

**APPENDIX 1**

# **Southwark Nature Action Plan 2020**

***Protecting Biodiversity and Making Nature Accessible for All***



## **Contents**

Foreword .....	4
1. Introduction .....	5
1.1 What is biodiversity? .....	6
1.2 Why a Nature Action Plan for Southwark?.....	7
1.3 Southwark Nature Action Plan Format.....	7
1.4 Biodiversity Policy and Legislation.....	7
1.5 Relevant plans programmes and strategies .....	8
1.6 Relationship of this plan with national, regional and local BAP's and strategies .....	9
1.7 What this plan contributes to in Southwark.....	10
1.8 Climate Change .....	11
1.9 The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership .....	11
1.10 Nature in Southwark .....	12
1.11 Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark .....	12
1.12 Local Nature Reserves .....	13
1.13 Key Habitats.....	13
1.14 Key Species .....	14
1.15 Bat species in Southwark.....	14
1.16 Birds of conservation concern recorded in Southwark.....	15
1.17 SINC review and ecological Survey for Southwark 2015.....	16
1.18 Biodiversity and Trees .....	19
2.0 Key Themes.....	19
2.1 Key Theme 1, Making Nature accessible for all plan.....	20
2.2 Key Theme 2, Biodiversity Net Gain .....	21
2.3 Key Theme 3, Nature Recovery Plan .....	22
2.4 National Park City .....	23
3.0 The Habitat and Species Action Plans.....	24
3.1 Built Environment Habitat Action Plan: .....	24
3.2 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Built Environment HAP: .....	24
3.3 Gardens & Grounds Habitat Action Plan: .....	26
3.4 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Gardens and Grounds HAP: .....	27
3.5 How we will raise awareness of biodiversity in gardens? .....	29

3.6 Parks and Open Spaces Habitat Action Plan: .....	30
3.7 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Parks and Open Spaces HAP:.....	33
3.8 Woodland Habitat Action Plan: .....	34
3.9 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Woodland HAP:.....	35
3.10 Species Action Plans .....	36
3.11 Bats Species Action Plan:.....	37
3.12 Hedgehogs Species Action plan:.....	38
3.13 Stag beetles Species Action Plan: .....	39
3.14 Amphibians and Dragonflies and damselflies ( <i>Odonata</i> Inc. sub - order <i>Zygoptera</i> ) Species Action Plan: .....	40
3.15 Birds Inc. House Sparrow, Swift and Raptors Species Action Plan:.....	42
3.16 Native trees, woodland flora and fungi Species Action Plan:.....	45
3.16 Pollinators Inc. bees and butterflies Species Action Plan: .....	46
4.0 Governance .....	48
4.1 Implementation and monitoring.....	48
4.2 Southwark Nature Action Plan review.....	48
4.3 Finance and Funding .....	48
4.4 Wildlife recording .....	49

## **Foreword**

Protecting biodiversity and providing access to nature are paramount to the health and wellbeing of the borough.

Alongside the Climate Emergency it is well documented that there is a biodiversity crisis with many species and habitats suffering global decline.

Taking action to protect these valuable assets and broadening engagement with nature at all levels is at the core of this Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP), and the council's ambitions for nature conservation in the borough. Whilst we have continued to protect nature we have also extended protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation with 17 new sites proposed in the emerging Southwark Plan. The previous Biodiversity Action Plans have produced gains in natural habitats and species. This includes 2 hectares of wildflower meadow, 4 new ponds, restoration of Benhill Road Nature Garden and 1 km of native hedgerow.

We are proud of Southwark's long legacy for delivering innovative nature conservation project, through the creation of urban nature gardens, new parks and woodland such as Russia Dock Woodland and Burgess Park and supporting third sector groups who manage nature reserves and provide community engagement.

Building on the successes of the previous Biodiversity Action Plans, This plan sets out clear expectations for residents, businesses, developers and land managers such as housing and schools and third sector groups on how they can contribute towards helping wildlife in Southwark. Along side this plan we are striving for greater engagement. Making nature accessible to all and community engagement is at the heart of this plan with future development of a Young SNAP and a cultural SNAP and a nature recovery plan.

This plan has been developed by the Council in collaboration with the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership and I would like to thank them for their contribution and support.

COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR  
CULTURE, LEISURE, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES

# 1. Introduction

This is the third Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Southwark. This Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP) builds on the successes of the two previous Biodiversity Action Plans, and sets out a vision for the continued protection, conservation and enhancement of nature in the borough.

Southwark has a long legacy of nature conservation. In 1976 The William Curtis Ecological Park, Britain's first urban ecological park was created in Southwark by the Thames near Tower Bridge. In 1982 London Wildlife Trust's first Nature Reserve was established at Sydenham Hill Wood. In the north of the borough Burgess Park, Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Ecological Park were created from ambitious regeneration projects on brownfield sites. In Peckham the Centre for Wildlife Gardening was created in 1989. This year the International Charter for a National Park City was signed on One Tree Hill.

Nature conservation in cities is very important in the context of the global trend of biodiversity decline. The loss of natural habitats in the wider countryside means that wildlife is increasingly reliant on the urban environment for its survival. In Southwark the mosaic of parks, open spaces, gardens and green infrastructure linked by wildlife corridors provides the opportunity for wildlife to flourish and for all to experience nature.

Southwark Council declared a climate emergency in March this year; this is inexorably linked to the biodiversity crisis. Creation of green infrastructure can help adaptation and to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We also face other environmental issues such as; air quality, pollution, habitat fragmentation and health and wellbeing. Southwark Council believes that the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity is vitally important and can make a valuable contribution to meeting these challenges.

This plan has a revised format from the last BAP with a combination of crosscutting themes and Habitat and Species Action Plans.

The Key themes are:

- Making Nature Accessible for all
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Nature Recovery Network

The habitat action plans are:

- Built Environment Habitat Action Plan
- Gardens and Grounds Habitat Action Plan
- Parks and Open Spaces Habitat Action Plan
- Woodland Habitat Action Plan

The Species Action Plans are:

- Bats Species Action Plan

- Hedgehog Species Action Plan
- Stag Beetle Species Action Plan
- Amphibians and Dragonflies and damselflies (*Odonata* Inc. sub - order *Zygoptera*) Species Action Plan
- Birds Inc. House Sparrow, Swift and Raptors Species Action Plan
- Native trees and woodland flora and fungi Species Action Plan
- Pollinators Inc. bees and butterflies Species Action Plan

The Council Plan objective of ‘protecting biodiversity and making nature accessible to all’ is woven into each of the habitat and species action plans. The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership (SBP) will lead on the community engagement in line with the third sector ecology management agreements and their ability and capacity to engage with all aspects of the community.

This plan sets out clear expectations for residents, businesses, developers and land managers such as housing and schools and third sector groups on how they can contribute towards helping wildlife in Southwark.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will become mandatory in the planning process. Southwark Council will develop a system for delivering BNG based on future guidance from central government.

The emerging London Plan includes a key policy on urban greening (Policy G5). This requires developers to assess the Urban Greening Factor at the onset of the development process. Southwark Council will seek evidence that this policy has been considered for all major developments.

Creating a Nature Recovery Network is a key objective of the 25 year Environmental Action Plan. Southwark will develop an urban nature recovery network for the borough, in line with the urban nature recovery network under development by Natural England.

The plan will be delivered by Southwark Council in partnership with the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership and the wider community. Partners and community groups manage some of our Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

## **1.1 What is biodiversity?**

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things on Earth, from micro-organisms to mammals. It includes all fungi, plants, animals, the genetic information they contain, the ecosystems they form and the habitats in which they live.

In Southwark we refer to biodiversity as ‘wildlife’: this includes mammals, plants, invertebrates, amphibians, birds, lichens, and fungi. The places where wildlife lives, such as woods, rivers, lakes, parks and buildings, are what we refer to as ‘habitats’.

## **1.2 Why a Nature Action Plan for Southwark?**

Nature needs our help. The SNAP helps meet legal commitments and contributes to national targets for conserving biodiversity. The plan provides strategic direction for all council departments, specifically those responsible for the management of parks and open spaces, development and the public realm. The SNAP will provide the foundation of nature conservation for the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is a toolkit providing guidance on the protection, enhancement and promotion of the natural environment. Biodiversity Action Plans are material documents in development management for determining planning applications. The plan underpins policies in the Core Strategy 2011 and the emerging Council Plan. Southwark has a number of sites important to birds of passage, and provides wildlife corridors and connectivity to neighbouring boroughs. The Southwark SNAP will inform regional and national bodies of our aims and objectives in protecting biodiversity and making nature accessible to all.

## **1.3 Southwark Nature Action Plan Format**

The Southwark Nature Action Plan is a partnership document that identifies the priorities for biodiversity in Southwark and sets out a programme of actions to conserve, promote and increase biodiversity across the borough. The plan contains three key crosscutting themes which provide the foundation for our work. The plan sets out a series of Habitat and Species Action plans that can be delivered by the public, private, individuals and third sector alike.

Habitat Action Plans (HAPS) are plans that focus on specific habitats present within Southwark some of these habitats are national priority habitats identified in Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006.

Species Action Plans (SAPS) are plans that focus on specific species present within Southwark, some of these species are nationally scarce and listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 and some species are listed on schedules 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

## **1.4 Biodiversity Policy and Legislation**

Southwark Council has statutory obligations in relation to biodiversity policy and legislation. As a public body Southwark Council is required to comply with the 'Biodiversity Duty' as set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, (NERC act). For local authorities this means that biodiversity must be considered in all aspects of how the organisation functions.

### **The Biodiversity Duty**

Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Fact Box 1, the Biodiversity Duty

## 1.5 Relevant plans programmes and strategies

The table below sets out the legislation and policy base which binds the council in exercising its functions with regards to biodiversity and the environment.

Biodiversity legislation, strategies and policies relevant to Southwark	
European	<b>European legislation</b>
	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.), Regulations 1994
	Conservation of Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC
National	<b>National Legislation, Strategies and policies</b>
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
	Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2019
	'A green future' 25 Year Environmental Plan 2018
	Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network 2010
	ODPM Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
	The Natural Environment White Paper 2011
	National Pollinator Strategy 2014
	Clean Air Strategy 2019
	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services 2011
	Emerging Environmental Bill 2019
Regional	<b>London regional Policies and strategies</b>
	Emerging London Plan 2019
	The All London Green Grid, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)
	London Environment Strategy 2018
Southwark	<b>Southwark Strategies, plans and policies</b>
	Emerging New Southwark Plan 2019
	The Community Strategy 2016
	The Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22
	Supplementary Planning Document, Sustainable Design and Construction SPD 2008
	Cultural Strategy 2017
	Climate Change Strategy 2010
	Southwark Open Spaces Strategy 2013
	Emerging Tree Management Policy 2019
	Food Strategy 2019
	Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan 2017
	Common Outcomes Framework 2018
	Southwark Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2014-2017

Biodiversity legislation, strategies and policies relevant to Southwark	
	Southwark Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2017
	The Great Estates Programme 2018

Table 1, Biodiversity legislation and policies relevant to Southwark Council

## 1.6 Relationship of this plan with national, regional and local BAP's and strategies

### National

An overarching environmental strategy for the UK (BAP) 'A green future' 25 Year Environmental Plan (DEFRA 2018) has been adopted and contains key targets for biodiversity including creating a nature recovery network. The National Biodiversity Strategy for England, Wales and Scotland has shifted focus from the habitat - and species - based approach where action plans focused on United Kingdom priority habitats and species to a landscape-scale conservation strategy, with an overall target of no net loss of biodiversity by 2020. Guidance on national priority habitats and species now comes from the list of habitats and species of principal importance in England, identified under Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006.

### London

The London Environment Strategy sets habitat creation targets for priority habitats by 2025 and 2050. A review of priority habitats found that some previous targets for habitat creation in London had been met. However, for many habitats it was not possible for the Greater London Authority to make strong conclusions about progress because data on many habitats was inconsistent or incomplete. These targets below relate to habitats with the greatest opportunities to create new areas across much of London, and for which progress can be accurately monitored to 2050. The targets link to the European Union Water Framework Directive for rivers and streams and reedbeds.

Habitat	By 2025	By 2050
Species-rich woodland	20 ha	200 ha
Flower-rich grassland	50 ha	250 ha
Rivers and streams	10 km	40 km
Reedbeds	5 ha	30 ha

Table 2, Habitat creation targets for London

The emerging London Plan contains a number of policies to for conservation of natural habitats and linked to ecological management and enhancement:

- London Plan policy G1 Green infrastructure
- London Plan policy G9 Geodiversity
- London Plan policy G5 Urban greening factor
- London Plan policy G5 Urban greening factor
- London Plan policy SI 13 Sustainable drainage
- London Plan policy G4 Local green and open space
- London Plan policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature
- London Plan policy G7 Trees and woodlands
- London Plan policy G8 Food growing
- London Plan policy SI 14 Waterways

Policy G1 Green Infrastructure recommends the implementation of green infrastructure to achieve multiple objectives including biodiversity conservation, environmental education, climate resilience, as well as promoting mental and physical wellbeing.

Policy G5 the Urban Greening Factor provides a tool for integrating urban greening into the development process. This can contribute to increased biodiversity because urban greening provides habitat opportunities for wildlife.

#### London Plan Policy G5 the Urban Greening Factor

The 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.

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 the London Plan, 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.

#### Fact box 2, emerging London Plan Policy G5 the Urban Greening Factor

Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature, calls for protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) and for boroughs to develop policies and plans to increase habitats and the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats and opportunities for increasing species populations.

To meet policy requirements to map and protect SINC sites Southwark undertook a review of SINC sites in 2015 this review is covered in more detail in section 1.17.

## 1.7 What this plan contributes to in Southwark

This SNAP will deliver a number of outputs that benefit Southwark's residents, visitors and the environment. The SNAP will contribute to:

- Improved open space quality and safer parks
- Increased access and engagement to nature
- Increased educational opportunities through events and training
- Increased health and wellbeing through promotion of walks and volunteering activities and access to high quality green spaces
- Improved mental health through access to natural environments and nature
- Increased greening the borough through creation of habitats and green infrastructure
- Increased cultural and leisure opportunities
- Improved environmental management
- Increased awareness of wildlife and conservation
- Increased natural habitats
- Increased populations of species
- Increased sustainability of the built environment through green roofs and other Sustainable drainage schemes
- Increased offsetting of climate change impacts

The SNAP will guide and support the following elements of ecological management provided by Southwark Council.

- Support development management through assessment of planning applications and advise on appropriate mitigation and ecological enhancement as required
- Maintain a database of habitats and species recorded in Southwark
- Contribute to continuous improvement of council service delivery
- Improve environmental management through production and delivery of management plans for all SINC sites in Southwark's management
- Support planning policy in developing policies for protecting and enhancing the natural environment and increasing green infrastructure
- Monitor SINC sites in positive management and report annually to Defra on performance
- Promote biodiversity partnership working and community engagement
- Promote access to nature through ecology contracts and support of partners

## **1.8 Climate Change**

The Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and vowed to “*do all it can to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.*” The Biodiversity crisis is inexorably linked to the Climate Emergency. Actions within this plan contribute to mitigation and adaptation of the possible impacts of climate change.

## **1.9 The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership**

The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership (SBP) was formed in 2004. The partnership developed and delivered the two preceding BAP's 'work for wildlife' 2006 – 2010 and 'Making Space for Natural Neighbours' 2013 – 2019.

Partners in the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership are:

- Southwark Council
- The Conservation Volunteers - (Third sector ecology service provider)
- The London Wildlife Trust - (Third sector ecology service provider)
- Bankside Open Spaces Trust - (Third sector ecology service provider)
- Walworth Garden – (Garden education facility)
- Surrey Docks Farm – City Farm
- Idverde – (Parks Grounds Maintenance Contractor)
- Business Improvement Districts (Better Bankside, Team London Bridge & the Blue)
- Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL) – London Biological Records Centre

Southwark Council Departments:

- Environment & Leisure
- Chief Executive's
- Housing & Modernisation
- Children & Adult Services

The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership has been working to protect, enhance, and promote biodiversity across the borough. The partnership has successfully raised the profile of

biodiversity in Southwark and has delivered many conservation projects, all the while engaging with the residents and businesses of Southwark. There have been numerous contributions by volunteers, societies, residents and businesses and friends groups. This highlights the regard with which the Council and community holds biodiversity in Southwark.

## **1.10 Nature in Southwark**

Southwark has a rich ecological resource with 516 hectares natural greenspace within the borough, including the Thames. Southwark has over 215 parks and open spaces. Of these sites 65 are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) including 7 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's). Not all are publically accessible as railsides, golf courses, allotments and private land are included.

Southwark has a history of urban nature conservation. In 1976 The William Curtis Ecological Park, Britain's first urban ecological park was created in Southwark by the Thames near Tower Bridge. To replace the original site that was lost to development, Stave Hill Ecological Park was created in the 1980's. The Trust for Urban Ecology was formed to manage this site. They are now known as The Conservation Volunteers and manage 2 other Local Nature Reserves in Southwark (Lavender Pond and Dulwich Upper Wood). The London Wildlife Trust (LWT) manages a very important LNR, Sydenham Hill Wood which contains the largest remnant of ancient woodland in the Borough. LWT also manage the unique Centre for Wildlife Gardening in Peckham. Bankside Open Spaces Trust manages Red Cross Gardens and is actively engaging with Bankside residents to promote community engagement through gardening and greening the environment.

Southwark is home to important populations of nationally and internationally scarce flora and fauna. Bats, reptiles, stag beetles, birds, butterflies and flora such as orchids and Corky fruited water dropwort are all found in Southwark. Habitats present include; ancient woodland, secondary woodland, lakes, reedbeds, native hedges and meadows. All of these coexist within densely populated environment of the urban inner city.

## **1.11 Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark**

Local Sites are sites of substantive nature conservation value and although they do not have any statutory status, many are equal in quality to the representative sample of sites that make up the series of statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) provide wildlife refuges for most of the UK's fauna and flora and through their connecting and buffering qualities.

Within the context of a changing climate and urbanisation, SINC's represent some of the best opportunities to conserve habitats and species as well providing opportunities for monitoring change. Local Sites play an important part in the natural processes that maintain air, soil and water quality and that reduce the effects of flooding and pollution. They also represent an important mechanism in providing places for education and community engagement. They represent local character and distinctiveness, and contribute to the quality of life and well-being of local communities. The emerging Southwark Plan identifies

and protects these sites. The emerging Southwark Plan has identified 17 new sites for designation as SINC's.

The London Plan policy G6 requires boroughs to protect sites of nature conservation value (SINC's), including those of Metropolitan, Borough or Local importance. There are 65 SINC sites in Southwark, 4 are of Metropolitan Importance, 10 are of Borough Grade 1 importance, 21 are of Borough Grade II importance and 30 are of Local Importance. Saved Southwark Plan policy 3.28 protects SINC sites from inappropriate development and seeks enhancements for these sites. The emerging Southwark Plan proposes to revise and merge the SINC designations of Borough Grade I and Borough Grade II to the new designation of 'Borough Importance'.

## **1.12 Local Nature Reserves**

Southwark has 7 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) totalling 50.93ha, these are listed below.

- Sydenham Hill Wood
- Nunhead Cemetery
- Lavender Pond
- Dulwich Upper Wood
- One Tree Hill
- Stave Hill Ecological Park
- Russia Dock Woodland

## **1.13 Key Habitats**

A variety of natural habitats are present in Southwark. Habitats are important because they provide the opportunities for species to exist and also provide environmental regulation and provide a recreational and educational resource. Further information is available in the SINC review report 2015.

The habitats present in Southwark are:

- Woodland (ancient and secondary)
- Wildflower meadows
- Parks and urban greenspace, including churchyards and cemeteries
- Reedbeds and typhus swamp
- Standing water, including ponds, lakes and docks
- Rivers and streams
- Brownfield open mosaic habitat
- Private gardens
- Wildlife corridors
- Scrubland
- Deadwood
- Veteran Trees
- Green roofs and green walls

## 1.14 Key Species

A number of UK BAP priority species and notable species are found in Southwark. All are endangered species or species of conservation concern and many are uncommon in Inner London. Bats are covered in more detail in section 1.15.

Notable species in Southwark:

- Bats
- Stag beetle
- Common lizard
- Slow-worm
- Hedgehog
- Common frog
- Common toad
- Smooth newt
- Black poplar
- Mistletoe
- White Letter Hairstreak butterfly
- House Sparrow
- Swift
- Fungi
- Peregrine Falcon
- Bumble Bees
- Corky Fruited Water Dropwort
- Native Bluebell

## 1.15 Bat species in Southwark

There are 17 species of bat in the UK, of these 9 are recorded in Southwark. Three of the species have been added to our records since 2004. Bats are a national priority species and protected under the European Habitats Directive. Bats make up a quarter of the mammal species found in the UK.

Bats are considered a good indicator of the health of the natural environment because they are sensitive to environmental change and because of their relationship with flora and fauna. Several of the species found in Southwark are known to roost in buildings.

Bat species recorded in Southwark are:

- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
- Nathusius pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*
- Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Brown long eared bat *Plecotus auritus*
- Leislers bat *Nyctalus leisleri*
- Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*
- Serotine Bat *Eptesicus serotinus*

## 1.16 Birds of conservation concern recorded in Southwark

The table below lists all the birds of conservation concern recorded in Southwark.

The Red List species are birds that have suffered severe decline in breeding population or are globally threatened. The Amber List species are birds that have suffered moderate decline or are of European concern.

Red and Amber list bird species recorded in Southwark	
<b>Red List</b>	
Bullfinch UKBAP	Woodcock
Herring gull UKBAP	Black redstart
House Sparrow UKBAP	Nightingale
Lesser spotted woodpecker UKBAP	Redwing
Linnet UKBAP	Grasshopper warbler
Fieldfare	Ring ouzel UKBAP
Spotted flycatcher UKBAP	Yellowhammer
Starling UKBAP	Spotted flycatcher
Song thrush UKBAP	Lesser redpoll UKBAP
Mistle thrush	Cuckoo UKBAP
Pochard	
<b>Amber List</b>	
Shoveler	Mute swan
Stonechat	Grey wagtail
Swallow	Dunnock UKBAP
Redwing	Willow Warbler
Tufted duck	Peregrine falcon
Greylag goose	Kingfisher
Green woodpecker	Little grebe
Nightingale	Black headed gull
Reed bunting	Common Tern
Whitethroat	Goldcrest
Stock dove	Mallard
Swift	Mistle Thrush
Kestrel	House martin
Tawney owl	Lesser black backed gull
Short eared owl	Firecrest
Teal	

Table 2, important bird species recorded in Southwark.

\*Species with suffix UKBAP are UK BAP priority species.

## **1.17 SINC review and ecological Survey for Southwark 2015**

In 2014/15 Southwark Council commissioned a Borough SINC review and ecological survey. This survey supersedes the previous ecological survey that was undertaken 20 years ago in 1994/5 by the London Ecology Unit.

In all 112 sites were surveyed with 65 being existing SINC sites. These sites were surveyed for habitats present and notable flora. From this review we established that we had not lost any SINC sites since 1995. The report identified 17 new sites which were recommended for designation as Local SINC Sites. Furthermore 4 SINC sites of local importance have been recommended to be upgraded to Borough importance. The emerging Southwark Plan has set these proposals out in appendix 5: Preferred options ‘new and amended Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation’.

The report showed that habitats such as meadow and wetland have increased and our green spaces network remains intact.

The report also proposed a strategic overview of the ecological networks in Southwark shown in image 1. This map identifies our core habitat areas and local restoration areas in line with the principals set out in the Lawton Report ‘Making Space for Nature’ 2010. The Old Kent Road AAP has identified a ‘greener belt’ which follows the line of the strategic wildlife corridor; Herne Hill to Canada Water. See Image 1.

Image 2 is an Infographic which illustrates that there have been positive habitat increases since the 1994 survey.

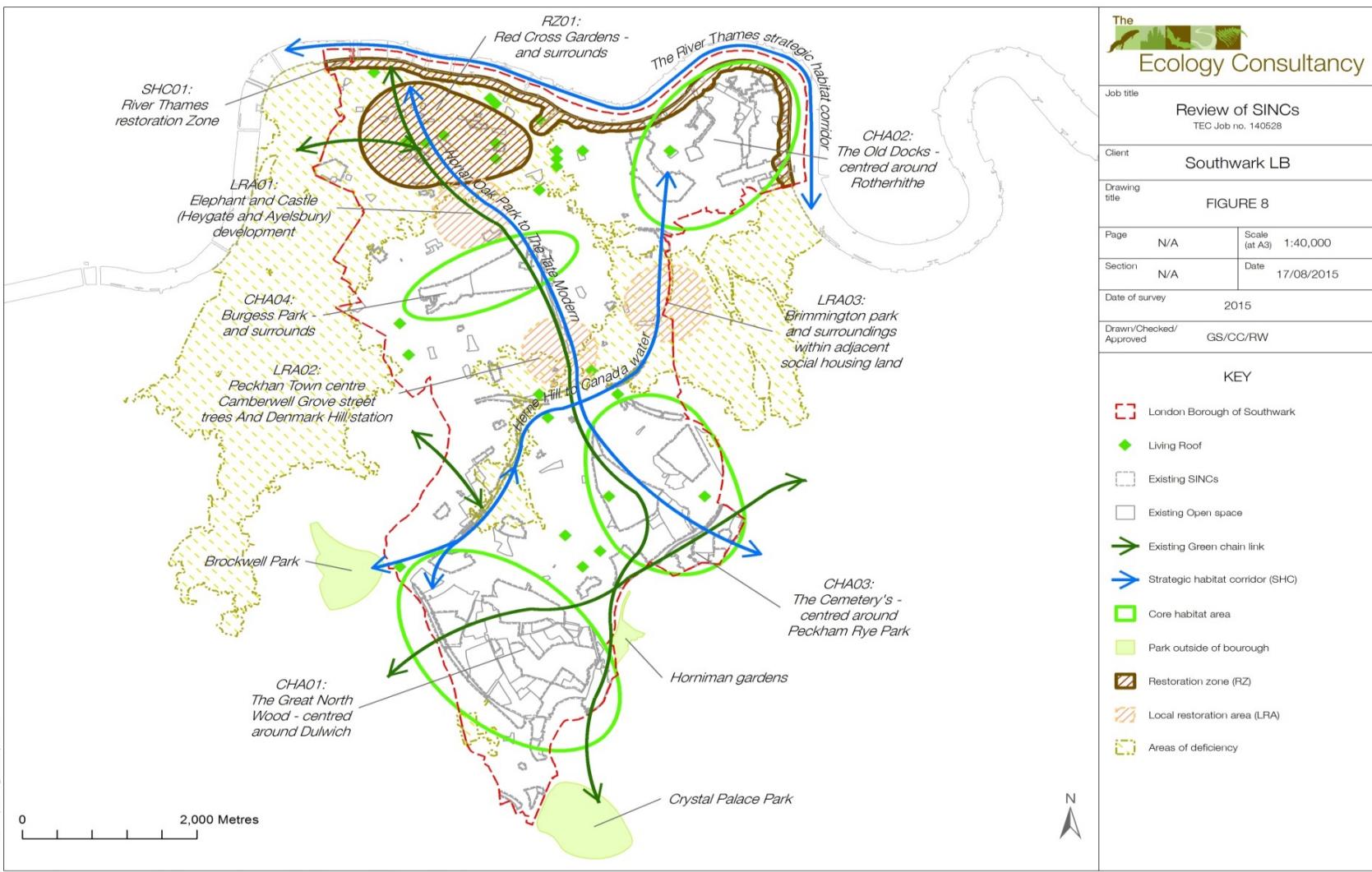


Image 1, strategic overview of the habitat conservation in Southwark

# Southwark is greener than you think

Informed by a review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in 2016

Since 1994 we have created:

7 ha\* MORE flower-rich grassland



3 ha\* MORE Wetland



In 2016 we have:

9 species of bat



4 species of amphibian



Stag Beetles



97 ha\* of woodland

64 existing SINCs



We are proposing:  
17 new SINCs

**Improving access to nature for health, wellbeing and enjoyment.**

Data from Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC ([www.gigl.org.uk](http://www.gigl.org.uk))

\* A hectare (ha) is roughly the same size as Trafalgar Square. A standard football pitch is between 0.62-0.8ha.



Supported by  
The Ecology Consultancy

Image 2, Southwark infographic highlighting changes to habitats and species in 2016

## **1.18 Biodiversity and Trees**

Trees have long been valued for their beauty, marking the seasons and providing sanctuary for wildlife. The environmental benefits of urban trees within ecosystem services including reducing pollution, cooling air, providing shade and protection from ultraviolet light, intercepting and absorbing rainfall and storing carbon are also now increasingly well understood. Trees are also considered as an integral and historic component of the urban landscape and its architecture, where they contribute to local character and can define a sense of place, frame views and vistas and strengthen our heritage and culture. The sum of all these benefits is often defined as the amenity value of trees.

Southwark Council recognises the positive impact that urban trees have on the environment and the lives of people in Southwark and aims to protect its current trees and woodlands. The Council aims to maintain a healthy, protected and sustainably managed treescape that contributes significantly to the health safety and wellbeing of Southwark's residents.

Southwark will maintain a general presumption against the removal of trees, allowing felling only in accordance with good arboricultural and silvicultural practice, and to ensure that adequate and appropriate replacement planting takes place where planting is desirable, aesthetically necessary and sustainable. Natural regeneration will also be allowed if the site circumstances are appropriate.

Southwark recognises the relationship between trees and the built environment and their role in helping to combat air pollution and climate change. Urban trees and woodlands are intrinsic to biodiversity through their contribution to creating green corridors, enhancing the ecological permeability of the built environment. Trees provide habitat and a food source for a diverse variety of flora and fauna species both in densely built up areas as well as urban woodlands. Woodlands in the borough provide some of the most important habitats in Southwark and the ancient woodland components of these assets are irreplaceable and subject to stronger protection.

Southwark will continue to ensure protection of trees and woodlands subject to Tree Preservation Orders, in Conservation Areas and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, with trees to be retained on development sites and to require high standards of replacement tree planting.

## **2.0 Key Themes**

The SNAP focuses on three key themes that provide broad work streams that will contribute to continued improvement for the natural environment while allowing flexibility to develop these themes as national and local policy develops.

The key crosscutting themes are:

### **1. Making Nature Accessible for all**

### **2. Biodiversity Net Gain**

### **3. Nature Recovery Plan**

## **2.1 Key Theme 1, Making Nature accessible for all plan**

Making nature accessible for all is a council commitment in the council plan. Southwark will work in partnership with stakeholders to deliver this key theme.

The ecology management services provided by London Wildlife Trust, The Conservation Volunteers and Bankside Open Spaces Trust deliver a range of community engagement and educational actions in Southwark. Other organisations and partners such as: The Centre for Wildlife Gardening, Surrey Docks Farm, Walworth Garden Business Improvement Districts (Better Bankside, London Bridge & the Blue) and Idverde (Southwark's parks grounds maintenance contractor).

### **Southwark Council will:**

- Create a young SNAP following adoption of this plan;
- Create a cultural SNAP following adoption of this plan.

### **Southwark Council residents and the partners can:**

- Promote nature events in Southwark;
- Improve access and disabled access to nature sites.

Partners will be encouraged to use the 'Southwark Presents' resource to do this.

The link to Southwark Presents is below. Southwark Presents has added a new category for nature events. <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage/about-southwark-presents>

### **Raise the profile of the importance of nature and partners ecology work:**

The section below contains a number of collective actions that were developed from engagement with partners and identify ways of raising the profile and importance of the partners work for nature.

- I. Share information via social media to promote partnership work and good news; Using the #Southwarknature;
- II. Stakeholder attendance at Southwark's big events such as Bermondsey Carnival;
- III. Seek attendance of partners at Friend's events such as Nunhead open day and Peckham Fair;
- IV. Run events & regular activities;
- V. Provide interpretation and education;
- VI. Promote nature at health centres, libraries & heritage centres and schools;
- VII. Seek new venues to reach new audiences;
- VIII. Signpost nature sites.

## **Engage with residents, visitors and community groups:**

The actions listed below set out ways of increasing engagement in nature for all

- I. Hold and promote events;
- II. Raise awareness of the natural resources in the Borough;
- III. Engage with Friends of Parks Groups;
- IV. Develop Forest schools and after school nature clubs with third sector partners;
- V. Provide interpretation and education for all;
- VI. Promote volunteering opportunities and social prescribing;
- VII. Support landscape scale projects such as Great North Wood, The Low Line and the emerging Big City Butterflies;
- VIII. Engage with Southwark's everyone active programme – walking, volunteering etc;
- IX. Use community Southwark resources; <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations>
- X. Develop cultural opportunities to promote nature such as delivering a festival of nature and art installations.

## **Engagement through delivery:**

The actions listed below on focus on more strategic engagement and targeting specific sectors of the community. This will support the creation and development of the nature recovery plan.

- I. Undertake scoping of the nature restoration zones identified in the SINC review and set up partnerships to engage with stakeholders within the area to deliver natural restoration on estates;
- II. Engage with residents through the Great Estate Programme;
- III. Engage with schools to green school grounds;
- IV. Seek engagement with residents, businesses and developers through creation of green infrastructure such as; green roofs, green walls and rain gardens.

## **Engagement through education:**

A study of schools in Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, and Southwark in 2008 found that only half of the schools surveyed took students out of the classroom, with Key Stage 3 students making predominant use for the school grounds, and Key Stage 4 students making greater use of their local parks. The study found that ecology was thought to be the most appropriate way to link the use of parks in to the curriculum.

The Natural Environment White Paper 2011 noted that Children are becoming disconnected from the natural environment and spending less and less time outdoors. It was found that the likelihood of children visiting any green space at all had halved in a generation.

The natural environment also offer opportunities for life long learning.

The SNAP will support education by;

- Providing educational key stage self guides and interpretation for parks and open spaces
- Developing a children's educational toolkit as part of the young SNAP
- Providing forest school opportunities within our capacity
- Providing environmental education through third sector ecology management agreements
- Provide 'after school nature clubs' through the third sector ecology management agreements
- Provide ecological monitoring training for all
- Hold walks and talks.

## **2.2 Key Theme 2, Biodiversity Net Gain**

Biodiversity Net Gain is set to become mandatory in the planning process.

Biodiversity Net Gain is a mechanism within the planning system to obtain ecological gains, either on new developments or elsewhere in the borough.

The Council will develop how this policy is delivered in Southwark following publication of guidance from Defra.

The National Planning Policy Planning Framework, 2019 sets out the policy for protecting habitats and biodiversity by:

- Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, through establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- Identifying, mapping and safeguarding components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation;

- Promoting the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species, and identifying and pursuing opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity and continuing to deliver ongoing and long term management.

## **2.3 Key Theme 3, Nature Recovery Plan**

Southwark's environment could be healthier, happier and greener – if we develop a nature recovery network now.

The 25 year Environmental Plan sets out key targets for the UK which Southwark will contribute to;

- Establish a Nature Recovery Network;
- Create/restore 500,000 ha of habitat outside protected areas;
- Restore 75% of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition;
- Action to recover threatened iconic or economically important species;
- Planting 180,000 ha of woodland by 2042.

In Southwark, for nature to recover we have to look beyond our Local Nature Reserves, SINC's and parks and take action to extend and link our existing sites, both to support wildlife and to recover the range of economic and social benefits that nature provides.

Key to developing the recovery network is to ensure the plan is;

- Integrated environmental delivery – primary aim to recover nature but assist in the delivery of a wider range of environmental benefits;
- For nature and people – ecologically driven but supporting benefits for people such as health and wellbeing, recreation and securing greater environmental equity across communities;
- A shared endeavour – developed in partnership from the outset and aiming to become the primary framework for planning and delivering nature recovery.

This network will be driven by strategic goals for nature. Act as a strategic spatial planning and prioritisation framework for the borough. Adopting the Lawton Principles covered in the report 'Making Space for Nature' 2010 is key to the recovery plan as is measured success.

### **Southwark Council will:**

Develop a nature recovery plan once we have received guidance by Defra.

This will include:

- The Great Estates Programme;

- Linking with local or regional projects such as the Great North Wood or Big City Butterflies project;
- Developing an ecological network map;
- Integration into the Boroughs Area Action and Neighbourhood Plans
- Developing a Pollinator Strategy - We will develop a Bee Line for Southwark and work with neighbouring boroughs to link this across South London;
- Supporting the Low Line project.

## **2.4 National Park City**

In July 2019 London became the first National Park City. Making London a National Park City brings opportunities to engage Londoners and London institutions to create a common vision of the environmental, social and economic benefits of London's green infrastructure. It provides a framework to promote investment in London's natural capital and green infrastructure. This will ensure effective coordination, better valuation, and more innovation from all those involved in protecting and enhancing London's environment. National Park City is a place, a vision and a city-wide community that is acting together to make life better for people, wildlife and nature. A defining feature is the widespread commitment to act so people, culture and nature work together to provide a better foundation for life.

The seven action areas of the National Park City are:

- lives, health and wellbeing
- wildlife, trees and flowers
- places, habitats, air, water, sea & land
- time outdoors, culture, art, playing, walking, cycling and eating
- locally grown food and responsible consumption
- decisions, sharing, learning and working together
- relationships with nature & with each other

Southwark Council and stakeholders will work together to contribute to the charter for the London National Park City.

## **3.0 The Habitat and Species Action Plans**

### **3.1 Built Environment Habitat Action Plan:**

Southwark is a densely built-up Inner London borough; over 75% of its area occupied by buildings, streets and car parks. However, the built environment can support a number of iconic species and be surprisingly rich in wildlife.

Buildings provide roosts for bats, and nest sites for birds; including raptors such as the, Peregrine falcon, and Kestrels. Swifts, House sparrows, and the Black Redstart all nest in or on buildings and Starlings have been found nesting in the air vents of housing blocks.

We can all enhance the built environment for wildlife and help conserve these species. Green roofs offer a good alternative to brownfield (open mosaic) habitats which are

declining. Nesting and roosting sites can be incorporated into new or existing buildings to provide places for bats and birds. These features can be built into the fabric of new buildings or retrofitted to existing ones. Climbers and other forms of green walls can provide nectar for bees and nesting sites for House Sparrows, and other birds. Streets can be greened with trees, hedges and planters full of nectar-rich flowers and have flood alleviation, sustainable drainage systems and traffic calming schemes incorporated into the public realm.

### **Built Environment priority habitats**

Open mosaic habitats  
Biodiverse roofs and green roofs  
Sustainable drainage systems  
Green and living walls  
Nature rich amenity space

### **Built Environment priority species**

Bats  
Black redstart  
House martin  
House sparrow  
Peregrine falcon  
Swift  
Kestrel  
Hedgehog  
Brimstone butterfly  
Common Blue butterfly  
Bumblebees including; Brown-banded Carder Bee  
Corky fruited water dropwort

## **3.2 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Built Environment HAP:**

### **Southwark Council will:**

- Ensure that potential harm to species and habitats is given due consideration in the assessment of planning applications;
- Share biological information, new habitat Inc. tree planting and changes to boundaries with GiGL;
- Through the planning process, seek biodiversity enhancements which contribute to the built environment priority habitats and species;
- Implement and promote sustainable drainage systems to manage storm water;
- Plant nectar-rich flora on road verges, hanging baskets and other suitable locations;
- Protect and retain mature and veteran trees where applicable;
- Work with stakeholders and Tenants and Residents Associations to advise on improving biodiversity on estates;
- Work with partners to review core and local nature restoration areas identified in Image 1, to deliver partnership based SNAP actions and enhancements;
- Update and refresh the online toolkit and guidance on creating features for habitats and species.

[https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/2359/Guidance\\_on\\_creating\\_habitat\\_and\\_biodiversity\\_features\\_for\\_parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces.pdf](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/2359/Guidance_on_creating_habitat_and_biodiversity_features_for_parks_and_open_spaces.pdf)

## **Southwark Council Homes, other social housing providers and schools can:**

- Include biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats in all new build and estate regeneration schemes;
- Retrofit biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats on existing buildings;
- Retrofit sustainable drainage systems to create enhanced wildlife habitats and green spaces;
- Include commitments to provide biodiversity net gain in the ‘Great Estate Programme’ and the ‘new homes design review’.
- Grow ivy and other nectar-rich climbers up suitable walls;
- Plant native hedges along boundaries;
- Plant trees with wildlife benefit such as the Elm ‘New Horizon’;
- Relax mowing frequency to create daisy lawns and seasonal long grass areas;
- Install planters with nectar-rich flowers and/or plant nectar-rich flowers in existing planters;
- Install and retrofit bat boxes, bumblebee boxes and nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House sparrows, House martins and other birds in appropriate places on buildings;
- Maintain populations of Corky fruited water dropwort through appropriate management on housing sites;
- Avoid removing old House martin, Starling or Swift nests from buildings.

## **Developers and Businesses will be encouraged to:**

- Include biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats on all new development;
- Include living walls with nectar-rich climbers in new development;
- Include green sustainable drainage systems in new development to avoid reliance on hard engineered drainage infrastructure;
- Protect and retain mature and veteran trees;
- Provide nature rich amenity space in new development;
- Provide planters with nectar-rich flora in new development;
- Incorporate roost sites for bats within the design of new buildings;
- Install internal and external nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House sparrows, House martins and Black redstarts in appropriate places on new buildings;
- Use native plants and trees in landscaping schemes;
- Engage with appropriate stakeholders;
- Survey for fauna before undertaking maintenance or development.

## **Residents can:**

- Grow nectar-rich flowers in window boxes and planters;
- Avoid disturbing bird nests in buildings;
- Install bat boxes, bumblebee boxes and nest boxes for House sparrows and other birds in appropriate places on buildings;
- Grow nectar-rich climbers such as ivy, honeysuckle and jasmine up walls;
- Seek estate greening via the Cleaner Greener Safer scheme;
- Seek green infrastructure are part of estate regeneration;

- Form friends groups and get involved with Tenants and Residents Associations;
- Volunteer;
- Monitor wildlife and submit wildlife sightings to Southwark or GiGL.

### **3.3 Gardens & Grounds Habitat Action Plan:**

In Southwark the emerging Southwark Plan states that 21% of the borough is occupied by open space. This includes gardens and the landscaped areas around housing estates, schools, road verges, businesses and other premises. The majority of this land is housing amenity land. In the last few years, social housing providers and residents in Southwark have created good quality wildlife habitats, such as ponds, meadows, copses, hedges, orchards and nectar-rich community gardens, around housing estates. This has been supported by the Cleaner Greener Safer Programme and other funding streams.

Many schools contain wildlife gardens or greening, these features are wonderful educational resources. The Centre for Wildlife Gardening is a unique resource run by the London Wildlife Trust in Peckham, which promotes wildlife gardening and community engagement. Private gardens are important supporting a wealth of birds, insects, as well as amphibians and small mammals. Private gardens may also be the last refuge for our disappearing population of Hedgehogs.

#### **Gardens & Grounds priority habitats**

Neutral grassland  
 Open mosaic habitats  
 Native broadleaved woodland  
 Orchards  
 Mixed native hedgerows  
 Ponds and rain gardens  
 Allotments

#### **Gardens & Grounds priority species**

Bats  
 Hedgehog  
 House sparrow  
 Amphibians  
 Brimstone butterfly  
 Holly Blue butterfly  
 Common Blue butterfly  
 White Letter Hairstreak butterfly  
 Bumblebees including Brown-banded Carder Bee  
 Stag Beetle  
 Black Poplar  
 Damselflies and Dragonflies

### **3.4 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Gardens and Grounds HAP:**

#### **Southwark Council will:**

- Seek biodiversity enhancements which contribute to these targets in the landscaping of all new developments;

- Deliver the Air Quality Action Plan;
- Protect mature and veteran trees where applicable;
- Develop and deliver the Climate Emergency Action Plan;
- Ensure that community gardens created or enhanced through its community volunteering scheme include features which contribute to the objectives in the SNAP;
- Work with Southwark Council homes and social housing providers to advise on managing their land for biodiversity, identify enhancement projects and help to find funding sources to implement these;
- Support the work of the Centre for Wildlife Gardening;
- Update and refresh the online toolkit and guidance on creating features for habitats and species.

### **Schools can:**

- Green school grounds;
- Create meadows, orchards, ponds and hedges within their grounds;
- Install bat boxes and nest/habitat boxes for birds and bumblebees;
- Plant Alder buckthorn, Birds-foot trefoil and other food plants for butterfly caterpillars;
- Plant nectar-rich flora to provide food for bumblebees and other insects;
- Create loggeries and insect hotels;
- Plant native trees;
- Install and maintain ponds;
- Undertake species surveys and monitoring;
- Educate pupils about nature and wildlife conservation.

### **Southwark Council Homes and other social housing providers (and groups of residents managing community gardens) can:**

*(Note: all of these can be included within estate regeneration schemes and Great Estates Programme, but most of these actions can also be delivered in existing amenity space and community gardens).*

- Create wildlife habitats such as meadows, small areas of woodland, orchards, and hedges within the landscaping around estates, and enhance existing habitats;
- Install bat boxes, nest boxes for birds, bumblebee boxes and hedgehog homes in suitable places on estates;
- Plant native trees;
- Remove paving around trees;
- Create loggeries and insect hotels;
- Create sustainable drainage systems on suitable land;
- Review mowing regimes to benefit spring flowers and wildlife;
- Plant Alder buckthorn, Birds-foot trefoil and other food plants for butterfly caterpillars;
- Plant nectar-rich flora to provide food for bumblebees and other insects;
- Plant Black poplars in suitable sites away from buildings and paths.

### **Developers and businesses can:**

- Create wildlife habitats such as meadows, small areas of woodland, orchards and mixed native hedges within the landscaping around developments;
- Create open mosaic habitat within the landscaping around industrial developments;
- Install bat boxes, nest boxes for birds, bumblebee boxes and hedgehog homes in suitable places within the landscaping around developments;

- Ensure that lighting of new development (during construction and operation) does not adversely impact on foraging and commuting bats and other wildlife;
- Create loggeries and insect hotels within the landscaping around developments;
- Plant Alder buckthorn, Birds-foot trefoil and other food plants for butterfly caterpillars within the landscaping around developments;
- Plant native trees;
- Create and manage native hedgerows;
- Plant nectar-rich flora to provide food for bumblebees and other insects, within the landscaping around developments;
- Partner and provide financial support for local charities delivering conservation projects.

**Third Sector groups (TCV, LWT, BOST, Walworth Garden, Surrey Docks Farm, Better Bankside, Team London Bridge, Bermondsey Blue Business Improvement District and others) can/will:**

- Provide advice and training to individuals and community groups;
- Contribute to the Great Estates Programme;
- Work with Friends of groups and engage with residents on housing estates;
- Run and promote events;
- Provide educational sessions for residents, schools, and visitors;
- Provide accessible green space on sites;
- Deliver improvements for the priority habitats;
- Provide Interpretation on sites;
- Focus on what residents can do;
- Manage and report non native species;
- Undertake wildlife surveys;
- Hold regular volunteer session Inc. weekends;
- Secure greening investment aligned with urban ecology;
- Raise awareness and promote green infrastructure value;
- Provide maintenance of green space;
- Broaden participation in urban ecology;
- Deliver pilot projects for urban greening;
- Undertake fundraising;
- Provide lobbying and advocacy services;
- Run free community learning days on sustainable gardening techniques;
- Deliver workshops on organic and wildlife gardening.

**Residents can:**

- Create wildlife ponds and small meadows in their gardens and grounds;
- Plant mixed native hedges;
- Get involved in the Great Estates Programme;
- Plant native trees;
- Plant flowering shrubs, annuals and perennials in gardens to provide a year-round nectar source for bees and other insects;
- Install bird and bat boxes, hedgehog homes, bumblebee boxes, insect hotels, loggeries and other habitat features in gardens;
- Provide bird feeders, bird baths and make small container ponds;
- Ensure garden fences have gaps or holes which allow hedgehogs/small mammals to pass between gardens;

- Report non native species;
- Promote Hedgehog highways through social media;
- Fundraise;
- Volunteer.

### **3.5 How we will raise awareness of biodiversity in gardens?**

#### **Southwark Council will:**

- Provide news and information on wildlife gardening and landscaping for wildlife on the website, social media and press;
- Support the Centre for Wildlife Gardening;
- Develop estate gardening as part of the Great Estates Programme;
- Seek to facilitate the creation of training programmes with partners, providing opportunities for people, including residents, staff of local landlords and others, to better understand how gardens and grounds can be developed and managed to promote biodiversity.

#### **Southwark Council Homes and other social housing providers can:**

- Encourage residents to get involved in improving their estates for wildlife with events such as community planting days;
- Provide biodiversity gain through the Great Estates Programme and new homes design review;
- Provide information about local wildlife and events in newsletters and on noticeboards.

#### **Cleaner Greener Safer can:**

- Provide grants to schools and community groups for enhancements to school grounds and community gardens which contribute towards objectives and targets in the SNAP;
- Record and map habitat creation so we have a record of positive change.

### **3.6 Parks and Open Spaces Habitat Action Plan:**

#### **Introduction**

Southwark Council manages over 130 parks and open spaces. These include four major parks; Dulwich Park, Peckham Rye Park and Common, Burgess Park and Southwark Park, Nunhead Cemetery, (a Victorian Cemetery) and woodland in Rotherhithe created on brownfield land which is quite unique in inner London. Of the 105 parks in managed by the Environment and Leisure department, 5 are designated Local Nature Reserves and 34 parks are designated SINC sites.

All our parks and open spaces contain habitats that support wildlife. See the bar charts below from the 2016 Borough ecological survey.

There are opportunities for further habitat creation and enhancement. Many parks could accommodate new meadows, ponds and hedges, as well as increasing the amount of nectar-rich flowers. Suitable locations for new woodland, orchards, open mosaic habitats and ponds are more challenging, but opportunities should be explored to create these habitats where suitable.

### **Parks and open spaces priority habitats**

Parkland with scattered trees

Neutral grassland

Open mosaic habitats

Native broadleaved woodland

Orchards

Flower rich meadows

Mixed native hedgerows

Ponds and lakes

Reedbed

Veteran trees

### **Parks and open spaces priority species**

Bats

Hedgehog

House sparrow

Amphibians: - frogs, toads and newts

Black Poplar

Brimstone butterfly & Common Blue butterfly

Bumblebees including Brown-banded Carder Bee

Stag Beetle

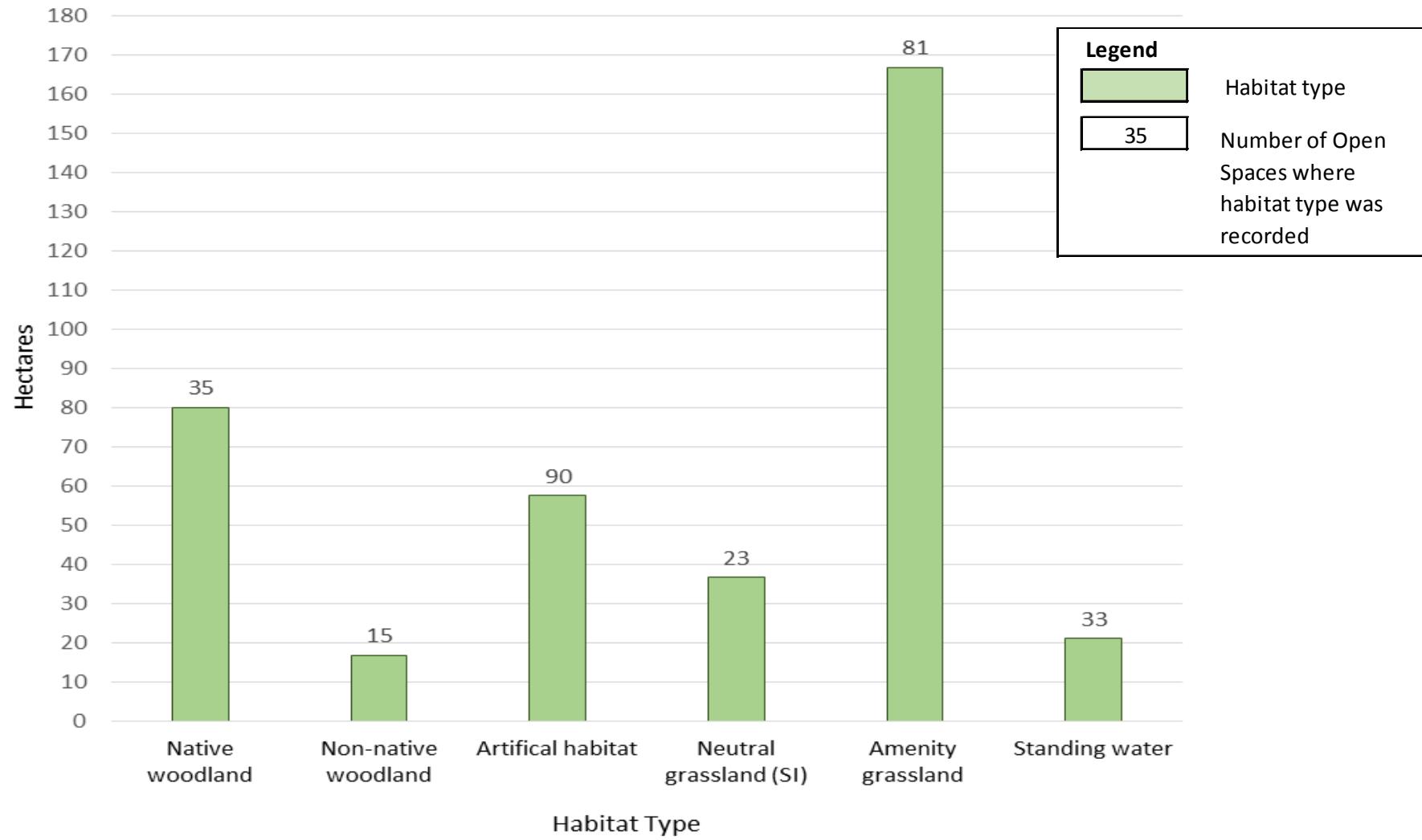
White Letter Hairstreak butterfly

Green woodpecker

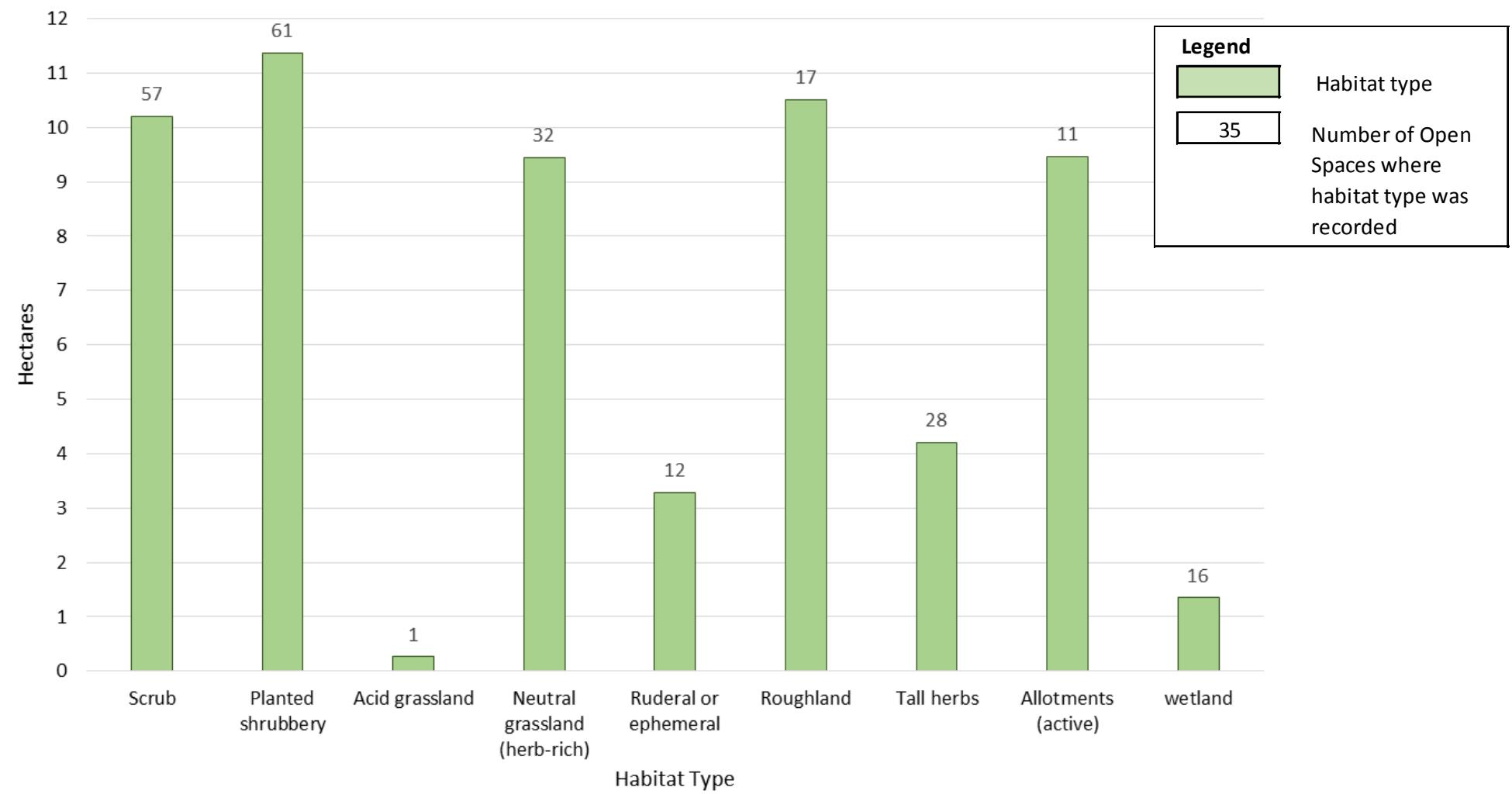
Greater spotted woodpecker

Fungi

Bar Chart showing widespread and abundant habitats in Southwark



Bar Chart showing other habitats in Southwark



### **3.7 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Parks and Open Spaces HAP:**

#### **Southwark Council will:**

- Manage existing wildlife habitats in parks to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance their biodiversity value;
- Create new natural habitat where applicable;
- Install habitat features such as nest boxes, insect refugia and bat boxes;
- Manage and control invasive species;
- Produce and maintain up to date management plans for SINC sites in its ownership;
- Identify appropriate locations to create and enhance priority habitats in its parks and open spaces;
- Seek funding from a variety of sources to implement the enhancements identified;
- Collaborate on fund-raising with third sector groups managing public open spaces;
- Ensure biodiversity is considered in all capital schemes in parks, and biodiversity enhancements which contribute to these targets are included where possible;
- Update and refresh the online toolkit and guidance on creating features for habitats and species;
- Support third sector groups managing key ecological sites in the borough.

#### **The Third sector partners will:**

- Run a programme of wildlife-related events in the sites they manage and Southwark's parks and open spaces;
- Provide regular volunteer opportunities in the sites they manage and Southwark's parks and open spaces;
- Provide training on species monitoring;
- Develop engagement plans that focus on nature conservation with specific key performance indicators for measurable outputs on a site by site basis;
- Provide news and information on wildlife and events in the sites they manage, Southwark's parks and on their websites incorporating social media and other mediums;
- Broaden information sharing and provide onsite interpretation;
- Facilitate the creation of training programmes which will enable friends of parks, parks staff, and residents and stakeholders to learn new skills relevant to managing and developing for biodiversity in public open spaces;
- Improve the knowledge base within maintenance contract services;
- Create and enhance habitats;
- Produce management plans for management and enhancement of habitats;
- Obtain Community Green Flag awards for all sites managed by the third sector;
- Develop tools to support residents and stakeholder involvement in nature conservation in an independent capacity.

#### **Residents can:**

- Monitor wildlife in their local park and report sightings to the Councils Ecology Officer via the wildlife reporting tool on the website;  
<https://geo.southwark.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Wildlife%20sightings%20and%20reporting>
- Volunteer for nature conservation work at Southwark's parks and open spaces.

## **3.8 Woodland Habitat Action Plan:**

### **Introduction**

Southwark contains several wonderful woodlands that are spaced from Rotherhithe to Crystal Palace. Woodland is the natural habitat of much of London and woodland and scrub make a vital contribution to the biodiversity of the borough. Almost all have public access, affording Southwark's residents a retreat from the urban environment. Southwark's woods also have interesting historical connections the Great North Wood is a great example of this.

This action plan covers plant communities dominated by trees and/or shrubs; it includes woodland regardless of origin or species, but excludes street trees. Woodland is a rare habitat in Inner London. Southwark has 4 % of its area covered by woodland; this compares favourably with London overall where woodland accounts for only 2% of land cover. No lower limit has been put on how small a 'wood' can be.

There are only two unequivocal ancient broadleaf woodlands in Southwark: Dulwich Wood and Hitherwood (an outcrop of the former). Parts of Sydenham Hill Wood, Dulwich Upper Wood and small parts of One Tree Hill are also classed as ancient woodland.

Sydenham Hill Wood, Nunhead Cemetery, Russia Dock Woodland and Dulwich Upper Wood are designated as Local Nature Reserves. Nunhead Cemetery, (52 Acres) is the largest secondary wood near to the centre of London. Russia Dock Woodland is an important ecological site created on brownfield land. This woodland incorporates several ponds and meadows which provides a rare mosaic of habitats for Southwark.

Because of their longevity veteran trees within parks are of major ecological importance, providing a largely untouched habitat many feet above the ground. These require special protection and management to ensure their continued contribution to biodiversity.

### **Woodland priority Habitats**

- Ancient woodland
- Secondary Woodland
- Deadwood Inc. tree stumps
- Veteran Trees
- Pocket woodland
- Scrubland with trees
- Hedgerows
- Railway linesides

### **Woodland priority Species**

- Stag beetle
- Greater spotted woodpecker
- White letter hairstreak butterfly & Purple Hair Streak butterfly
- English Oak
- Hornbeam

English Elm  
English Bluebell  
Cowslip  
Brown Long Eared bat and Bats species  
Hedgehog  
Fungi

### **3.9 How we will promote, conserve and enhance habitats and species for the Woodland HAP:**

#### **Southwark Council will:**

- Manage existing woodlands in parks, cemeteries and open spaces to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance their biodiversity value;
- Ensure that potential harm to woodland and woodland species is given due consideration and protection in the assessment of planning applications;
- Specify buffer zones adjacent to developments to protect ancient woodland and SINC's;
- Inspect the trees on a cyclical basis (between 3 – 5 years depending on site usage), to ensure we meet health and safety requirements;
- Produce woodland management plans for all woodland sites;
- Protect trees subject to a Tree Preservation Orders and Woodland Tree Preservation Orders;
- Enforce bylaws and manage the Public Space Protection Order where applicable in our woodlands.

#### **Private landowners can:**

- Develop woodland management plans;
- Undertake condition assessments
- Maintain their woodland and ensure they are litter free
- Display signs about the woodland ownership and any applicable bylaws.

#### **LWT, TCV will:**

- Engage with residents to deliver woodland management;
- Provide volunteer opportunities and training;
- Hold events in woodlands to engage with residents and visitors;
- Provide formal and informal training opportunities;
- Provide interpretation in woodlands;
- Attract new audiences to woodlands;
- Ensure site accessibility;
- Survey and monitor woodlands;
- Produce and maintain up-to-date management plans;
- Deliver the Great North Wood project and leave a lasting project legacy.

### 3.10 Species Action Plans

1. Bats
2. Hedgehog
3. Stag beetle
4. Amphibians, Dragonflies and damselflies (*Odonata* Inc. sub - order *Zygoptera*)
5. Birds Inc. House sparrow, Swift and Raptors
6. Native trees, woodland flora and fungi
7. Pollinators Inc. bees and butterflies

Partner	Species	Stag Beetle	Bats	Hedgehog	Amphibians	House sparrow	Swift	Raptors	Woodland Flora	Damsel and Dragonflies	Bees	Butterflies	Native Trees
Southwark Council		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
TCV		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
LWT		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BOST		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Idverde		✓			✓						✓	✓	
Surrey Docks Farm					✓	✓					✓		
Walworth Garden		✓			✓	✓							
Better Bankside			✓								✓	✓	
Team London Bridge		✓				✓					✓	✓	

Table 3, The Southwark Biodiversity Partnerships commitments to the species action plans

## **3.11 Bats Species Action Plan:**

### **Introduction**

All UK Bats are European Protected Species. Southwark has recorded 9 species of bat present in the borough. Bats make up almost a quarter of the mammal species found in the UK. Bats are excellent indicators of a healthy environment; their complex ecological requirements leave them highly sensitive to environmental changes, therefore their decline should be of major concern to us all.

#### **Objectives for Bats**

To provide roost sites for bats, such as bat boxes or bat tubes/bricks, in new developments, housing estates, parks and schools in parts of the borough where bats are likely to use them  
**[Target: 10 sites by 2022 and 30 sites by 2025]**

To encourage nocturnal insects by planting night-scented plants in landscaping schemes in parts of the borough where bats are likely to forage **[No specific target]**

#### **Southwark Council will:**

- Ensure bats are protected and given due consideration in development management;
- Seek bat friendly lighting in new developments;
- Review lighting in parks and open spaces;
- Install bat boxes and tubes in parks and open spaces and on new developments;
- Protect linear natural features (hedges and trees) for bat commuting and foraging;
- Create and maintain forage areas in parks and open spaces;
- Develop the disused railway tunnels as bat roosts.

#### **Private landowners, developers and residents can:**

- Check lofts/roofs for bats prior to any work if your house is pre 1960 detached house within 200m or woodland or wetland or Pre 1914 building within 400 m of water or woodland or Pre 1914 building with gable ends or slate roof regardless of location;
- Plant night scented plants to attract insects;
- Avoid installing lighting to the exterior of buildings and gardens;
- Install bat tubes or bat bricks/boxes;
- Report bat sighting to Southwark Council, the London Bat Group or GiGL.

#### **Third sector partners can/will:**

- Undertake bat surveys where applicable;
- Lead bat walks and talks in Southwark;
- Install bat boxes;
- Promote bat conservation through habitat enhancement;
- Maintain the Sydenham Hill tunnel bat roost;
- Maintain a relationship with the London Bat Group.

## **3.12 Hedgehogs Species Action plan:**

### **Introduction**

The hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* is unique; it is the only spiny British mammal. A fully grown adult male may have as many as 5000 spines. Hedgehogs are found throughout Europe and Asia, and are widespread throughout the UK. Hedgehogs are largely nocturnal and have a broad diet, including earthworms, slugs and caterpillars as well as frogs, young mice and voles.

Hedgehogs typically travel between 1 and 3km each night. Males travel further than females, ranging behaviour varies with habitat but the seasonal home range size is surprisingly large. For females it is around 10 hectares (25 acres) and about three times that (30ha) for males. Hedgehogs usually rest in a nest of leaves during daytime.

Hedgehogs are a UK SNAP priority species. Although nationwide extinction is unlikely, current evidence suggests that hedgehogs are in decline. They are relatively scarce in Southwark.

### **Objective for Hedgehogs**

- Improve access for hedgehogs in gardens **[Target 15 gardens by 2022 and 40 gardens by 2025]**
- Ensure suitable habitat is retained in parks and open spaces **[Target 5 sites by 2023]**
- Install Hedgehog homes in appropriate places in parks, housing estates, schools and community gardens in parts of the borough where Hedgehogs still occur. **[No specific target]**

### **Southwark Council will:**

- Undertake surveys for hedgehogs;
- Work with grounds maintenance contractors to raise awareness of hedgehogs;
- Plant new native hedges;
- Seek to connect grounds and gardens for small mammals.

### **Private landowners, developers and residents can:**

- Create access for small mammals to neighbours gardens;
- Create hibernation areas in gardens/sites;
- Undertake surveys for hedgehogs;
- Avoid using slug pellets.

### **The Third sector partners can/will:**

- Undertake hedgehog surveys;
- Promote hedgehog conservation;
- Promote sustainable gardening;
- Hold events;
- Provide Hedgehog nest boxes in Sydenham Hill Wood and Dulwich Woods;
- Promotion of hedgehog friendly gardening;
- Engage children with slugs, snails and other invertebrates;

- Improve access and habitats for Hedgehogs.

## **3.13 Stag beetles Species Action Plan:**

### **Introduction**

The Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* is Britain's largest terrestrial (ground living) beetle. The males have large antler shaped mandibles, which are used for fighting other males. The female has smaller mandibles. The beetle can reach 8cm in length and have shiny chestnut-violet wing cases.

The Stag beetle requires dead wood to complete its life cycle. Vertical dead tree trunks are their preferred habitat. The eggs are laid underground in the soil next to logs or dead trees and the larva will spend between five and ten years in the dead wood. Timber can also be utilised, notably sunken fence posts.

The adults emerge from mid May until late July and can be seen flying on summer evenings an hour or two before dusk.

The adults feed on fruit and the sap of trees and though short lived (they often die after mating) some may over-winter in sites such as compost heaps.

London has a nationally significant population of stag beetle. A 1998 survey of London recorded over 3,000 about 30% of the national population. Southwark and south London is a stronghold for the beetle. They are partially protected from capture and exchange under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (as amended).

### **Objectives for Stag Beetle**

To increase the available habitat for Stag Beetles and other deadwood invertebrates by creating loggeries in parks, housing estates and community gardens **[Target: 7 sites by 2022 and 15 sites by 2025]**

### **Southwark Council will:**

- Build loggeries in parks and open spaces;
- Host wildlife reporting tool;
- Promote the conservation of the beetle and dead wood species
- Retain dead wood and tree stumps where applicable.

### **Private landowners, developers and residents can:**

- Report sightings of the beetle to LWT or the Ecology Officer;
- Retain dead wood and tree stumps where applicable;
- Build loggeries.

### **The Third sector partners can/will:**

- Create demonstration loggeries;
- Promote to Schools and families;
- Raise profile of beetles in Southwark;
- Host reporting tool;

- Monitor beetle populations.

## **3.14 Amphibians and Dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata Inc. sub - order Zygoptera) Species Action Plan:**

Amphibians; Inc. Common Frog, Common Toad, Smooth Newt and palmate Newt.

### **Introduction**

The State of Nature Report 2016 by the National Biodiversity Network recorded national declines in species associated with wetlands and fresh water. The report found the over the long-term, 53% of freshwater and wetland species had declined and 47% had increased. Over the short term, 51% of species declined and 49% increased. The index of change in the abundance and occupancy of freshwater and wetland species has declined by 21% over the long term, and by 4% over the short term. 13% of freshwater and wetland species are threatened with extinction from Great Britain.

Ponds, lakes and aquatic marginal plants provide a shared resource and the principal habitat in the borough for amphibians and dragonflies and damselflies.

### **The Common Frog**

The Common Frog *Rana temporaria* is easily our most recognisable amphibian. They're found throughout Britain and Ireland, in almost any habitat where suitable breeding ponds are near by. Common Frogs have smooth skin and long legs for jumping away quickly. Garden ponds are extremely important for common frogs, particularly in urban areas.

The common frog breeds in shallow water bodies such as puddles, ponds, lakes, and canals. Tend to be most active at night when they feed on a wide variety of invertebrates. During winter they hibernate under rocks, in compost heaps, or underwater buried in mud and vegetation. Deposit 'rafts' of spawn, often containing up to 2000 eggs. Each small black egg is surrounded by a clear jelly capsule around 1 cm across. Common Frog tadpoles are black when they hatch but develop light bronze speckles as they mature.

### **The Common Toad**

The common toad *Bufo bufo* is one of the UK's most charismatic animals and for many of us it is one of our earliest wildlife memories.

It is a widespread amphibian found throughout Britain. Common Toads prefer deeper water bodies in which to breed. They have rough, 'warty' skin and tend to crawl rather than hop. Common Toads produce a toxin from a pair of glands on their back which makes them distasteful to would-be predators.

Optimal terrestrial habitats include woodland, scrub and coarse grasslands. They are largely nocturnal. They produce long jelly-like strings of spawn. Strings contain a double row of eggs. Tadpoles look similar to Common Frog tadpoles but can be distinguished by their shorter tail and bulkier head. They remain uniformly dark in colour throughout development. Feed on a variety of invertebrates and even small vertebrates.

### **Smooth Newt & Palmate Newt**

Smooth Newts *Lissotriton vulgaris* look very similar to palmate Newts but are more widespread; Smooth Newts cannot tolerate as dry conditions as Palmate Newts. On land, their skin takes on a velvety appearance and they are sometimes mistaken for lizards. Like Common Frogs they are usually quite quick to colonise garden ponds. They're found throughout Britain. They are most active at dusk and dawn. They feed on a wide variety of invertebrates. The eggs are deposited individually on leaves of aquatic plants.

Palmate Newts *Lissotriton helveticus* look very similar to smooth Newts but they have more of a preference for shallow ponds on acidic soils. They are common in southern England but absent from much of central England. Palmate Newts can tolerate drier conditions than Smooth Newts and so can be found further from water.

## **Dragonflies and Damselflies**

Dragonflies and Damselflies are a distinct group of insects belonging to the order Odonata and placed in the Families Anisoptera ("different wings") and Zygoptera ("paired wings") respectively.

Dragonflies and Damselflies are among the most ancient land-living species on the planet, having been in existence for almost 300 million years. They live in freshwater and wetlands such as ponds, lakes, rivers, marshes, fens and bogs. There are 38 species that regularly breed in Britain

Dragonflies and Damselflies usually lay their eggs under the water. The larvae live underwater for several weeks (or years, depending on the species) and go through a series of moults as they grow. The larvae eat almost any living thing that is smaller than they are. They emerge from the water when they are ready to go through their final moult where the 'skin' disappears to reveal the winged adult. Adult dragonflies mainly eat other flying insects, particularly midges and mosquitoes. They will also take butterflies, moths and smaller dragonflies.

Dragonflies and Damselflies are very sensitive to changes and pollution in their environment, which makes them very good indicators of the quality of wetland habitat.

## **Objectives for amphibians**

To ensure that existing and new ponds are connected with suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians **[No specific target]**

### **Southwark Council will:**

- Create and maintain ponds;
- Host the wildlife reporting tool;
- Monitor ponds;
- Provide advice to residents and businesses on pond creation and maintenance.

### **Private landowners, developers and residents can:**

- Create and maintain ponds;
- Create habitat piles close to ponds to provide refugia;
- Check long grass for amphibians before cutting.

### **The Third sector partners can/will:**

- Create and maintain ponds;
- Create habitat piles close to ponds to provide refugia;
- Survey ponds Inc. Freshwater invertebrate surveying;
- Promotion of damselfly and dragonfly friendly gardening;
- Engage children and adults with damselflies, dragonflies and their prey;
- Water for Wildlife project increasing dragonfly knowledge;
- Hold events to promote pond life;
- Provide advice to residents and businesses on pond creation and maintenance.

## **3.15 Birds Inc. House Sparrow, Swift and Raptors Species Action Plan:**

### **Introduction**

Many bird species are now residents or seasonal visitors in urban areas. In Southwark there are 52 recorded bird species that are listed on the red or amber list of conservation concern.

Some birds such as swifts, black redstarts, peregrine falcons and House sparrows have become urban specialists often nesting in buildings or utilising green infrastructure.

The following birds are priority species for Southwark.

### **House Sparrow**

The house sparrow's *Passer Domesticus* distribution mirrors the pattern of human settlement. As a native species it extends from North Africa, throughout Europe and Central Asia and northwards beyond the Arctic Circle. It has also become established in a number of other countries as a result of introduction by man.

House sparrows have traditionally taken bread and scraps from garden bird tables as well as the seeds of grasses and flowers in parks and gardens and open spaces. The young are fed with insects such as aphids and caterpillars once fledges they rely on seeds as an important staple of their diet.

The birds nest mainly in buildings – in roofs, cracks and crevices – or amongst creepers and climbers on walls and sometimes in dense shrubbery or trees. Under good conditions, sparrows can produce up to five broods per year, although two or three is more typical. They are sensitive to air pollution and will avoid crossing busy carriageways.

Following a decline in populations of around 50% since the 1970's they are on the red list of birds of conservation concern.

### **Objectives for House Sparrow**

To increase the availability of nest sites for House Sparrows by installing sparrow terrace nest boxes or growing dense climbers on walls **[Target: 10 sites by 2022 and 25 sites by 2025]**

### **Black redstart**

The Black restart *Phoenicurus ochruros* is a recent arrival from Europe where it nests on cliffs and mountains. In Britain it has colonised urban areas often found on brownfield or industrial sites. They are found nesting and foraging on Power stations, gasworks, railsides, industrial units and dilapidated wharves are their preferred habitat. For this reason the species' conservation requirements are unique for a British bird.

In London, the black redstart is concentrated on both industrial sites and post-industrial brownfield land along the River Thames East of the River Wandle and along the River Lee. Isolated pairs are still found in central London, which was the bird's stronghold after the second-world war and they breed on at least one mainline station in central London.

The boroughs of Havering, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, City of London, Islington, Camden, Wandsworth, Southwark, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley regularly host breeding birds. A combination of stony bare ground, sparsely vegetated areas and a complexity of structures, whether they are cranes, old jetties, piles of scrap metal cars or disused building complexes, appear to be its preferred habitat or disused building complexes, appear to be its preferred habitat.

On average there are between 8 and 12 pairs breeding in Greater London each year with a further 6-10 singing males present. One pair breeding in a London Borough would therefore amount to approximately 3% of the national population.

Conservation of Black redstarts is linked to the provision of open mosaic habitats, including on green roofs, for which the species is a flagship in London. Specific interventions involve providing nest sites in suitable places. The Black redstart is strictly protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, and is a priority species in London. It is also listed as a Red Data Book species and is on Appendix II of the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979.

In recent years biodiverse brown or green roofs have been installed on many new buildings. This new habitat provides ideal conditions for this bird.

### **Objectives for Black redstart**

To ensure that the possible presence of Black Redstarts is considered in the assessment of planning **[No specific target]**

To provide suitable nest sites for Black redstarts in areas where open mosaic habitats are created or retained **[Target: 3 sites by 2023 and 6 sites by 2025]**

### **Common Tern**

Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* are wholly reliant on the provision of artificial floating nest sites, ideally shingle-covered rafts. A few pairs of Common Terns nest in Southwark, all on rafts provided for them in the docks. In 2018 and 2019, nesting took place on newly installed rafts at Surrey Water. There are plenty of good feeding habitats in the docks, but limited nesting spaces. Rafts should have new gravel installed each year.

### **Objectives for Common Tern**

To ensure that, where new developments reduce the value of an existing breeding site for Common Terns, this is compensated for by the provision of rafts in suitable places nearby.

To increase the available nesting habitat for Common Terns through the provision of additional rafts on suitable water bodies **[Target: 5 additional rafts by 2023 and 10 additional rafts by 2025]**

## Peregrine Falcon

The Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* is the largest resident falcon in the UK, it is traditionally associated with rugged mountains and steep sea cliffs. This versatile raptor has recently begun to colonise urban environments, including London, where it is using tall buildings and other structures as substitutes for the traditional crags and cliff-ledges nesting sites. Urban areas also provide a plentiful supply of prey species, pigeons and other medium sized birds ranging from starlings to black-headed gulls are all predated by the Peregrine.

Peregrines are a success story as they are regularly seen hunting over London. They have been sighted roosting on the Tate modern chimney for a number years and utilise other tall buildings in Southwark.

In the UK the Peregrine falcon is afforded full protection as a Schedule 1 breeding species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended). It is also listed as a Red Data Book species and is on Appendix II of the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979.

### Objectives for Peregrine

To increase the availability of nest sites for Peregrines by providing nest boxes on tall buildings **[Target: 2 sites by 2025]**

## Swift

Swifts *Apus apus* have declined across Britain in recent years, and one of the reasons attributed to their decline is the lack of suitable nest sites in modern buildings. Nest boxes for Swifts can easily be installed on buildings, or incorporated into the design of new buildings. Being colonial nesters, Swifts can be encouraged to use nest boxes by playing recordings of their calls from the buildings where the boxes are sited.

Swifts return to the same nesting sites year after year. They are however sensitive to change so if a nesting site is disturbed or altered they may reject it resulting in the loss successful breeding for that location.

### Objectives for Swift

To increase the availability of nest sites for Swifts by providing nest boxes on suitable buildings, including in new developments **[Target: 10 sites by 2022 and 20 sites by 2025]**

## Southwark Council will:

- Install nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House sparrows, House martins and Black redstarts in appropriate places on new buildings;
- Include biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats in all new build and estate regeneration schemes;
- Install tern rafts in our docks and lakes;
- Seek to retrofit nesting features onto existing buildings;
- Ensure contractors take the nesting season into account when planning and undertaking vegetation clearance and building maintenance works.

- Seek evidence of appropriate surveys for nesting birds where applicable;
- Install nesting features in parks and open spaces.

### **Private landowners, developers and residents can:**

- Install nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House sparrows, House martins and Black redstarts in appropriate places on new buildings;
- Protect existing nest sites;
- Survey sites for evidence of nesting;
- Seek to retrofit nesting features onto existing buildings;

### **The Third sector partners can/will:**

- Hold events such as dawn chorus walks;
- Undertake surveys;
- Promote raptors such as the Peregrine falcon and Tawny Owl;
- Promote ethical bird feeding;
- Work with Friends of groups and engage with residents on housing estates;
- Provide Interpretation on sites.

## **3.16 Native trees, woodland flora and fungi Species Action Plan:**

### **Introduction**

Native trees are found in our woodland and parks and open spaces, by lakes and along highways verges and rail-sides. Many of the trees are planted and a number are self set and have colonised areas of land which have been left unmanaged. Native trees support many species of wildlife because they have been present for thousands or years and flora and fauna has adapted to the resources native trees offer. Native trees are at risk from introduced pests and diseases Dutch Elm disease and Ash dieback are examples of this. Native trees do not do well as street trees so are not planted in this environment.

Woodland flora has developed to flourish in the woodland environment. Woodland flora often flowers early. Many plants are considered indicators of spring. Lesser celandine, bluebells, Cow parsley, Wild garlic and Cowslips are found in our woodlands and often seen in our parks and gardens. Fungi are also important in our woodlands with many rare species recorded.

### **Southwark Council will:**

- Review estate management in areas that were once wooded;
- Manage mowing to allow native woodland flora to bloom and seed;
- Promote planting native trees where applicable;
- Provide volunteer opportunities to help manage specimen native trees and flora;
- Protect trees subject to a Tree Preservation Orders and Woodland Tree Preservation Orders;
- Survey, report and manage pest species and tree diseases.

## **Private landowners, developers and residents can:**

- Plant native trees where suitable;
- Survey, report and manage pest species and tree diseases.
- Manage mowing to allow native woodland flora to bloom and seed.

## **The Third sector partners can/will:**

- Protect woodland flora;
- Survey for ancient woodland indicators;
- Survey, report and manage pest species and tree diseases.
- Plant native woodland flora where applicable
- Promote planting native trees in gardens;
- Lead wildflower walks.

## **3.16 Pollinators Inc. bees and butterflies Species Action Plan:**

### **Introduction**

There are at least 1,500 species of pollinating insects in the UK. Most are native species of bumblebees, solitary bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, beetles and flies. The honey bee *Apis mellifera* is considered domestic stock managed in hives by beekeepers. When plant pollen sticks to the bodies of flower visiting insects, it gets transferred between the flowers they visit. This fertilises the plants, allowing them to reproduce and produce fruits and seeds.

Pollinators are essential for biodiversity and our wider environment. They maintain the diversity of wild flora and support healthy ecosystems, particularly by helping plants to produce fruits and seeds which birds and other animals (including humans) rely on.

Pollinators are of enormous value to human's thorough agriculture, but are also valued and appreciated by the public and, as part of our natural world, and contribute to our health and wellbeing. Pollinators face many pressures, including habitat loss and fragmentation, pests and diseases, extreme weather, competition from invasive species, climate change and pesticide use.

Buglife have identified the following national trends for pollinators:

- Half of our 27 bumblebee species are in decline
- Three of these bumblebee species have already gone extinct
- Across Europe 38% of bee and hoverfly species are in decline
- Two-thirds of our moths are in long term decline
- 71% of our butterflies are also in decline

In the London area loss of natural and semi-natural habitat to urban and suburban development over many years has caused negative impacts on biodiversity and has reduced the availability of food, shelter and nest sites for pollinators. However, studies indicate that provision of forage in the form of flower-rich habitats, such as meadows, within the landscape can help maintain pollinator diversity. Trees, scrub and hedges also play an important role in supporting pollinators and provide shelter and nest sites. Conserving our

remaining flower rich habitats also brings other benefits including protecting threatened plant populations and the wildlife that depends on such habitats.

### **Southwark Council will:**

- Plant trees, shrubs and flora that are known larval food plants or provide forage for butterflies and moths;
- Map existing pollinator habitat;
- Develop a bee line or pollinator strategy;
- Ensure bee keeping agreements are in place for all bee keepers on Southwark's Land;
- Review Southwark's land management looking for opportunities to manage land for the benefit of pollinators - (for example reducing frequency of grass and hedgerow cutting regimes, removal of cut grass from wildflower-rich grasslands etc.);
- Include Great Estates programme in the actions to help pollinators;
- Work with schools to create pollinator-friendly habitats on school grounds and educate schoolchildren about pollinators;
- Seek biodiversity enhancements which contribute to pollinators needs in new developments through the planning process;
- Reduce pesticide use and avoid using new planting containing neonicotinoids;
- Improve habitats for nesting and overwintering pollinators by providing refugia;
- Acknowledging the importance of bare ground areas for ground-nesting species;
- Ensure that not all paths and desire lines are hard surfaced or re-turfed, as these are important nesting area;
- Keep some areas of long grass throughout the winter as a refuge for insects. Cutting should be carried out in rotation to ensure that the uncut areas do not become rank and lose floral diversity;
- Where possible, install suitable bee 'hotels' to encourage mining and leafcutter bees to nest;
- Leave patches of nettles and other larval food plants for breeding butterflies and moths.

### **Private landowners, developers and residents can:**

- Plant trees, shrubs and flora for pollinators;
- Plant trees, shrubs and flora that are known larval food plants or provide forage for butterflies and moths;
- Keep some areas of long grass throughout the winter as a refuge for insects. Cutting should be carried out in rotation to ensure that the uncut areas do not become rank and lose floral diversity;
- Where possible, install suitable bee 'hotels' to encourage mining and leafcutter bees to nest;
- Avoid using pest control for bee, wasp and hornets nests unless absolutely necessary;
- Reduce pesticide use and avoid new planting containing neonicotinoids.

### **The Third sector partners can/will:**

- Plant trees, shrubs and flora for pollinators;
- Plant trees, shrubs and flora that are known larval food plants or provide forage for butterflies and moths;
- Undertake bee, butterfly and pollinator surveying;

- Create and maintain glades in woodlands;
- Hold events to promote pollinators and bee keeping;
- Provide advice and demonstrations for pollinators;
- Provide insect hotels.

## **4.0 Governance**

### **4.1 Implementation and monitoring**

The Implementation and monitoring of the plan will be led by the steering group (which is the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership). This is chaired by the Council and includes representatives from relevant council departments.

The steering group will publish an annual report detailing progress on implementation of the SNAP.

We will set up working groups for the habitat action plans with a single working group covering the Built Environment and Gardens & Grounds Habitat Action Plans and a single working group covering the Parks and Open Spaces and Woodland Habitat Action Plans. Species will be covered by all members of the SBP.

A national indicator on SINC sites in positive management will be reported to Defra annually. The emerging Environment Bill puts a duty on local authorities to produce biodiversity reports. Southwark will do this within three years of the bill's passing.

### **4.2 Southwark Nature Action Plan review**

The SNAP will be subject to a policy review in its second or third year and a full review after 5 years. The SNAP will be updated following these reviews as required. The reviews will address changes to policies and priorities at a national, regional and local level. It is expected to retain the current habitat and species actions plans.

### **4.3 Finance and Funding**

Funding is vital for delivery of this SNAP. Many of the actions are inexpensive and easy to deliver. Specialist services are required for professional monitoring and surveys and habitat creation. Maintenance of habitats and wildlife features requires revenue. Delivering these actions is often not factored into mainstream budgets and is often an add-on to financial systems. Southwark Council funds the ecology contracts with the London Wildlife Trust, The Conservation Volunteers and Bankside Open Spaces Trust. Southwark Council grant funds other partners such as Surrey Docks Farm and the Centre for Wildlife Gardening.

- Southwark Council will support development of partnership grant applications and third sector grant applications;
- Residents and third sector groups can apply for funding from The Council's Cleaner Greener Safer Fund;
- Southwark Council will disseminate funding opportunities as applicable.

Biodiversity Net Gain could contribute monies to delivery of this SNAP depending on the procedures and guidance produced by Central Government. The Greater London Authority also provides funding via the Greener City Fund.

## **4.4 Wildlife recording**

Understanding what species are present is important in managing habitats and measuring success. To enable individuals and groups to share wildlife sightings Southwark Council has an interactive mapping tool. See link.

<https://geo.southwark.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Wildlife%20sightings%20and%20reporting>

Citizen science can also contribute to recording specific species.

Southwark Council has a Service Level Agreement with the London records centre, Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL).which provides up to date data on species and habitats and land designations.