

TFL_PSF_9131 SITE INVESTIGATIONS: SMALL SITES INITIATIVE LAND AT BRIDGE VIEW ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM, W6 9LQ

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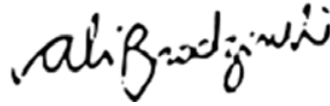
Ecological Assessment

OCTOBER 2017


Land at Bridge View Road, London Borough Of Hammersmith And Fulham, W6 9LQ

Ecological Assessment

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Arcadis Consulting (UK) Limited (Arcadis) was commissioned by Transport for London (TfL) to undertake an ecological assessment to support the feasibility for potential development at Land at Bridge View Road (Aspen Place), London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, W6 9LQ hereafter referred to as “the Site”.

TfL is aiming to divest a number of small sites to enable prospective regeneration. The objective of the Small Sites Initiative is to provide robust and pragmatic advice that sensibly de-risks each of the sites such that unreasonable “abnormal” development costs are not included by developers.

The objective of this report is to identify potential ecological development constraints due to current ecological conditions on site as based on the findings of a desk study and ecological constraints survey. The report outlines the ecological constraints associated with the Site with regards to biodiversity legislation and policy and provides advice on mitigation and enhancement opportunities, including requirement for any further assessment or licensing, if necessary.

1.2 Site Location & Setting

The Site is located south of the A4 and west of Bridge View, in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The Site is centred at grid reference of 523025, 178350 and around the postcode of W6 9LQ.

It is approximately 0.05ha in area and is currently comprised of closely managed amenity grassland, partially boarded by introduced shrubs with scattered scrub and scattered trees.

The immediate surrounding residential area is characterised by low rise housing. To the immediate north of the site is the A4 main road and approximately 160m to the south lies the River Thames basin.

The Site boundary used for this assessment is presented on Figure 2.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

Desk-based ecological information was collated from multiple sources.

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website¹ and other Natural England and Forestry Commission datasets were used to search for any statutory or non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within a specific radius of the Site boundary, as follows:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar Sites designated for their bird interests (5km radius);
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) (5km radius);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and all other statutory designated sites (2km radius);
- National Nature Reserves (NNR);
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR); and
- Woodlands registered on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).

Records of protected or otherwise notable species of conservation concern (that the Site has the potential to support) located 1km of the Site boundary were obtained from the following sources:

- Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006) Species of Principle Importance in England²;
- National Biodiversity Network Atlas³;
- London Biodiversity Action Plan⁴; and
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

In addition, the Local Plan was reviewed for citations of any non-statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the Site, including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and the locations of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) were also obtained from London Borough of Barnet. No citations for these sites were obtained other than where information was publically accessible.

SINCs fall into three sub designations:

- Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMINCs);
- Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SBINCs) Grades I and II; and
- Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs).

Waterbodies located within 250m of the Site identified from OS mapping were assessed with regards to their connectivity to the Site and their potential suitability for supporting a population of breeding great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*).

2.2 Field Survey

This survey was conducted by Aline Brodzinski in May 2017 (ACIEEM). Habitats were classified according to their JNCC Phase 1 habitat categories (JNCC 2010)⁵ and plants named after Stace (1997)⁶ and are presented on Figure 2.

2.3 Limitations and Expectations

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This report has been compiled from a number of sources, which Arcadis believes to be trustworthy. However, Arcadis is unable to guarantee the accuracy of information provided by others. The report is based

¹ MAGIC (2002). MAGIC Map Search. [online] Available at <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> [Accessed May 2017]

² NERC Act (2006) Section 41 Species <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/data/uk-species/checklists/NHMSYS0020515439/index.html>

³ National Biodiversity Network <https://nbn.org.uk/> [Accessed May 2017]

⁴ London BAP (Reviewed 2007) <http://www.gigl.org.uk/london-bap-priority-species/> [Accessed May 2017]

⁵ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010), *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit*

⁶ Stace, C. (1997). *New Flora of the British Isles Second Edition*. Cambridge University Press

on information available at the time. Consequently, there is a potential for further information to become available, which may change this report's conclusion and for which Arcadis cannot be responsible.

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Reporting Outline

The results of the desk study and ecological constraints survey are described below, with Sites or features of particular nature conservation interest detailed as appropriate.

Supporting information to be read in conjunction with the results and subsequent discussion are as follows:

- Figure 1: Designated Sites within 2km of the Site centre (at the end of the report);
- Figure 2: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Map (with dedicated survey results and target notes) (at the end of the report);
- Table 1: Ecological Constraints and Mitigation Summary Table; and
- Table 2: Site photographs (at the end of the report).

Only information potentially relevant to the development of the Sites is included within the report other information is appended as follows:

- Appendix A: Desk Study Results;
- Appendix B: Bat Habitat Suitability Assessment and London Bat Population Status; and
- Appendix C: Selected Legislation, Nature Conservation Status and Policy.

3.2 Desk Study Results

Only desk study results that are potentially relevant to the Site are presented within the report. Detailed status and protections conferred by the relevant designations below are presented in Appendix A and Figure 1. The relevant Site information is summarised below.

- An area of Local Importance for nature conservation, Furnivall Gardens is located approximately 30m to the west of the Site. Furnivall Gardens is a park in Hammersmith alongside the river Thames;
- There is one record of *Nathusius pipistrellus* from 2010 approximately 1km from the Site;
- There were no relevant records of protected or notable reptiles, amphibians or birds or of badger.

3.3 Site Overview

The Site supported a limited range of habitats and was dominated by hardstanding, an ephemeral short perennial and tall ruderal species mosaic, scattered scrub and scattered trees.

3.4 Habitats

Phase 1 habitat categories and descriptions of these habitats are presented below and the locations of these habitats are presented in Figure 2.

- **Amenity grassland:** The largest proportion of the Site was formed of closely managed amenity grassland. Species identified included wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*), false Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), dove's-foot crane's bill (*Geranium molle*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*) that is a species listed on the London Invasive Species Index (LISI), common nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). This area had negligible ecological value.
- **Introduced shrubs and scattered scrub:** The southern border of the site was comprised of introduced shrubs and scattered scrub. Species identified included hazel (*Corylus avellana*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), privet (*Ligustrum* sp.) and firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.). The ground flora was dominated by ivy (*Hedera helix*).
- **Individual scattered trees:** trees were scattered across the Site and in their part land, some of the species present included London plane (*Platanus × hispanica*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), common birch (*Betula pendula*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).

3.5 Protected and Notable Species

The following protected or notable species have the potential to be present on / adjacent to the Site:

- **Nesting Birds:** There is potential for nesting birds to be utilising the trees and scrub on the Site, including species listed on the London BAP such as house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). House sparrow and blackbird (*Turdus merula*) were observed on Site during the survey.

The Site offered no suitable habitat for reptiles. No ponds were present within 500m of the Site with connectivity to the Site, so the presence of great crested newts is extremely unlikely. Overall, within the Site, there was limited potential for protected or notable species.

3.6 Invasive Species

On Site, no invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded during the survey.

LISI species recorded on Site, were green alkanet and cherry laurel.

4 POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

The potential ecological constraints and associated further works including mitigation is briefly presented below, further detail is presented in Table 1.

4.1 Designated Sites

An area of Local Importance for nature conservation, Furnivall Gardens is located approximately 30m to the west of the Site. Due to the habitats present on Site the only likely potential impact on the designated site from future development would be that of recreational pressure. However due to the size of the development, and the existing use of the area this is not likely to be a significant effect.

4.2 Habitats / Invasive Species

The habitats on Site are likely to be considered as 'less than local' value according the CIEEMs *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment* (CIEEM 2016)⁷. However, these habitats have some limited value as green infrastructure, likely performing important ecosystem services (such as drainage, air quality etc.).

There will be some ecological benefit from the removal of non-native and invasive species listed on LISI. There is no legal obligation to control or remove the species recorded (cherry laurel and green alkanet) but it is good practice to do so. Removal of the vegetation from the site to facilitate the development would likely adequately eradicate the majority of the LISI species from the site. As none of the invasive species recorded on the site were listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA (1981 as amended) there will be no requirement to dispose of the cut/removed vegetation as controlled waste.

For any loss of trees, trees should be re-provisioned on the Site, of a suitable species, preferably native species of local origin appropriate to the sylvan culture of the area. An ecologist and arboriculturist should contribute to the evolution of the development and landscaping design to minimise biodiversity loss and to maximise the replacement green infrastructure with regards to biodiversity.

4.3 Protected and Notable Species

The following notable or protected species have the potential to be impacted by the works:

- **Nesting birds:** it is likely that nesting birds will utilise the Site, clearance of vegetation should be avoided during the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) replacement nesting opportunities should be provided within any development.

⁷ CIEEM (2016) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal.

5 LEGISLATION AND KEY POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Potentially relevant Legislation and Policy are presented in Appendix C and further detail with regards to surveys and mitigation required are presented in Table 1.

5.1 Relevant Legislation

Development of the Site will require surveys and or mitigation to fulfil legislative requirements for the following protected species:

- WCA, as amended 1981, for nesting birds: works will need to be timed to avoid the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) or supervised to prevent impacts to nesting birds.

Full details of subsequent works required are included within section 6, Table 1 below.

5.2 Relevant Policy

Elements of national, London and local policies and plans have the potential to be applicable to any development of the Site, these relate to:

- The safeguarding and replacement of trees to be lost to development;
- Creation and enhancement of biodiversity where possible;
- Material consideration of S41 species; and
- Although no invasive species with legal obligations were recorded on the Site, there were plants recorded listed on LISI. While there is no legal requirement to remove or control these species (buddleia, cherry laurel, tree of heaven, green alkanet) it would be appropriate and beneficial to remove them as part of a future development.

An ecology report addressing the required design and construction mitigation for any proposed development will be required in support of planning.

5.3 Potential for Enhancement Within a Development

In addition to the recommended further works, enhancements should be considered within any development. For example, biodiversity roofs, rain gardens and other green infrastructure should be considered and the soft landscaping should be designed to maximise the biodiversity potential.

There are also opportunities for enhancements for London BAP species. Bird boxes for sparrows would be a valuable enhancement, along with bat roosting boxes.

6 SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS AND MITIGATION REQUIRED

Table 1 Ecological Constraints and Mitigation Summary Table

Key Issues	Legislation/Policy	Assumption	Further Survey / input?	Seasonal Timing	Mitigation Required	Seasonal Timing	Programme Delay Risk	Survey/ Mitigation Cost Estimate*	Risk Rating
Nesting Birds									
All green infrastructure listed below is suitable for nesting birds. These are likely to be removed for development. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Amenity grassland;Introduced shrubs with scattered scrub;Individual trees.	WCA, 1981, as amended	Removed for development / site investigation.	No (but see mitigation recommendations)	N/A	Remove any remaining trees and scrub vegetation outside the core nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) or vegetation removal will need to be supervised by an ecological watching brief.	September to February remove trees and shrubs	If vegetation removal is required during the nesting bird season and nest are found by the ecological watching brief, a delay of 6 weeks is likely to be required until chicks have fledged.	Mitigation £500 - £1000 per day for ecological supervision / nesting bird check. Design and replacement of green infrastructure not costed.	Low
Green Infrastructure/ Trees									
A number of trees / groups may be felled for development	Potential TPOs (although unlikely) although removal will be granted with planning permission national and local policy on no net loss	Trees and shrubs will be removed or damaged due to development	Yes: BS 3857 2012 Tree survey	Removal of trees affected by bird nesting season see above.	Protection of trees replacement of trees and green infrastructure	As above.	N/A	Survey: £1,900 Mitigation: £1,000 demarcation and Arboricultural Method Statement. Replacement of green infrastructure.	Low
Invasive species									
Cherry laurel and green alkanet	Londin Invasive Species Index	Development could cause these species to spread	No	N/A	It would be good practice to remove these species during subsequent development and to implement mitigation to ensure they are not spread	N/A	N/A	N/A Can be undertaken with vegetation clearance for development.	Low

* Cost estimates only, actual costs would depend on the design and programme of any subsequent development and do not include costs for reports in support of planning application or any associated protected species licencing

7 CONCLUSIONS

There are no likely significant ecological constraints with regards to the development of this Site.

Constraints are listed below:

- An area of Local Importance, Furnivall Gardens is located approximately 30m to the west of the Site. Due to the habitats present on Site the only possible minor impact considered on the designated site is recreational pressure from the new development. However due to the size of the development, the possible impact is considered negligible.
- The Site supported a limited range of habitats and comprised of closely managed amenity grassland, partially boarded by introduced shrubs with scattered scrub and scattered trees. The habitats on Site were generally of poor quality and with limited potential for protected or notable species due to the small area and limited value of the habitats. However, these habitats have some value in terms of green infrastructure, likely performing important ecosystem services (such as water quality and volume attenuation and air quality attenuation etc.).
- There is potential for nesting birds to be utilising the trees and scrub on the Site, including species listed on the London BAP such as house sparrow. Removal of all trees and scrub vegetation on the Site will need to be conducted outside of the bird nesting season (March – August inclusive) or under an ecological watching brief.
- There will be some ecological benefit from the removal of non-native and invasive species on LISI, which is likely to occur when the site is cleared for any construction. There is no legal obligation to control any of the LISI species recorded on the Site or to remove of them as controlled waste but it is good practice to remove them and to avoid their spread.
- Trees and other vegetation should be replaced within any proposed soft landscaping and these designs should be evolved in liaison with an ecologist and arboriculturist. In addition, rain gardens, biodiversity roofs and other green infrastructure should be considered within any development.
- There are also opportunities for enhancements for London BAP species. Bird boxes for sparrows would be a valuable enhancement, along with bat roosting boxes.

8 SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Table 2: Bridgeview Road Site photographs

Bridgeview Road Site photographs	
	
Photograph 1: Closely managed amenity grassland and scattered trees	Photograph 2: Introduced shrubs with scattered scrub border

9 FIGURES

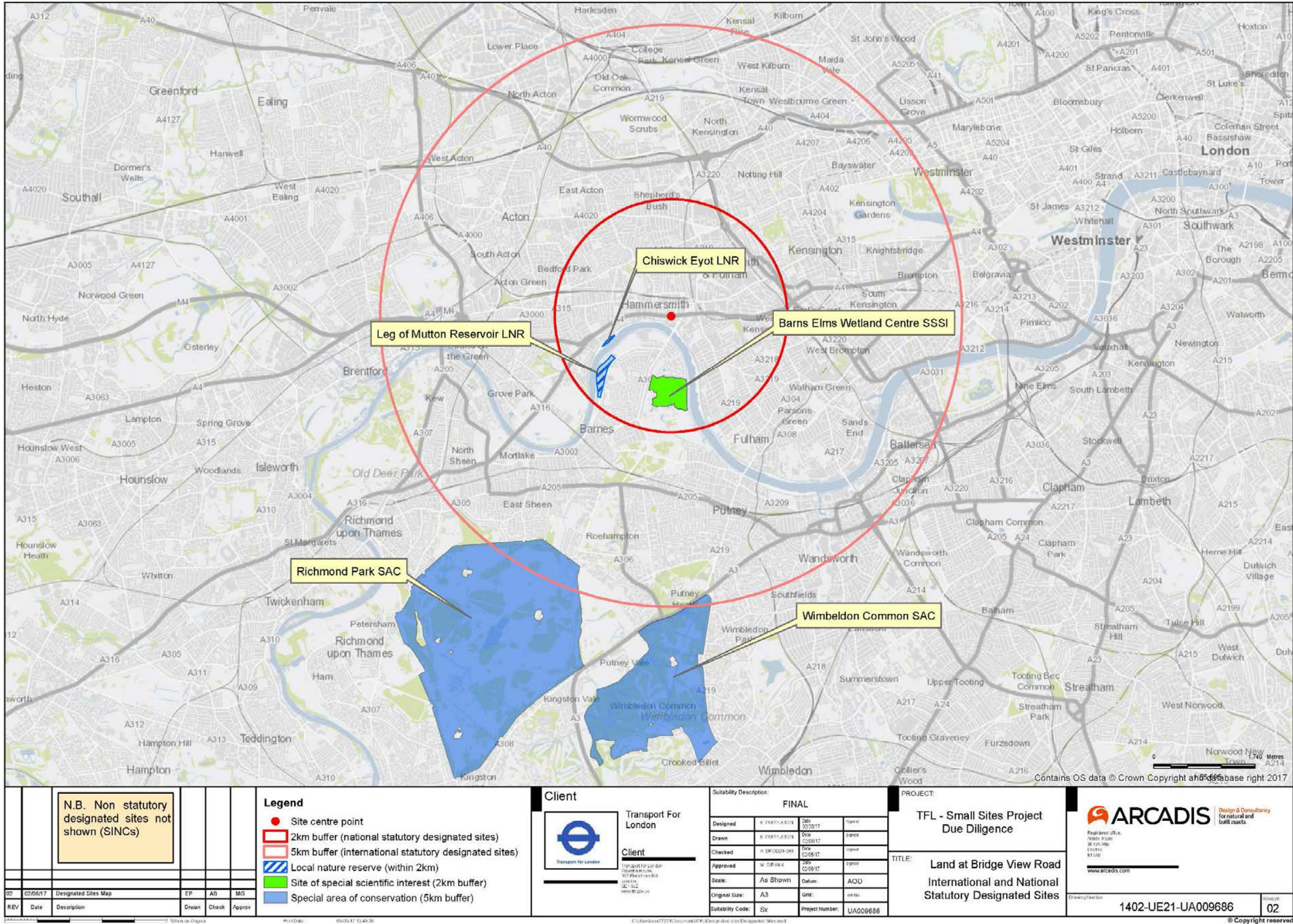


Figure 1: Statutory Designated Sites within 2km of the Site Centre

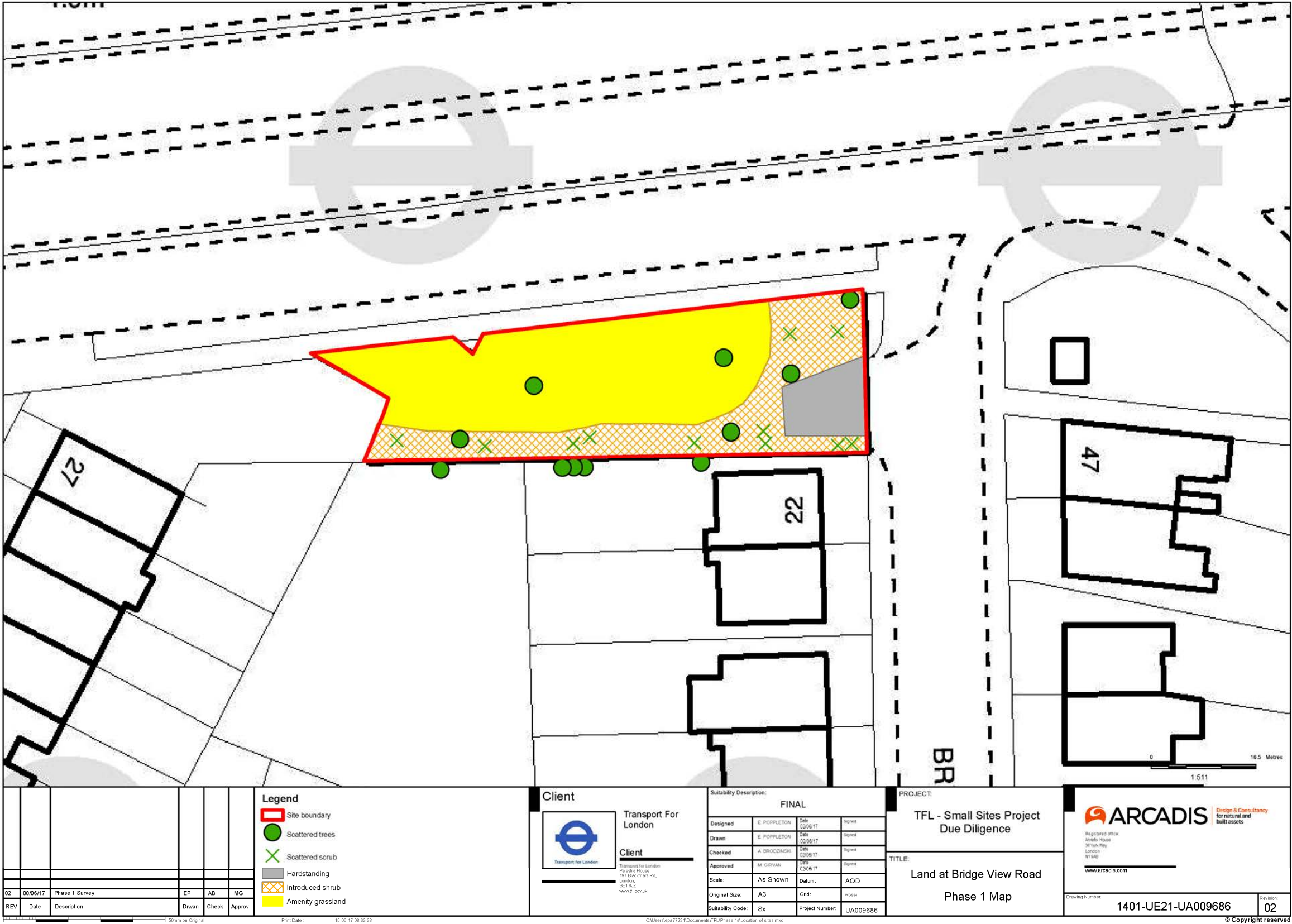


Figure 2: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Map (with dedicated survey results and target notes)

APPENDIX A

Desk Study Results

Statutory Designated Sites

The desk study found no Natura 2000 sites (SPAs, SACs, Ramsar) within 5km of the Site.

Within 2km of the Site are the following Statutory Designated Sites:

- Barn Elms Wetland Centre SSSI comprised of a mosaic of different wetland habitats created on the site of redundant artificial reservoir basins.
- Chiswick Eyot LNR;
- Leg of Mutton Reservoir LNR and Grade I SBINC.

Despite the Site's close proximity to the SSSI, the designated site is located south of the the River Thames which is considered a major barrier between the Site and the SSSI. Additionally the Site lacks any habitat potentially used by any of the SSSI qualifying species. Therefore It was assessed that there was negligible potential for significant impacts to this site from any development on the Site.

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

The desk study found the following non-statutory designated sites within 1km of the Site:

Area of Local Importance:

- Furnivall Gardens;

Area of Metropolitan Importance:

- The River Thames;
- Ravenscourt Park.

Areas of Grade II of Borough importance:

- Hammersmith Cemetery;

An area of Local Importance, Furnivall Gardens is located approximately 30m to the west of the Site. Due to the habitats present on Site the only possible minor impact considered on the designated site is recreational pressure from the new development.

However, it was assessed that there was negligible potential for significant impacts to these sites from any development on the Site.

Statutory Designated Sites

Table A:1: Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation	Size (Ha)	Distance (m)	Direction	Description
Barn Elms Wetland Centre	SSSI	30	1000m	South	<p>Barn Elms Wetland Centre comprises a mosaic of different wetland habitats created on the site of redundant artificial reservoir basins. The majority of the site comprises areas of standing open water, grazing marsh and reedbed.</p> <p>Other significant habitats include carr woodland, scrub and mesotrophic grassland. The Barn Elms reservoirs were constructed in 1886 but became redundant in 1989. Wetland habitat creation was initiated in 1995 and the site is now being managed as a nature reserve. A mosaic of wetland habitats supporting nationally important wintering populations of shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> and an assemblage of breeding birds associated with lowland waters and their margins. Twin patches of woodland known as Big Wood and Little Wood.</p> <p>They are two of the few surviving remnants of the ancient Woodland that covered North London.</p> <p>As a relatively isolated patch of woodland, it attracts large numbers of birds now rarely seen in the rest of London, particularly owls and the Green Woodpecker.</p>
Leg of Mutton Reservoir	LNR and Grade I SBINC	8.2	1200m	South west	<p>A former reservoir with breeding birds include pochards, which are nationally scarce, mute swans, great crested grebe and grey herons. There are many more waterfowl in the winter. The site is also important for bats, and amphibians include the protected great crested newt. Aquatic plants include bogbean and frogbit, both of which are rare in London</p>
Chiswick Eyot	LNR	1.1	1500m	South west	<p>Chiswick Eyot, accessible at low tide, together with the Leg of Mutton Reservoir, provide ideal habitats for nature conservation. Chiswick Eyot is the last island of rural scale before the increasingly urban riverside downstream.</p>

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Table A:2: Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation	Size (Ha)	Distance (m)	Direction	Description
Furnivall Gardens	Area of Local Importance	1.5	30m	West	Furnival Gardens is a park in Hammersmith alongside the river Thames. It was once the location of the mouth of Hammersmith Creek, which had an active fishing trade until about 200 years ago.
The River Thames	Area of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation	70	160m	South	The River Thames supports a diverse flora and a rich population of invertebrates, fish and aquatic birds. Increasing numbers of fish have been recorded in the Thames since 1957.
Brook Green	Small Local Park and Green Space		640m	North east	Unknown
Ravenscourt Park	Areas of Grade II of Borough Importance	8.55	660m	North west	Ravenscourt Park is a public park and garden located in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. It is one of the Borough's flagship parks, having won a Green Flag Award.
Hammersmith Cemitery	Areas of Grade II of Borough Importance	6.2	800m	East	Unknown

Overview of Protected, Notable and Invasive Species in London

This section of this report outlines the status of protected and notable species in London. The status of these species on the Site is fully discussed in section 3. Relevant conservation status and legislation is presented in Appendix D and E.

Non-native invasive species in Greater London

London is an extremely urbanised area and is a major international port for both people and goods, this in addition to its climate and major levels of construction has encouraged the spread of a number of non-native invasive species that are becoming pests. Therefore, in addition to those species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981, as amended) there is a London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI)^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} managed by the London Biodiversity Partnership, which lists non-native invasive species that should be controlled in London. Species potentially relevant to the Site include those presented in Table A3.

Table A:3: Potential Schedule 9 (WCA 1981, as amended) or LISI species

Common Name	English Name	Status
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Schedule 9 and LISI
Cotoneaster (numerous)	<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.	Schedule 9 and LISI
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Schedule 9 and LISI
Indian (or Himalayan balsam)	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Schedule 9 and LISI
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Schedule 9
Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	LISI
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	LISI
False acacia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	LISI
Green alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	LISI
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	LISI
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	LISI
Tree of heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	LISI
Holm oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	LISI
Passion flower	<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	LISI
Spanish bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> & <i>H. x massartiana</i>	LISI
Holm oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	LISI

Bats in Greater London

From previous Arcadis work in London and from data from the London Bat Group the most likely bats species to be present are common and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*) which are by far the more frequent, followed by Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii* in the vicinity of open water) noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*). These are all London BAP species and S41 species with the exception of Daubenton's and common pipistrelle. Full details of the conservation status of these species and the results from the London Bat Group Species Action Plan Audit are presented in Appendix B Table B2 **Error! Reference source not found.**

In general, every borough will have bats present, as even in the inner boroughs there are usually some areas of suitable habitat that can provide feeding habitat for small numbers of common and light tolerant bat species such as soprano and common pipistrelles. In general, the outer boroughs with larger areas of more suitable habitat should be expected to have higher numbers of bats and a greater diversity of species.

Birds in Greater London

There are a number of bird species that although relatively common are in decline and have been highlighted section 41 or London Priority BAP species and/or birds of conservation concern that have the potential to be present (Table A4).

Table A4: *Birds of conservation concern associated with London*

Common Name	English Name	Status	Typical London habitats
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	L	Traditionally found on brownfield sites around the built environment in proximity to standing or tidal Thames water
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	S41:L:	Associated with dense scrub and trees in private gardens and pocket parks
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	L	associated with tidal Thames and standing water
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	S41:L:R	Associated with dense scrub and trees in private gardens and pocket parks traditionally a species associated with nesting in buildings
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	L	Tidal Thames and the built environment using tall buildings for roosting and nesting and foraging on other birds particularly pigeons
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	S41:L:R	Associated with dense scrub and trees in private gardens and pocket parks
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	S41:L:R	Built environment
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	S41:L:R	Associated with dense scrub and trees in private gardens and pocket parks

Section 41 = S41: London BAP = L: R = Birds of Conservation Concern Red List

Reptiles in Greater London

Records from SARG (Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group) and the London Biodiversity Action Plan show that the presence of European Protected Species of reptile in the London area is generally very unlikely. Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) are the most likely reptiles to be present followed by Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) with Adder (*Vipera berus*) being unlikely to be present these are all Section 41 and London BAP species.

Badger in Greater London

Badger is a London BAP species and can be found using private gardens, woodlands and parklands across London.

Amphibians including Great Crested Newts (GCN) in Greater London

GCN are Section 41 and London BAP species, that while uncommon are found breeding in ponds associated with private gardens, from data available from Froglife (2012), 71 Sites across Greater London were surveyed where historical GCN records were identified, of none of these sites were located within the London Borough of Barnet⁸. Of the other amphibians that are London BAP species Common frog (*Rana temporaria*), palmate newt (*Triturus helveticus*) and Common toad (*Bufo bufo*), common toad is also a Section 41 species

Other Potentially Relevant S41 and London BAP species

There are a number of other species that have the potential to be relevant to the Site:

- Black poplar (*Populus nigra*);
- Mistletoe (*Viscum album*);
- Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*); and
- Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), there was an NBN record within 500m of the Site.

Table A:5: Birds of conservation concern associated with London

Designation	Description
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Sites designated under European law and are the most important sites for wildlife in the UK, along with Special Protected Areas (SPAs). SACs are designated under the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). Both the Habitats and Birds Directives provide for the creation of a network of protected areas across the EU, to be known as 'Natura 2000'. The designations aim to conserve important or threatened species and habitats and provide them with increased protection and management
Special Protected Areas (SPAs)	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Statutory reserves established for the nation under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. NNRs may be owned by a relevant national body, e.g. Natural England, or by established agreement; a few are owned and managed by non-statutory bodies. NNRs cover a selection of the most important sites for nature conservation in the UK.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Are areas notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by Natural England as being of special interest for nature conservation. SSSI notification forms the statutory bedrock for site protection. Biological SSSIs form a national network of wildlife sites, with each site being of national significance for its nature conservation value. Consultation and some form of agreement with the national statutory conservation agency is mandatory before any listed, potentially damaging development or change in land use can be carried out
Local nature reserves (LNR)	These are land owned, leased or managed by Local Authorities and designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. These are sites of some nature conservation value managed for educational objectives. In some cases it is managed by a non-statutory body (e.g. the London Wildlife Trust). Local Authorities have the power to pass bylaws controlling (e.g.) access, special protection measures.

⁸ Capital Great Crested Newts Revisited (2012). Project report – Public Web Edition

Ecological Assessment

Designation	Description
Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMINCs)	These are sites that contain the best examples of London's habitats. These sites are of strategic significance and are therefore of the highest priority against damage or loss
Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SBINCs) Grades I and II	Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SBINCs) Grades I and II are important in the context of the borough. The nature conservation quality of these sites varies and so these sites are graded as I or II in relation to their nature conservation potential.
Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	These are sites of particular importance to people nearby (such as residents and schools). Local sites are particularly important in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites.

APPENDIX B

Bat Habitat Suitability and London Population Status

Ecological Assessment

Table B: 1 BCT (2016) – Habitat Suitability Criteria

Suitability	Description Roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.
Low	<p>A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically.</p> <p>However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions^a and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation).</p> <p>A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.</p>	<p>Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat.</p> <p>Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.</p>
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	<p>Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.</p> <p>Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.</p>
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.	<p>Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.</p> <p>High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.</p> <p>Site is close to and connected to known roosts.</p>

Table B: 2 Bat species status in London from the London Bat Species Action Plan Audit

Common Name	Latin Name	UK Status	London Status	Notes
Greater horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Endangered BAP Priority	Extinct	Last Greater London record from Oxleas Wood in 1953.
Lesser horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Endangered BAP Priority	Extinct	Last Greater London record from Abbey Wood (Woolwich) in 1952-3.
Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Vulnerable	Rare	Due to difficulty in separation, these are considered together. Occur rarely and in low numbers in outer London Boroughs such as Hillingdon, Richmond, Bexley and Bromley. One current known (winter) roost only.
Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	Vulnerable	Rare	
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Vulnerable	Scarce	Still relatively few records in Greater London. Most central locations are Highgate Wood and Hampstead Heath, otherwise Richmond and Hounslow and occasionally other outer London Boroughs. 8 current known roosts (mostly winter).
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>	Not Threatened	Locally frequent but declining	Relatively widespread and strongly associated with ponds, lakes & rivers. Occasional summer roosts have been found in trees on Wimbledon Common and in Ruislip Woods. Contrary to the national trend, this species is apparently declining in London and its sensitivity to increasing ambient light levels is a possible reason. 4 current known winter roosts.
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Vulnerable	Rare; has declined	Serotines are found in outer London Boroughs, especially Bromley, Havering, Sutton and Richmond. 2 current known summer roosts, in Bromley and Teddington.
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Vulnerable; declining BAP Priority	Widespread but declining	The status of this large, wide-ranging bat is difficult to assess, but the past two decades have seen a rapid decline in the species and this mirrors the national trend. An exclusively tree-roosting bat; current known roosts number <10 London-wide.
Leisler's bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Vulnerable	Scarce	Leisler's bat has been recorded infrequently in London area, yet sightings have doubled in the last three years. New foraging sites for the species include the Barnes area, Wandsworth Common and Brent Reservoir. 3 current known roosts (Haringey, Bromley and Bexley).

Ecological Assessment

Common Name	Latin Name	UK Status	London Status	Notes
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Not Threatened	Common	A widespread species, the common pipistrelle is believed to occur in all London boroughs. Roosts are still discovered relatively infrequently, however.
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	BAP Priority	Common	Also widespread and probably London's commonest bat. Apparently more associated with wetland habitats than its close relative, <i>P. pipistrellus</i> . Known roosts currently number 15-25?, but many more pass undetected.
Nathusius's pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Rare	Rare	Only recently confirmed as a UK breeding species. Detector records from an increasing list of sites include Lesnes Abbey Woods, Chislehurst Ponds and the Wetland Centre at Barnes. 1 known current roost site in bat boxes in Hounslow.
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Declining BAP Priority	Scarce	Brown long-eared bats are fairly secretive and may be under-recorded in Greater London, although reasons for the national decline are also likely to affect London's population. Roosts have been found in Bexley, Bromley, Hillingdon, Wandsworth, Kensington & Chelsea, Barnet, and Richmond.

NB: This audit is based on data from the London Bat Project collected in the mid-1980s, as well as that collected since by the London Bat Group and is therefore not systematic. This audit is the best possible understanding of the status of bats in London that can currently be realised by the London Bat Group.

APPENDIX C

Selected Legislation, Nature Conservation Status and Policy

Legislation

Table C: 1 Legislation Summary

Receptor	Legislation
Nesting Birds	<p>The legislation relevant to the potential ecological constraints on Site associated with nesting birds.</p> <p>All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Section 1 of the Act makes it an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or intentionally take or destroy an egg of any wild bird. <p>It is also an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intentionally disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 of the Act while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturb dependent young of such a bird. Species listed on Schedule 1 include the black redstart, barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>), Cetti's warbler (<i>Cettia cetti</i>) and kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>). <p>There is no potential for Schedule 1 birds to be nesting on Site, the legislation regarding common nesting birds will be complied with due to the precautionary mitigation previously stated.</p>
Badgers	<p>Badgers are protected from inhumane killing or injury under the Badgers Act (1992)⁹ this also protects their setts from damage and prohibits blocking access to their setts.</p>
Bats	<p>The legislation relevant to the constraint identified associated with bats.</p> <p>Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)..</p> <p>Bats are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and are subject to the provisions of Section 9 of the Act, which make it an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intentionally or recklessly disturb a wild animal listed on Schedule 5 whilst it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a wild animal listed on Schedule 5; sell, offer or expose for sale, or to possess or transport for sale alive or dead wild animal listed on Schedule 5 or any part of or anything derived from a wild animal listed on Schedule 5. <p>Bats are also listed on Schedule 2 (European protected species of animals) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and are subject to the provisions of Regulation 41 which makes it an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of a European protected species; deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species (where disturbance is likely to impair their ability to survive, breed or reproduce, rear or nurture their young; or to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species); damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal; or

⁹ Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)

Receptor	Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be in possession of, control, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead animal of such a species or any part of a wild animal or anything derived from an animal or any part of an animal of such a species.
Great Crested Newts	<p>Great crested newts are a European Protected Species (EPS), listed on Annex II and IV of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, receiving protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This species is also afforded full protection under the Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981). Under such legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a great crested newt; Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt; Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt; and Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.
Reptiles	<p>The relevant legislation relevant to the constraint identified associated with reptiles All native British reptile species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Reptiles are listed under Schedule 5 of the Act. The four more widespread species including common lizard, slow worm, adder and grass snake are subject to some of the provisions of Section 9 of the Act, which make it an offence to: *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intentionally kill or injure a reptile; or * sell, offer or expose for sale, or to possess or transport for sale alive or dead reptile or any part of, or anything derived from, a reptile.
Other Mammals	<p>Other mammals not protected by their own legislation are protected by the Mammal Act (1996). The Act makes provision for the protection of wild mammals from certain cruel acts.</p> <p>An offence is committed if any person mutilates, kicks, beats, nails, or otherwise impales, stabs, burns, stones, crushes, drowns, drags, or asphyxiates any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.</p>
Non Native Invasive Species	<p>Numerous species are listed on Schedule 9 (of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended) whereby it is an offence to grow or to cause this species to grow in the wild. A species on Schedule 9 that commonly occurs in London is Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>) which is also covered by the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990 which designates this as a controlled waste.</p>

Nature Conservation Status

• Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) (2015)

The UK's leading bird conservation organisations worked together to produce The Population Status of Birds in the UK: Birds of Conservation Concern Four (BoCC).

Commonly referred to as the UK Red List for birds, this is the fourth review of the status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, and updates the last assessment in 2009. Using standardised criteria, 244 species with breeding, passage or wintering populations in the UK were assessed by experts from a range of bird NGOs and assigned to the Red, Amber or Green lists of conservation concern.

Table C: 2 Bird Population Status Criteria for Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK

Criteria	Status
Red list criteria	<p>Globally threatened</p> <p>Historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995</p> <p>Rapid (> or =50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years</p> <p>Rapid (> or =50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years</p>
Amber list criteria	<p>Historical population decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years</p> <p>Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years</p> <p>Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years</p> <p>Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years</p> <p>Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe, termed Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC)</p> <p>Five-year mean of 1–300 breeding pairs in UK</p> <p>> or =50% of UK breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not rare breeders</p> <p>> or =50% of UK non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites</p> <p>> or =20% of European breeding population in UK</p> <p>> or =20% of northwest European (wildfowl), East Atlantic Flyway (waders) or European (others) non-breeding populations in UK</p>
Green list	No identified threat to the population's status

Relevant Policy

National

The Site survey, assessment and recommended mitigation ensure compliance with the following policies, any additional enhancement measures would further comply with these policies:

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012)**¹⁰ sets out how the planning system should protect and enhance nature conservation interests. Section 11 is concerned with conserving and enhancing the natural environment Opportunities to enhance biodiversity are also encouraged.
- **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006**¹¹ places a duty upon public bodies to consider Section 41 lists flora, fauna and habitats (previously UK BAP habitats and species) as a material consideration in planning and to consider enhancement of biodiversity.
- **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services**¹² includes a list of Habitats of Principal Importance in England (HPIEs) and Species of Principal Importance in England (SPIEs). These were previously included as Priority Habitats and Priority Species in the UK BAP.

London

- **London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI)**¹³: Managed by the London Biodiversity Partnership, LISI lists non-native invasive species that should be controlled in London. Species relevant to the Scheme include Japanese Knotweed and Butterfly-bush.
- **London Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**¹⁴: Managed by the London Biodiversity Partnership (2006), the London BAP sets out priority habitats and species for the city. London BAP habitats relevant to the Scheme include reed beds, standing water and wasteland.
- **The London Plan (2011) Strategic Policy 7.19 Biodiversity and Access to Nature and Policy 7.21 Trees and woodlands) (updated with the Minor Alterations to the London Plan 2016)**¹⁵: Regional planning policy for London is presented in the London Plan: Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London. It contains various policies with regard to nature conservation in London, which include commitments to protect, enhance, create, promote, expand and manage the extent and quality of green infrastructure and biodiversity and to increase access to nature, the following elements of SP 7 are as follows:
 - **Strategic Policy 7.19 Biodiversity and Access to Nature and Policy:**
 - A) The Mayor will work with all relevant partners to ensure a proactive approach to the protection, enhancement, creation, promotion and management of biodiversity in support of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.
 - B) Any proposals promoted or brought forward by the London Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site of nature conservation importance.
 - C) Development Proposals should:
 - a) wherever possible, make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity
 - b) prioritise assisting in achieving targets in biodiversity action plans (BAPs), set out in Table 7.3, and/or improving access to nature in areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites
 - c) not adversely affect the integrity of European sites and be resisted where they have significant adverse impact on European or nationally designated sites or on the population or conservation status of a protected species or a priority species or habitat identified in a UK, London or appropriate regional BAP or borough BAP.
 - D) On Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation development proposals should:

¹⁰ Anon (2012) The National Planning Policy Framework HMSO, London

¹¹ Anon (2006) The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act HMSO, London

¹² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services*

¹³ London Invasive Species Plan (2012). Legislative and Information Exchange Framework. [online] Available at <http://www.londonisi.org.uk/tackling-inns/lisp/>. [Available June 2016]

¹⁴ City of London (2009). *London Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 – 2015*

¹⁵ Greater London Authority (2011) *The London Plan Strategic Policy 7.19 Biodiversity and Access to Nature and Policy 7.21 Trees and woodlands) (updated with the Minor Alterations to the London Plan 2016)*

- a) give the highest protection to sites with existing or proposed international designations¹ (SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites) and national designations² (SSSIs, NNRs) in line with the relevant EU and UK guidance and regulations
 - b) give strong protection to sites of metropolitan importance for nature conservation (SMIs). These are sites jointly identified by the Mayor and boroughs as having strategic nature conservation importance
 - c) give sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation the level of protection commensurate with their importance.
- E) When considering proposals that would affect directly, indirectly or cumulatively a site of recognised nature conservation interest, the following hierarchy will apply:
 - 1 avoid adverse impact to the biodiversity interest
 - 2 minimize impact and seek mitigation
 - 3 only in exceptional cases where the benefits of the proposal clearly outweigh the biodiversity impacts, seek appropriate compensation.
- F) In their LDFs, Boroughs should:
 - a use the procedures in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy to identify and secure the appropriate management of sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation in consultation with the London Wildlife Sites Board.
 - b identify areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and seek opportunities to address them
 - c include policies and proposals for the protection of protected/priority species and habitats and the enhancement of their populations and their extent via appropriate BAP targets
 - d ensure sites of European or National Nature Conservation Importance are clearly identified
 - e identify and protect and enhance corridors of movement, such as green corridors, that are of strategic importance in enabling species to colonise, re-colonise and move between sites.
- **Strategic Policy 7.21 Trees and Woodlands:**
 - A) Trees and woodlands should be protected, maintained and enhanced, following the guidance of the London Tree and Woodland Framework (or any successor strategy). In collaboration with the Forestry Commission the Mayor has produced supplementary guidance on Tree Strategies to guide each borough's production of a Tree Strategy covering the audit, protection, planting and management of trees and woodland. This should be linked to a green infrastructure strategy.
 - B) Existing trees of value should be retained and any loss as the result of development should be replaced following the principle of 'right place, right tree. Wherever appropriate, the planting of additional trees should be included in new developments, particularly large-canopied species.
 - C) Boroughs should follow the advice of paragraph 118 of the NPPF to protect 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site.
 - D) Boroughs should develop appropriate policies to implement their borough tree strategy.
- **The London Plan (2011) , Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (March 2016)¹⁶:** With regards to housing, recently a dedicated supplementary planning guidance has been produced, the relevant elements of which are presented below
 - Standard 40 and Policy 7.19 "Biodiversity and access to nature promotes a proactive approach to the protection, promotion and management of biodiversity across the capital" and that "Proposals for development should give full consideration to their direct and indirect effects on ecology. Ecological improvements can be achieved as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and incorporated into green or brown roofs, green walls and soft landscaping."

¹⁶ Greater London Authority (2016) *London Plan 2016 Implementation Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted in March 2016*

- Policies 7.19 and 7.21 “supporting biodiversity, protecting London’s trees, ‘green corridors and networks”.
- Development proposals should also enhance provision of green infrastructure in the public realm, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change (Policy 5.10 Urban Greening), extend tree cover (Policy 7.21), improve biodiversity (Policy 7.19).
- Public, communal and private open spaces should be protected and enhanced, and where possible new open spaces should be created. This is supported by Policy 2.18 Green Infrastructure, Policy 7.18 Protecting open space, Policy 7.19 Biodiversity and Policy 7.21 Trees and Woodlands.
- **The Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy (2002)**¹⁷: Connecting with London’s Nature: The Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy provides a statutory framework for the delivery of biodiversity policies in London. It seeks to ensure that there is no overall loss of wildlife habitats in London.
- **The London Plan (2011), Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Guidance (April 2014)**¹⁸:
 - Mayor’s Priority - Developments should contribute to the Mayor’s target to increase tree cover across London by 5% by 2025.
 - Mayor’s Priority - There is no net loss in the quality and quantity of biodiversity.
 - Mayor’s Priority - Developers make a contribution to biodiversity on their development site.
 - Mayor’s Priority - Any loss of a tree/s resulting from development should be replaced with an appropriate tree or group of trees for the location, with the aim of providing the same canopy cover as that provided by the original tree/s.

Local

- **Borough Wide Strategic Policy - OS1 – Open Space**¹⁹
- To protect and enhance parks, open spaces and biodiversity in the borough by:
 - designating a hierarchy of open space that includes metropolitan open land (MOL), open space of borough wide importance and open space of local importance (see Appendix 2) as well as a hierarchy of nature conservation areas of metropolitan, borough and local importance, and green corridors along the borough’s railway lines (see Appendix 3);
 - requiring a mix of new public and private open space in the White City and Earls Court and West Kensington Opportunity Areas and the South Fulham Riverside regeneration area when development takes place;
 - improving parks and recreational facilities through a planned asset renewal programme in accordance with the council’s Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. Major refurbishment of Shepherds Bush Green and Bishops Park will be complemented with investment in improved local play and sports facilities across the borough. Strategic masterplanning will guide future investment in Ravenscourt Park, South Park and Wormholt Park;
 - protecting back garden space and encouraging the enhancement of front gardens, and adding to the greening of streets and the public realm;
 - ensuring provision of quality accessible and inclusive open space, including areas of nature conservation interest, and children’s play provision in new developments, including in the identified regeneration areas; and
 - improving provision and access to parks and open spaces, play space and areas of nature conservation interest.
- **Policy - DM E3 - Nature Conservation**²⁰
 - The nature conservation areas and green corridors identified on the Proposals Map (and listed in Core Strategy Appendix 3) will be protected from development likely to cause demonstrable harm to their ecological (habitats and species) value.
 - In these areas, development will not be permitted unless:

¹⁷ Greater London Authority (2002), *Connecting with Nature: The Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy adopted in 2002*

¹⁸ Greater London Authority (2011), *The London Plan Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted in April 2014*

¹⁹ http://lbhf.limehouse.co.uk/portal/core_strategy_adopted_oct_2011?pointId=1311774178428#section-1311774178428 – accessed in June 2017.

²⁰ http://lbhf-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/development_management_local_plan_adopted_july_2013?pointId=1358249159512#ID-2410426-STATEMENT-DM-E3 – accessed in June 2017

- (a) the proposed development would release a site for built development needed to realise a qualitative gain for the local community in pursuance of other physical, social and economic regeneration objectives of the Core Strategy, and measures are included for the protection and enhancement of any substantive nature conservation interest that the site may have so that there is no net loss of native species and no net loss of habitat; or
- (b) provision is made for replacement nature conservation interest of equal or greater value elsewhere in the locality.
- Elsewhere on development sites, proposals should protect any significant nature conservation interest of the site and any nearby nature conservation areas and green corridors and, where appropriate to the scale and nature of the site, should enhance the nature conservation interest through initiatives such as tree planting and brown and green roofs.
- Planning conditions will be imposed, or planning obligations sought to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of nature conservation areas where these are affected by development proposals.

- **Policy - DM E4 - Nature Greening the Borough**

- **The council will seek to enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure in the borough by:**

- maximising the provision of gardens, garden space and soft landscaping and seeking green roofs and other planting as part of new development;
- protecting back gardens from new development and encouraging planting in both back and front gardens; and
- seeking to prevent removal or mutilation of protected trees and seeking retention of existing trees and provision of new trees on development sites.

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