dog Kennel Hill Wood
- Dulwich Estate (Management Scheme)
- SUSTRANS

Adjacent Southwark Housing estates (which may also have Tenants Associations)

- Denmark Hill Estate
- Sunray East Estate
- Champion Hill Estate
- Cleve Hall Estate
- East Dulwich Estate
- East Dulwich Grove Estate

Local schools, many of which have active Friends groups (in order of proximity)

- Mother Goose Nursery (Private, co-ed, ages 0-5, 36 children, open 8am-6pm)
- Dulwich Nursery (Private, co-ed, ages 3mths-5yrs, 33 children, open 7am-7pm)
- Bessemer Grange Primary School (Southwark, co-ed community school, ages 3-11, 408 children, plus Family Centre)
- The Charter Secondary School (Southwark, co-ed community school, ages 11-18, 1080 children)
- James Allens Girls School (Independent, girls, ages 4-18, 780 children)
- Alleys School (Independent, co-ed, ages 4-18, 950 children)
- Dog Kennel Hill School (Southwark, co-ed community school, ages 3-11, 470 children)

A full list of stakeholders would be drawn up as part of the consultation and engagement strategy in the next phase of the project, with a programme of events to target all areas of the local community.
Photographs of existing resources close to Green Dale Open Space

Activity centre and ball court at nearby Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground

Living willow dens in Dog Kennel Hill Woods wild open area adjacent to our site

Footpath leading north to Cleve Hall and Champion Hill Estates from the NE corner of the site

Disused gate from Mother Goose Nursery directly onto the site, defunct council sign 'Greendale Field' behind fence
Methodology

The surveys commissioned by Southwark Council for this report are intended to provide a solid baseline understanding of the site to inform any proposals for improvements to Green Dale Open Space.

LUC was appointed to commission and manage a range of relevant surveys during winter/spring 2014. Survey methodologies followed best practice guidelines, and qualified surveyors were used. The following surveys were conducted:

1. **Topographical survey**

   The surveyor was given an OS map with a redline boundary and commissioned to survey and provide datum points (Newlyn datum) to identify items as follows.

   **A Hard landscape:**
   - (i) Surfaces; edge of roads/paths with levels at 5m intervals generally and at all changes in direction, decreasing to 3-5m intervals as appropriate at path junctions, identify also all margins and datum of all changes in materials. For all roads/paths provide centreline spot points at similar intervals. All steps and changes of level.
   - (ii) Boundary definition; fence lines, hedges and walls with levels at 5m intervals and at all changes in level, direction, indicate gates, fence/wall material type and (general) height.
   - (iii) Buildings: corner points, existing thresholds and entrance positions.
   - (iv) Built features showing disposition shape and level.
   - (v) Services: grates, gullies and inspection covers (all corners) stop taps, marker posts. Must include above ground and invert levels.
   - (vi) All Site Furniture: Post boxes, telephone kiosks, bins, seats, signs, and planters etc.

   **B Soft landscape**
   - (i) Tree positions (centre point), canopy widths, diameter of trunk at breast height (1.5m) and basic tree names. Each tree must be numbered with the tree number. No trees are to be marked on site with spray paint.
   - (ii) All shrubs to be accurately plotted.
   - (iii) Margins of all soft landscape shrub vegetation.
   - (iv) Hedge lines front and back with heights at 5m intervals, and at changes in gates/direction.
   - (v) General grid coverage at 10m intervals all other soft areas.
   - (vi) Landform tops and bottoms of bunds/embankments and earth-work features.

   **C Services**
   - (i) General Services Survey; lift all covers, identify services and (where possible) trace from manhole to manhole, show invert and cover levels.

2. **Arboricultural Survey**

   Using the topographic survey as a base, the arboriculturalist was commissioned to survey all trees and shrubs, with a stem diameter over 75mm at 1.5m height located within the red line boundary.

   Tree inspection was from ground level with the use of binoculars, sounding hammer and metal probe using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer 1994). The presence and condition of bark and stem wounds, cavities, decay, fungal fructification bodies and any structural defects that could increase the risk of structural failure was noted.

   The following information was recorded for each tree and shown in a schedule
   - Number
   - Species
   - Tree height
   - Stem diameter
   - Branch spread:
     - Crown clearance
   - Age class
   - Physiological Condition
   - Condition
   - Management Recommendations
   - Estimated Remaining Contribution
   - Category grading: tree classification as BS5837:2012
   - Category U in dark red
   - Category A in green
   - Category B in blue
   - Category C in grey
   - Protection Distance
   - Root Protection Area (RPA) for Category A and B trees

   We did not commission a Tree Constraints Plan or Arboricultural Impacts Assessment at this time, as a proposed scheme does not yet exist. Sufficient information was recorded at site inspection to enable this work to be done once the outline scheme is being prepared for planning permission.

3. **Ecological Surveys and Report**

   Using the previous surveys as a base, the ecologists undertook a Phase 1 Extended Habitat Survey, and hedgehog and reptile surveys in order to determine which habitat areas provide value and which species use the site. A desk study was not part of this report as Southwark Council have the information in-house.

   GIS mapping of habitats and any hedgehog or reptile was included. Reptile surveys require matts to be placed within areas of suitable habitat, then left for two weeks, before being checked on seven occasions within suitable weather conditions, in accordance with best practice guidance (Froglife, 1999).

   The reporting included assessment of the nature conservation features on the site; identification of constraints and opportunities associated with the site/any proposals made available; and any requirements for mitigation and identification of opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. The reporting was undertaken with due consideration to the CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, and the British Standard BS42020:2013 Biodiversity Code of practice for planning and development.

   **Further Surveys**

   A more detailed utilities survey may be required, depending on the proposed scheme developed.

   A bat survey will be required if any major tree works are planned, closer to the time.

   This section gives a brief summary of the main findings of these surveys. The full text and plans are included in the appendices.
Summary of Topographical Survey

CD Surveys conducted a topographical survey of the site and entrance areas in March 2014. Levels and banks are clearly shown, with the site being naturally gently sloping from north-west to south-east, with artificially flattened areas created for the defunct tennis courts and the functioning artificial football pitches. The land banks quite sharply up to the north-west boundary line.

Services shown are 2no sweet water catchpits at the lower, south-eastern end of the site, and a foulwater mains line running inside the site a couple of metres within the eastern boundary. 6no functioning floodlights surround the artificial pitch and must be supplied underground.

Heights and types of boundaries are described, with a variety of styles present around the site:

Wire mesh and chainlink fencing 3.5m high extends along the top of the banks on the northern boundary. Within the chainlink fence there is a locked gate from the nursery garden onto the site. In the north-eastern corner of the site, a fence panel has been shifted to create a narrow unofficial entrance into the site. Secure 2.4m high iron security railings bound the back and side of the Sainsbury’s superstore. Within the site an additional 2.4m high wire-mesh fence extends down the eastern boundary to the metal gates in the south-eastern corner (with a short break one third along where a brick wall forms the site boundary). The southernmost stretch of the boundary along the pedestrian path is fenced with wire-mesh fence 1.8m high and lower in places. The boundary between the site and the private sports field is securely fenced with 2.4m high iron security railings. 2m high wire-mesh panels complete the fencing along Greendale shared path, where two unofficial entrances have been made by breaking the fence panels.

The condition of the various fences is variable, with the eastern and western stretches being the least secure and most damaged.
Summary of Arboricultural Survey

SJ Stephens Associates conducted a tree survey of all trees and shrubs on site with a stem diameter of over 75mm at 1.5m height, in April 2014. The full report, schedule and plan are included in the appendices. In summary, the results are as follows:

95 no. trees and 9 no. groups of trees were surveyed. The trees are generally found around the perimeter of the site. Within and around the perimeters of the disused tennis courts the trees have formed as multi stem trees that are likely to have a more limited life expectancy than open grown, single stem trees. In more open areas of the site young trees have grown through natural regeneration and consist mainly of sycamore and Norway maple with oak, ash and thorn.

Of all the trees on site, 2 no. an oak and an ash, are considered to be of A-B2 category (moderate-high quality) 32 no. are B-C2 category (low-moderate quality), 54 no. are C2 category (low quality) and 16 no. have been categorised as U (unsuitable for retention). These results are particularly important in the longer term as more than half of the trees surveyed on site have a life expectancy of under 15 years. For this reason it is particularly important that the best new trees (too small to be individually surveyed) are protected and allowed to become A category trees for future decades.

The arboriculturalist makes the following specific recommendations:

1. Along the southeastern boundary and the southern corner of the eastern boundary are a number of Lombardy poplar trees. The majority of these trees are over 20m in height and form a distinctive feature in the landscape. However they have all reached maturity and are now all in varying stages of decline. Lombardy poplar are a fast growing, short lived species that are prone to breakage due to the low density of their wood. It is inevitable that the further breakages will occur. Although the trees could be reduced in height by 30% this would only be a short term measure and therefore consideration should be given to their future removal to avoid the risk of hazard. It is likely that the removal of such a prominent landscape feature will cause some upset and therefore it is recommended that the reason for this course of action is locally publicised.

2. It is recommended that suitable trees, of good form and structure, are selected to grow on as dominant trees within the landscape. Poorer trees should be thinned to favour the better specimens. There are a number of trees in the western area of the site (grouped as G9 in the Tree Survey and shown on the plan included as Appendix A), including many young oak, that show good potential for future development.

Recommended tree works are as follows:

11 no. trees are recommended for felling. Of these 8 no. are dying back and 3 no. are recommended for felling for safety concerns.

14 no. trees are recommended for some tree work, including crown reduction of 30% and removal of deadwood, basal growth and ivy. Full details are in the appended Tree Schedule. Reference should be made to the Southwark Tree Management Strategy prior to any works.
Existing Trees

The security fence is a harsh feature with only a few existing trees to soften its impact.

Dense scrub and trees effectively screen most of the Sainsbury’s superstore and fences from the open space.

Naturally regenerating woodland is appearing along the western side of the site, with many young oak and ash saplings in good condition.

Lombardy poplar’s form a distinctive line along the southern perimeter.

A mix of hornbeam and poplar along the boundary with the football stadium (to the east).

Multi-stemmed maples growing within the wiremesh fence to the tennis courts.
Summary of Ecological Surveys

The Ecological Appraisal comprised of an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, which includes a classification of the site’s constituent habitats, and a consideration of the site’s suitability for notable faunal and floral species. In addition, reptile and hedgehog surveys were undertaken at the site. A summary of the results follow, with the full report forming an appendix:

Interpretation of Baseline Habitats

The habitats on site, although common and widespread in their own right, form a mosaic which offers optimal foraging and sheltering opportunities for a number of species including hedgehog, common frog, birds and possibly bats. This site is likely to provide an important refuge for these species especially in this urban setting. Although there are relatively frequent areas of open space elsewhere in the vicinity, the unmanaged and semi-natural nature of the habitats provided here is relatively uncommon, with open spaces mostly subject to regular management for amenity and recreation use.

Reptile Survey

The rough grassland and scrub habitats recorded within the site were identified as being suitable to support common and widespread reptile species (particularly slow worm and common lizard). The mosaic of grassland and scrub provides a high degree of structural variety, creating numerous opportunities for reptiles to bask and shelter. These habitat types are also likely to support an abundant of potential food sources for reptiles including invertebrates. The site is also bounded by residential dwellings to the west and north which could also provide suitable habitat especially for slow worm, a species often found in more urban sites. However, the site is also subject to frequent public access including high numbers of dog walkers which would be likely to reduce its long-term suitability to support reptile populations.

On the basis of the habitat assessment findings 105 refugia were placed in suitable locations across the site. No reptiles were recorded on the site. These enhancements could provide a great opportunity for engagement with schools in the local community to promote biodiversity and create awareness of local wildlife.

Hedgehog survey

The same terrestrial habitats described above (grassland and scrub) provide similar foraging and sheltering opportunities for hedgehog. These habitat types are also likely to support an abundance of key food sources for hedgehog including invertebrates such as beetles, worms, slugs, millipedes and caterpillars. Hedgehogs have a large home range and may roam over 2 – 4km per night. Hedgehog was confirmed as present on the site. Hedgehogs are a priority 7 species which are also listed on the London and Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The presence of unmanaged dense scrub and rough grassland habitats provides high quality shelter and foraging habitat for hedgehog in combination with opportunities provided by private gardens in the vicinity. The dense scrub habitats are likely to be particularly important for hedgehog, providing refuge from site users and dogs as well as other potential predators such as fox.

Additional species

The site is likely to support a diverse assemblage of breeding and foraging birds, bats and invertebrates, in particular given the relatively unmanaged condition of the habitats and shelter provided by dense scrub around the site boundary.

Recommendaions

Where possible areas of dense bramble boundary scrub and scattered trees should be retained. Incorporating these habitats in to any proposals would maintain a well-established wildlife habitat within the open space. Other habitats/features of note that should be retained where possible include:

1. Areas of ash regeneration and fruit trees along the western boundary. These trees are well-established and could be left to naturally develop into a small area of woodland which will add to the overall diversity of the Site;
2. The rough grassland in the north east of the site. This offers optimum foraging and sheltering opportunities for amphibians and is also likely to support a range of invertebrate species. Long term management of this area should aim to retain the rough, tussocky grassland character through infrequent cutting (every three years);
3. Mature trees should be retained wherever possible especially along the site boundary as these are likely to provide an important wildlife corridor for species such as bats. These are also likely to support nesting birds, and invertebrates associated with mature trees and dead wood.

Site management for Hedgehog

- Maintain and create nesting and hibernation areas
- Encourage amphibians by creating a pond on site.
- Avoid using pesticides

Enhancement Opportunities

Opportunities to help maintain existing species populations and to encourage new species to the Site include:

- Creation of a wildflower grassland
- Retention of felled trees and deadwood as log piles or loggeries (stag beetle Lucanus cervus, a priority species 8 which is listed on the London and Southwark BAP)
- Pond creation

These enhancements could provide a great opportunity for engagement with schools in the local community to promote biodiversity and create awareness of local wildlife.

Additional Control: Invasive Species

Areas of Japanese knotweed will need to be treated to eradicate it from the site. This should be informed by a re-inspection of the Site for this species later in the growing season to ensure all areas are identified for treatment.

Additional Surveys: Bats

Any works affecting a bat roost is licensable. Works proposed for the site that could have the potential to disturb a bat roost include the removal of any trees and crown lifting/tree works. Before this work can take place additional bat surveys would be required as follows:

1. Detailed inspection of mature trees subject to works. If features with potential are identified further survey work would be required (see below)
2. Emergence/re-entry surveys of features within a tree or building with bat roost potential (identified during the above surveys) that may be affected by works. These surveys can be undertaken between May and September inclusive.

Part 2    Survey Results
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Habitat type

- Red line boundary
- Target note (See Appendix)

- Amenity grassland
- Amenity grassland with broad-leaved scattered trees
- Bare ground
- Broad-leaved scattered trees
- Dense scrub
- Dense scrub with broad-leaved scattered trees
- Poor semi-improved grassland
- Poor semi-improved grassland with broad-leaved scattered trees
- Poor semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub
- Scattered scrub with broad-leaved scattered trees
- Hardstanding

Habitat type: Poor semi-improved grassland

- Scattered scrub with broad-leaved scattered trees
- Hardstanding

- Redundant tennis court
- Astro turf pitch

Map Scale @ A3: 1:1000

LUC LDN 6023-01_000_Phase1 13/05/2014

LUC LDN 6023-01_000_Phase1 13/05/2014

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Habitat type: Poor semi-improved grassland

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- Scattered scrub with broad-leaved scattered trees
- Hardstanding

- Redundant tennis court
- Astro turf pitch
Results relevant to Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan

The Southwark BAP seeks to make the following improvements:

- Improved open space and safer parks
- Increased educational opportunities through events and training
- Increased health through promotion of walks and volunteering activities
- Greening the borough through habitat management and creation
- Increased cultural and leisure opportunities
- Improved environmental management
- Increased awareness of wildlife and conservation
- Increased populations of endangered species
- Increased sustainability of the built environment through green roofs and SUDs schemes

The following habitats already found at Greendale Open Space are key habitats of ecological importance for Southwark:

- Woodland (Ancient and Secondary)
- Meadows
- Parks and Urban Greenspace, including Churchyards and Cemeteries.
- Reeds
- Standing Water, including Ponds, Lakes, & Docks.
- Brownfield
- Wildlife corridors
- Scrubland
- Deadwood

National or regional BAP species recorded in Southwark

A number of species present in Southwark are important national indicator species. These include bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. These are listed below:

- Stag beetle
- Common lizard
- Slow-worm
- Hedgehog
- Common frog
- Common toad
- Smooth newt
- Red eyed damselfly
- European eel
- Black poplar
- Mistletoe
- Cornflower
- White letter Hairstreak
- Bats

The London Wildlife Trust and the Friends of Dog Kennel Hill have sighted the following species within the Site and the adjoining Dog Kennel Hill Woods and Wild Space this month (May 2014):

Adjacent to the site in the woods, park and wild area:

- Song Thrush (Red listed, UKBAP)
- Dunnock (Amber listed, UKBAP)
- Black cap
- Speckled wood butterfly
- Great tit (flying out of one of the wooden bird boxes)
- wren
- blackbird
- Wood aven
- Wild garlic
- Dog violet

Within the site:

- Yellow meadow ants
- Song Thrush (Red listed, UKBAP)
- House sparrow (Red listed, UKBAP)
- Whitethroat (African migratory warbler rarely seen in central London)
- Swifts
- Green veined butterfly
- Cranesbill
- Vetch

The LWT has commented on the high number of ground nesting sites found in the tiny wild area adjacent to the Dog Kennel Hill Woods, and on the haven for wildlife provided by the current unmanaged edges of the Greendale site.
Conclusions and Recommendations

It is recommended that the Japanese Knotweed eradication programme be started this year by London Borough of Southwark.

It is recommended that the bat survey be conducted once the decision has been made to fell any trees (for example the Lombardy Poplars) and ideally once an outline scheme for the site has been agreed.

Further investigation for water sources and underground streams would be worthwhile as bringing open water onto the site may well form part of the proposals.

The value of Green Dale Open Space for wildlife is clear from the survey results. There is great potential for ecological enhancements. The biggest risk to the wildlife is insensitive development which would harm the existing habitats. Balancing the needs of recreation and increased public use with the need to protect and enhance biodiversity is the biggest challenge in the development of design proposals.

The consultation process in the next phase of the project will add further depth to the understanding of the site, its issues and context, and the addition of Southwark’s local ecological information to give more context will also be helpful.
Site analysis

This part of the report contains our landscape appraisal of Greendale Open Space, including a photographic survey and site analysis. A detailed existing site plan explains Green Dale Open Space as it is currently.

The aspiration is to make Green Dale Open Space into an asset for the community, by providing welcoming safe entrances, access and circulation, providing reasons for people to stay by providing furniture and activities whilst retaining the open character and semi-natural habitat aspects of the site. It is important not to duplicate existing local facilities and instead to capitalise on the unique qualities of Greendale Open Space and what they can offer.

Green Dale Open Space owes much of its special character to its secluded location, hidden away from roads and urban streetscapes. This reduces both visual and aural clutter. Added to this the site is unusual in being in the midst of a network of pedestrian and cycle paths connecting up many key locations in the local community. These paths are well-used, particularly by local families taking their children to and from school, but also by commuting cyclists, older school children, local residents going to and from East and North Dulwich stations and shoppers heading to and from the Sainsbury’s superstore. A diagram explaining this network is shown below.

An overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats follows.

Four entrances (3 of them forced or informal) exist into the site and it is already used to cut across the area. Potential exists to incorporate the site into the network of local paths, providing good numbers of people flowing through the site and providing even greater local connectivity. With careful consideration this space has the potential to become a true connector, a ‘node’, a meeting place and a special oasis of ‘the natural’ in the within the surrounding urban fabric. The existing entrances are further described in the photographic survey and analysis below.
Site analysis - Access and circulation

Main Pedestrian Routes
- SE entrance point: Dulwich Hamlet FC astroturf pitch
- SW entrance point: Forced gap in fence along Greendale cycleway
- NW entrance point: Forced gap in fence along Greendale cycleway
- NE entrance point: Dog Kennel Hill Wood

Main Cycle Routes

Bus stops
Analysis of existing site

**Strengths**
1. Special semi-natural green space
2. Secluded location away from roads and street clutter
3. Rich habitats for supporting wildlife
4. At the centre of well-used green walking and cycling network
5. Metropolitan open land
6. Established sense of ownership and pride from local residents

**Opportunities**
1. To support current policies for health and well being
2. To increase the connective network of routes bringing people in and through the site
3. Valuable educational resource for local schools and community
4. Further improve biodiversity and green infrastructure services
5. Create a special place for the community
6. Provide new recreational facilities

**Weaknesses**
1. Narrowness of entrance to Dog Kennel Hill Open Space in northern corner
2. Floodlights and artificial pitch ‘clash’ with semi-natural character and use
3. Litter and misuse of site
4. Isolation and lack of surveillance
5. Broken fences and unattractive boundary treatments and entrances
6. Some trees becoming unsafe

**Threats**
1. Invasive species not eradicated
2. Anti social behaviour/crime
3. Damage to existing habitats - not balancing ecological sensitivities with increased use
4. Conflict between users/uses
5. Maintenance constraints
6. Loss of political will/budget
Photographic Survey / Character areas

Existing gates form an austere entrance to the site next to the artificial pitches.

Disused tennis courts are semi-enclosed with trees and could form natural enclosures for recreation.

The artificial pitch has 3 football pitch markings and is bounded on 2 sides with rough grass banks. The flood lights are prominent visual features.

Dense vegetation and rough grass in the north-eastern area - a very good wildlife habitat.

Open character of the semi-natural rough grassland, looking north across the site.

A number of metal containers provide storage for the current leaseholders, Dulwich Hamlet Football Club.
1. Dulwich Hamlet FC astroturf access point

This entrance is accessible by vehicle, bicycle and by foot, along a minor road past areas of housing and alongside Dulwich Hamlet Football Club.

The access also lies against a well used shared pedestrian and cycle route that connects Green Dale cycleway with Dog Kennel Hill. This route is heavily used by school children and families, commuters, dog walkers and residents. There are 2 set of barriers along this route presumably to reduce cycling speeds to protect pedestrians.

The access point currently opens on to very large, open all weather sports pitch and associated storage units, belonging to the Football Club, to which this area of the site is leased.

The access remains open, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to use this as an informal shortcut through the site. A vehicular gate was also opened every Sunday to allow the all weather pitch to be used for a car boot sale (recently discontinued). This has caused wear along the grass edges to the pitch.

Existing fencing includes an imposing perimeter security fence that doubles up in various locations. Aesthetically, the approach is untidy and uninviting, with obstructed views, overgrown planting and unappealing furniture. Storage units obstruct a potential key route running south-easterly to north-westerly along the all weather pitch and could be better located along the south easterly edge of the pitch, with suitable screening if not replaced.
2. Southern gap in fence along Greendale cycleway

This informal access created by a gap in the perimeter fencing is located along the popular Green Dale cycle and pedestrian route running north-west to south-east along the western edge of the site.

This access point is situated in close proximity to Bessemer Grange Primary School and so is a popular route through the site for children and families.

The approach through young woodland and shrub creates an exciting sense of discovery as it opens out into the wider green space.

The woodland edge also offers great ecological value, as well as being a natural screen to the site. Glimpsed views of the Green Dale open space help to create a sense of anticipation.
3. Northern gap in fence along Green Dale cycleway

Another gap in the fence between two mature trees along the western boundary of the site creates a route through along the northern section of the site to Dog Kennel Hill wood or diagonally across to the Dulwich Hamlet FC entrance.

Similarly, this access emerges through young woodland with dense shrub and ash and oak saplings that have matured towards the centre of the site. This entrance is popular with dog walkers and is located a reasonable distance away from Mother Goose Nursery, to the north, therefore not imposing on the privacy of this facility.

A similar sense of adventure is created through the entrance between these two trees, adding to the special qualities of the site.
4. Dog Kennel Hill Wood access point

This narrow, dark entrance is well hidden, and has an intimidating feel, with broken fence panels creating sharp metal edges. The potential access is currently a maximum of 2.5m wide, but is currently approximately 0.75m wide due to the position of the small retaining wall and the broken fence panels. Natural light is poor in this location, making this narrow entrance feel more intimidating and artificial lighting is minimal, only benefiting from light spilled from adjacent properties. The worn earth surface has been reinforced with hardcore or similar.

However this access is possibly the most valuable in its potential to bring visitors into the site and increase connections and routes through as it links to the supermarket, to all the housing of Dog Kennel Hill, the adventure playground and woods (both successful community projects) and Dog Kennel Hill school.

There is the potential for this entrance to be transformed by widening, vegetation removal, and creation of an attractive and welcoming gate with signage to give identity and legitimacy to the entrance. The angled brick retaining wall could be moved against the supermarket security fence to widen the entrance. Early contact with Sainsbury’s is advised as it may be possible to cut off the corner of their security fence by reducing the supermarket fire escape route to the minimum required width, enabling the creation of a wider entrance to Greendale. The support and positive involvement of the supermarket, perhaps with a CSR project, could be beneficial to GOSIP and should be explored.
Proposals - Play
Strategic Level Proposals

Phase I of the GOSIP aims to understand the existing site and then to propose a strategic masterplan (opposite). Necessarily the strategic masterplan has been kept very general and loose as the consultation due to take place in Phase II must begin from an open position. A more detailed sketch proposal would run the risk of being taken as prescriptive, or of limiting discussion.

Proposals fall into the three categories below:

**Works to paths, entrances, boundaries, signage, interpretation and furniture**
- Proper, safe, high quality entrances to be created, giving a clear identity to the space (propose possible involvement of artist)
- New entrance, wayfinding and interpretative signage
- Damaged fences replaced
- Benches and bins provided
- Path network created, with primary paths being universally accessible

**Ecological enhancements**
- Pond Creation (possibly diverting and daylighting an underground stream if feasible) with aquatic and marginal planting
- Nature/woodland trail through the regenerating woodland, including bird and bat boxes (for educational and recreational use)
- Enrichment of grassland through creation of wildflower meadow areas
- Log piles created from felled trees (for stag beetles)

** Provision of recreational, educational and community facilities**
- Provision of play (particularly for 6-10 age group) appropriate to the site (e.g. not wet-pour or highly coloured)
- Possible trim/fitness trail
- Playable interventions along secondary and tertiary path network (propose possible involvement of artist)
- Cycle tracks/trails for children
- Provision a safe place to learn to ride a bike
**Conclusions and Next Steps**

The brief for the GOSIP is to enhance Green Dale Open Space through high quality design, improving public access into and around the open space, whilst taking into account existing wildlife habitats. The design needs to emerge out of an understanding of the needs and aspirations of local communities and provide a real community asset.

The design proposals must transform Green Dale Open Space into a delightful nature-rich amenity for the community, by providing welcoming safe entrances, level and intuitive access and circulation, play opportunities and seating whilst retaining the open character and semi-natural quality of the site. This must be achieved without breaching the ongoing maintenance capacity of LBS, and in accordance with the local development plan documents, the London Plan and the wider national planning policy framework.

This report collects together, summarises and analyses the baseline surveys commissioned as part of Phase I, and gives recommendations and strategic proposals.

The next step is to develop a consultation strategy informed by an analysis of Southwark’s needs locally and strategically. Consultation would begin with a wide net gathering of aspirations and concerns for Green Dale Open Space from a comprehensive set of local stakeholders. This information would be analysed and used to inform the development of a detailed masterplan to bring to subsequent consultation events.

This project provides a fantastic opportunity for Southwark to move forward in achieving many policy objectives across several sectors, such as promotion of green infrastructure, promotion of health living, increased safe routes, increased biodiversity, increased access to nature and wildlife, provision of high quality play and recreation and the increased involvement of community and community cohesion. There is also the potential to include partnering with local businesses such as Sainsbury’s and Dulwich Hamlet Football Club, to strengthen links with existing nearby Friends groups and to involve the many local schools supporting the national curriculum.