

Appendix 1: Greater London Authority methodology

Open space and habitat survey for Greater London

1 Introduction

- 1.1. A methodology for open space and habitat survey in London was adopted by the Mayor in his Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. The Mayor's policies, procedures and criteria for evaluation of nature conservation sites (Appendix 1 of the Strategy), include the use of this survey methodology, which is now the main information basis for nature conservation planning in the capital. The survey methodology was first developed and used in 1984/85, when the Greater London Council commissioned the London Wildlife Trust to complete the first comprehensive survey of wildlife habitats in Greater London. It has been updated and consolidated by the London Ecology Unit and, more recently, by the GLA. It has the great advantage that it is standardised and comprehensive, so that any particular site is readily put into perspective.
- 1.2. The format has been further modified in 2004 to take account of the open space typology of PPG17. This opportunity has been taken to make a few other minor modifications. This revised format is recommended in the Mayor's Guide to Preparing Open Space Strategies (a London Plan Best Practice Guide), and will be included in the first revision of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.
- 1.3. Survey is needed for several reasons:
 - to keep the database up to date;
 - to extend the original survey to document sites which are smaller or of less nature conservation interest than those originally documented;
 - to monitor changes in the amount or quality of open space and wildlife habitats, within individual boroughs and in London as a whole.
- 1.4. This survey format is broadly similar to English Nature's Phase I methodology. There are a few small differences in habitat classification, but the two specifications collect essentially the same ecological information, in the same detail, with the same comprehensive coverage. The differences in habitat classification are largely due to the essentially urban setting for which the London survey specification is designed. The other main difference from Phase I is that every site has an individual survey form, in addition to a map, in the London format. This reflects the fragmented nature of green spaces in the urban setting, makes retrieval of data much simpler, and facilitates comparison of sites.
- 1.5. This survey format is sufficiently technical that some expertise in ecology is required to undertake the survey, particularly those sections on the back of the survey form. It is not, therefore, suitable for general public use. The front of the form could, however, be used by a non-ecologist for a stand-alone survey for open space planning. The survey is designed to collect the objective, or relatively objective, raw data. It must be stressed that the interpretation of these data is a separate stage, which should be planned at the same time as a new survey is planned. Such interpretations can be published, as in the London Ecology Unit's series of Ecology Handbooks, but further interpretation is usually required in response to particular planning issues.

2 The ingredients

- 2.1. The basic unit of survey is a piece of land termed a “parcel”. A parcel should be as homogeneous as possible in terms of habitat, ownership and public access, and must lie within a single London borough. Parcels should also be relatively homogeneous in terms of nature conservation importance, as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are defined using whole parcels.
- 2.2. Parcels are grouped into “sites”, which may often be better-known large units of open land, such as Hampstead Heath or Walthamstow Marshes. A site should always be defined to correspond with a single management unit, such as a park, common or cemetery. Many smaller sites comprise just one parcel.
- 2.3. These parcels and sites are defined on a survey map. This is usually at a 1:5,000 scale, although larger scales may be appropriate for parts of central London. Public access points to sites are also indicated on the maps. These maps are digitized electronically over Ordnance Survey LandLine or MasterMap data.
- 2.4. Each parcel also has a written record on one or more standard A4 forms (see appendix 4.5). Every parcel must be noted on the first form, which collects information about its name, location, ownership, habitats, species richness and details of the surveyor and the date and duration of visit. The reverse of the form collects information on land use and planning status, accessibility, nature conservation interest, recreational facilities, potential for enhancement, threats, change since previous survey and an evaluation of the nature conservation importance of the parcel. There is a field on this form to cover every aspect normally covered in surveys of this kind except for the species of plants present, and for detailed change statistics, for which there are additional (optional) forms.
- 2.5. A plant recording form will usually only be used for the more interesting or diverse parcels. It allows the collection of a list of species identified, with a coarse indication of abundance and qualifiers relating to maturity and distribution within the parcel. This information can also optionally be written on the parcel form.
- 2.6. The changes form is used where a comprehensive re-survey is to be compared with previous survey(s). Appendix 4 describes its use in detail.
- 2.7. A form is available as a continuation sheet, or for a revisit when the standard details remain much the same. The plant recording form can also be used as a stand-alone form for use on successive visits to a parcel if no major changes have occurred.
- 2.8. When planning a survey, it is essential to decide on the following before starting:
 - the geographical area to be covered (e.g. an individual London borough);
 - the minimum size for a site to be surveyed (in the Mayor’s 10-year rolling programme, this is 0.25 ha);
 - any land uses or habitats to be excluded. It is usual to cover everything predominantly vegetated or water, except private gardens. Open spaces

which are predominantly hard surfaces, such as some town squares, should also be included for open space planning purposes;

- the level and type of photographic documentation required.

3 Detailed instructions for completing the survey form

See the appended form. The form is designed for use in a clip board. One form is filled in for each parcel, but for the first parcel of a site it also serves as a record of the whole site. Any items that are the same for successive parcels within a site (e.g. site name or owner/manager) can be indicated as such with a “*”.

Site and parcel number: This is to be recorded in the format:

Site number/parcel number (number of parcels in the site),

the latter item for the first parcel only. For sites which have already been surveyed, the existing site number should be used. For new sites, a five digit number not already in use should be allocated, according to the format:

First two digits: code for the borough holding the visual centre of the site, including leading zeros. These numbers are listed in Appendix 7.1.

Last three digits: unique number within each borough (001-999) including leading zeros.

Thus, in the example given, “27” is the number of Ealing Borough and “038” is the unique number of the site within the Ealing series. The site has three parcels and this sheet is for parcel 1.

Site name: This must be filled in for every parcel of a site. If at all possible use a name to be found on Ordnance Survey maps. Any secondary names can be given in brackets (e.g. Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp)). If no established name can be found, a descriptive name should be coined.

Parcel name: This should be filled in if a name exists on Ordnance Survey maps, or if a well-established local name is known. Otherwise, a suitable descriptive name should be coined (e.g. “Hanger Lane railway embankment” or “Pastures in north-east”).

Location: This should be in terms of London road maps (e.g. “east of Fernbank Road, west of the railway and south of Longhale station”).

Owner/manager: Often to be gleaned when gaining access, sometimes to be found on a noticeboard on site. Obtain full address and phone number if possible. Guesses should be indicated as such. Where owner and manager are different, record both if known (e.g. “owned by Railtrack, managed by London Wildlife Trust”).

Access/view from: Indicate access point(s) to a parcel if you gained access, and viewpoints where not.

Permission to enter obtained from: Unless a parcel is obviously accessible to the public, surveyors should not attempt to enter land without permission from the owner or other authorised person. This should ideally be obtained in writing before setting out to survey the site, but may sometimes be obtained on arrival. Note the name, status and telephone number of the person giving permission in this section of the form. If possible, obtain signed written authorisation on a separate sheet.

Grid reference: This should be an eight-figure reference for the visual centre of the parcel as indicated on the specimen form. Almost all of Greater London falls within 100km square 51 or TQ, only a small part of Enfield being in 52 or TL. Thus in most cases “TQ” may be pre-printed on the forms.

Surveyor(s): Initials and surname if not a regular surveyor, otherwise initials will suffice.

Borough: A parcel should fall entirely within a single London borough. A site may be in more than one.

Area: This should be measured to 10% accuracy from the map prepared of the parcel. On a map of appropriate scale, a dot overlay will usually provide this accuracy. Indicate clearly whether the units are hectares or square metres. Alternatively, a more accurate measurement can be obtained from GIS if the map is digitized.

Date: The date of the visit when the information was obtained, in the usual day/month/year format. A new form (which may be a plant recording form or continuation sheet) must be used for each visit to a site.

Time spent: This is the time spent on the parcel during the visit. It need only be approximate, as it is merely a coarse guide to the thoroughness of the examination.

Weather: A brief summary of the weather during the visit, concentrating on factors which affect recording, such as sunshine, rain, rough temperature and wind (e.g. “cloudy but warm, no wind”). This is to provide an indication if a lack of records of, for example, butterflies, is likely to be due to a poor site for butterflies, or to poor weather.

Access gained to: For an indication of the proportion of the parcel that was examined at close range. Add a note to clarify if necessary.

Open space typology: Tick one box only, to refer to the predominant PPG17 typology of the parcel. The categories are defined in appendix 3

Planning status: It will not be possible to complete this section in the field. Instead, it should be completed after the field visit by reference to English Nature’s schedules of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR, currently only two in London) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR). The relevant adopted UDP Proposals Map should be consulted for other nature conservation and open space designations.

SINC or equivalent includes any site protected for nature conservation (different boroughs use different terms; Site of Importance for Nature Conservation is the most widely used, but others include Site of Wildlife Value, Site for Local Nature Conservation and Area of Nature Conservation Importance). *Green corridor* includes similar designations such as Wildlife Corridor, but not Green Chain, which is recorded separately. *Other protected open space* includes a wide range of designations, including Public Open Space, Urban Green Space, Local Open Land and Private Open Space; specify the designation which applies.

Ownership: Tick one box only. Local authority ownership is any land owned by a borough council or the Corporation of London, except for education land. It should be noted that land owned by health and education institutions, usually playing fields, should be recorded in those boxes rather than in the local authority box, since it is often

difficult to distinguish between hospitals which are run by the NHS and those which are run by trusts, or to know whether schools are in the public sector or not.

Government/crown land includes land managed by the Royal Parks Agency and MOD land. English Heritage, Countryside Commission and similar quangos should be recorded as 'government'. Trusts can be private or voluntary. Religious ownership includes the Church Commissioners and all other religions and Christian denominations. Note which religion or denomination if possible. Note that while churchyards may be managed by a local authority, they will almost always be under church ownership; cemeteries, however, are more likely to be in local authority or private ownership, although non-Christian cemeteries are often under religious ownership. If unsure of ownership, use a "?" in the box of your best guess.

Public access: Tick one box. *De facto* access should be ticked if a site is readily accessible and clearly used by the public, but not if a few children squeeze in through a small hole in the fence. *Restricted* access includes time restrictions, such as open days, (but not parks that close at night, which can be recorded as free access), access only to certain people, such as club members, a financial charge for access, or access only to parts of a parcel, such as footpaths. Always note which type(s) of restrictions apply.

Accessibility by mode: Score each mode of transport from 0-2 as follows:

Pedestrian - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access for pedestrians, i.e. it is completely enclosed by a wall or fence, with no points of entry (including roads); 1 indicates limited points of access, i.e. two or less; and 2 indicates good access for pedestrians, i.e. multiple points of entry. This category is very closely linked to *Entry points* above. Also take into account the distance of the site from residential areas: if the site has no access points within 400 metres walking distance of a residential area (defined as a group of 20 or more dwellings), do not score it higher than 1; if no access points within 800 metres of a residential area, score 0.

Cycle - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access for cyclists, i.e. it is completely enclosed by a wall or fence, with no points of entry (including roads); 1 indicates limited points of access, i.e. two or less, and particular problems relating to cyclists such as limited gate width; and 2 indicates good access for cyclists, i.e. multiple points of entry and/or provision of cycle racks at entrances where cycling is not permitted within an open space and close proximity to either the London Cycle Network or a designated local cycle route.

Public Transport - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having very poor access to the public transport network (which here includes bus stops, underground, overground and light rail stations), i.e. the site is more than 800 metres or ten minutes walking time to the network; 1 indicates limited access to the public transport network, i.e. the site is more than 400 metres or five minutes walking time to the network (but less than 800 metres/10 minutes walk); and 2 indicates high accessibility to the public transport network, i.e. less than 400 metres or 5 minutes walk to the network. For sites only on bus networks, if bus services are less frequent than one per hour, score 0, and if buses are between one and two per hour score no higher than 1.

Private Car - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access for cars into the site and no car parking within 5 minutes walk of the site; 1 indicates limited or poor access for cars to the site, i.e. several entry points but no on-site parking provision (although off-site

provision may be within 5 minutes walking distance); and 2 indicates good accessibility for cars, i.e. multiple entry points for cars and dedicated on-site parking provision.

Wheelchair – This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access to people in wheelchairs (steps at entrances, steep sloped or very narrow, rough or soft paths); 1 indicates limited access for people in wheelchairs, i.e. some but not all entrances wide enough and without steps, only parts of the site suitable for wheelchair access, or the condition of the paths being less than ideal; and 2 indicates good wheelchair access, with most if not all entrances suitable and access to most of the site on an extensive network of well-designed paths.

Level of use: A coarse scale only, to be judged by physical signs as well as by direct observation of people.

Entry points: This applies to entry from outside an open space. It therefore does not apply to any part of a parcel that adjoins another accessible open space. If the parcel has completely open access, i.e. it has no boundary fence or wall limiting access, the *open access* box should be ticked, and an indication given as to whether this applies to the whole or only part of the parcel. However, if the parcel is bounded by a wall or other structure which limits the number of entry points, the *limited entry points* box should be ticked. In this case, it will also be necessary to indicate the access points on the 1:10,000 maps. In a few cases, for example, Tooting Bec Common, it may well be that a combination of access arrangements apply, i.e. some of the site is bounded by a fence and thus has limited access, whilst other parts may have open access, such as a road running along the site boundary. If this is the case, the individual points of access and lengths of open access should be indicated on the 1:10,000 map. If a parcel is completely surrounded by other accessible open space, the third box should be ticked.

Maintenance: Tick one box only. This is a subjective evaluation, and should be judged with regard to the intended land use(s) of the site. Good maintenance of a formal park differs markedly from good habitat management in a nature reserve. Tick *satisfactory* if the overall standard of maintenance seems adequate for the intended use. Tick *good* if it seems that special efforts have been made to maintain a better than average overall standard of maintenance. Tick *poor* if there are signs of inadequate maintenance.

In parks and other formal open spaces, signs of poor maintenance to look out for include worn out playing pitches; overflowing rubbish bins, tatty flower beds, litter, pot-holed footpaths and roads, worn-out grass areas (or signs that the mower blades were too low and have scraped off most of the turf), and structures and other features (including fences, buildings, gates, seats and lighting) that need cleaning, repair or painting. If none, or few, of these things are present, tick *satisfactory*, unless everything is unusually spick and span and in good repair, in which case tick *good*.

In sites managed for nature conservation, signs of poor maintenance might be litter and tipping, invasive plants including scrub invasion of high-quality grasslands, inappropriate tree planting or over-zealous tidying of dead wood. In some nature reserves, no maintenance at all might be satisfactory, but this is by no means always the case. Good path maintenance is always a sign that at least *something* is being done (and conversely poor or no path maintenance suggests that the site is neglected).

In the case of cemeteries, poor maintenance may be demonstrated by a significant number of headstones leaning over, or clear signs of untreated subsidence. Allotments may *appear* to be unmaintained; but do not identify them as unmaintained if there are

clear signs that they are in use - no matter how scruffy they look. Obviously, disused or partly disused allotments can qualify as poorly maintained (unless they are deliberately being left wild for nature conservation).

Predominant recreational use: Tick one box only. *Active* recreation includes pitch sports, tennis, swimming and running. *Passive* recreation includes walking (with or without dog) relaxing, sunbathing and nature study. If a large park has small areas of facilities for active recreation, tick *passive*. If sports facilities dominate a park, tick *active*. The relevant UDP Proposals Map or Ordnance Survey map may be useful if unsure which to tick.

Facilities: More than one box may be ticked (note that boxes for tennis courts and pitches require numbers). Explanations of some of the more ambiguous general facilities are provided below:

Play Equipment for under 7s includes play equipment that has been formally designated by the borough council on a sign or notice board as only suitable for children under the ages of seven and is normally signed to such effect. However, the category may also include play equipment that is not formally designated, but which is clearly for use by children of the aforementioned age, i.e. swings with cradles, small slides, seesaw, etc.

Play Equipment for 7-13 year olds includes play equipment that has been designated by the council on a sign or notice board as only suitable for children of the aforementioned age range. However, the category may also include play equipment that is not designated, but which is clearly for use by such children and may include such features as aerial ropeways, large slides and climbing frames.

Play Equipment for over 13s includes facilities such as skateboard tracks and basketball hoops clearly designed for use by teenagers. Such facilities may not be formally designated on a sign or notice board.

Seats: only tick the box if you consider that someone wanting to sit down would stand a reasonable chance of finding a seat. Thus, don't tick if there is only one seat in a huge park.

Refreshments includes only permanent structures or buildings for that purpose and does not include temporary or mobile facilities.

Facilities for the Disabled could include either specific provision in limited areas such as access, Braille signs, disabled toilets, scented gardens etc., or the entire site could be designed to meet the needs of the disabled (if so, this should be indicated in the notes on the questionnaire form).

Litter bins : use the same criteria as for *seats*.

Car parking : tick only if there are parking spaces within the site. On-street parking around or close to the site doesn't count. Car parks should be within the curtilage of the site, laid out for that purpose, not an area which represents an encroachment into the site, or local on-street parking.

Nature trails includes those areas of a site set out with signposts/guides indicating the significance of features.

Historical features: includes great houses, follies, bandstands, pump houses, bridges, ice houses, orangeries, old walled gardens, historic greenhouses, historic tombs and monuments, etc. Include all 'listed' buildings and structures.

Art Gallery: such as the Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens, but not temporary displays such as the Sunday morning Bayswater Road display on the railings alongside Kensington Gardens.

Sculpture/monuments: you might already have ticked *historical features* for these; don't be afraid to tick again. Be careful with piles of bricks and other things that might look to you like rubbish, but which might be 'installations' or even 'art'. Most cemeteries will include monuments.

Dog litter bins/areas: tick this if there are special bins for dog crap. Look out for dog-shit areas, which may be indistinguishable from sandpits. There ought to be signs.

Information: includes information boards, interpretation panels, leaflets available in cafes, etc.

Cycle Paths means formally designated surfaced routes for cyclists (such as the London Cycle Network). This does not, however, include facilities for off-road/mountain biking (even if way-marked).

Water Sports include water skiing, rowing and sailing, but not swimming.

Fishing includes only where coarse angling is permitted. There are usually signs indicating fishing rights. Do not assume that someone fishing has a right to do so.

Playing Pitches includes pitches formally marked out for the purposes of rugby, football, hockey, and other field sports. Specify the total number of pitches. In the boxes below the Playing Pitch category indicate number that are *Mini*, *Junior* or *Full* size. Junior pitches are approximately 2/3rds the size of full size pitches and Mini pitches are approximately half the size. Then indicate in the adjacent boxes the number that have the following surfaces *All Weather*, *Natural* or are *Floodlit*. *All weather surfaces* include astroturf pitches and hard surface tennis courts.

Horse riding can include *rides* (such as Rotten Row in Hyde Park), bridleways and riding centres (which usually have stables and other facilities such as showjumping).

Threats and disturbances: Give brief details of any of these which apply, noting the nature and severity of the problem in each case.

Invading plants includes scrub invasion of grassland as well as invasive aliens.

Erosion is damage caused by excessive wear, either through overuse of a site with inadequate maintenance, or through muddy paths "expanding", or through mountain biking, etc. Deliberate damage should be recorded under *vandalism* below.

Motorcycle scrambling is a common cause of erosion and habitat damage, as well as a threat to the safety of people using the site, and a noisy intrusion. Note if possible whether the motorcycle use is authorised or not (it is usually not).

Intrusive buildings are unattractive features, such as tower blocks, gas holders, masts, pylons, elevated roads and railways, that overlook the open space in a way that is

unsympathetic to its ambience. They need not be on the boundary. (The *boundary* is treated separately, see below.) Note if any of these things can be seen from the open space. Are they pervasive, i.e. always in the background or can you get away from them? Remember: they don't need to be adjacent to the site; they could be some distance away and still affect the ambience of the open space. Include pylons, railways etc. that cross the site.

Boundary treatment: note if the boundary of the open space is unattractive. This can be if the use is intrinsically unattractive, such as a sewage treatment works, a major traffic-ridden road, industrial buildings (unless attractive, modern, high-tech). It can also be if the boundary feature itself is unattractive. Typically, the boundary between houses and open space comprises a jumble of sheds, wooden fences, chicken wire and concrete slab walls, much of which is likely to be dilapidated, and often with signs of graffiti. Do note, however, that some boundaries, such as old, weathered brick walls, can be quite attractive. In all cases, use your judgement to determine whether the impact of the intrusive feature(s) is significant.

Redevelopment: Imminent redevelopment can be a serious threat. You may have foreknowledge of this (it may indeed be the reason for the survey). Signs on site include planning notices, advertisements for sale of vacant land, etc.

Safety/security: Note here any factors affecting public safety or the perception of public safety. This could include uneven paths and hidden holes, dangerous structures, evidence of use by alcoholics or drug users, and the availability of hiding places for potential lurkers, particularly near paths. Comments on sightlines, lighting and the proximity of other people might also be useful.

Vandalism/graffiti: Take care to distinguish between vandalism and poor maintenance. Vandalism is caused deliberately, not accidentally or by heavy use. Signs include graffiti; the contents of litter bins deliberately strewn across the site; broken windows; and obvious damage to other structures and features.

Litter/Dog fouling is perhaps the most common cause of complaint and annoyance for open space users. Most places are likely to have a small amount of litter, and places where dogs are allowed usually have some fouling. Record whether the problem is minor, moderate or severe.

Tipping includes fly tipping, dumped cars or dumping of household/garden waste over a fence; needs to be distinguished from serious litter problems, recorded above.

Pollution includes signs of contaminated land, dumping of toxic substances (such as oil drums) and water pollution. You could also include a note here if poor air quality affects the enjoyment of an open space beside a busy road.

Record *aircraft noise* or *road/rail noise* only if these are significant enough to affect the enjoyment of the site by people or to disrupt wildlife such as singing birds. Be aware that low cloud can muffle aircraft noise. With road or rail noise, note whether it affects the whole parcel, or whether it is possible to "escape".

Other includes any threat not covered by the above.

Interest/Potential for enhancement: A space for brief notes on the role of the open space and how the parcel might be improved. Use the “Notes” section overleaf to expand if necessary.

Recreation to note whether this is a major facility or could include potential to provide new facilities for a variety of formal and informal types of outdoor recreation, including for children’s play.

Structural might include noting the contribution of the space to the character and attractiveness of the area or its inclusion in a larger network or group of sites.

Amenity could include access improvements, including for people with disabilities, or the provision of seating, shade or shelter.

Ecology might include brief suggestions for habitat management or a note that a little-used corner of a park might be appropriate for nature conservation management or habitat creation.

Education could include the proximity of a primary school, or the need for some interpretation, or the suitability of the site for a nature trail.

Social and Cultural could include noting any facilities/information provided that are targeted at specific user groups or whether the space is used for community events.

Heritage could note the historic importance of the space, its features or its relationship with the surrounding area, for example important listed buildings on the boundary or whether it is a designed landscape.

Health could note any evidence of activities, such as Green Gyms or Trim Trails, or sensory environments for the visually and hearing impaired.

Accessibility could include any suggestions for improve the access into the space for example opening up new access points close to stations.

Change since last survey: Make brief notes on any changes. *Significant* changes include the loss (through redevelopment, etc) of part or all of a parcel, major changes in habitat or management (such as total scrub invasion of a grassland site), or a boundary change moving the parcel from one borough to another. *Minor* changes include small changes in habitats or management (some scrub invasion, introduction of grazing, etc). Tick *Error in last survey* if it is clear that a significant error was made in defining boundaries or the classification of habitats. This does not include small differences of opinion over the percentages of different habitats. For parcels where there has been a significant or minor change the losses and gains are recorded in a separate record.

Geology, topography, aspect, drainage, soil: Notes on any of these factors where possible, with reference to geological maps if necessary.

Contacts/others’ information/history and succession: For notes on people or organisations (other than the owner/manager) known to be interested in the site, for information provided by other people, and notes on known historical sources on the site or parcel.

Habitats: It is best if a parcel can comprise a single habitat, but this may be relaxed if additional habitats comprise a very small area, or if there is an intricate mix (such as hawthorn bushes invading grassland, or a park with scattered trees, hedges, shrubbery

and hard surfaces among amenity grassland). This can also be relaxed for a parcel comprised solely of heavily improved or managed land of fairly low wildlife value, such as an area of playing fields with some standard trees around its edges.

Aerial photographs are often of value when estimating the percentage cover of each habitat. Percentage cover should be expressed to the nearest 10%, except for very small percentages and consequently to make the sum 100%.

Appendix 4.2 gives a definition of each of the habitats, with notes on how to judge marginal cases. The definitions of some of the swamp/fen habitats have been changed to reflect the priority given to reed beds in biodiversity action plans.

Habitat qualifiers: These are located in three columns beneath the habitats on the form, and generally refer to the habitats in the column directly above them. Tick or fill in any that apply. Use a question mark if uncertain. The percentage shrub layer should always be estimated for woodland, but this need be only to the nearest 10%. “Sand/clay bank” refers to a sloping or vertical face of bare sand or earth which might be of value to invertebrates such as burrowing hymenoptera.

Species richness: This is a visual assessment of the number of vascular plant species in the parcel in relation to similar parcels elsewhere in Greater London. All species, whether native or not, count for this assessment, except for those obviously planted and not reproducing. As the comparison is within, not between, habitat types, it is possible to have a low score for naturally rich habitats such as chalk grassland or a high one for naturally poor habitats like heathland. If the survey was carried out at an inappropriate time of year, or a significant proportion of the parcel was not examined closely, “not known” should be ticked. It may, however, be possible in some circumstances to make a meaningful assessment without actually entering a site.

Interest: A particular interest is to be ticked if the site is judged to be notable for that factor. Tick the box if you have direct evidence (e.g. one or more locally rare plants present, or a slow-worm seen, or a badger path crossing the site), or use a “?” if the judgement is based more on the character of the habitat than direct observation (e.g. the site looks good for reptiles or there are features which might be utilised by bats).

Nature conservation value (surveyor’s personal view): This is for the surveyor’s view of the nature conservation value of the site. It is somewhere to wax lyrical. Beware of damning a parcel (except with faint praise); good places can be misjudged at the end of a hard day’s work, even the best surveyor can miss something of significance, and a considered judgement will include factors not obvious on a field visit.

Notes, sketch map: A sketch map is desirable if no field map or aerial photograph is carried during the survey or if there are new details to be recorded which are fine enough not to be clearly annotated on the scale of the field map carried. It is better, if possible, to carry both an aerial photograph and a field map at an appropriate scale.

This area is valuable for noting observations made while walking about the parcel. Always note the dominant plant species for each habitat, and any notable plants, as well as any fauna identified, such as birds, butterflies and signs of mammals. Full lists of plants may be recorded here, but for more diverse parcels (generally more than about 15 species of plants) it is preferable to use the plant recording form.

Appendix 1 Borough codes for assigning site numbers

<u>Code</u>	<u>Borough</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Borough</u>
00	City of London	17	Newham
01	Westminster	18	Bexley
02	Camden	19	Bromley
03	Islington	20	Croydon
04	Hackney	21	Sutton
05	Tower Hamlets	22	Merton
06	Greenwich	23	Kingston upon Thames
07	Lewisham	24	Richmond upon Thames
08	Southwark	25	Hounslow
09	Lambeth	26	Hillingdon
10	Wandsworth	27	Ealing
11	Hammersmith & Fulham	28	Brent
12	Kensington & Chelsea	29	Harrow
13	Waltham Forest	30	Barnet
14	Redbridge	31	Haringey
15	Havering	32	Enfield
16	Barking & Dagenham	99	Outside Greater London

Appendix 2 A list of habitats for open space survey in London

<u>Code</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Definition</u>
01/02 /03	Woodland	Stands of trees forming at least 75% cover, including coppice and trees of shrub size, but excluding fen carr (19). Includes stands of willow except <i>Salix cinerea</i> , <i>caprea</i> and <i>viminalis</i> , but excludes hawthorn, hazel (except hazel coppice with standards), elder, juniper and the three willow species listed above, which are always scrub (06) regardless of height. Where the species composition does not fulfil any of 01, 02 or 03 below, code as a mixture. Always record % shrub layer under the qualifiers.
01	Native broadleaved woodland	Woodland (see above) with native broadleaved species (i.e. excluding sycamore and sweet chestnut) comprising at least 75% of the canopy.
02	Non-native broadleaved woodland	Woodland (see above) with non-native broadleaved species (including sycamore and sweet chestnut) comprising 75% of the canopy.
03	Coniferous woodland	Woodland (see above) with coniferous species (including yew) comprising 75% of the canopy.
37	Scattered trees	Trees forming less than 75% canopy cover over another habitat (excluding coppice with standards, which is coded as woodland). Record percentage tree cover here, and the rest of the area under the appropriate habitat.
05	Recently felled woodland	Does not include coppice, which is coded as woodland.
06	Scrub	Dominated (at least 75% cover) by shrubs (usually less than 5 metres tall), excluding fen carr (19), heathland (15), young woodland, coppice, hedges (25, 34) and planted shrubberies (38). Includes stands of hawthorn, hazel (except coppice with standards), elder and <i>Salix cinerea</i> , <i>caprea</i> and <i>viminalis</i> regardless of height.
38	Planted shrubbery	Dominated (at least 75% cover) by shrubs, usually non-native species, the majority of which have clearly been planted. Excludes hedges (25, 34).
25	Native hedge	Line of shrubs, with or without treeline, one or two mature shrubs wide (wider belts should be coded as scrub or woodland), with native species comprising at least 75% of the shrubs.
34	Non-native hedge	As above but with non-native species comprising at least 75% of the shrubs. If neither 25 nor 34 apply, code as a mixture.
31	Orchard	Planted fruit or nut trees forming at least 50% canopy cover.
36	Vegetated walls,	Includes ruins, fences and other artificial structures with an appreciable amount of vegetation (including mosses and lichens) but excluding

<u>Code</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Definition</u>
	tombstones. etc	artificial water margins, which should be coded as wet marginal vegetation (18) if vegetated.

26	Bare soil and rock	Includes active quarries, fresh road workings, spoil or tipping and earth banks of water habitats, where these are minimally vegetated. Excludes arable land (28).
27	Bare artificial habitat	Includes tarmac, concrete, railway ballast, gravel paths, buildings and artificial margins to aquatic habitats, where these are minimally vegetated.
08	Acid grassland	Un- or semi-improved grassland on acidic soils, with less than 25% cover of heather or dwarf gorse. Excludes reedswamp (17). Usually with one or more of <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> , <i>Molinia caerulea</i> , <i>Nardus stricta</i> , <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> , <i>Galium saxatile</i> , <i>Potentilla erecta</i> or <i>Rumex acetosella</i> in abundance.
09	Neutral grassland (semi-improved)	Mesotrophic grassland usually with one or more of <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> , <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> , <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> , <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> or <i>F.pratensis</i> . Contains more than just <i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> , <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , <i>Taraxacum</i> , <i>Bellis perennis</i> and <i>Ranunculus</i> species (see 07 and 11), but lacks the characteristic forbs of 35. Excludes reedswamp (17).
35	Neutral grassland (herb-rich)	Mesotrophic grassland with more forbs typical of old grassland than 09. Likely to contain one or more of <i>Primula veris</i> , <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> , <i>Achillea ptarmica</i> , <i>Silaum silaus</i> , <i>Succisa pratensis</i> , <i>Stachys officinalis</i> , <i>Serratula tinctoria</i> , <i>Ophioglossum</i> , <i>Gensita tinctoria</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> or <i>Caltha palustris</i> , or an abundance of <i>Carex ovalis</i> , <i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i> , <i>Conopodium majus</i> , <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> , <i>Knautia</i> or <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> .
10	Basic grassland	Un- or semi-improved grassland containing calcicoles. Usually with some of <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i> , <i>Bromopsis erecta</i> , <i>Heliotrichon pratense</i> , <i>Thymus polytrichus</i> , <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> , <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i> or <i>Origanum vulgare</i> in some abundance.
11	Improved or re-seeded agricultural grassland	Species-poor mesotrophic grassland containing little but <i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> , <i>Agrostis</i> species, <i>Bellis perennis</i> , <i>Taraxacum</i> and <i>Ranunculus</i> species. Distinguished from 07 by its agricultural use and hence usually less frequent mowing.
07	Amenity grassland	Usually frequently mown, species-poor mesotrophic grassland characteristic of parks and sports pitches, containing similar species to 11. Scattered trees and shrubberies in parks should be coded separately.
12	Ruderal or ephemeral	Communities composed of pioneer species such as occur in early succession of heavily modified substrates. Typical species include <i>Senecio squalidus</i> , <i>S.vulgaris</i> , <i>Sinapis arvensis</i> , <i>Poa annua</i> , <i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> and species of <i>Polygonum</i> , <i>Persicaria</i> , <i>Melilotus</i> , <i>Atriplex</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Medicago</i> , <i>Vulpia</i> , <i>Picris</i> , <i>Lactuca</i> , <i>Diploaxis</i> , <i>Conyza</i> and <i>Reseda</i> .
13	Bracken	Stands where bracken is dominant. Also used with other habitat codes to indicate scattered bracken.

14	Tall herbs	Stands of tall non-grass herbaceous species, often rhizomatous perennials, such as <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , <i>Conium maculatum</i> , <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> , <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> , <i>Solidago canadensis</i> and species of <i>Aster</i> and <i>Heracleum</i> . Excludes herbaceous fen vegetation 32).
33	Roughland	An intimate mix of semi-improved neutral grassland (09), tall herbs (14) and scrub (06). If these occur in large enough patches they should be coded separately. Usually the next successional stage after 12.
15	Heathland	Dwarf-shrub cover greater than 25% of species such as heathers and <i>Ulex minor</i> , with less than 50% cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> . May include a large amount of acid grassland (06) in a close mosaic, but code as a mixture if grassland areas are large.
39	Allotments (active)	Communal allotment gardens which are under cultivation. Code disused plots under other habitats as appropriate.
28	Arable	Cropland, horticultural land (excluding allotments), freshly ploughed land and livestock paddocks stocked so heavily as to have little vegetation.
16	Bog	Dominated by <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses (greater than 50% cover) with water table at or just below the surface.
17	Reedswamp	Stands of <i>Phragmites australis</i> with at least 75% cover of reeds. Includes dry and tidal stands.
40	Typha, etc swamp	Stands of <i>Glyceria maxima</i> , <i>Typha</i> species or <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> where these species form at least 75% cover.
18	Wet marginal vegetation	Emergent vegetation with a permanently high water table in strips less than five metres wide on the margins of water bodies. Contains species such as <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> , <i>Apium nodiflorum</i> , <i>Acorus calamus</i> and species of <i>Rorippa</i> , <i>Alisma</i> and <i>Juncus</i> . May include <i>Phragmites</i> , <i>Typha</i> and <i>Glyceria maxima</i> , but where these form single-species stands code as 17 or 40 respectively. Usually too small to map but must always be coded if present.
19	Fen carr	Woodland or scrub over herbaceous vegetation with the water table above ground for most of the year.
20	Standing water (includes canals)	Lakes, reservoirs, pools, wet gravel pits, ponds, canals, docks and brackish lagoons beyond the limit of swamp or wet marginal vegetation. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.
21	Ditches (water filled)	Distinguished from 20 and 22 by their (often agricultural) drainage role. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.
22	Running water	Rivers and streams. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.

23	Intertidal mud, sand, shingle, etc	Intertidal areas without significant vegetation of higher plants. Try to record the extent at low tide.
24	Saltmarsh	Intertidal areas appreciably vegetated with higher plants, excluding reedswamp (17).
30	Habitat information not available	Areas which cannot be observed due to restricted access, etc.
29	Other	To be avoided if possible. Must be specified if used.
32	Species-rich herbaceous fen	Stands of herbaceous vegetation where the water table is above ground for most of the year, with less than 75% dominance of <i>Phragmites</i> , <i>Typha</i> , <i>Glyceria</i> and <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> . Distinguished by width from 18. So rare in London that it is not on the survey form; write in under "Other" if required.

Appendix 3 Typology categories

i. Parks and Gardens

Park refers to traditional public open spaces laid out formally for leisure and recreation. They usually include a mixture of lakes, ponds, lidos, woodland, flower beds, shrubs, ornamental trees, play spaces, formal and informal pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, golf pitch & put, footpaths, bandstands, toilets, cafes and car parks - but not necessarily all of these. Parts of some parks might be managed as so-called natural areas. Examples of parks include the Royal Parks, municipal parks such as Battersea and Victoria, and wilder places such as Hampstead Heath which, although having distinctly informal qualities, are maintained predominantly for the same purpose, and include the usual swings and roundabouts and playing pitches. Many parks are enclosed by walls or railings, although some parks that began as common land may not be enclosed.

Formal garden refers to spaces with well defined boundaries that display high standards of horticulture with intricate and detailed landscaping. It includes the London squares common to central London, which are typically square areas of grass with some shrub borders, bounded by railings, and surrounded by buildings. Examples include Belgrave Square and Soho Square.

ii. Natural and Semi Natural

Common refers to publicly accessible open space that has few if any 'facilities'. It will typically be mainly open rough grassland (not mown playing field or recreation ground type grass) and/or woodland, and may have a limited provision of facilities. In typology terms, commons are much less formal than parks or parkland. Examples include Wimbledon Common, Wanstead Flats, and parts of Epping Forest.

Private woodland refers to woodland which is not accessible for recreational use, nor managed for nature conservation. Record this under "other" until the survey form is revised to accommodate it.

Nature reserve is a category reserved for an open space that is managed primarily for nature conservation. Do not tick this box just because the site has a nature conservation designation. Many parks, etc. have such designations. An SSSI is likely to have park, common or agriculture as its type. Designated Local Nature Reserves, however, are recorded here. Also do not tick this box where you find small areas set aside for nature within parks, commons and other open spaces.

iii. Green Corridors

River should only be used for rivers and streams that do not form part of another land use, such as park, common or nature reserve.

Canal implies an artificial waterway which is navigable. Include docks in this category.

Railway cutting and **railway embankment** are self-explanatory.

Disused railway trackbed is usually obvious, with some traces of its former use. Where disused trackbeds are specifically managed for nature conservation, such as Parkland Walk, record as nature reserve.

Road island/verge is self-explanatory. Record as nature reserve if specifically managed for nature conservation.

Walking / cycling route is a designated footpath / cycleway through informal open space often along former railways or canals but record these examples as Disused railway trackbed or Canal.

iv. Outdoor Sports Facilities

Recreation ground is an area of mown grass used primarily for informal, unorganised ball games and similar activities (including dog walking). Not to be confused with playing fields, below.

Playing field is a site comprising playing pitches, usually for football, but also for rugby and hockey and, in the summer, for cricket. Playing pitches may not always be laid out in the summer, so look out for notice boards or changing rooms and pavilions for evidence. Include sites here even if they appear disused. Include school playing fields. Almost always, playing fields consist *only* of pitches; but they will sometimes have other bits of open land around the edges. Do not include sites that *partly* contain playing pitches but are more properly categorised as parks or commons. Pitches are often to be found in parks and commons, but the type here is concerned with sites that are exclusively or predominantly reserved for organised team sports.

Golf course: do not include golf courses that are part of parks, commons etc. This type does not include golf driving ranges, pitch & putt or crazy golf.

Other recreational is to be used for sites that are used exclusively or predominantly for other organised sports such as bowls, tennis and golf driving ranges (but not golf courses, see below).

v. Amenity

Village green is usually an expanse of grass in the centre of old villages, often used in the summer for cricket.

Hospital includes the grounds of any clinic or health centre.

Educational refers to school or college grounds and field study centres where school education is the primary function. Nature sites which cater for schools and for the general public should be recorded under nature reserves. School playing fields should be recorded under playing fields.

Back garden land is self-explanatory. While most surveys exclude private gardens, backlands are often surveyed for planning casework.

Landscaping around premises includes communal amenity space around housing estates and community centres, and also landscaping around industrial premises.

Reservoir includes covered reservoirs unless these form part of a park.

vi. Children and Teenagers

Play space is a site set aside mainly for children. It will contain the usual paraphernalia of swings, slides and roundabouts. Do not record play spaces here if they form part of parks, commons and other open spaces.

Adventure playground is a defined play area for children in a supervised environment. Boundaries and entrances are secure.

Youth area is a defined area for teenagers including skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and other more informal areas such as ‘hanging out’ areas and teenage shelters.

vii Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms

Allotments should be obvious. Include them even if they appear or are disused.

Community garden includes an area that is generally managed and maintained by the local population as a garden and/or for food growing and normally restricted in their access. For examples Pheonix Garden in Holborn.

City farm includes areas that are generally managed and maintained as a small farm by the local population, containing livestock and planting and normally restricted in their access. For example Freightliners Farm in Islington.

viii. Cemeteries and Churchyards

Churchyard/cemetery includes burial grounds, graveyards, crematorium grounds and memorial gardens, and gardens or grounds of non-Christian places of worship. Some former or burial grounds that have become full have been converted to informal leisure or recreation spaces; where the gravestones have been removed, these should be recorded as *parks*.

ix. Other Urban Fringe

Equestrian centre includes any land used for intensive horse keeping and riding, but not extensive horse grazing, which should be recorded as agriculture.

Agriculture includes arable and grazing land, including horse grazing, and market gardening (such as vegetables, often grown under cloches, etc.).

Nursery/horticulture does not include commercial retail nurseries (although these might legitimately form a part of a park or common, etc.). Horticulture includes areas of permanent glasshouses.

x. Civic Spaces

Civic/ market square includes tarmac areas or paved open spaces, which may or may not include planting. However, they do not necessarily have seats and may just be a plaza area, with some planting (usually trees) and public art. Often provide a setting for civic buildings and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. Examples include the area in front of the jubilee line station at Canary Wharf, and the plaza in front of Westminster Cathedral.

Other hard surfaced areas include other areas designed for pedestrians. These typically are used as ‘sitting out’ areas, where workers can enjoy the sun and eat their sandwiches, and as such usually have seats or benches. For example, Emma Cons Gardens opposite the Old Vic Theatre. This category excludes pedestrianised streets, car parks, servicing areas to buildings, and housing amenity space such as communal courtyards.

Other

Sewage/water works includes extensive sludge drying areas, filter beds, etc.

Disused quarry/gravel pit may be water-filled, but is not necessarily so.

Vacant land is land with no formal land use. This includes many “urban commons” which are used by people for informal recreation and which may be very valuable for nature conservation. If sites have formalised access and management for nature conservation, record as commons or nature reserves as appropriate.

Land reclamation is land recently decontaminated or reclaimed from disuse, which has not yet been redeveloped.

Others could be anything that does not fit any of the above categories, such as airfields or forestry (not wooded commons or woodland nature reserves).

Appendix 4: Recording changes in wildlife habitat

Introduction

When undertaking a comprehensive re-survey of open spaces, using the Greater London Authority Open Space and Habitat Survey format, it is important to collect change statistics as a contribution to monitoring trends in London's biodiversity. This report details the methods employed to do this.

The kinds of site involved.

Three types of site may be involved in changes:

- The first is sites that were covered in both the original survey and the current one. As the methodology used in both surveys was much the same, the habitat composition of each parcel could be compared directly. However this is inaccurate, as this assumes that both the classification of habitats and the estimation of their areas is not subject to error. The likelihood of two surveyors coming up with exactly the same data in the absence of change is low. In order to ensure maximum accuracy, rather than using just the raw figures from the original survey, the surveyor should use her judgement on what the real changes were, based on the original figures, contemporary aerial photographs and evidence in the field on the current survey.
- The second type is sites surveyed currently, but not in the original. This can occur particularly where the qualification criteria for survey differ between the two times. Here the surveyor has only aerial photographs from the time of the original survey and her judgement from evidence in the field to go on. Assessment of habitat composition based on aerial photograph evidence is difficult, but must be done to avoid biasing the results. While it is usually possible to tell the difference between broad habitat types, such as woodland, scrub, rough grassland, close-mown grass and bare ground, it is difficult to get any more detailed information than this. In some cases the surveyor may have enough local knowledge to record whether the grassland may have been acid or neutral, or the woodland may be native or non-native, but this is still an estimate.
- The last type of site is those which showed on the earlier aerial photographs as satisfying the present criteria for survey, but were excluded from the current survey because they have been replaced by hard surfaces, usually due to being developed in the intervening years. The original habitat composition of these sites is estimated from aerial photograph evidence alone, with the same difficulties as outlined above.

The size threshold for survey effectively excludes most private residential gardens and a few other small blocks of open space. The method does not provide an estimate of the changes that take place in such small areas.

Documenting the changes

The changes in an individual survey parcel can be complex. For example, an area of mixed semi-improved grassland and scrub can undergo succession, with some of the grassland being displaced by scrub and some of the scrub being replaced by woodland.

At the same time some other grassland could be lost to built development. Although the changes would be correctly summarised by estimating the original and final habitat compositions of the whole parcel, information on which areas moved between which pairs of habitats would be lost. This information is available to the surveyor, and these procedures collect the full details, as in the first four lines of the following table. Note that only 30% of the parcel is judged to have changed. There is no need to log the composition of the remaining 70%.

For the third category of site new 'change parcels' need to be defined. As these represent places where habitat has been lost and what remains does not currently qualify for survey, there is no requirement to bring these into the parcels system for general habitat survey. These are identified in a separate one-up numerical series as shown in the model given in the last three rows of the following table. The final habitat composition of such parcels will be predominated by habitat categories that support little or no wildlife (26, 27, 07 and to a lesser extent 37, 38). The individual percentages in these change parcels should add to 100.

Parcel number	Area of the parcel (ha)	Estimated % of the parcel	Original habitat	Final habitat
22043/13	15.1	11	09	06
		5	06	01
		14	09	27
22C01	3.6	10	25	27
		50	09	27
		40	09	07

Site & Parcel Details	
Site & Parcel no:	_____ / _____
Site Name	_____
Parcel Name	_____
Location	_____
Owner / Manager	_____
Access / View from	_____
Permission to enter from	_____
Grid ref	_____
Surveyor/s	_____
Borough	_____
Area	_____ Ha
Date	_____
Time Spent	_____ hrs _____ mns
Weather	_____
Access to:	<input type="checkbox"/> all <input type="checkbox"/> part <input type="checkbox"/> none

Open Space Typology				
<input type="checkbox"/> park	<input type="checkbox"/> river	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation ground	<input type="checkbox"/> village green	<input type="checkbox"/> play space
<input type="checkbox"/> formal garden	<input type="checkbox"/> canal	<input type="checkbox"/> playing fields	<input type="checkbox"/> hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> adventure playground
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>ii. Natural and Semi Natural</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> railway cutting	<input type="checkbox"/> golf course	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> youth area
<input type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> railway embankment	<input type="checkbox"/> other recreational	<input type="checkbox"/> back garden land	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>vii. Allotment</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> private woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> disused railway trackbed		<input type="checkbox"/> landscaping around premises	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>vii. Community Garden</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> nature reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> road island/ verge		<input type="checkbox"/> reservoir	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>vii. City Farm</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>viii. Cemetery/ Churchyard</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>ix. Other Urban Fringe</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>x. Civic Spaces</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> land reclamation
	<input type="checkbox"/> equestrian centre	<input type="checkbox"/> civic/ market square	<input type="checkbox"/> sewage/ water works	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> other hard surfaced area	<input type="checkbox"/> disused quarry/gravel pit	
	<input type="checkbox"/> nursery / horticulture		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant land	

Planning Status	Ownership	Public Access	Accessibility (Score 0-2)	Level of Use
<input type="checkbox"/> SSSI	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Free	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian	<input type="checkbox"/> Not or hardly used
<input type="checkbox"/> LNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Government / Crown	<input type="checkbox"/> De facto	<input type="checkbox"/> Cycle	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate numbers
<input type="checkbox"/> SINC or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/> Health	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Transport	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequent Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Belt	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted (describe):	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Car	
<input type="checkbox"/> MOL	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		<input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Chain	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Organisation			
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Rail Company	<input type="checkbox"/> Entry Points	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance & Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Predominant Recreational Use
<input type="checkbox"/> No open space designation	<input type="checkbox"/> LRT	<input type="checkbox"/> Open access – whole/part of site	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Active
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Gas Company	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited entry points	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Passive
<input type="checkbox"/> Other protected open space (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Company	<input type="checkbox"/> Whole surrounded by	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> None
	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric Company	<input type="checkbox"/> accessible open space		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Private			

Facilities				
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis court (specify number)	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf course	<input type="checkbox"/> Play for under 7s	<input type="checkbox"/> Litter bins	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic features
<input type="checkbox"/> Playing Pitch (specify number and type)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pitch & putt / crazy golf	<input type="checkbox"/> Play for 7-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Recycling facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Art gallery
<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> All Weather	<input type="checkbox"/> Driving range	<input type="checkbox"/> Play for over 13's	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog litter bins / area	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculptures / monuments
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Changing rooms	<input type="checkbox"/> BMX track	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Public art
<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Floodlit	<input type="checkbox"/> Motor cross	<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard area	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal / bird enclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cricket pitch	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Seats	<input type="checkbox"/> Open air performance area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Athletics track	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor paddling pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Operational toilet	<input type="checkbox"/> Car parking	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowling green	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse riding	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Water sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Waymarked walking route	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball hoops	<input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/> Cycle paths	

Threats and Disturbances (give details of severity etc)	
Invading plants	Vandalism/graffiti
Erosion	Litter/Dog fouling
Motorcycle scrambling	Tipping
Intrusive buildings	Pollution
Boundary treatment	Aircraft noise
Redevelopment	Road/rail noise
Safety and Security	Other

Interest/ Potential for Enhancement	
Recreation	Social & Cultural
Structural	Heritage
Amenity	Health
Ecology	Accessibility
Education	Other

Changes since last survey	
<input type="checkbox"/> No apparent change since last survey	Geology, topography, aspect, drainage and soil
<input type="checkbox"/> Part not previously surveyed	
<input type="checkbox"/> All not previously surveyed	

- Significant
- Minor
- Error in last survey

Contacts /Other's Information / History and succession

Biodiversity

Site and parcel no:	/	Date:
---------------------	---	-------

Habitats (%)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Native broadleaved woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Acid grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Bog |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Non- native broadleaved woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> 09 Neutral grassland (semi-improved) | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Reedswamp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Coniferous woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 Neutral grassland (herb rich) | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Typha etc. swamp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 37 Scattered Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Basic grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Wet marginal vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05 Recently felled woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Improved / reseeded agric grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Fen carr (woodland / scrub over fen) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 Scrub | <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Amenity grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Standing water (includes canals) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 38 Planted shrubbery | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Ruderal or ephemeral | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Ditches (water filled) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Native hedge | <input type="checkbox"/> 33 Roughland (intimate mix of 9, 14 & 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Running water (rivers & streams) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 34 Non-native hedge | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Bracken | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Intertidal mud, sand, shingle etc |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Orchard | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 tall herbs | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Saltmarsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36 Vegetated walls, tombstones etc | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Heathland | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 habitat information not available |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Bare soil and rock | <input type="checkbox"/> 39 Allotments (active) | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Bare artificial habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Arable | |

<input type="checkbox"/> Treeline w/out hedge	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedge w/treeline	<input type="checkbox"/> grazed	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently mown	<input type="checkbox"/> Floating vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/> Submerged vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Even-aged plantation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrequently mown	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuttings removed Y/N	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergent vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/> saline <input type="checkbox"/> tidal
<input type="checkbox"/> Coppice	<input type="checkbox"/> Dead wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Unmanaged grassland	<input type="checkbox"/> Ridge & furrow	<input type="checkbox"/> Naturally formed river bank	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flush	<input type="checkbox"/> wet	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood shrub layer	<input type="checkbox"/> flush <input type="checkbox"/> wet <input type="checkbox"/> Sand/clay bank		

Trophic status:
 eu- meso- oligo- dys-

Interest			Species Richness		
<input type="checkbox"/> Invertebrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Average / rich	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher plant	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor / average	<input type="checkbox"/> Rich	
<input type="checkbox"/> Amphibian	<input type="checkbox"/> Bryophyte		<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Not known	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reptile	<input type="checkbox"/> Lichen				
<input type="checkbox"/> Mammal	<input type="checkbox"/> Fungi				

Nature Conservation Value (surveyor's personal opinion)

NOTES / SKETCH MAP Record dominant and notable plant species, birds, butterflies etc.



Ecology Consultancy

The Ecology Consultancy is part of the Temple Group.

Experience and quality that make a difference

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