

Chapter 8 Green Infrastructure

the London Plan 2021

A drawing of London city with buildings and trees.

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Policy G1 Green infrastructure

Policy G1 Green infrastructure

A London's network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced. Green infrastructure should be planned, designed and managed in an integrated way to achieve multiple benefits.

B Boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies that identify opportunities for cross-borough collaboration, ensure green infrastructure is optimised and consider green infrastructure in an integrated way as part of a network consistent with Part A.

C Development Plans and area-based strategies should use evidence, including green infrastructure strategies, to:

- 1) identify key green infrastructure assets, their function and their potential function

2) identify opportunities for addressing environmental and social challenges through strategic green infrastructure interventions.

D Development proposals should incorporate appropriate elements of green infrastructure that are integrated into London's wider green infrastructure network.

8.1.1 A **green infrastructure approach** recognises that the network of green and blue spaces,^[133] street trees, green roofs and other major assets such as natural or semi-natural drainage features must be planned, designed and managed in an integrated way. Policy G1 sets out the strategic green infrastructure approach and provides a framework for how this can be assessed and planned for. The remaining policies in this chapter provide more detail on specific aspects of green infrastructure, which work alongside other policies in the Plan to achieve multiple objectives. Objectives include: promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing; adapting to the impacts of climate change and the urban heat-island effect; improving air and water quality; encouraging walking and cycling; supporting landscape and heritage conservation; learning about the environment; supporting food growing and conserving and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience alongside more traditional functions of green space such as play, sport and recreation.

8.1.2 All development takes place within a wider environment and green infrastructure should be an integral element and not an 'add-on'. Its **economic and social value** should be recognised as highlighted in the London i-Tree Assessment^[134] and the Natural Capital Account for London's Public Parks.^[135]

8.1.3 To help deliver on his manifesto commitment to make more than half of London green by 2050, the Mayor will review and update existing Supplementary Planning Guidance on the All London Green Grid – London's strategic green infrastructure framework – to provide **guidance** on the strategic green infrastructure network and the preparation of green infrastructure strategies.

Policy G2 London's Green Belt

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A The Green Belt should be protected from inappropriate development:

1) development proposals that would harm the Green Belt should be refused except where very special circumstances exist,

2) subject to national planning policy tests, the enhancement of the Green Belt to provide appropriate multi-functional beneficial uses for Londoners should be supported.

B Exceptional circumstances are required to justify either the extension or de-designation of the Green Belt through the preparation or review of a Local Plan.

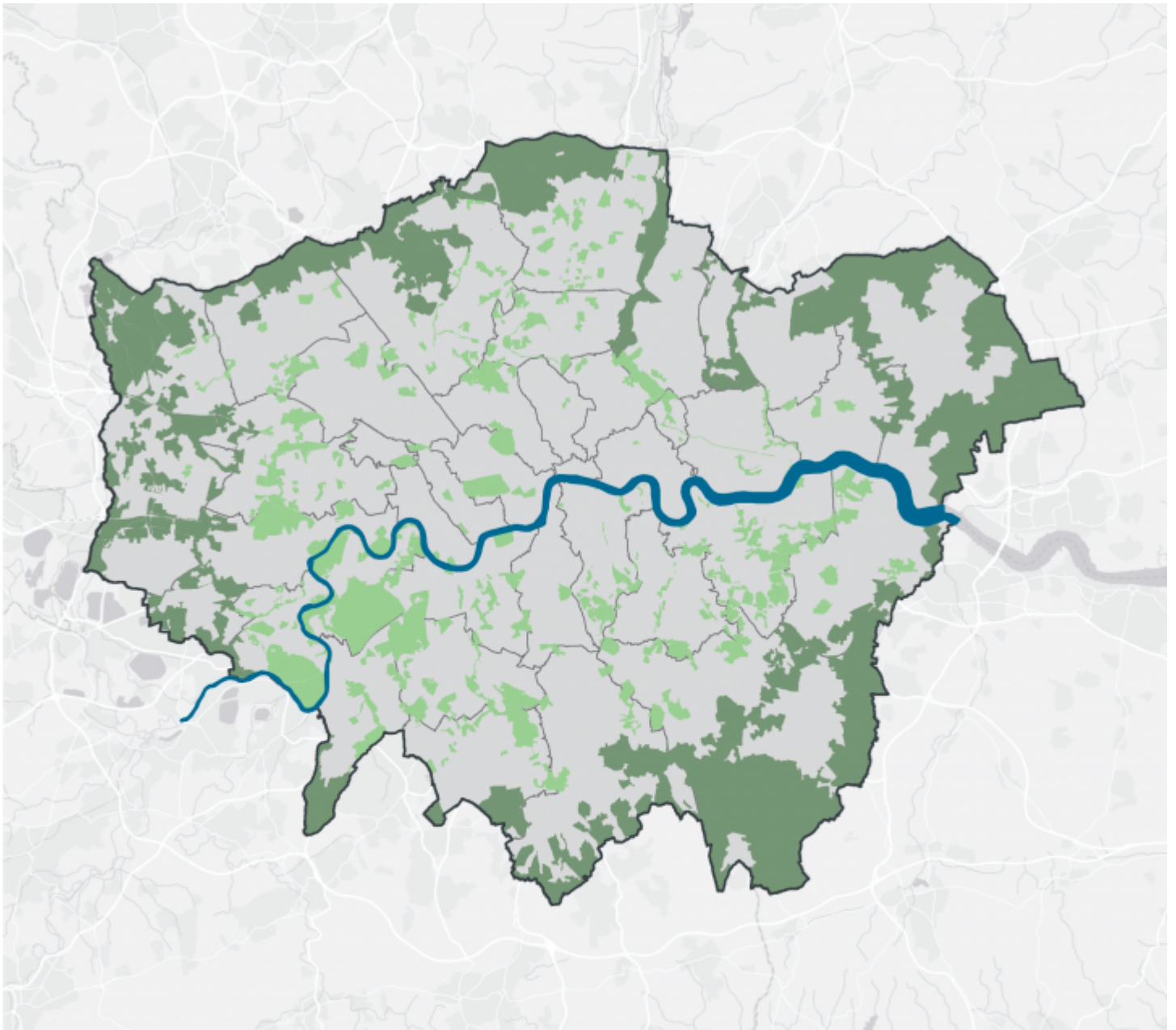
8.2.1 The Mayor strongly supports the **continued protection of London's Green Belt**. The NPPF provides a clear direction for the management of development within the Green Belt and sets out the processes and considerations for defining Green Belt boundaries. London's Green Belt makes up 22 per cent of London's land area and performs multiple beneficial functions for London, such as combating the urban heat island effect, growing food, and providing space for recreation. It also provides the vital function of containing the further expansion of built development. This has helped to drive the re-use and intensification of London's previously developed brownfield land to ensure London makes efficient use of its land and infrastructure, and that inner urban areas benefit from regeneration and investment.

8.2.2 Openness and permanence are essential characteristics of the Green Belt, but, despite being open in character, some parts of the Green Belt do not provide significant benefits to Londoners as they have become derelict and unsightly. This is not, however, an acceptable reason to allow development to take place. These derelict sites may be making positive contributions to biodiversity, flood prevention, and climate resilience. The

Mayor will work with boroughs and other strategic partners to enhance access to the Green Belt and to **improve the quality** of these areas in ways that are appropriate within the Green Belt.

Figure 8.1 - Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land

Figure 8.1 - Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land



Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land

- Green Belt
- Metropolitan Open Land

Source: Borough
Local Plans

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Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land

Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land

A Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) is afforded the same status and level of protection as Green Belt:

1) MOL should be protected from inappropriate development in accordance with national planning policy tests that apply to the Green Belt

2) boroughs should work with partners to enhance the quality and range of uses of MOL.

B The extension of MOL designations should be supported where appropriate. Boroughs should designate MOL by establishing that the land meets at least one of the following criteria:

1) it contributes to the physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built-up area

2) it includes open air facilities, especially for leisure, recreation, sport, the arts and cultural activities, which serve either the whole or significant parts of London

3) it contains features or landscapes (historic, recreational, biodiverse) of either national or metropolitan value

4) it forms part of a strategic corridor, node or a link in the network of green infrastructure and meets one of the above criteria.

C Any alterations to the boundary of MOL should be undertaken through the Local Plan process, in consultation with the Mayor and adjoining boroughs. MOL boundaries should only be changed in exceptional circumstances when this is fully evidenced and justified, taking into account the purposes for including land in MOL set out in Part B.

8.3.1 Metropolitan Open Land is strategic open land within the urban area. It plays an important role in London's green infrastructure – the network of green spaces, features and places around and within urban areas.

MOL protects and enhances the open environment and improves Londoners' quality of life by providing localities which offer sporting and leisure use, heritage value, biodiversity, food growing, and health benefits through encouraging walking, running and other physical activity.

8.3.2 Metropolitan Open Land is afforded the same status and protection as Green Belt land. Any proposed **changes to existing MOL boundaries** must be accompanied by thorough evidence which demonstrates that there are exceptional circumstances consistent with the requirements of national policy.

8.3.3 Additional stretches of the River Thames should not be designated as Metropolitan Open Land, as this may restrict the use of the river for transport infrastructure related uses. In considering whether there are exceptional circumstances to change MOL boundaries alongside the Thames and other waterways, boroughs should have regard to [Policy SI 14 Waterways – strategic role](#) to [Policy SI 17 Protecting and enhancing London's waterways](#) and the need for certain types of development to help maximise the multifunctional benefits of waterways including their role in transporting passengers and freight.

8.3.4 Proposals to **enhance access to MOL** and to improve poorer quality areas such that they provide a wider range of benefits for Londoners that are appropriate within MOL will be encouraged. Examples include improved public access for all, inclusive design, recreation facilities, habitat creation, landscaping improvement and flood storage.

Policy G4 Open space

Policy G4 Open space

A Development Plans should:

1) undertake a needs assessment of all open space to inform policy. Assessments should identify areas of public open space deficiency, using the categorisation set out in Table 8.1 as a benchmark for the different types required.^[136] Assessments should take into account the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space

2) include appropriate designations and policies for the protection of open space to meet needs and address deficiencies

3) promote the creation of new areas of publicly-accessible open space particularly green space, ensuring that future open space needs are planned for, especially in areas with the potential for substantial change

- 4) ensure that open space, particularly green space, included as part of development remains publicly accessible.
- B Development proposals should:
- 1) not result in the loss of protected open space
 - 2) where possible create areas of publicly accessible open space, particularly in areas of deficiency.

8.4.1 Open spaces, particularly those planned, designed and managed as green infrastructure – provide a wide range of social, health and environmental benefits, and are a **vital component of London’s infrastructure**. All types of open space, regardless of their function, are valuable in their ability to connect Londoners to open spaces at the neighbourhood level. Connectivity across the network of open spaces is particularly important as this provides opportunities for walking and cycling. Green spaces are especially important for improving wildlife corridors.

8.4.2 Boroughs should undertake an open space needs assessment, which should be in-line with objectives in **green infrastructure strategies** (Policy G1 Green infrastructure) (drawing from existing strategies such as play, trees and playing pitches). These strategies and assessments should inform each other to deliver multiple benefits in recognition of the cross-borough function and benefits of some forms of green infrastructure. Assessments should take into account all types of open space, including open space that is not publicly accessible, to inform local plan policies and designations.

8.4.3 The creation of new open space, particularly green space, is essential in helping to meet the Mayor’s target of making more than 50 per cent of London green by 2050. **New provision or improved public access** should be particularly encouraged in areas of deficiency in access to public open space. It is important to secure appropriate management and maintenance of open spaces to ensure that a wide range of benefits can be secured and any conflicts between uses are minimised.

8.4.4 Proposals to **enhance open spaces** to provide a wider range of benefits for Londoners will be encouraged. Examples could include improved public access, inclusive design, recreation facilities, habitat creation, landscaping improvement or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Table 8.1 - Public open space categorisation

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Table 8.1 provides a description, approximate size and distance from homes of the varies categories of open space			
Open Space categorisation	Description	Size guideline	Distance from homes
Regional Parks	These are large areas, corridors or networks of open space, the majority of which will be publicly-accessible and provide a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. They offer a combination of facilities and features that are unique within London, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	400 ha	3.2 to 8 km

Open Space categorisation	Description	Size guideline	Distance from homes
Metropolitan Parks	These are large areas of open space that provide a similar range of benefits to Regional Parks and offer a combination of facilities at a sub-regional level. They are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	60 ha	3.2 km
District Parks	These are large areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features. They provide a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits.	20 ha	1.2 km
Local Parks and Open Spaces	These provide for court games, children's play, sitting out areas and nature conservation areas.	2 ha	400 m
Small Open Spaces	These include public gardens, sitting out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.	Under 2 ha	Less than 400m
Pocket Parks	These are small areas of open space that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation that sometimes have seating and play equipment.	Under 0.4 ha	Less than 400 m
Linear Open Spaces	These are open spaces and towpaths alongside the Thames, canals and other waterways, paths, disused railways, nature conservation areas and other routes that provide opportunities for informal recreation. They can often be characterised by elements that are not public open space but that contribute to the enjoyment of the space.	n/a	n/a

This table gives examples of typical open space typologies in London; other open space types may be included to reflect local circumstances

Policy G5 Urban greening

Policy G5 Urban greening

A Major development proposals should contribute to the greening of London by including urban greening as a fundamental element of site and building design, and by incorporating measures such as high-quality landscaping (including trees), green roofs, green walls and nature-based sustainable drainage.

B Boroughs should develop an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to identify the appropriate amount of urban greening required in new developments. The UGF should be based on the factors set out in Table 8.2, but tailored to local circumstances. In the interim, the Mayor recommends a target score of 0.4 for developments that are predominately residential, and a target score of 0.3 for predominately commercial development (excluding B2 and B8 uses).

C Existing green cover retained on site should count towards developments meeting the interim target scores set out in (B) based on the factors set out in Table 8.2.

8.5.1 The inclusion of **urban greening measures** in new development will result in an increase in green cover, and **should be integral to planning** the layout and design of new buildings and developments. This should be considered from the beginning of the design process.

8.5.2 **Urban greening** covers a wide range of options including, but not limited to, street trees, green roofs, green walls, and rain gardens. It can help to meet other policy requirements and provide a range of benefits including amenity space, enhanced biodiversity, addressing the urban heat island effect, sustainable drainage and amenity – the latter being especially important in the most densely developed parts of the city where traditional green space is limited. The management and ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure should be considered and secured through the planning system where appropriate.

8.5.3 A number of cities have successfully adopted a ‘green space factor’ to encourage more and better urban greening. The Mayor has developed a generic **Urban Greening Factor** model to assist boroughs and developers in determining the appropriate provision of urban greening for new developments. This is based on a review of green space factors in other cities.^[137] The factors outlined in Table 8.2 are a simplified measure of various benefits provided by soils, vegetation and water based on their potential for rainwater infiltration as a proxy to provide a range of benefits such as improved health, climate change adaption and biodiversity conservation.

8.5.4 The UGF is currently only applied to major applications, but may eventually be applied to applications below this threshold as boroughs develop their own models. London is a diverse city so it is appropriate that each borough develops its own approach in response to its local circumstances. However, the challenges of climate change, poor air quality and deficiencies in green space need to be tackled now, so while each borough develops its own bespoke approach the Mayor has recommended the standards set out above. Further guidance will be developed to support implementation of the Urban Greening Factor.

8.5.5 Residential development places greater demands on **existing green infrastructure** and, as such, a higher standard is justified. Commercial development includes a range of uses and a variety of development typologies where the approach to urban greening will vary. Whilst the target score of 0.3 does not apply to B2 and B8 uses, these uses will still be expected to set out what measures they have taken to achieve urban greening on-site and quantify what their UGF score is.

8.5.6 The Urban Greening Factor for a proposed development is calculated in the following way:

(Factor A x Area) + (Factor B x Area) + (Factor C x Area) etc. divided by Total Site Area.

So, for example, an office development with a 600 sq.m. footprint on a site of 1,000 sq.m. including a green roof, 250 sq.m. car parking, 100 sq.m. open water and 50 sq.m. of amenity grassland would score the following;

$$(0.7 \times 600) + (0.0 \times 250) + (1 \times 100) + (0.4 \times 50) / 1000 = 0.54$$

8.5.7 So, in this example, the proposed office development exceeds the interim target score of 0.3 for a predominately commercial development under Part B of [Policy G5 Urban greening](#).

Table 8.2 - Urban Greening Factors

Table 8.2 - Urban Greening Factors

Table 8.2 provides the urban greening factor for various types of surface cover to be used in the calculation described in paragraph 8.5.6	
Surface Cover Type	Factor
Semi-natural vegetation (e.g. trees, woodland, species-rich grassland) maintained or established on site.	1

Surface Cover Type	Factor
Wetland or open water (semi-natural; not chlorinated) maintained or established on site.	1
Intensive green roof or vegetation over structure. Substrate minimum settled depth of 150mm – see livingroofs.org for descriptions. ^A	0.8
Standard trees planted in connected tree pits with a minimum soil volume equivalent to at least two thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree – see Trees in Hard Landscapes for overview. ^B	0.8
Extensive green roof with substrate of minimum settled depth of 80mm (or 60mm beneath vegetation blanket) – meets the requirements of GRO Code 2014. ^C	0.7
Flower-rich perennial planting – see RHS perennial plants for guidance. ^D	0.7
Rain gardens and other vegetated sustainable drainage elements – See CIRIA for case-studies. ^E	0.7
Hedges (line of mature shrubs one or two shrubs wide) – see RHS for guidance. ^F	0.6
Standard trees planted in pits with soil volumes less than two thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree.	0.6
Green wall –modular system or climbers rooted in soil – see NBS Guide to Façade Greening for overview. ^G	0.6
Groundcover planting – see RHS Groundcover Plants for overview. ^H	0.5
Amenity grassland (species-poor, regularly mown lawn).	0.4
Extensive green roof of sedum mat or other lightweight systems that do not meet GRO Code 2014. ^I	0.3
Water features (chlorinated) or unplanted detention basins.	0.2
Permeable paving – see CIRIA for overview. ^J	0.1
Sealed surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt, waterproofing, stone).	0

Notes for Table 8.2

A. [Living roofs - Intensive green roofs](#)

B. [Trees in hard landscapes -Guide for delivery](#)

C. [The GRO Green Roofs Code](#)

D. [RHS - Perennials](#)

E. [Susdrain case studies](#)

F. [RHS - Hedges](#)

G. [The NBS Guide to Facade Greening](#)

H. [RHS - Ground Cover Plants](#)

I. [The GRO Green Roofs Code](#)

J. [Susdrain introduction to pervious surface types](#)

Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature

Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature

A Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be protected.

B Boroughs, in developing Development Plans, should:

- 1) use up-to-date information about the natural environment and the relevant procedures to identify SINCs and ecological corridors to identify coherent ecological networks
- 2) identify areas of deficiency in access to nature (i.e. areas that are more than 1km walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC) and seek opportunities to address them
- 3) support the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats that sit outside the SINC network, and promote opportunities for enhancing them using Biodiversity Action Plans
- 4) seek opportunities to create other habitats, or features such as artificial nest sites, that are of particular relevance and benefit in an urban context
- 5) ensure designated sites of European or national nature conservation importance are clearly identified and impacts assessed in accordance with legislative requirements.

C Where harm to a SINC is unavoidable, and where the benefits of the development proposal clearly outweigh the impacts on biodiversity, the following mitigation hierarchy should be applied to minimise development impacts:

- 1) avoid damaging the significant ecological features of the site
- 2) minimise the overall spatial impact and mitigate it by improving the quality or management of the rest of the site
- 3) deliver off-site compensation of better biodiversity value.

D Development proposals should manage impacts on biodiversity and aim to secure net biodiversity gain. This should be informed by the best available ecological information and addressed from the start of the development process.

E Proposals which reduce deficiencies in access to nature should be considered positively.

8.6.1 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) comprise:

1. Sites of Metropolitan Importance – strategically-important conservation sites for London
2. Sites of Borough Importance – sites which support habitats or species of value at the borough level
3. Sites of Local Importance – sites which are important for the provision of access to nature at the neighbourhood level.

Several Sites of Metropolitan Importance also have statutory European or national nature conservation designations (see paragraph 8.6.3)

8.6.2 The level of protection afforded to SINCS should be commensurate with their status and the contribution they make to wider ecological networks. When undertaking comprehensive reviews of SINCs across a borough, or when identifying or amending Sites of Metropolitan Importance, boroughs should consult the London Wildlife Sites Board.

8.6.3 Sites with a formal **European or national designation** (including Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and Local Reserves) are protected by legislation. There are legal provisions which ensure these sites are not harmed by development; there is a duty to consult Natural England on proposals that might affect these sites, and undertake an appropriate assessment of the potential impacts on European sites if a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

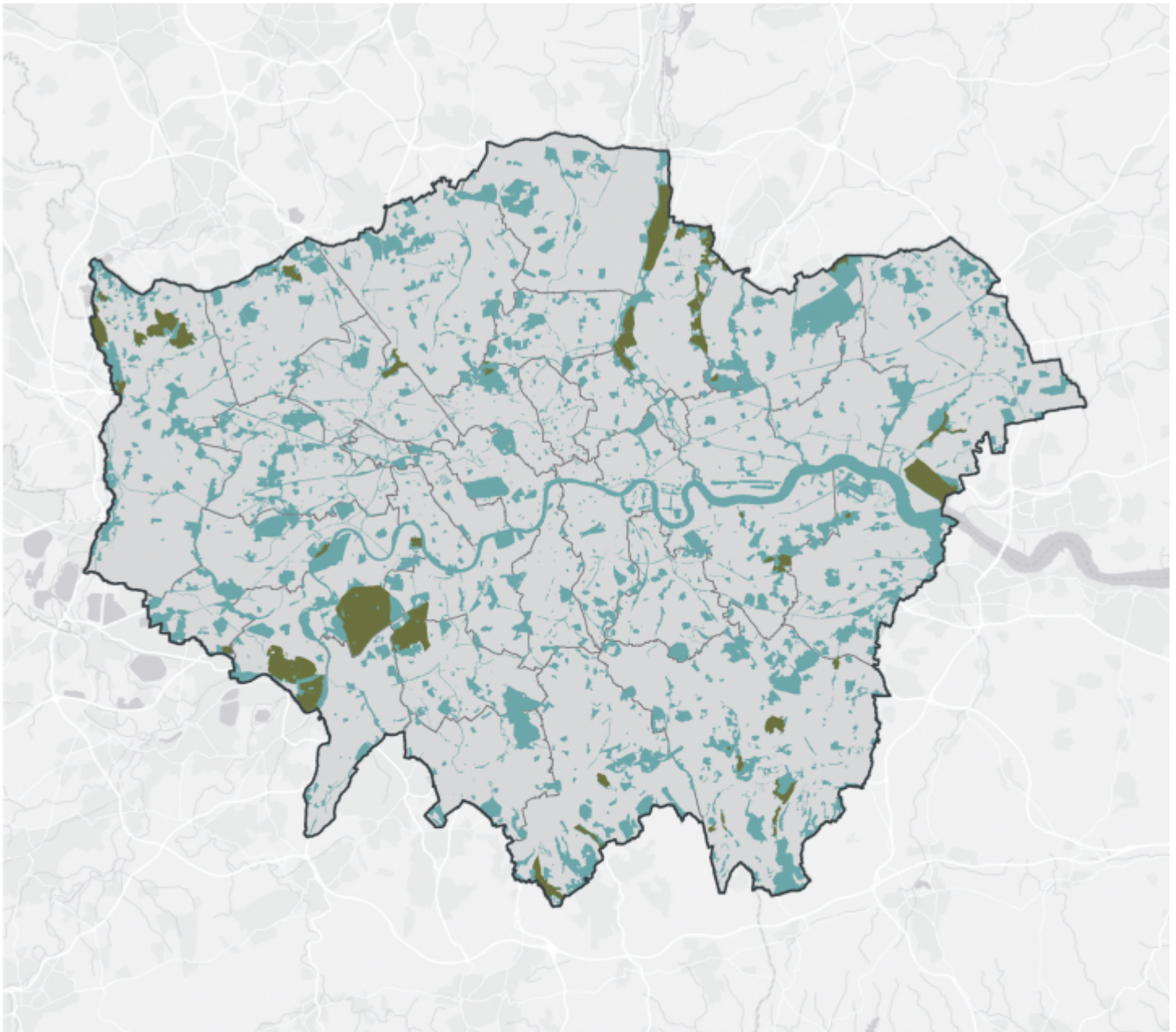
8.6.4 Although heavily urbanised, London consists of a **wide variety of important wildlife habitats**, including a number of sites which have national and international protection. These habitats range from semi-natural features such as chalk grasslands and ancient woodlands to more urban habitats such as reservoirs and vegetated railway corridors. The wildlife value of these sites must be protected and appropriate maintenance regimes

should be established to maintain or enhance the wildlife value of sites, recognising the additional pressure some sites may experience due to London's projected growth. Improved sustainable access to wildlife sites should be secured, where appropriate, so that Londoners can better experience and appreciate the natural environment within the city. The connections between protected sites – green corridors – are often critical in helping to sustain wildlife populations that would be vulnerable if they were confined to isolated areas of habitat. London's water spaces make up an important set of habitats in London. [Policy SI 17 Protecting and enhancing London's waterways](#) addresses the protection of water spaces, with a particular priority for improving and restoring them. The habitat value of waterways is a key element of their future management.

8.6.5 Development proposals that are adjacent to or near **SINCs or green corridors** should consider the potential impact of indirect effects to the site, such as noise, shading or lighting. There may also be opportunities for new development to contribute to enhancing the nature conservation value of an adjacent SINC or green corridor by, for example, sympathetic landscaping that provides complementary habitat. The London Environment Strategy includes guidance on identifying SINCs (Appendix 5) as well as habitat creation targets and a comprehensive list of priority species and habitats that require particular consideration when planning decisions are made. The London Wildlife Sites Board offers help and guidance to boroughs on the selection of SINCs.^[138]

Figure 8.2 - Designated nature conservation sites

Figure 8.2 - Designated nature conservation sites



Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Source: Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)

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8.6.6 Biodiversity net gain is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. This means that where biodiversity is lost as a result of a development, the compensation provided should be of an overall greater biodiversity value than that which is lost. This approach does not change the fact that losses should be avoided, and biodiversity offsetting is the option of last resort. The Mayor will be producing guidance

to set out how biodiversity net gain applies in London.

Policy G7 Trees and woodlands

Policy G7 Trees and woodlands

A London's urban forest and woodlands should be protected and maintained, and new trees and woodlands should be planted in appropriate locations in order to increase the extent of London's urban forest – the area of London under the canopy of trees.

B In their Development Plans, boroughs should:

- 1) protect 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site^[139]
- 2) identify opportunities for tree planting in strategic locations.

C Development proposals should ensure that, wherever possible, existing trees of value are retained.^[140] If planning permission is granted that necessitates the removal of trees there should be adequate replacement based on the existing value of the benefits of the trees removed, determined by, for example, i-tree or CAVAT or another appropriate valuation system. The planting of additional trees should generally be included in new developments – particularly large-canopied species which provide a wider range of benefits because of the larger surface area of their canopy.

8.7.1 **Trees and woodlands play an important role** within the urban environment. They help to trap air pollutants, add to amenity, provide shading, absorb rainwater and filter noise. They also provide extensive areas of habitat for wildlife, especially mature trees. The urban forest is an important element of London's green infrastructure and comprises all the trees in the urban realm, in both public and private spaces, along linear routes and waterways, and in amenity areas. The Mayor and Forestry Commission have previously published a London Tree and Woodland Framework and Supplementary Planning Guidance on preparing tree strategies to help boroughs plan for the management of the urban forest.^[141] These, and their successor documents, should inform policies and proposals in boroughs' wider green infrastructure strategies.

8.7.2 The Mayor wants to increase tree canopy cover in London by 10 per cent by 2050. Green infrastructure strategies can be used to help boroughs identify locations where there are strategic opportunities for tree planting to maximise potential benefits. Trees should be designed into developments from the outset to maximise tree planting opportunities and optimise establishment and vigorous growth. When preparing more detailed planning guidance boroughs are also advised to refer to sources such as Right Trees for a Changing Climate^[142] and guidance produced by the Trees and Design Action Group.^[143]

8.7.3 An i-Tree Eco Assessment of London's trees quantified the benefits and services provided by the capital's **urban forest**.^[144] This demonstrated that London's existing trees and woodlands provide services (such as pollution removal, carbon storage, and storm water attenuation) valued at £133 million per year. The cost of replacing these services if the urban forest was lost was calculated at £6.12 billion. Consequently, when trees are removed the asset is degraded and the compensation required in terms of substitute planting to replace services lost should be based on a recognised tree valuation method such as CAVAT^[145] or i-Tree Eco.^[146]

Policy G8 Food growing

Policy G8 Food growing

A In Development Plans, boroughs should:

- 1) protect existing allotments and encourage provision of space for urban agriculture, including community gardening, and food growing within new developments and as a meanwhile use on vacant or under-utilised sites
- 2) identify potential sites that could be used for food production.

8.8.1 Providing land for food growing helps to support the **creation of a healthier food environment**. At the local scale, it can help promote more active lifestyles and better diets, and improve food security. Community food growing not only helps to improve social integration and community cohesion but can also contribute to improved mental and physical health and wellbeing.

8.8.2 As provision for **small-scale** food growing becomes harder to deliver, innovative solutions to its delivery should be considered, such as green roofs and walls, re-utilising existing under-used spaces and incorporating spaces for food growing in community schemes such as in schools. Where sites are made available for food growing on a temporary basis landowners/developers will need to be explicit over how long sites will be available to the community.

8.8.3 At a more **macro scale**, providing land for food growing helps to support farming and agriculture. Providing food closer to source helps to create a sustainable food network for the city, supports the local economy, and reduces the need to transport food, thereby reducing transport emissions and helping to address climate change. There are also longer-term biodiversity benefits, and farmers adopting agri-environmental stewardship schemes are more likely to deliver good environmental practice. For all food growing, consideration should be given to the historic use of the land and any potential contamination.

8.8.4 The **Mayor's Food Strategy** prioritises the need to help all Londoners to be healthier and for the food system to have less of a negative environmental impact.

8.8.5 The **Capital Growth network** is London's food growing network, which continues to promote community food growing across the capital, as well as delivering food-growing skills and employment opportunities for Londoners.

Policy G9 Geodiversity

Policy G9 Geodiversity

A In Development Plans, boroughs should:

- 1) establish clear goals for the management of identified sites to promote public access, appreciation and interpretation of geodiversity
- 2) ensure geological sites of European, national or regional conservation importance are clearly identified.

B Development proposals should:

- 1) make a positive contribution to the protection and enhancement of geodiversity
- 2) protect Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)
- 3) give Locally Important Geological Sites (LIGS) the level of protection commensurate with their importance.

8.9.1 **Geodiversity** is a fundamental cornerstone of our everyday lives. Geology affects where we build, how we construct buildings and how we deliver associated services. It influences the design and layout of infrastructure, filters our drinking water and underpins the landscape around us. Geodiversity cannot be replaced or recreated (other than on geological timescales).

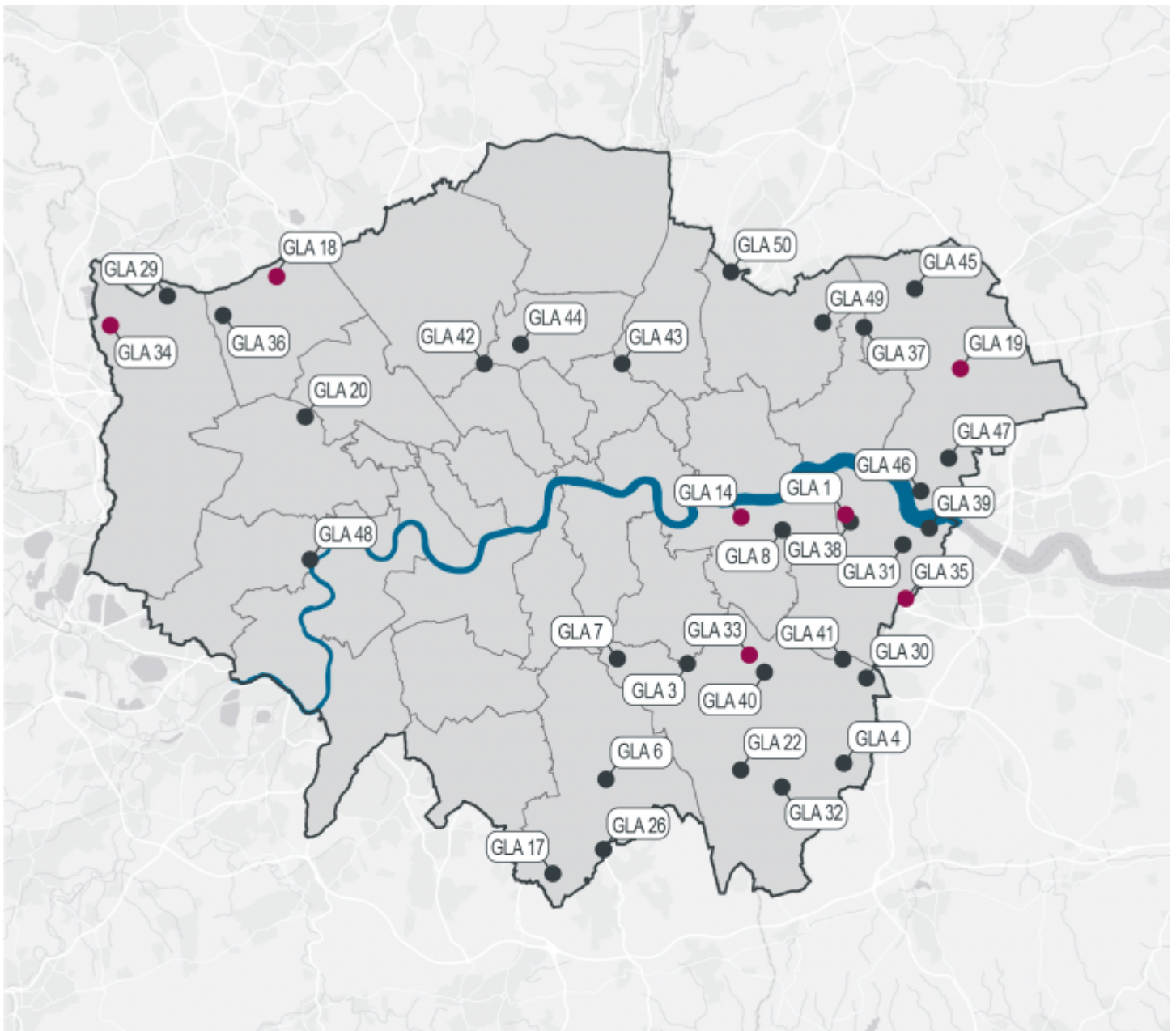
8.9.2 London's geodiversity sites are shown in Figure 8.3. Geodiversity sites with existing or proposed European or national designations are Sites of Special Scientific Interest and subject to statutory protection. Boroughs should protect and enhance RIGSs and LIGSs through their Development Plans. The Mayor will continue to work with the London Geodiversity Partnership to promote geodiversity and will prepare updated Supplementary Planning Guidance as necessary.

8.9.3 Geodiversity sites should be recognised for their importance in providing **habitats for biodiversity** and in allowing delivery of ecosystem services.

8.9.4 Where appropriate, access should be provided to geodiversity sites, although it is recognised that this is not always desirable. Geological sites will require appropriate **maintenance regimes** to ensure that these assets are properly protected and managed.

Figure 8.3 - Geodiversity sites

Figure 8.3 - Geodiversity sites



Sites of National and Regional Geodiversity Importance

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
 - Recommended Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)
- Reference numbers refer to the appendices of the London Foundations SPG 2012

Source: GLA Planning

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Navigation

[133] London's waterways and their multifunctional role are specifically addressed in [Policy SI 14 Waterways – strategic role](#) to [Policy SI 17 Protecting and enhancing London's waterways](#).

[134] Valuing London's Urban Forest - Results of the London i-Tree Eco Project, Treeconomics, 2015, <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/valuing-londons-urban-forest>

[135] Natural capital accounts for public green space in London, Vivid Economics, 2017, <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/green-infrastructure/natural-capital-account-london?source=vanityurl>

[136] Areas of Deficiency in Access to Public Open Space, GiGL, <https://www.gigl.org.uk/open-spaces/areas-of-deficiency-in-access-to-public-open-space/?highlight=open%20space%20deficiency>

[137] Urban Greening Factor for London, The Ecology Consultancy, 2017, https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/urban_greening_factor_for_london_final_report.pdf

[138] Tree and Woodland Strategy Guidance, Mayor of London, 2013, [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sinc_selection_process_2019_update_.pdf]

[139] Forestry Commission/Natural England (2018): Ancient woodland and veteran trees; protecting them from development, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-applications-affecting-trees-and-woodland>

[140] Category A, B and lesser category trees where these are considered by the local planning authority to be of importance to amenity and biodiversity, as defined by BS 5837:2012

[141] Tree and Woodland Strategy Guidance, Mayor of London, 2013, <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/london-plan-guidance-and-spgs/tree-trees-and-woodland>

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