

**Appendix 1:** List of Southwark policies, strategies and functions to promote, protect, and enhance the natural environment for biodiversity and people and meet the requirements of the strengthened Biodiversity Duty.

Policy/Initiative/Function	Overview/Targets	Progress/Future direction
<a href="#">Southwark Nature Action Plan (2020)</a>	<p>The SNAP is a framework to inform strategic direction, priorities, and actions to protect and enhance biodiversity in Southwark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised around three themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Making Nature Accessible for All</li> <li>(ii) Biodiversity Net Gain</li> <li>(iii) Nature Recovery Network</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provides over 300 practical actions that can be implemented by different sectors: individual, public, private and voluntary, divided between 4 habitat and 7 species action plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Habitat Action Plans are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built Environment Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Gardens and Grounds Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Open Spaces Habitat Action Plan</li> <li>• Woodland Habitat Action Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Species Action Plans are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bats Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Hedgehog Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Stag Beetle Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Freshwater fauna Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Birds Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Woodland flora and fungi Species Action Plan</li> <li>• Pollinators Species Action Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The SNAP will be replaced with an updated strategy, guided by the GLA-produced London LNRS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and map the Borough’s existing areas of importance for biodiversity. Southwark’s nature sites (SINCs) were reviewed in 2015 with 22 additional sites added to the Southwark Plan 2022.</li> <li>• Agree priorities and strategic objectives for nature recovery in the borough.</li> <li>• Identify and map opportunities for nature recovery through habitat creation, regeneration or enhancement, or where nature recovery could contribute to other environmental benefits.</li> </ul> <p>Actions for the habitat and species SNAP action plans have been delivered through collaboration with multiple council departments and third-party stakeholders, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2018 Parks have had no scheduled use of Glyphosate or other pesticides, and the Cleaning Service has reduced pesticide application from three to two, annually, and is investigating alternatives to weed-control through the development of a Pesticide Reduction Strategy.</li> <li>• Relaxed mowing implemented and new meadows planted across SINCs, housing estates, road verges and parks, assisted by 2 new cut and collect flails purchased through a successful Rewild London fund bid.</li> <li>• &gt;1.4km native hedging planted inside parks</li> <li>• New ponds and SUDs schemes installed to improve wetland habitat and manage flood risk</li> <li>• Habitat structures installed throughout parks, e.g., bird and bat boxes, stag-beetle loggeries, rock piles, insect hotels,</li> <li>• A programme of eradication of Japanese Knotweed is in place and has been eradicated in 30 parks.</li> </ul>

<a href="#">Southwark Biodiversity Partnership</a>	<p>The SBP is a group of third-sector partners, residents, volunteers, societies, and friends groups partially managed by Southwark and a principle delivery body of the SNAP. Meetings occur quarterly.</p>	<p>The SBP has, since 2004, successfully raised the profile of biodiversity in Southwark and delivered many conservation projects, while engaging with the residents and business of Southwark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An independent chair has been appointed to provide administrative support and enhance the delivery capacity of the group</li> </ul>
<p>Third-sector Ecology and Environment Contracts 2019 - 2026</p>	<p>Agreements with BOST, LWT and TCV are in place with Southwark until 2026/27 for the ecological management of certain SINC, providing added value through delivery of ecological and environmental services, e.g., community engagement, events, and volunteer opportunities, while delivering SNAP actions.</p>	<p>Delivery is monitored through an agreed set of KPIs based on identified outcomes in the Common Outcomes Framework. KPI targets for 23/24 were met and are expected to be met in the next reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023/24, collectively delivered 27,002 volunteer hours, 344 volunteer work days, 56 events and 55 training days.</li> <li>From 2019 – 2022, collectively delivered 1326 volunteer days, 51,766 volunteer hours, 143 events and 258 training and education days.</li> </ul>
<p>Biodiversity Data Monitoring</p>	<p>Biodiversity data is collated from a variety of sources including ecological surveys, local nature recorders, and through an SLA with GiGL, who provide quarterly updates on species and habitat records and maintain SINC information. We report on the <a href="#">National Indicator SDL160</a> (SINC in positive environmental management).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023, 89% of Southwark's SINC are in positive environmental management as per the SDL160 National Indicator.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Tree Management Plan (2020)</a></p>	<p>Policy aiming to maintain a healthy, protected and sustainably managed treescape, for the environment, biodiversity and wellbeing of Southwark residents, through a set of strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage existing tree stock in accordance with good practice</li> <li>Maintain a general presumption against the removal of trees</li> <li>Recognise the relationship between trees and the urban environment, promoting "right tree, right place"</li> <li>Ensure protection of trees and woodlands subject to TPOs, in Conservation Areas and SINC.</li> <li>Promote the value of trees to residents, business and the developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since 2020, over 30,000 standard trees and saplings have been planted across the borough</li> <li>A comprehensive audit of the borough's tree stock has recorded total canopy cover at 18.24%</li> <li>Tree planting sites identified with active engagement with Friends of groups, TRAs, Trees for Bermondsey, Herne Hill Tree Watch, Southwark Nature Action Volunteers and more.</li> <li>Over 300 local residents were engaged in community tree planting events and 17 schools were engaged with as part of a new initiative to plant trees outside schools.</li> </ul> <p>The tree planting strategy additionally contributes to Southwark Plan, Council Delivery Plan, and Climate Change Action Plan Targets (see below).</p>
<p><a href="#">Southwark Plan 2019-2036 (2022)</a></p>	<p>Several planning policies in the Southwark Plan aim to retain and enhance biodiversity through development management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P57 Open Space</li> </ul>	<p>The ecological input to individual planning cases has resulted in protection of species and significant increases in urban greening and ecological features. This is an ongoing process delivered through</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P58 Open water space</li> <li>• P59 Green Infrastructure</li> <li>• P60 Biodiversity</li> <li>• P61 Trees.</li> </ul> <p>Systems and processes relating to mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain are applied within the Planning department since implementation in Feb 2024, included training, guidance, updating validation checklists and pre-application templates.</p>	<p>planning conditions. Biodiversity Net Gain and Urban Greening Factor reports are regularly reviewed and gains are secured through the approval process.</p> <p>The types of Green Infrastructure include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green and biodiverse roofs</li> <li>• Sustainable drainage systems</li> <li>• Green and living walls</li> </ul> <p>Ecological Features include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swift bricks</li> <li>• Bat bricks and tubes</li> <li>• Bee bricks and insect hotels</li> <li>• Nature rich amenity space</li> <li>• Bat friendly lighting</li> </ul> <p>Decision is to be made by the Council on whether to establish a Habitat Bank Vehicle to deliver offsite BNG on Council land. A scoping/feasibility study will be required to investigate this further.</p> <p>A review of the Southwark Plan is ongoing, involving the development of an updated evidence base to support the updated policies. This will include a Green Infrastructure Strategy and updated Open Space Needs Assessment. Both strategies are an opportunity to identify where additional greening and biodiversity can be incorporated in the revised spatial plan for the borough.</p>
<a href="#">Council Delivery Plan (2022)</a>	<p>The third theme in the council delivery plan is a “healthy environment”, with key corporate targets relating to biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Southwark the first inner London council to have over 100,000 trees, so every neighbourhood in Southwark gains more tree canopy cover</li> <li>• Working with local people and schools to find locations for and plant 20,000 trees</li> <li>• Improve our green spaces and create new parks</li> <li>• Work with local people to create more nature sites, woodlands and urban planting</li> <li>• Give communities on our estates a new right to have a community garden or food growing plots on their estate</li> </ul>	<p>Corporate targets are measured against a set of quantitative KPIs, which are regularly reviewed and updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trees planted annually (target = 5000 per annum): 2023/24 delivered = 5,086</li> <li>• Number of local people involved in tree planting (target = 150) progress 2023/24 = 313</li> <li>• Number of schools involved in tree planting (target = 12) progress 2023/24 = 17</li> </ul>

<a href="#">Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2021)</a>	<p>The third priority area within the Climate Change Strategy is a 'Thriving Natural Environment' which promises to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve biodiversity and introduce new green corridors to help wildlife to move.</li> <li>• Make our streets a green place to walk, play and relax.</li> <li>• Increase tree canopy coverage across the borough with more planting, ensuring any loss of existing trees cover is a last resort and that those trees are replaced.</li> <li>• Increase food growing in the borough, expanding allotments and community gardening.</li> <li>• Enable building and development that works alongside and enhances our natural environment.</li> </ul> <p>The Action Plan for the strategy includes 14 SMART actions for the Thriving Natural Environment priority area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create greener streets with more planting (4 actions)</li> <li>• Increase tree coverage across the borough (2 actions)</li> <li>• Residents have greater access to nature (2 actions)</li> <li>• Building and development works alongside and enhances the natural environment (4 actions)</li> <li>• Define an offsetting strategy for residual emissions (2 actions)</li> </ul>	<p>A £1m allocation for capital projects for green space enhancements and biodiversity improvements was agreed in 2022 in response to Climate Change Citizen Jury recommendations. This allocation is managed by the climate change team and a programme of capital projects is underway with a pipeline of new projects being developed by council teams and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Tree-related targets overlap with those in the Council Delivery Plan (see Tree Management Policy).</p>
<a href="#">Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy (2024)</a>	<p>The Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in Feb 2024. It focuses on adapting the borough to a changing climate with a focus on those who are most vulnerable to the increased hazards and risks.</p> <p>Two of the priority areas, 'overheating' and 'flooding', will offer opportunities for new and enhanced biodiversity and green infrastructure through new physical projects. A third priority area 'new pests and diseases', includes actions for the implementation of monitoring to detect and identify new pests and diseases to protect both biodiversity and human health.</p>	<p>A £1m allocation for capital projects for climate resilience projects that include the opportunity for biodiversity improvements was agreed with the adoption of the strategy. This will be rolled out through 2024/25.</p> <p>The embedding of how climate adaption and resilience should be considered through council service delivery and programme design is a priority for the Climate Change Team over the next 12 months.</p>
<p>Community Gardening focus</p>	<p>The CDP includes the "Give communities on our estates a new right to have a community garden or food growing plots on their estate" target, while the Climate Change Action Plan includes the "Increase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 211 growing plots have been created at 18 gardens on housing estates (60 plots achieved in 23/24. 5 new projects are in development)</li> </ul>

	<p>food growing in the borough, expanding allotments and community gardening” priority area.</p> <p>From this, the Community Gardening focus includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Allotment Expansion Guarantee (AEG): establishing a right for residents to set up and run food growing on estates</li> <li>• Supporting a community gardening network</li> <li>• Training and support for existing gardens and gardeners</li> <li>• A new Composting Doctor initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gardening groups have set up community orchards (Rouel Road and Brandon 1 since 2021), wildlife gardens, reduced mowing trials</li> <li>• Two networking events for community gardeners, including first working group</li> <li>• Food growing training at AEG projects in their first year and two Community Organising training sessions to support residents to lead projects</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Southwark Land Commission (2023)</a>	<p>The fifth recommendation from the commission, “cherish our natural capital and decarbonise our land”, lists priority actions relating to biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join up existing green spaces to create a network of Biodiversity Corridors</li> <li>• Offer opportunities to participate in the greening of our borough through community gardening and re-wilding</li> <li>• Use roof space for biodiversity</li> </ul>	<p>Recommendations from the commission are to be considered by Cabinet</p>
<a href="#">Open Spaces Strategy 2013</a>	<p>Southwark’s strategy setting out standards and providing action plan for objectives for different types of open space and recreation facilities for over 10years.</p> <p>Includes specific objectives for biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B1: Ensure the protection, management and enhancement of SINCs, biodiversity, and the linkages between them.</li> <li>• B2: Encourage innovative new areas of natural habitat within new and existing open space, natural play environments and developments.</li> <li>• B3: Continue to protect and enhance the River Thames, including its value for biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<p>Southwark’s Open Spaces Strategy will be updated as part of the Southwark Plan review.</p>
<a href="#">Streets for People 2023-2030</a>	<p>Southwark’s transport strategy for 2023-2030 will set out commitments to improve residents’ quality of life, by changing travel and street use. The fourth theme “Streets for Nature”, sets out to “Clean our air and reduce the impact of climate change by increasing biodiversity, making our streets greener and more resilient to extreme weather”.</p> <p>Two objectives related to biodiversity include:</p>	<p>Final Policy to be considered by Cabinet in December 2024.</p> <p>Commitments to meet biodiversity objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properly managed biodiverse environments, areas of unpaved ground to function as carbon sinks</li> <li>• Additional tree planting with long-term maintenance in place to make Southwark the first inner London council to have over 100,000 trees.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 11: Reduce emissions from transport and improve air quality</li> <li>Objective 12: Make streets greener and more resilient to extreme weather.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional parklets and greening on the highway so that at least 10% of all highway schemes are dedicated to planting and nature-based solutions</li> <li>Streets designed in a way that they have a low carbon footprint and help regenerate natural ecosystems including soil, water, air, temperature, biodiversity, edibles, wildlife habitat, food and compost.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Southwark 2030</a>	<p>Southwark's strategy and ambitious vision for the decade. Still in draft, extensive consultation with residents, local organisations, businesses and council has been conducted, and their views will drive the direction of the strategy – including outcomes relating to the environment.</p> <p>The 6<sup>th</sup> Goal for “A healthy environment” relates directly to biodiversity and includes deliverables to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create more green space and biodiversity for our community to enjoy</li> <li>Help people and businesses switch to healthy, clean and green transport</li> <li>Make our buildings energy efficient with clean, green power</li> </ul>	Final strategy goals, including a more detailed outcomes framework and action plan, are intended to be published in early autumn 2024.
<a href="#">Cleaner, Greener, Safer</a>	The CGS programme funds ideas from local organisations or individuals to improve the local area. Many funded projects are to improve the existing planting on estates, providing community gardens, landscaping, food growing projects and wildlife areas.	
Other Southwark policies	<p>Even when biodiversity is not the primary objective, other Southwark department strategies may indirectly benefit biodiversity, or are indirectly positively influenced by the enhancement of biodiversity and resident access to nature, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Air Quality Strategy Action Plan 2017</a></li> <li><a href="#">Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (expected 2024)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Southwark Food Security Action Plan 2019</a></li> <li><a href="#">Culture Strategy 2017</a></li> </ul>	