

# Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan Report 2006 - 2010



Belair Park Wildflower meadow 2010

# Executive summary

Southwark Council delivered the first local biodiversity action plan (BAP) for the borough between 2006 and 2010. This report describes the achievements delivered.

However the real impact of the Council's work is an increase in biodiversity and the positive impact this has had on the environment and the resultant benefits enjoyed by the community. Many of the actions may not have been possible without the help and cooperation of many organisations.

The environmental impacts have been: an increase of natural habitats and species, improved management of existing open space, safeguarding this resource for future generations, and restoration of many areas of importance to nature and the community. This has benefited the residents of Southwark as follows:

- 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

The delivery of the BAP would not have been possible without the commitment and support of the council, whose help and encouragement made this plan achievable. The support from the planning policy department allowed biodiversity to become a core consideration in the regeneration of Southwark. The environment department allocated resources for local environmental trusts and specific nature conservation projects. Councillor's support of the plan allowed Southwark to declare 3 new nature reserves.

Within the constraints of a developing urban environment and the limited allocation of resources, working to improve the environment of the Borough may have appeared superfluous to the core duties of the Council. However this report shows that ecological management benefits many aspects of society and that the Council strongly supported this work.

Looking to the future many challenges remain such as maintaining habitat management with reduced resources. The need to address habitat loss and population decline is as much of local concern as it is global. Broader challenges such as climate change adaptation and invasive species may pose threats to people's wellbeing. However these challenges can be addressed and positive actions achieved with determination of the enabling parties and a modest dedication of resources.

## 1. Preamble

In December 2004 The London Borough of Southwark formed the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership (SBP). The aim of this partnership is to conserve, enhance, and promote biodiversity across Southwark. The partnership set local targets and delivered actions based on national and regional priority habitat and species targets. The partnership also delivered actions that benefited wider biodiversity in the public realm and people's enjoyment of it in Southwark.

Southwark Council and the biodiversity partnership produced The Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan, (BAP) "Working for Wildlife", in 2006, this toolkit identified the priority biodiversity actions for Southwark. All the habitats and species selected with the exception of corky fruited water dropwort are designated national priority. This plan contained 113 actions to complement the London BAP "*Connecting with London's Nature*" and the national BAP "*Working with the Grain of Nature*". These were split into Habitat Action Plans (HAP), Species Action Plans (SAP), and generic actions that were broader policy driven actions. The actions and BAP progress has been entered onto the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System BARS.

The introduction of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC), in October 2006 introduced a statutory duty on all Local Authorities, and other public bodies to "*have regard for the conservation of biodiversity in exercising all their functions*". This Act along with Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended) and, Planning Policy statement 9 "*Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*" puts protection and enhancement of biodiversity as a core requirement of a local authorities duties.

Internal policies such as: The Sustainability Strategy, The Open Spaces Strategy, The Southwark Plan, The Core Strategy, Supplementary Planning Documents, and Area Action Plans have included policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, to support the work of the Biodiversity Partnership.

## 2. Acknowledgements

The achievements of the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the partners. All partners, many friends groups, and others too numerous to mention have made a valuable contribution to delivery of the Southwark BAP, and nature conservation in Southwark.

I would like to thank all the members of the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership including the Trust for Urban Ecology (TRUE), the Centre for Wildlife Gardening (CWG), London Wildlife Trust (LWT), Groundwork London, Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), Walworth Garden Farm (WGF), Council departments: Planning, Highways, Housing, and Parks & Open Spaces (especially the Community Outreach Team). I would like to thank Volunteer Centre Southwark, The Cabinet Office, and Time Bank for providing so many willing volunteers. I also would like to thank Dave Clark for the regular bird surveys and all the voluntary surveyors who have sent in records of species in Southwark.

Jon Best  
Ecology Officer

## Contents

Executive summary .....	2
1. Preamble .....	3
2. Acknowledgements.....	3
Contents .....	4
3. Acronyms.....	5
4. Introduction.....	5
5. Review of the Action Plan, 2006 – 2010.....	6
5.1 Review of BAP Habitats Actions Plans 2006 - 2010. ....	6
5.1.1 Parks HAP .....	6
5.1.2 Biodiversity achievements for Parks HAP 2006 - 2010.....	7
5.2 Woodland HAP .....	8
5.2.1 Biodiversity achievements for Woodland HAP 2006 – 2010.....	9
5.3 Private Gardens.....	9
Table 1, Parks & Open Spaces HAP.....	10
Table 2, Woodland HAP.....	12
Table 3, Private Gardens HAP .....	13
6. Review of BAP actions for species 2006 - 2010.....	15
6.1 Review of Species Action Plan for Bats.....	15
6.1.1 Biodiversity Achievements for the Bats Species Action Plan 2006 - 2010. ....	16
6.2 Review of Species Action Plan for Stag Beetles 2006 - 2010.....	17
6.2.1 Biodiversity achievements for species action plan stag beetles 2006 - 2010 .....	18
6.3 Review of species action plan for Corky fruited Water Dropwort 2006 - 2010 .....	19
Table 4 Bats SAP.....	21
Table 5 Stag beetle SAP .....	22
Table 6 Corky fruited water dropwort SAP .....	24
7. Review of Generic Actions 2006 – 2010. ....	25
7.1 Events.....	25
7.2 Training.....	26
7.3 Volunteers.....	26
7.4 Monitoring and recording .....	27
7.5 Biodiversity Achievements for Generic actions 2006 - 2010.....	27
Table 7 Review of Generic Action Plan 2006 – 2010.....	29
8. Beyond the BAP .....	36
8.1 Common Lizard .....	36
8.2 Reedbeds .....	36
8.3 The Bankside Nestworks Project 2010. ....	37
8.4 Local Nature Reserves .....	39
8.5 National Indicator 197, improved local Biodiversity.....	40

### **3. Acronyms**

Trust for Urban Ecology (TRUE), The Centre for Wildlife Gardening (CWG), London Wildlife Trust (LWT), Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), London Parks and Green Spaces Forum (LPGSF), Volunteer Centre Southwark (VCS), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Primary Care Trust (PCT), Walworth Garden Farm (WGF), Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), Green Space Information for Greater London (GIGL), Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill (NERC), hectare (ha).

### **4. Introduction**

Southwark has a rich ecological resource with over 130 parks and open spaces. Of those sites 59 are designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) including 5 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's). We also have a strong heritage in urban ecological conservation. In 1976 The William Curtis Ecological Park, Britain's first urban ecological park was created by the Thames. City Hall built now stands on the site. Stave Hill Ecological Park was created in Rotherhithe to replace the original site. The Trust for Urban Ecology was formed to manage this site and 2 other sites. The London Wildlife Trust manage Sydenham Hill Wood, our largest area of ancient woodland and the unique Centre for Wildlife Gardening in Peckham.

Southwark is home to important populations of nationally and internationally scarce species and habitats. Ancient woodland, reedbed, stag beetles, and bats all are found in Southwark. All these coexist within this inner city and densely populated environment.

The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership has been working to protect, enhance, and promote biodiversity since 2004. The partnership has successfully raised the profile of biodiversity in Southwark and has delivered many conservation projects, all the while engaging with the people of Southwark. There have been numerous contributions by volunteers, societies, and friends groups which highlights the regard with which the community hold biodiversity in Southwark.

Since the adoption of the Southwark biodiversity action plan in 2006 there has been many changes in policy and guidance.

Possibly the most important development is the emerging government White Paper on the natural environment. Preceded by the 2010 Lawton Review "Making Space for Nature" suggests we should place the value of the natural environment at the centre of our quality of life. Lawton and many others believe that biodiversity is not just about protecting wildlife.

Conserving and enhancing biodiversity is fundamental to our wellbeing. It contributes to our health, education and our economic prosperity. It provides us with a range of benefits such as food, water, materials, flood defences, and carbon sequestration. It allows us to adapt to the threat of climate change and other pressures on our land. Importantly it offers quality green spaces for people to enjoy in their free time.

Conversely the built environment is now seen as an opportunity to enhance nature rather than an obstacle to wildlife. Creation of biodiverse green roofs, living walls, and Sustainable Urban Drainage can be integrated into new developments to allow them to achieve the highest ratings under the BREEAM, or Code for Sustainable Homes schemes. This report offers an overview of the Biodiversity Action Plans delivery and covers the period from January 2006 to December 2010.

## 5. Review of the Action Plan, 2006 – 2010.

This section reviews all the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan Tables from 2006 to 2010. The tables include the Habitats, Species, and Generic Actions from the Southwark BAP. These are broken down into the respective types with supporting evidence in the form of achievements and case studies.

### 5.1 Review of BAP Habitats Actions Plans 2006 - 2010.

#### 5.1.1 Parks HAP

##### **Parks importance for nature,**

Parks play a vital role in allowing people to connect with nature. For many people these parks are the closest they get to the countryside and observing wildlife in its natural habitats. Over 36 of our parks are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Many others offer habitat for wildlife but are not specifically managed for ecology.



##### **Case study**

The RSPB London House Sparrow Research Project 2009 - 2011. Area created 1.8 ha of wildflower meadow. Cost £82,022.00

The UK House sparrow population has been in decline since the 1940's. The RSPB wanted to find out why this was and what could be done to arrest their decline.

The project started in 2009. This was following up from a feeding study carried out in 2004 which found that young chicks were starving in the nest.

This project is based on providing different grassland habitats to establish the role of parks grassland management in providing food for house sparrows.



This project has created new areas for wildlife in parks and also visually stunning meadows that have attracted many positive responses from the public. There have been over 35,000 insects collected for identification and 40 species of bird recorded.

The cost of this project has been secured from the RSPB through a grant from SITA, Natural England, and the Cleaner Greener Safer Fund.

Wildlife seed mix meadow Peckham Rye Park 2010.

## 5.1.2 Biodiversity achievements for Parks HAP 2006 - 2010.

- Funding, over £378,600.00 brought in to fund ecological projects in parks, including Internal Cleaner Greener Safer Fund.
- Lavender Pond designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2005.
- Ponds, 7 ponds restored, 5 new ponds created.
- Meadows, 2.2 hectares of meadow created which is over 10 % of London Target.
- Reedbeds, over 1.5 Hectare planted which is 15% of the London Target.
- Native hedgerows planted in Durand's wharf, Southwark Park, Patterson Park, Pelier Park, Tabard Gardens, Belair Park, Bermondsey Spa Gardens, Russia Dock Woodland, Cossall Park, Cox's Walk, and One tree Hill.
- 3 Kingfisher nesting banks installed.
- Dulwich Owl box project installed 5 tawny owl boxes and 5 little owl boxes in the Dulwich area.



Kingfisher nesting bank Dulwich Park 2009.

## 5.2 Woodland HAP

Woodlands are a key habitat for London. The Great North Wood once ran from Crystal Palace to One Tree Hill. Remnants of this survive today in Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Wood and Dulwich Upper Wood. These contain the only ancient woodland in Southwark. Ancient woodland is irreplaceable and possibly our most ecologically valuable habitat. Secondary woodland that has established on sites such as Nunhead Cemetery, One tree Hill, and Dog kennel Hill are also valuable and provide part of the mosaic of habitats important to preserving biodiversity. Other newer planted woodlands such as and Russia Dock Woodland are important for providing a variety of woodland age structures and new colonisation of flora and fauna. Many events and volunteering days have enhanced the woodlands and made them more accessible.



Russia Dock Woodland



Sydenham Hill Woodland



One Tree Hill Centenary celebrations 2005

## 5.2.1 Biodiversity achievements for Woodland HAP 2006 – 2010.

- Dulwich Upper Wood designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2005.
- One Tree Hill designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2007.
- Woodland management undertaken in Sydenham Hill Wood, Peckham Rye Park, Camberwell Old Cemetery, Nunhead Cemetery, One Tree Hill, Dog Kennel Hill, and Russia Dock Woodland.
- Invertebrate study carried out in Nunhead Cemetery in 2008.

## 5.3 Private Gardens

Private gardens provide a rich oasis for many species. Gardens often replicate woodland glades which is why they support many woodland birds. Private gardens often provide the green link between parks and other open spaces. There is over 600 ha of private gardens in Southwark which is more than the combined area of parks and open spaces.



Centre for Wildlife Gardening Marsden Rd, SE15.

**Table 1, Parks & Open Spaces HAP.**

Actions	Action status
Review conservation designations for parks wildlife areas.	Completed. 12% increase in natural habitats in parks. Including Meadows, Hedges, Ponds and Trees,
Identify and designate suitable sites as Local Nature Reserves (LNR's). Designate 2 Suitable sites by 2010.	Completed and exceeded. 3 sites designated LNR's, Lavender Pond, Dulwich Upper Wood, and One Tree Hill.
<b>Encourage community involvement in wildlife areas through interpretation and conservation projects. Undertake 2 project per year. = 8 projects</b>	Completed, Community involvement projects delivered in over 25 sites including: Aspinden Rd NG, Galleywall Rd NG, Goldsmiths Rd NG, McDermott Rd NG, Kirkwood NG, Dulwich Park, Southwark Park, One Tree Hill, Burgess Park, Sydenham Hill Wood, Peckham Rye Park, Patterson Park, Belair Park, Lavender Pond, Dulwich Upper Wood, Dawson's Hill, Durand's Wharf, Benhill Rd NG, Surrey Sq, Surrey Gardens, Salisbury Row. Nursery Row, Nunhead Cemetery, Camberwell Old Cemetery, and Dog Kennel Hill.
Identify and develop areas for meadow creation in parks and open spaces. Contribute to regional objectives for meadow creation.	Completed. 6 sites identified. Wildflower meadows have been created in Peckham Rye Park and Common and Southwark Park, Bermondsey Spa, Belair park, Nursery Row, and Burgess Park, Total area 21,288 m2. This is 10% of the regional target.
<b>Create 2.500 m2 of summer meadows across the four major parks at a cost of £25.000.</b>	Completed.
Assist community groups to manage nature areas in partnership with other stakeholders. Hold 2 friends of parks guidance sessions per year.	Completed.
Retain dead wood and leaf litter where applicable in parks.	Completed in partnership with the tree officer and Parks standards

Actions	Action status
	officers.
Target London priority species in wildlife habitat management actions. Link to SAPs.	Completed. Works in parks for stag beetles, bats, house sparrows, and grey heron undertaken in Dulwich Park, Southwark Park, Durand's Warf, Sydenham Hill Wood, and Peckham Rye Park. Russia Dock Woodland, Belair Park, and Burgess Park.
Identify and develop areas suitable for natural succession of scrubland or for native scrub planting in parks and open spaces. Establish 2 new areas each year.	Completed. Dog kennel Hill, Nursery Row, Russia Dock Woodland, Belair Park identified as areas suitable for scrubland. A project to establish scrubland is underway in Belair Park. The main issue is that this habitat is perceived as unsafe because of misuse and is difficult to manage.
Identify opportunities for enhancing biodiversity in parks water bodies. Restore or create 4 ponds by 2010.	Completed. Ponds have been restored in Galleywall Rd NG, Aspinden Rd NG, Russia Dock Woodland, Cobourg Rd NG, Kirkwood NG, Bellenden Tree Nursery, and Nunhead Cemetery. New ponds have been created in Goldsmiths RD NG, Southwark Park, Tate Modern Garden, Salisbury Row Park, and Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park. Reedbed and nesting islands have been created Sunray gardens, Dulwich Park, Southwark Park, Peckham Rye Park, Burgess Park, Surrey Water, Russia Dock Woodland, Canada Water, Albion Chanel, and Greenland Dock.

**Table 2, Woodland HAP**

Actions	Action status
<b>Undertake a baseline survey of secondary woodland and scrub pockets in Southwark. Produce database of woodland by 2008. Protect secondary woodland and scrub identified in survey.</b>	Completed. Peckham Rye Park, One Tree Hill, Dog kennel Hill, Russia Dock Woodland has had a partial survey undertaken as part of a Forestry Research project on brownfield nature sites. Further Surveying is required but there are resource issues.
Designate One Tree Hill as a LNR by 2007.	Completed. One Tree Hill Designated a LNR on 27/05/07.
Integrate Woodland HAP actions with the Tree Strategy by 2007.	<b>Not Completed. Tree Strategy not adopted.</b>
Retain deadwood where feasible in parks and open spaces, utilising various methods for reuse.	Completed in partnership with the tree officer and Parks Standards officers.
Develop buffer zones between public woodland and private landowners where appropriate.	Completed. Lapse Wood Estate has a buffer zone as will the Downtown Development but Dulwich Golf course could relax intensive management alongside the wood boundary.
Link Southwark actions to regional and national strategies for woodland. Focus Southwark actions on London woodland priority species.	Completed. Management actions in Southwark's woodlands have focused on bats and the stag beetle.
Identify appropriate management for woodlands, including natural regeneration. Produce management plans for council owned woodlands. Implement woodland management plans.	Completed as part of parks ecological review and management plans have been produced for Dog Kennel Hill, Stave Hill Ecological Park, Sydenham Hill Wood, and One Tree Hill.
Develop community involvement in woodland management. Undertake 2 woodland workdays per year.	Completed. One Tree Hill, RDW, Sydenham Hill Wood corporate work days.
<b>Create habitats for key woodland species (bats, stag beetle, and speckled wood butterfly).</b>	Completed. One Tree Hill, Durand's Wharf Southwark Park Nature Garden, and Russia Dock Woodland.

Actions	Action status
<b>Introduce interpretation signs for woodlands as part of the Council's signage strategy.</b>	Completed. Signs installed into One Tree Hill and Sydenham Hill wood.
<b>Develop a program of woodland education and interpretation events for schools and public. Hold 3 events per year.</b>	Completed. Bird walks, bat walks, moth event. Fungi walks and lichen walk in Sydenham Hill Woodland, Dulwich Upper Wood, and One Tree Hill.
<b>Promote stag beetle, bats, and priority species in woodland management.</b>	Completed. One Tree Hill, Durand's Southwark Park Nature Garden, Sydenham Hill Wood, Dulwich Upper Wood, and Russia Dock Woodland.

**Table 3, Private Gardens HAP**

Actions	Action status
<b>Produce a guidance sheet for conservation of garden wildlife threatened by developments. Link to campaign to retain front gardens.</b>	Completed. Circulated RHS and LWT Guidance to relevant groups. Guidance fed included in the Southwark Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Design and Construction.
Encourage organic gardening across the borough. Distribute leaflets to gardeners.	Completed. Achieved through LWT training and, Council Green waste policies and the no peat policy for Southwark's parks.
Inform gardeners of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.	Completed through Southwark Life article.
Develop links to national and regional wildlife garden campaigns.	Completed through CWG.
Provide native trees for Southwark's residents through CWG on yearly basis.	Completed. Over 500 native trees made given annually through the

Actions	Action status
	CWG free tree scheme.
Provide advice on enhancement of gardens for wildlife.	Completed. Through CWG and through Southwark in Bloom.
Promote ponds in gardens.	Completed through CWG and WGF Frog Day events.
Work with garden centres to encourage environmentally friendly gardening.	<b>Not completed too aspirational.</b>
Promote recycling, especially composting.	Completed through Southwark waste initiatives, the Southwark Green fair and CWG events. Core part of eco schools program.
Promote alternative wildlife habitats, hanging baskets and window boxes for those without gardens.	Completed through CWG events and Southwark in Bloom.
Promote benefits of wildlife gardening at events, friends group meetings, etc.	Completed through public events, Young Friends groups activities, LWT events, and Southwark in Bloom.
Promote sustainable garden development and design.	Completed. SPD on Sustainable design and construction produced.
Develop program of events to promote wildlife gardening. Hold 3 events per year.	Completed through CWG and Southwark in Bloom events.
<b>Undertake Southwark post card garden wildlife survey. Produce report by 2008.</b>	<b>Not completed, lack of resources.</b>
<b>Survey allotment holders on wildlife gardening. Produce report by 2007.</b>	<b>Not completed, lack of resources.</b>

## 6. Review of BAP actions for species 2006 - 2010

This section reviews the Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan actions for species.

### 6.1 Review of Species Action Plan for Bats

There are 7 species of bat recorded in Southwark. Bats are a national priority species and protected under the European Habitats Directive.

Bats are considered a good indicator of the health of the natural environment because they are sensitive to environmental change and for their reliance on flora and fauna.

#### **Sydenham Hill Railway Tunnel Bat Hibernaculum Project Case Study**

In 2006 London Wildlife Trust supported by Southwark Council successfully bid for £55,876.00 from SITA Trust to build a hibernaculum in the tunnel and to raise awareness of bats. A scoping survey by Frank Greenaway in 2005 established that the disused railway tunnel at Sydenham Hill was used by bats but they did not roost here in the winter. The project aimed to enhance the tunnel so bats could roost here in the winter. A new bat species record for Southwark resulted from the scoping survey. This was the brown long eared bat (pictured).



Brown Long Eared Bat

The project consisted of several elements. One was to monitor the environmental conditions within the tunnel, another was to run a series of walks and training sessions to educate people about bats, and where they can be found. The last and most challenging part was to construct a hibernaculum in the tunnel its self.



The completed Sydenham Hill tunnel Bat Hibernaculum 2010.

#### Project highlights.

- 9 public bat walks led by LWT attended by over 360 people
- 8 bat training events held for volunteers led by expert ecological consultants.
- Potential bat roosts surveyed and mapped in Cox's Walk
- Bat box monitoring in 2009
- Bat activity surveys of the wood began in 2007 and continued over the summer months every year

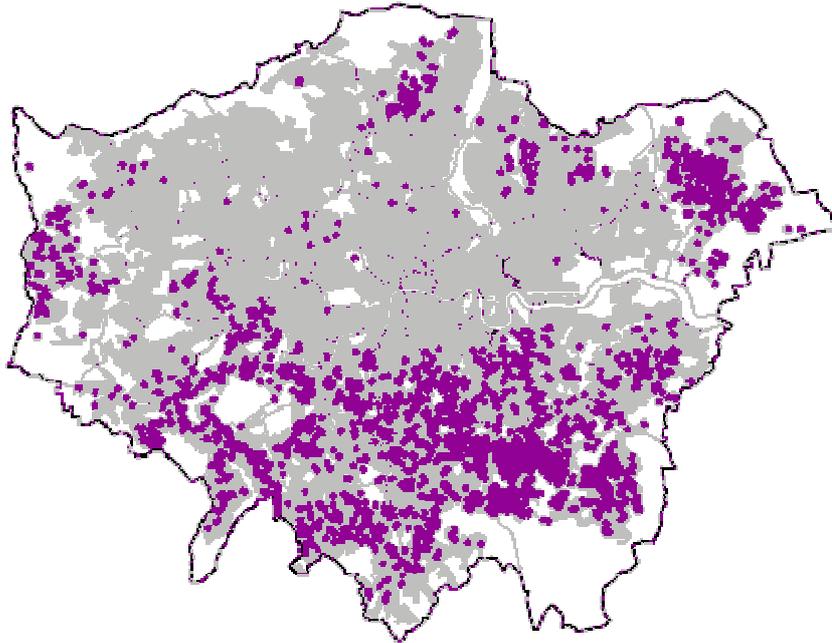
This project has helped meet local, regional, and national targets for bats and has successfully raised the profile of this important indicator species in Southwark.

### **6.1.1 Biodiversity Achievements for the Bats Species Action Plan 2006 - 2010.**

- **Over 50 Bat boxes installed in Southwark's parks and open spaces**
- **Over £60,000 of funding received for bat projects**
- **Over 25 Bat walks held with over 1000 people attending**
- **2 new species records since 2005, the brown long eared bat and the Leislars bat**

## 6.2 Review of Species Action Plan for Stag Beetles 2006 - 2010

The stag beetle is our largest terrestrial beetle, reaching between 5 and 8 cm in length. It is protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and is a priority species for the UKBAP and the London BAP. The south of England and notably South London is a stronghold for this beetle. The beetle is globally threatened and has been declining since the 1940's. A lot of the decline has been attributed to the tidying up of parks and gardens, particularly the removal of dead wood.



Stag beetle sightings in London 1997-1999. Source GIGL.



Male stag beetles, fighting, Source Google.



A new loggery in Nunhead Cemetery



Stag beetle breeding buckets

### TRUE Stag Beetle project Case Study



Large demonstration loggery in Durand's Wharf

In 2006 the Trust for Urban Ecology supported by Southwark Council successfully bid for £17,600 of funding from SITA trust.

The aim of the project was to raise awareness of the stag beetle by creating 2 new centres of information and by creating 7 large demonstration loggeries and 15 small loggeries in the north and south of the borough.

This action contributed 15% of the London target for creation of large stag beetle loggeries and 60% of the London target to create small loggeries.

This project created notable new features in the urban landscape and help us manage neglected areas in our parks.

A result of this project is that sighting of the stag beetle in Rotherhithe has been increasing year by year.

## 6.2.1 Biodiversity achievements for species action plan stag beetles 2006 - 2010

- 50 breeding buckets installed in Southwark's parks and open spaces

- The “Great stag do” delivered as part of BBC breathing places spring watch events, 8 loggeries built in one day
- 18 Loggeries built in 14 parks and open spaces
- Stag beetle records submitted to London Records Centre



Corporate Volunteers building a stag beetle loggery in One Tree Hill, 2007.

### **6.3 Review of species action plan for Corky fruited Water Dropwort 2006 - 2010**



Corky fruited water dropwort in flower at Countisbury House lawns 2007



Corky fruited water dropwort is an uncommon plant in London. Its presence is indicative of long established meadow land and is found on the damper types of meadow. The plant is found in less than 10 locations across London.

The lawns of Countisbury House had a large population of this plant. However this meadow was mown on a 2 week cycle during the spring and summer so the plant never had a chance to flower.

Actions for this species included changing the mowing regime in 2006 and propagating this plant at the Centre for Wildlife Garden. The plants were then planted in Belair Park in 2008.

Corky fruited water dropwort flowering at Belair Park 2010

**Table 4 Bats SAP**

Actions	Action status
Develop program walks and talks on bats and their habitats in Southwark. Hold 2 events per year.	Completed. Bat walks have been held in OTH, Dulwich Park x4, Burgess Park, Belair Park x3, Nunhead Cemetery, and Peckham Rye Park. Sydenham Hill Wood x9, Russia Dock Woodland x2, and Stave Hill Ecological Park x4.
Distribute information on bats and their roosts regarding their legally protected status to relevant bodies.	Completed. Information has been distributed to Parks & Open Spaces, Development Control and incorporated into the SPD on Sustainable design and construction.
Ensure bat surveys are undertaken by developers and planners.	Completed.
Provide advice on bats and their habitat to public, developers, and contractors.	Completed. Many publications distributed to relevant partners and council departments. Planning Guidance produced and training sessions held.
<b>Undertake audit of bats in Southwark. Identify three locations to survey across borough.</b>	Completed. Surveys of Sydenham Hill Wood, Nunhead Cemetery, Dulwich Park, Belair Park, Russia Dock Woodland, Salisbury Row, Burgess Park, Pullens Park, and Peckham Rye Park . All records resulting from the bat walks are passed onto London Records Centre as are all Records from surveys relating to planning applications.
Work In partnership to contribute to National Bat Survey.	Completed through bat surveys undertaken as part of the Sydenham Hill Woodland projects and bat surveys completed as part of planning applications and borough bat walks.
Promote retention of mature trees, standing dead wood and ivy-covered trees across the borough. Promote link to the Southwark Tree Strategy.	Completed. Through close work with the tree officers.
Encourage composting in Southwark.	Completed through bat walks and through the waste minimisation

Actions	Action status
	strategy.
<b>Undertake bat tunnel Hibernation project in Sydenham Hill Wood by 2008.</b>	Completed. Hibernaculum constructed in tunnel.
Develop Dulwich Common as key bats habitat zone.	<b>Not complete. Unrealistic action.</b>
<b>Introduce 10 new bat boxes each year in parks and open spaces.</b>	Completed. Through TRUE and LWT. New boxes in Burgess Park, Kirkwood NG, Belair Park, and Durand's Wharf.. BOST & TRUE Data.

**Table 5 Stag beetle SAP**

Actions	Action status
<b>Create loggeries in parks and open spaces wildlife areas. Create 4 loggeries across borough by 2008. Support TRUE Stag Beetle Centre Project.</b>	Completed. Belair Park, Peckham Rye Park, Southwark Park x2, Sydenham Hill Wood, Lavender Pond, Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland x3, Durand's Wharf, Nursery Row, Salisbury Row, Aspinden Rd NG, Dulwich Upper Wood, Galleywall Rd NG and Surrey Sq. 18 created = 36% of Regional Target.
Retain dead wood including standing dead wood where applicable.	Completed. Through Tree officers, Park Manager, and standards officers.
<b>Contribute to regional survey of stag beetle breeding sites.</b>	Completed. Stag beetle loggeries location recorded and fed into Regional working group.
Review stump grinding and tree chipping activities in Southwark as identified in Southwark Tree Strategy.	Completed. Reviewed in partnership with the tree section and park managers.
Establish stag beetle breeding buckets in woodlands, parks, housing sites	Completed. Buckets installed in Southwark Park, Surrey Sq, Peckham

Actions	Action status
and school nature gardens. Establish 8 buckets in Southwark each year.	Rye park, Aspinden Rd, and Durand's Wharf.
Retain dead wood and leaf litter where applicable, in borough nature areas, parks, and public open spaces.	Completed.
Reduce stump grinding where applicable.	Completed.
Recycle wood chippings from street tree work to stag beetle centres in borough.	Complete, Dulwich Upper Wood and Stave Hill established as stag beetle centres.
Distribute advice on stag beetles to Park Managers, arboriculturists and developers.	Complete.
<b>Promote beetle friendly gardening. Produce leaflet for gardeners. Link to LWT stag beetle campaign.</b>	<b>Not completed. Due to lack of resources.</b>
Co-ordinate borough actions to London Stag Beetle Working Group.	Completed. Actions sent to London Species action group. TRUE.
Develop program of stag beetle projects across borough. Hold 3 events per year.	Completed. TRUE, LWT, and Parks have delivered these events.
Monitor populations of stag beetle in Southwark. Produce report by 2008.	Completed. TRUE have been monitoring sites they manage and so have LWT. Report to SITA produced.

**Table 6 Corky fruited water dropwort SAP**

Actions	Action status
Ensure lawns of Countisbury House are not mown until September to allow the plant to flower and seed. Ensure all cuttings are removed from site.	Completed.
Collect seeds of plant for propagation in other suitable locations. Identify suitable locations for translocation.	Completed.
Translocate the plant to two new areas in Southwark by 2008.	Completed.
Draw up management plan for Countisbury House Lawns.	Completed.
Identify and manage any problem weeds on lawns.	Completed.
Develop program of promotion for this plant. Hold one event per year.	Completed. Through inclusion as case study in biodiversity publications.
Set up a Working Group for the Corky Fruited Water Dropwort SAP.	<b>Not Completed. Not realistic</b>

**61 out of 68 Targets Achieved.**

## 7. Review of Generic Actions 2006 – 2010.

### 7.1 Events

Over 8000 People attended events run by the Parks Community Outreach Team. Events included bat walks, butterfly walks, nature rambles, and Dawn chorus walks

Annual events now in place include: Dawn Chorus in One Tree Hill, RSPB feed the birds day in Dulwich Park, BOST Regular tours of Red Cross Gardens and bat walks in Russia Dock Woodland, Stave Hill, Belair Park, and Sydenham Hill Woods. These are led by LWT, True and the Dulwich Society and Friends of Belair Park.

In 2008 Southwark became a Breathing Places partner with the BBC with over 400 people volunteering to help on a number of projects including: the Springwatch restoration of Surrey Sq, the “Do one thing for nature”, Stag beetle loggery creation on 7 sites in one day and the Tree O Clock planting of trees across our Parks. Over 400 people attended these events.



Tree o Clock Event in Dulwich Park.,2009.

## 7.2 Training

Over 1600 people attended ecological training events such as bat monitoring. Quadron staff from the parks GM contract also attended conservation training every year from 2005 to 2009.

## 7.3 Volunteers

Volunteers have made a major contribution to the delivery of this BAP. Whether working directly with the Parks Service or with one of our partners. The volunteers have worked on over 60 sites either as corporate teams or regular volunteers who help individual sites. Some groups are linked with partners such as BOST, LWT, or TRUE while some work as autonomous groups in places such as Galleywall Nature Garden, Elba Place Nature Garden, and Nunhead Cemetery. Other contributions have come from the Youth Reparation team or the Community Payback Team.

**Over 21,000 people have volunteered in Southwark's parks and open spaces during the last 4 years. The value of this in saved labour costs is over £2'268,000.00.**

The volunteer recorders have provided valuable species records on bats, birds, and invertebrates.

To help develop the ecological surveying and habitat management skills TRUE and LWT have held at least 200 volunteer training days.

Corporate volunteer days have also contributed toward the cost of project materials and some such as Deutsche Bank have made donations to the Parks department for further ecological enhancements.



Orange Rockcorps volunteers in Russia Dock Woodland 2010.

## 7.4 Monitoring and recording

Knowing what biodiversity is present is one of the most challenging tasks to deal with. Either skills in species identification or resources to buy in the expertise are required to maintain biological records

It is vital in developing and delivering strategies to enhance biodiversity and Action Plans, to know what we have, what to protect, and to identify changes in species and habitats.

For example to Brown Long Eared Bat, *Plecotus auritus* was unrecorded in Southwark until Sydenham Hill Woods was surveyed in 2004/5. From this information The LWT was able to develop a project to provide roosting opportunities in the railway tunnel and to successfully bid for funding to deliver this project. This bat has now been recorded hibernating in both the Sydenham Hill Tunnel and the Paxton Tunnel in 2010/11.

In 2009 Southwark entered into a SLA contract with GIGL, the London Biological Records Centre. From this we have obtained all the mapped biological records for Southwark, these are updated every 6 months.

Biological Recording has developed through a small network of volunteer recorders, public observations, and bat and butterfly walks. These records are fed into the GIGL data base on a regular basis.

## 7.5 Biodiversity Achievements for Generic actions 2006 - 2010

- **20 interpretation signs installed in 10 parks**
- **2 Biodiversity Workshops help for planning officers.**
- **Food growing promoted through School Orchard project, Growing Southwark, and BOST estate food growing initiatives.**
- **The South London Green Chain extended from Crystal Palace to Peckham Rye Park.**
- **Relevant planning applications screened for biodiversity impacts and opportunities for enhancements.**
- **Green Roofs, Bat Bricks, and Swift Bricks have all been built into new developments.**
- **In 2009 we worked with Natural England to enhance large parks close to areas of natural deficiency. Received**

**£19,000 from Natural England to develop 0.8 ha of wildflower meadows in Peckham Rye Park.**



New Interpretation sign in Kirkwood Nature Garden 2010

**Table 7 Review of Generic Action Plan 2006 – 2010.**

**Objective 1: Improve the health of the borough through biodiversity actions, 2006-2010.**

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
<b>Promote walking in Southwark through nature walks events and voluntary ecological monitoring. Hold 4 events a year.</b>	Ecology Officer	LWT, BTO, TRUE,	Walk Southwark, Healthy Walks. Street Scene. Junior Street leaders, Green Chain.	Complete, Bat, butterfly, wildlife, and bird walk held every year. Green chain extension completed.
Undertake feasibility study for 'Green Gym' by 2006. Provide a link to GP referrals.	Community Outreach Officer	BTCV, Southwark PCT.		Completed 2005. Not feasible due to resources constraints.
<b>Create a Southwark Conservation Volunteer Group.</b>	Ecology Officer	Parks. Groundwork		Completed through Volunteer Centre Southwark and Timebank partnerships. Also working with Earn Your Ticket Back, Community Payback, and Youth reparation.
Promote organic produce growing in Southwark. Link to nature in parks and green spaces.	Ecology Officer	CWG, Allotment Societies, BOST, WGF. Growing Southwark	Hart Garden. Diversity Garden BOST.	Completed. School Orchard Project, Growing Southwark, Nursery Row orchard, Victory Park raised beds and Cossal Rd community beds all contributed to this.
<b>Promote green spaces as free areas for stress relief. Actions include producing leaflets.</b>	Ecology Officer	Parks.		<b>Not complete. No resources.</b>
Develop young person's involvement in biodiversity and open spaces, including through the creation of a	Ecology Officer	YFPC, Community Outreach Team,.	Young Friends of Parks, Junior Street	Complete. Regular session held with Young Friends, LWT Hold after

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
'Young Ecologists' programme.			Leaders.	School Club.
Promote walk to schools through parks and green areas.	Ecology Officer	TFL.	Walk on Wednesdays.	Completed.
Ensure design for biodiversity is incorporated into all new developments.	Ecology Officer	Parks, PDT, LBS Planning.	Cleaner Greener Safer.	Complete Planning applications reviewed and recommendations submitted.
Develop ecological management for all sports grounds and facilities.	Ecology Officer	Sports, Dulwich Estate.		<b>Not Complete.</b>

**Objective 2: To raise the standards in our schools and increase education and awareness of biodiversity for all in the borough, 2006-2010.**

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
<b>Create a borough-wide voluntary ecological monitoring group. Link to Hap and SAP working groups.</b>	Ecology Officer	BTO, Friends groups.	LWT Wildwatch	Completed. Volunteers survey birds, bees, bats, and butterflies.
<b>Develop an ecological survey and monitoring strategy for the borough.</b>	Ecology Officer	BTO, GLA, LWT. PTES, TRUE.	LWT Wildwatch	Completed. Through SLA with the London Records Centre.
<b>Produce interpretation material for the borough through the Parks and Public Places Strategy. Link to parks marketing campaign. Produce a biodiversity leaflet for Southwark.</b>	Ecology Officer	Community Outreach Team.	Green Chain.	Complete interpretational signage installed in Kirkwood NG, Peckham Rye Park, Southwark Park, Dulwich Park, Surrey Sq, Nunhead Cemetery, Sydenham Hill Wood, and Belair Park.

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
Promote inclusion of biodiversity issues into the Early Years, Primary, and Secondary schools curriculum.	Ecology Officer	LBS Education	Eco Schools Award	Completed. School nature trails produced for major parks. Work with education team and Eco Schools ongoing.
Advise schools on managing and understanding nature gardens. Visit 4 schools a year.	Ecology Officer	LBS Education, YFPC, CWG.	Eco Schools Award	Completed.
<b>Develop an annual programme of events to promote biodiversity. Hold 4 events a year.</b>	Ecology Officer	Community Outreach Team, SBP.		Completed linked to National Campaigns such as Springwatch.
Produce web pages for biodiversity on the Southwark Council Web Site. Provide Links to Wild Web GLA site.	Ecology Officer	GLA	Wild Web.	Completed.
Promote the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 through practice, action, and information.	Ecology Officer	LWT, GLA, TRUE, EN, EA, PDT.		Completed. Open ended Action.
Provide ecological guidance to developers and planners, through the distribution of information on new legislation and national and regional guidance.	Ecology Officer	LBS Planning, EN, GLA, PDT.	Street Design Guide. SDP Sustainable Design and Construction.	Ongoing. More policy emerging.
Hold biodiversity workshops for planning officers.	Ecology Officer	LBS Planning		Completed. Two delivered.
<b>Develop Links to national environmental events at the borough level. Hold 1 event based on national event guidelines each year.</b>	Ecology Officer	Community Outreach Team.		Complete.
<b>Develop a biodiversity 'Who's Who' in the borough. Produce publicly accessible database.</b>	Ecology Officer	SBP.		<b>Not Complete.</b>

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
<b>Create a Young Ecologists Group. Link to Young Friends of Parks groups</b>	Ecology Officer	YFPC.	Young Friends of Parks	<b>Not completed resource issues.</b>

**Objective 3: To make the borough safer for all sections of the community through biodiversity actions, 2006-2010.**

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
Promote responsible dog ownership. Link to parks dog shows and major parks events.	Ecology Officer	Dog Warden, Wardens.	'Flag the Poo'. Dog Shows	Ongoing Led by Wardens and Dog shows.
Ensure regular clean up of Local SINC sites to address neglect issues.	Ecology Officer	SBP.	Cleaner Greener Safer.	Ongoing, Achieved in sites managed by Parks. Aspinden Rd and Galleywall Rd sites leased to community groups.
Ensure Byelaws (currently under review) are displayed and enforced in wildlife sites.	Ecology Officer	Wardens, Police.		Completed. Bylaws reviewed and displayed LNR's.
Review the use of lighting in parks & open spaces and particularly SINC sites.	Ecology Officer	LBS Planning, PDT.	Street Design Guide.	Completed. Parks Lighting Strategy produced.
<b>Rewrite the Council's 'Pesticide Reduction Strategy'. Launch as borough wide strategy by Autumn 2007.</b>	Ecology Officer	LBS Housing. LBS Highways.		<b>Not completed, resources issues.</b>

## Objective 4: Create a high quality sustainable environment through biodiversity actions, 2006-2010.

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
Promote “Ecological Best Practice” in horticulture and conservation management for contractors and public space managers.	Ecology Officer	SBP, Quadron.	Ecological contractors training	Completed Ecological training delivered every year since 2005. Additional Training on Meadows delivered as part of RSPB project.
Promote ecological benefits of recycling and composting of waste materials in Southwark.	Ecology Officer	CRISP, CWG.	Home composting initiative.	Completed linked to CRISP and Waste contract. All green waste in parks and from housing and highways recycled.
Promote environmentally sympathetic management of open spaces; Deliver enhanced green corridors, Buffer Zones, living or ‘green’ roofs and walls.	Ecology Officer	GLA, Quadron, WGF, LBP. SBP.	Street Leader & Junior street leaders.	Completed. Promoted through Planning applications, green links project, SUSTRANS, and BARGES.
Promote peat use reduction in parks and open spaces management.	Ecology Officer	Quadron. CWG, WGF.	Sustainable Procurement	Completed. All bedding plants supplied in peat free compost.
<b>Create habitats for wildlife in parks and urban green spaces. Link to national and regional objectives on habitat creation.</b>	Ecology Officer	SBP, WGF, Quadron, GLA,		Completed, many new habitats created. See Habitat Action Plans for details.
<b>Promote sourcing of local materials for hard and soft landscaping projects. Link to the Council’s Procurement Strategy.</b>	Sustainable Procurement Officer.	Ecology Officer, Sustainable procurement Officer, PDT, BOST.	Street Design Guide.	Completed through Sustainable procurement strategy.
Ensure ecological enhancement is included in regeneration projects wherever possible.	Ecology Officer	LBS Planning, PDT.	Street Design Guide.	Completed by consultation with Major Projects, Schools for the future and by feeding biodiversity into core strategy and

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
				Supplementary Planning documents (SPD's).
Ensure EIA is undertaken for large events and sports events/activities where potential impact upon natural environment.	Ecology Officer	Events Team, BOST. Planning		Completed through screening of Planning Applications.
Promote and implement ecological assessment and mitigation for all parks, EDT, Regeneration, and Cleaner Greener projects in Southwark.	Ecology Officer	PDT, SBP.		Completed through planning applications.
Provide guidance and advice on ecology for the revision and production of Council policies and strategies.	Ecology Officer	LWT, GLA, LBP.		Completed. Biodiversity guidance and consideration included through consultation process.
<b>Address areas of natural deficiency by creating habitats for wildlife in parks and open spaces. Link to national objectives on wildlife creation.</b>	Ecology Officer	GLA. Parks, LBS Housing, SBP.		Ongoing, New areas for wildlife created in Peckham Rye Park and planned for Burgess Park.
<b>Deliver an annual programme of ecological training for parks contractors. Hold 1 training sessions in each major park area per year.</b>	Ecology Officer	TRUE, Quadron		Completed. Training held every year for Quadron Staff.
<b>Prepare biodiversity briefing pack for builders and developers by 2008.</b>	Ecology Officer	LBS planning.		Completed. SPD on Sustainable Design and Construction SPD produced. Green Building Council report on biodiversity produced in 2009.
Review planning applications and identify opportunities for ecological enhancement.	Ecology Officer	LBS Planning		Completed.

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
Produce management plans for all SINC sites in borough.	Ecology Officer	LWT		Completed.

**Objective 5: To ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to share prosperity within the borough and to improve the quality of life for those most disadvantaged through biodiversity actions, 2006-2010.**

Action	Lead	Partners	Links to local initiatives	Action Status
<b>Identify existing programmes and sources of community funding for biodiversity. Identify other sources of funding</b>	Ecology Officer	SBP. Community Outreach Team.	Cleaner Greener Safer	Ongoing, £50k funding secured for RDW, £46k application submitted for Peckham Rye community wildlife garden.
Identify opportunities to increase conservation volunteering for hard to reach groups.	Ecology Officer	SBP, Community Outreach Team.	Community Payback, Youth reparation scheme.	Ongoing.
Appraise Biodiversity Action Plan costs and implications for Education, Health, Planning, Housing, and Highways Departments.	Ecology Officer	SBP.		<b>Not complete. Unrealistic action.</b>

**40 out of 45 completed**

## 8. Beyond the BAP

While the BAP provided a suite of actions that enriched the biodiversity of Southwark there were some important habitats and species that were not included in the first BAP action plans. Notable actions and progress on these habitats and species is reviewed here. The work on the House Sparrow is covered as part of the review of the parks HAP.

### 8.1 Common Lizard

The common lizard is a UK BAP Priority Species. The lizard has been recorded in One Tree Hill and Honor Oak Recreation Ground.

We also provided a refuge for 23 lizards displaced by the Thames Link Project. These were relocated to Southwark Park Nature Area in 2009. In 2010 we built 3 lizard refuges in Southwark Park Nature Area to help these new additions.



Common Lizard

### 8.2 Reedbeds

Reedbeds are located across Southwark. They are mainly found in the Docklands and our major park lakes.

Reedbeds are amongst the most important habitats for birds in the UK. They support a distinctive breeding bird assemblage including 6 nationally rare Red Data Birds the bittern [\*Botaurus stellaris\*](#), marsh harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*, crane *Grus grus*, Cetti's warbler *Cettia cetti*, Savi's warbler *Locustella luscinioides* and bearded tit *Panurus biarmicus*, provide roosting and feeding sites for migratory species (including the globally threatened [\*aquatic warbler\*](#) *Acrocephalus paludicola*) and are used as roost sites for several raptor species in winter.

Five GB Red Data Book invertebrates are also closely associated with reedbeds including red leopard moth *Phragmataecia castanaea* and a rove beetle *Lathrobium rufipenne*. Over 700 species of invertebrate have been recorded from reed-dominated plant communities, including 23 Red Data Book species.



Albion Channel, new aquatic planting 2008.

Southwark has increased reedbed habitat by over 1.5 ha which is 15% of the regional target.

All of the parks lakes and all of the docks have had reed bed created or enhanced.

Reed warbler and Reed bunting have been recorded in Dulwich and Rotherhithe.



Dulwich Park boardwalk and reedbed, 2010

### 8.3 The Bankside Networks Project 2010.

In 2010 51% Studios began a project to install nest boxes and features to support urban birds. This project was supported by Better Bankside, BOST, and Southwark Council.

Following advice by renowned ornithologist Peter Holden, 51% Studios designed three Networks for the Urban Birds of Bankside as a legacy project for the London Festival of Architecture, which feature a series of sophisticated ready-mades: blocks, boughs and bushes.



Hollowed out bough in Union Street 2010

The project was commissioned by the Architecture Foundation, and took its inspiration from Witherford Watson Mann's, Bankside Urban Forest master plan. The Architect, Catherine du Toit said "this project is responsive, site specific and provocative". 51% discovered that the standard hollow block used to build some of London's most celebrated architecture is made from concrete with 55% recycled wood pulp, a material that when used in nestboxes is proven to fledge more young than any other. Synergistically the interior block dimensions are text book sizes for house sparrows, radically in decline in the area.

In other locations hollowed-out ash boughs were installed to mimic spaces woodpeckers might have left over in a real forest to provide attractive nesting places.

Additional habitat including bushes, green walls, and native hedging, will give shelter and food to those birds which do not nest in enclosed spaces, but would be at risk from predators in open fronted nestboxes.



Map of Nestworks locations in Bankside



Sparrow Boxes at the Tate modern 2010

## 8.4 Local Nature Reserves

In Town and Country Planning, a non statutory but important indicator of access to natural space is a desirable local authority target to provide 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 residents. In 1993 we had a 1 LNR, a totalling 29.9 ha, which worked out as 6,572 residents per ha of LNR. In 2006 we had four LNR's totalling 32.4 ha, which worked out as 7,558 residents per ha. However in 2007 we had 5 LNR's totalling 39.2 ha which works out as 6,246 residents per ha. This means that we have tipped the balance from getting worse to improving with a greater provision of LNR hectareage ratio per resident now than in 1993, even though the population has increased by over 50,000 during this time.



Nunhead Cemetery LNR 2006

LNR's declared before 2003 are:

- Sydenham Hill Wood
- Nunhead Cemetery

The LNR's that have been declared since 2003 are:

- Lavender Pond
- Dulwich Upper Wood
- One Tree Hill



Lavender Pond LNR 2008

## 8.5 National Indicator 197, improved local Biodiversity

This national performance indicator was introduced in 2008 and is one of the 35 core indicators of Southwark's Local Area Agreements (LAA). The indicator is based on a percentage of Local Wildlife Sites receiving "Positive Conservation Management". This is the only national indicator for parks and open spaces and the main indicator for highlighting compliance to the biodiversity Duty under the NERC Act 2009.

### 8.5.1 The Indicator explained

*Positive conservation management* is management that contributes to maintaining or enhancing the features of interest for which a site has been selected. To show that positive conservation management has been or is being implemented on a Local Site, there must be documented evidence of appropriate management activities. The Local Sites Partnership will verify the evidence. The nature of the management activity appropriate to interest features of a site will commonly be defined within one, or more of the following:

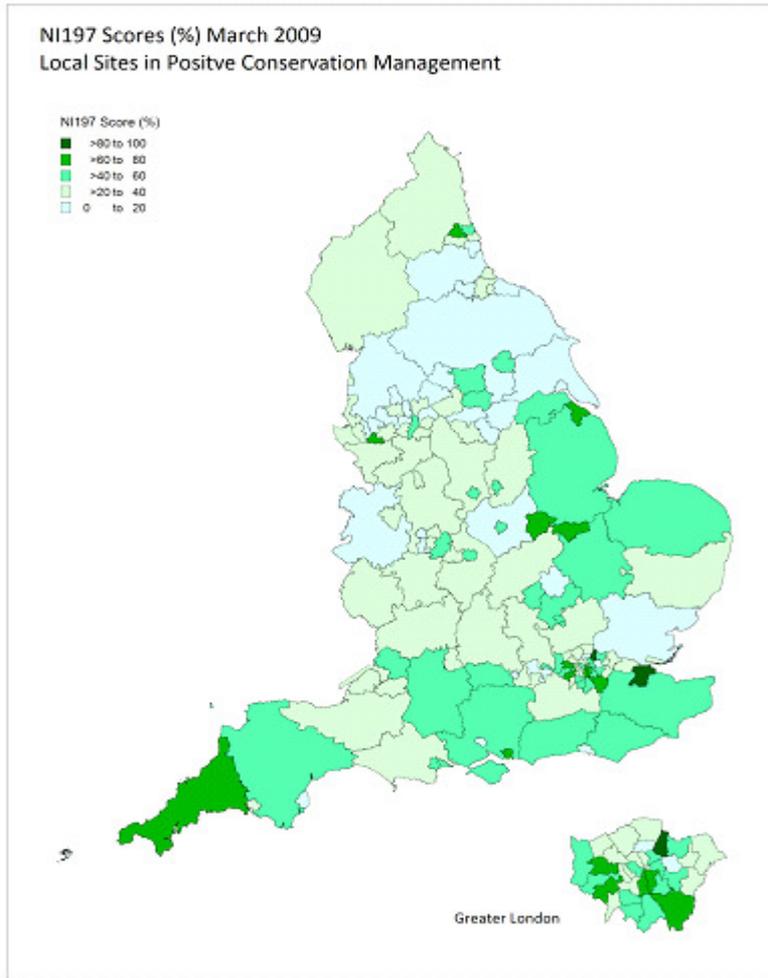
- Site management plan
- Management schemes – agri-environment or conservation management agreement or scheme
- Relevant Biodiversity Action Plan (including habitat action plan, species action plan or local biodiversity action plan). Where a site is designated primarily for its geological features, the recommended management activity may be defined within a Geodiversity action plan
- Management guidance and advice

A five year period is appropriate as many sites do not require annual management and the Local Sites guidance recommends monitoring on a 5-10 year rolling programme.

"Local Sites" refers to the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), within our borough. The local sites include sites of Metropolitan, Borough, and Local importance for nature conservation.

## 8.5.2 How Southwark performed

We calculated a baseline percentage of 51.6% for Southwark's SINC sites receiving positive conservation management. In 2008/9 we scored 65.5% and in 2009/10 we scored 72.8% exceeding our 2010/11 target of 71.7%. The results of the 2008/9 score placed Southwark 4<sup>th</sup> best in London and 7<sup>th</sup> best in England.



Map of England showing NI 197 Scores 2009



Southwark  
Council