

# TFL\_PSF\_9131 SITE INVESTIGATIONS: SMALL SITES INITIATIVE

## LAND TO THE NORTH SIDE OF ROYAL MINT ST. AND CABLE ST. TOWER HAMLETS, E1 8LG

Site Ref: 2363  
Ecological Assessment

OCTOBER 2017

Incorporating

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# LAND TO THE NORTH SIDE OF ROYAL MINT ST. AND CABLE ST. TOWER HAMLETS, E1 8LG

## Ecological Assessment Report

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## VERSION CONTROL

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Arcadis (UK) Limited (Arcadis) was commissioned by Transport for London (TfL) to undertake an ecological assessment to support the feasibility for potential development at land to the north side of Royal Mint Street and Cable Street Site, Tower Hamlets, E1 8LG ; 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 immediately north of the B126/ Royal Mint Street and Cable Street and west of Cannon Street Road, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The Site is centred at Grid Reference 534587, 180926 and is located within the postcode of E1 8LG.

The Site is approximately 0.3ha in area. The northern and western sections of the site supported a mosaic of tall ruderal and ephemeral/short perennial vegetation with occasional low-lying scrub, grasses and tree saplings. A line of mature deciduous trees was located along part of the southern boundary of the site.

The site is adjoined by industrial units and the London Docklands Railway line and to the north and east, the B126 / Cable Street to the south and the B108 / Cannon Street Road to the west. The surrounding area is characterised by multi-storey residential development.

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) website<sup>1</sup> 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 England<sup>2</sup>;
- National Biodiversity Network Atlas<sup>3</sup>; and
- London Biodiversity Action Plan<sup>4</sup>.

In addition, the Local Plan for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets<sup>5</sup> was reviewed for the locations and citations of any non-statutory designated sites located within a 1km radius of the Site. Referred to as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) they are categorised 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 500m 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 Rebecca Beale in August 2017 (BSC, MSc, MCIEEM). Habitats were classified according to their JNCC Phase 1 habitat categories (JNCC 2010)<sup>6</sup> and plants named after Stace (1997)<sup>7</sup> and are presented on Figure 2.

### 2.3 Limitations and Expectations

This report has been prepared for TfL in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment. Arcadis cannot accept any responsibility for any use of or reliance on the contents of this report by

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> London Borough of Tower Hamlets Proposals Map <http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=6262> and <http://www.towerhabitats.org/docs/SINCCitationsApril2017.pdf> [Accessed August 2017]

<sup>6</sup> Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010), *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit*

<sup>7</sup> Stace, C. (1997). *New Flora of the British Isles Second Edition*. Cambridge University Press

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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 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 enclosed within this report to be read in conjunction with the results and subsequent discussion are as follows:

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

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 will be 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.

- There is one hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) record from 2006 approximately 0.7km from the Site;
- There are five fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) records from 1995-2012 with the closest record approximately 0.7km from the Site;
- There were no relevant records of protected or notable amphibians, reptiles, bats and badger within 1km of the Site; and
- No statutory or non-statutory designated sites (including ancient woodlands or woodlands listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)) were identified within the vicinity of the Site which were considered to have the potential to be significantly impacted by development on the Site.

### 3.3 Site Overview

Vegetation on the Site had established through degrading hard-standing. Several small rubble piles were observed across the Site. The Site supported a limited range of habitats and was comprised of comprised of ephemeral short perennial and scattered tall ruderal vegetation with low-lying scrub. A line of mature deciduous trees was located along the southern boundary of the site.

### 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.

- **Scattered Trees:** A line of mature deciduous trees were recorded along part of southern boundary of the Site, dominated by Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) with occasional Purple Leaved Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus purpureum*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Ash and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) saplings were observed throughout the Site. The ground layer supported Common Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*) Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and Annual Mercury (*Mercurialis annua*).



- **Scrub:** Occasional stands of low-lying Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub were recorded on the Site. Occasional stands of Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*), listed on the London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI) list, were also recorded.
- **Ephemeral/short perennial and tall ruderal:** The northern and western sections of the Site supported a mosaic of tall ruderal and ephemeral/short perennial vegetation with occasional low-lying scrub, grasses and tree saplings. Vegetation on the Site included Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Melilot spp. (*Melilotus* spp.), Canadian Fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*), Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), Perennial Wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*), Thistle species (*Cirsium* sp.), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Sow-thistle species (*Sonchus* sp.), Red Dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), White Dead-nettle (*Lamium album*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), and Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*). Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Common Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*). Occasional Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) was also observed.
- **Species-poor semi-improved grassland:** the western tip of the Site supported a small area of species-poor unmanaged grassland dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*).

### 3.5 Protected and Notable Species

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

- **Roosting / Hibernating Bats:** A mature Purple Leaved Sycamore tree (Target Note 2 on Figure 2) located in the south-east section of the site exhibited a split trunk (with burnt marks on its bark). A scar on each split trunk had not fully occluded and each supported a cavity (located approximately 2m above the ground) leading-up into the trunk. The potential of this feature to support roosting/hibernating bats was categorised as 'low' based on BCT guidance<sup>8</sup>. This was owing to the Site being well lit from street lighting, which reduces its suitability for use by bats with little suitable connecting foraging and commuting habitat.
- **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.
- **Squirrel:** A squirrel drey was recorded in the south-east section of the Site (Target Note 1 on Figure 2).

The Site offered no suitable habitat for reptiles. No suitable ponds were present within 500m of the Site with connectivity to the Site, so the presence of great crested newts is extremely unlikely. Strong smell of fox on site was observed. It is likely that the species uses the Site regularly as foraging grounds. 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.

Butterfly-bush listed on the LISI (London Invasive Species List) was recorded on Site.

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<sup>8</sup> Collins, J. (ed.) (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

## 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 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)<sup>9</sup>. However, these habitats have 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 invasive species listed on the LISI list. There is no legal obligation to control or remove these species recorded 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.

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.

### 4.2 Protected and Notable Species

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

- **Roosting / Hibernating Bats:** Two cavities identified on a mature Purple Leaved Sycamore tree located in the south-east section were categorised as having a low potential to support roosting/hibernating bats. Should this tree require removal to facilitate new development it is recommended that the cavities are inspected with an endoscope by a licenced bat worker to confirm the status of the tree with regards to roosting bats.
- **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 future development.
- **Squirrel:** A squirrel drey was recorded in the south-east section of the Site. Although grey squirrel is regarded as an invasive non-native species included on Schedule 9 Wildlife and Countryside Act, they are protected against in humane killing under the Wild Mammal (Protection) Act 1996. The Act protects mammals against being inhumanly killed or harmed. Typically there are two main breeding seasons when young are in the drey (February to August inclusive). Reasonable avoidance includes soft felling the tree and pest control methods (e.g. live trapping and poisoning).

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<sup>9</sup> 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:

- All bat species are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)<sup>10</sup>, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)<sup>11</sup> and the Conservation (Natural habitats &c.) Regulations 2010 (as amended)<sup>12</sup>.
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) 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.
- All mammals are protected under The Wild Mammal (Protection) Act 1996.

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

### 5.2 Relevant Policy

Elements of national and London 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 those species listed under Section 41 (S41) of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act<sup>13</sup> which may to utilise the Site including, bullfinch starling, and yellow wagtail; and
- There was a plant recorded listed on LISI (London Invasive Species List), Butterfly-bush. There is no legal requirement to remove or control this species. However, 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.

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<sup>10</sup> Anon (1981) Wildlife and Countryside Act. HMSO, London.

<sup>11</sup> Anon (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act. HMSO, London.

<sup>12</sup> Anon (2010). The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 2010. HMSO, London.

<sup>13</sup> Anon (2006) The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act HMSO, London.

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
Roosting / hibernating bats									
A mature Purple Leaved Sycamore tree located in the south-east section of the site exhibited two cavities categorised as having a low potential to support roosting/hibernating bats.	Schedule 5 of the of the WCA, 1981, as amended The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Assumption is that the trees are to be felled for development	It is recommended that the cavities are inspected with an endoscope by a licenced bat worker to confirm the status of the tree with regards to roosting bats.	N/A	Inspection of the cavities with an endoscope by a licenced bat worker to confirm the status of the tree with regards to roosting bats Should the surveys confirm the presence of roosting bats in a feature to be removed, it is likely that a EPS mitigation licence would be required for the works to proceed.  This would require the provision of a method statement for the works and suitable mitigation measures to be put in place.	Felling following the inspection of the cavities with an endoscope by a licenced bat worker to confirm the status of the tree with regards to roosting bats November to February inclusive	N/A	Mitigation Potentially £500 Inspection of the cavity	Low
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"><li>Individual trees.</li></ul>	WCA, 1981, as amended	Removed for development / site investigation.	No (but see mitigation recommendations)	Vegetation clearance ideally undertaken between September to February (inclusive), outside of the bird nesting season.	Vegetation clearance undertaken outside of the core bird nesting season (March to August inclusive).  If this is not possible, then it is recommended that a check for breeding birds is undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist prior (within 48 hours) to works commencing.  If an active nest (including nests in the process of being constructed) is found, a suitable stand-off area should be maintained until the young have fledged.  The extent of this area would be determined by an ecologist and demarcated on site using suitable fencing.	September to February remove woody vegetation.	If vegetation removal is required during the nesting bird season and breeding birds 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

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Key Issues	Legislation/Policy	Assumption	Further Survey / input?	Seasonal Timing	Mitigation Required	Seasonal Timing	Programme Delay Risk	Survey/ Mitigation Cost Estimate*	Risk Rating
					A toolbox talk should be given by the ecologist to the contractors to ensure the nest is not disturbed.				
<b>Green Infrastructure/ Trees</b>									
A number of trees 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 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
<b>Non-native Invasive species</b>									
Butterfly-bush	London Invasive Species Index	Development could cause these species to spread	No	N/A	It would be good practice to remove this species during subsequent development and to implement mitigation to ensure it does not spread	N/A	N/A	Can be undertaken with vegetation clearance for development.	Low
<b>Squirrels</b>									
Field Maple tree contains squirrel drey. This tree is likely to be felled prior to development causing loss of habitat and potential harm to squirrels.	Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996	Closed for development	No	N/A	Dreys should be removed when juvenile squirrels are unlikely to be present Avoidance of the 2 main breeding seasons when young are in the drey (February to October inclusive) is recommended.	Fell the tree in winter (November to January inclusive)	None	Mitigation £500 site supervision dulling felling	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

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

There are no likely significant ecological constraints with regards to the development of this Site. No statutory or non-statutory designated sites were considered to have the potential to be significantly impacted by development on the Site.

Potential constraints requiring mitigation and recommendations for enhancement are listed below:

- The Site supported a limited range of habitats and comprised of a mosaic of tall ruderal and ephemeral/short perennial vegetation with occasional low-lying scrub, grasses and tree saplings. A line of mature deciduous trees was located along part of the southern boundary of the site. 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 value in terms of green infrastructure, likely performing important ecosystem services (such as water quality and volume attenuation and air quality attenuation etc.). Habitat retention, replacement and/or enhancement should be included within the design of any future development.
- A mature Purple Leaved Sycamore tree located in the south-east section of the site supported two cavities, each of which were assessed as having a low potential to support roosting/hibernating bats. Should this tree be removed, section felling under precautionary method of works would be required. The section containing the cavity will be left in situ for a minimum of 24 hours before being removed from the Site.
- There is potential for nesting birds to be utilising the trees 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.
- A squirrel drey was recorded in the south-east section of the Site. They are protected against inhumane killing under the Wild Mammal (Protection) Act 1996. Typically, there are two main breeding seasons when young are in the drey (February to August inclusive). Reasonable avoidance includes soft felling the tree, pest control methods (e.g. live trapping and poisoning).
- There will be some ecological benefit from the removal of non-native invasive species on the 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 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.



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Table 1: Site photographs

Site photographs	
	
Photograph 1: Mosaic of Habitats on Site	Photograph 2: Tree Cavity with Low Bat Potential



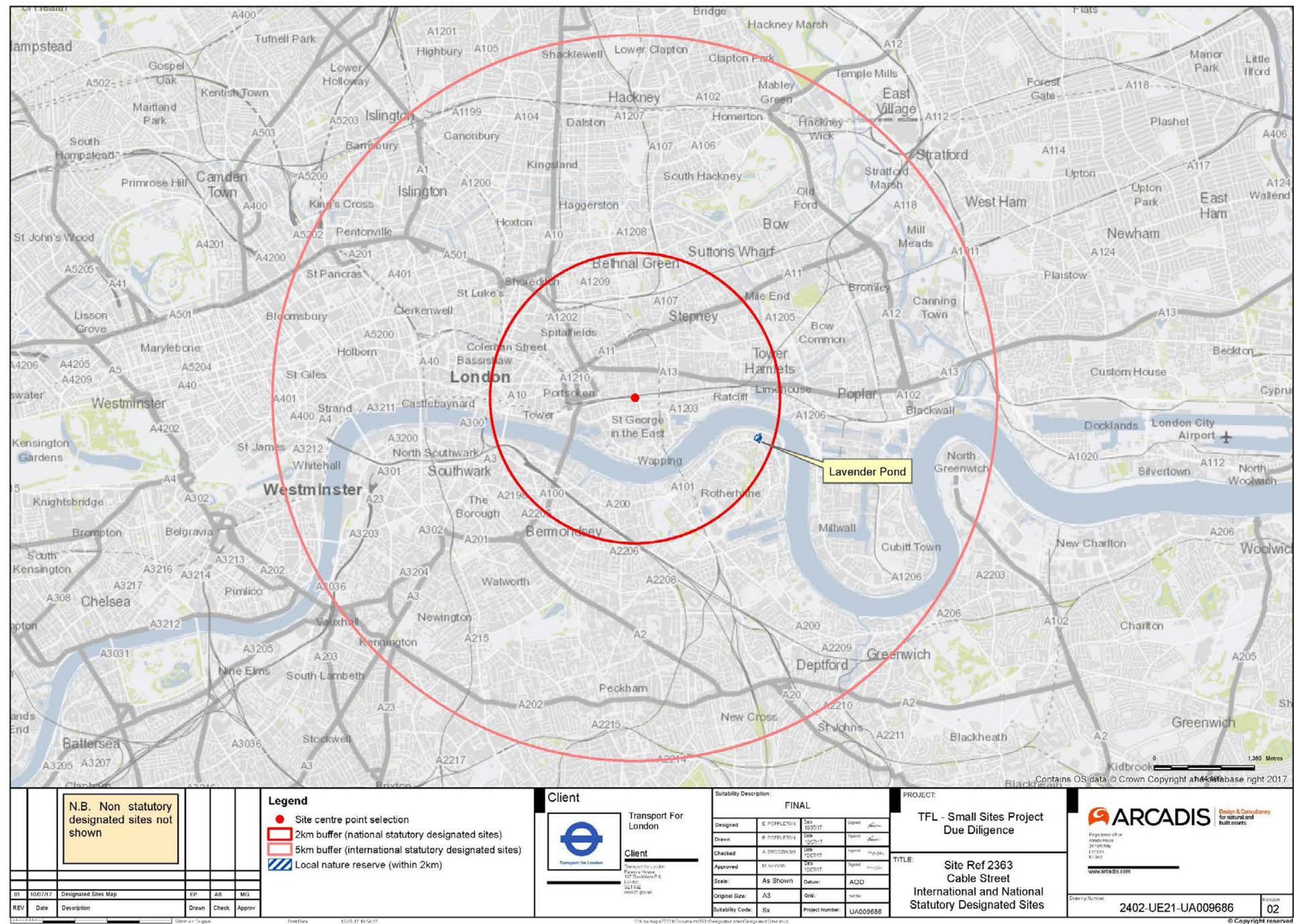


FIGURE 1: STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 2KM OF THE SITE CENTRE





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 one Statutory designated sites within 5km of the Site.

Site Name	Designation	Size (Ha)	Distance (km)	Direction	Description
Lavender Pond	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)		1.7	south-east	The site is designated for supporting a pond with marginal vegetation and wet Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ) woodland

### Non-Statutory Designated Sites

The desk study found ten non-statutory designated sites within 1km of the Site.

Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMINCs)

- River Thames and Bow Creek SMINC

Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SBINCs) Grades I and II

- Pinchin Street Disused Railway SBINC (Grade II)
- Shadwell Basin, Wapping Wood and Wapping Canals SBINC (Grade II)
- Cable Street Community Garden SBINC (Grade II)
- London Wall and the wall of the Tower of London SBINC (Grade II)

Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs)

- Swedenborg Gardens SLINC
- St George-in-the-East Church Gardens SLINC
- St Katharine's Dock SLINC
- Hermitage Basin SLINC
- King Edward Memorial Park SLINC

### Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Table A.2: Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation	Size (Ha)	Distance (m)	Direction	Description
Swedenborg Gardens SLINC	SLINC		100m	south-west	The SLINC is comprised of native and ornamental trees and shrubs, a small area of acid grassland which supports several locally scarce plants and an orchard;
St George-in-the-East Church Gardens SLINC	SLINC		130m	south-east	The SLINC is comprised of scattered trees, ornamental shrubs and tall ruderal vegetation and is designated for supporting grassland habitats and invertebrates

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Site Name	Designation	Size (Ha)	Distance (m)	Direction	Description
					including Essex skipper ( <i>Thymelicus lineola</i> ).
Shadwell Basin, Wapping Wood and Wapping Canals SBINC (Grade II)	SBINC		400m (at its closest point)	south	The SBINC is designated for supporting a variety of habitat types including a canal, pond, secondary woodland and semi-improved neutral grassland;
St Katharine's Dock SLINC	SLINC		550m	south-west	The SLINC is comprised of several docks and is designated for supporting wintering birds and Jersey Cudweed ( <i>Gnaphalium luteoalbum</i> );
Hermitage Basin SLINC	SLINC		655m	south-west	The SLINC is comprised of a small dock and is designated for supporting aquatic plants and breeding birds;
Cable Street Community Garden SBINC (Grade II)	SBINC (Grade II)		765m	east	The SBINC is comprised of allotments and includes numerous small ponds. It is designated for supporting amphibians and a variety of breeding birds
London Wall and the wall of the Tower of London	SBINC (Grade II)		840m	south-west	The SBINC is designated for supporting perhaps the only remaining long-established population of London-rocket ( <i>Sisymbrium irio</i> );
River Thames and Bow Creek	SMINC		850m	south	The SMINC includes the River Thames across London and the tidal sections of creeks and rivers which flow into it. The SMINC is designated for functioning as a 'green corridor' and supporting reedbed and intertidal habitats and a diversity of marine invertebrates, fish and wintering birds
King Edward Memorial Park SLINC	SLINC		860m	south-east	The Site is designated for supporting a mosaic of habitat types including a pond, wildflower meadow and scrub and common frog ( <i>Rana temporaria</i> ) and a large colony of the nationally-



Site Name	Designation	Size (Ha)	Distance (m)	Direction	Description
					rare Daisy Earthstar fungus ( <i>Geastrum floriforme</i> )

## 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) **Error! Bookmark not defined.** (1981, as amended) there is a London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI)<sup>**Error! Bookmark not defined.**</sup> 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.

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).

TableA:4: *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 Barnet<sup>14</sup>. 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: Designated sites descriptions

Designation	Description
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)  Special Protected Areas (SPAs)	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
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.

<sup>14</sup> Capital Great Crested Newts Revisited (2012). Project report – Public Web Edition

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

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<sup>a</sup> 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	
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
<b>Nesting Birds</b>	<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)<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> Section 1 of the Act makes it an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;</li> <li>intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or</li> <li>intentionally take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.</li> </ul> <p>It is also an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>disturb dependent young of such a bird.</li> <li>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>).</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Badgers</b>	<p>Badgers are protected from inhumane killing or injury under the Badgers Act (1992)<sup>15</sup> this also protects their setts from damage and prohibits blocking access to their setts.</p>
<b>Bats</b>	<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"> <li>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;</li> <li>intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a wild animal listed on Schedule 5;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of a European protected species;</li> <li>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</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)

Receptor	Legislation
	<p>hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal; or</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Great Crested Newts</b>	<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"> <li>• Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a great crested newt;</li> <li>• Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt;</li> <li>• Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt; and</li> <li>• Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.</li> </ul>
<b>Reptiles</b>	<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"> <li>• intentionally kill or injure a reptile; or * sell, offer or expose for sale, or</li> <li>• to possess or transport for sale alive or dead reptile or any part of, or anything derived from, a reptile.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Mammals</b>	<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>
<b>Non Native Invasive Species</b>	<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
<b>Red list criteria</b>	<p>Globally threatened</p> <p>Historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995</p> <p>Rapid (&gt; or =50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years</p> <p>Rapid (&gt; or =50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years</p>
<b>Amber list criteria</b>	<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>&gt; or =50% of UK breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not rare breeders</p> <p>&gt; or =50% of UK non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites</p> <p>&gt; or =20% of European breeding population in UK</p> <p>&gt; or =20% of northwest European (wildfowl), East Atlantic Flyway (waders) or European (others) non-breeding populations in UK</p>
<b>Green list</b>	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)**<sup>16</sup> 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**<sup>17</sup> 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**<sup>18</sup> 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)**<sup>19</sup>: 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)**<sup>20</sup>: 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)**<sup>21</sup>: 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.

<sup>16</sup> Anon (2012) The National Planning Policy Framework HMSO, London

<sup>17</sup> Anon (2006) The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act HMSO, London

<sup>18</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services*

<sup>19</sup> London Invasive Species Plan (2012). Legislative and Information Exchange Framework. [online] Available at <http://www.londonisi.org.uk/tackling-inns/lisp/>. [Available June 2016]

<sup>20</sup> City of London (2009). *London Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 – 2015*

<sup>21</sup> 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)*

- D) On Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation development proposals should:
  - a) give the highest protection to sites with existing or proposed international designations<sup>1</sup> (SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites) and national designations (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)<sup>22</sup>:** 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

<sup>22</sup> Greater London Authority (2016) *London Plan 2016 Implementation Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted in March 2016*



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.”

- 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)<sup>23</sup>:** 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)<sup>24</sup>:**
  - 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

### **Tower of hamlets - Managing Development: Development Plan Document (Adopted 2013).**

- **DM10: Delivering open space<sup>25</sup>**  
Development will be required to provide or contribute to the delivery of an improved network of open spaces in accordance with the Council’s Green Grid Strategy and Open Space Strategy;
- **DM11: Living buildings & biodiversity**  
Development will be required to provide elements of a ‘living building’;  
Existing elements of biodiversity value should be protected or replaced within the development and additional habitat provision made to increase biodiversity value.
- **DM13: Sustainable Drainage**  
Development will be required to show how it reduces the amount of water usage, runoff and discharge from the site, through the use of appropriate water reuse and Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUD) techniques.

<sup>23</sup> Greater London Authority (2002), *Connecting with Nature: The Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy adopted in 2002*

<sup>24</sup> Greater London Authority (2011), *The London Plan Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted in April 2014*

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Planning-and-building-control/Strategic-Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Managing-Development-Documents/Planning-Document-April-2013.pdf>.



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