



# Biodiversity Action Plan

August 2022

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# Definitions of key terms

## **Biodiversity**

The word 'biodiversity' is used to describe the abundance and variety of life on earth. It covers the whole range of living things: animals and birds, trees and flowers, insects and fungi and considers the genetic differences amongst them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur.

We cannot survive without a healthy ecosystem; our future depends on it - for our health, the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe as well as ecosystem functions such as fertilizing the soil, recycling nutrients, regulating pests and disease, controlling erosion, and pollinating crops and trees.

## **Climate Change**

The increasing rising of global temperature leading to wider changes to our weather. Impacts of climate change include global warming, rising sea levels, declining glaciers and sea ice and the slowing of crop productivity.

## **Blue Green Infrastructure**

Are a network of natural and semi-natural features that deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and biodiversity in urban and rural environments e.g. street trees, green roofs, and private gardens as well as parks, rivers and woodlands.

## **Green Chains and Ecological Corridors**

Ecological Corridors are relatively continuous areas of green space running through built up areas that allow the movement of plants and animals to other areas and habitats. In Haringey they largely follow the railways and rivers, but they also link to larger open spaces such as Finsbury Park and Highgate Wood.

## **Our Biodiversity duty**

The 'Biodiversity Duty' of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires that 'every public authority 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'.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is the mechanism by which Haringey Council aims to fulfil its 'Biodiversity Duty' by highlighting priorities and opportunities for protecting and enhancing the borough's biodiversity.

## **Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR)**

Are designations used by local authorities in the United Kingdom to give statutory protection for sites of significant local nature conservation and geological value.

## **Green Infrastructure and natural environment**

Priorities for protecting, conserving, and enhancing biodiversity in Haringey, identifying a range of interventions that will help to create an ecologically resilient nature recovery network.

# Introduction

Haringey Council seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity value across the borough for the benefit of all those who live and work within it, and in doing so support regional, national and global efforts to halt the decline in biodiversity and support the delivery of carbon reduction projects in line with the Climate Change Action Plan.

[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/draft\\_haringey\\_climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/draft_haringey_climate_change_action_plan.pdf)

A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a strategic framework which delivers policy and legislation requirements for conserving and enhancing biodiversity, that are important on a local and global scale and sets the targets and actions to achieve this.

The Plan identifies species and habitats which are threatened or declining in the UK providing strategic direction to manage biodiversity by setting out our approach of how the Council, local residents, partners and stakeholders can develop Haringey's parks and greenspaces to provide a positive future for our Wildlife and help make the Borough a place where people are proud to live and work.

## Aims

The Aims are taken from the overall Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

**Inclusion and Wellbeing:** Providing inclusive parks and greenspaces that all communities in Haringey can benefit from so that usage and enjoyment of our parks and green spaces reflects the communities living in Haringey and contributes to improved wellbeing.

**Climate Change and Sustainability:** Supporting the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency by reducing the carbon footprint of parks and greenspaces, protecting and promoting biodiversity, and helping educate everyone in Haringey about contributing toward saving the planet.

**A Quality Service:** Securing investment, improving standards, partnerships, communications, and outcomes.

## Objectives

- Promote community participation to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife, climate change and wellbeing to increase access to the natural environment that involve the local community.
- Enhanced Climate resilience by developing habitat management plans that diversify habitats and enhance priority species.
- Ensure the protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) focusing on key areas of improvement.
- Restore and enhance the boroughs biodiversity and habitats, helping wildlife populations to grow and move.
- Inform future projects and strategies around the built environment and the greening of the urban environment, to increase green connectivity across the borough.

- Identify Operational Management opportunities for biodiversity enhancement work programmes to raise quality and standards, needed to protect our Parks and open spaces from ecological degradation.

## Scope

The new Biodiversity Action Plan provides guidance to the Council, its partners, residents and stakeholders on meeting its biodiversity duty and sets out a cross themed agenda for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity that can be integrated into the delivery of Council services and provide a framework for partner and resident action. The BAP also seeks to build on the previous Biodiversity Action Plan and any other associated documents.

The BAP will consider all land within the borough and describes a detailed picture of local biodiversity, the issues affecting its condition and management and proposes a series of conservation actions.

The Biodiversity Action Plan framework enables partnership working, to achieve more for nature and people with limited resources.

The Plan seeks to address and deliver against a wide range of policy and legislation: including global, European, national, and regional, and underpins the Biodiversity Action Plan and its delivery.

A core principle of biodiversity management is the need to incorporate cultural, social, and economic values in the process and the BAP has sought to achieve this.

The document also needs to ensure that the Council meets its duties under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 in respect of biodiversity.

### **Inclusive parks and greenspaces**

The previous Borough Plan (2019-2023) set out a vision for how Haringey wants to support a healthier and better quality of life for its residents and businesses.

Through the associated Equalities Profile and the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), the Borough Plan also identified the inequalities that people with protected characteristics face, the impact on their health and wellbeing and their lack of use and engagement in parks and natural spaces. The EQIA specifically identifies that “BAME residents are less likely to visit the natural environment than White British residents and less likely to participate in physical activity...” (Borough Plan EQIA, 2019, p.33. Appendix 5)

The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy supports the objectives delivered by the Biodiversity Action Plan giving guidance regarding the needs of our local environment and how the Council can help, both as a service but also as a community. It includes opportunities for engaging communities in increasing biodiversity, reducing our carbon footprint, and tackling the climate crisis.

Inclusion and Wellbeing actions included in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy are:

- Over time, adapt the parks workforce to become representative of who lives in Haringey
- Recruit a Community Engagement Officer whose main priority is to work with seldom heard from groups to ensure that new and different voices can contribute to future service delivery
- To develop additional open space in areas of deficiency, particularly in the east of Haringey
- Undertake an annual survey to identify the profile of park users and use this survey as the basis for monitoring changes in usage
- Identify changes in the design of parks and greenspaces and facilities offered by parks and greenspaces to make them more attractive, safer, more welcoming and more accessible to seldom heard from groups
- Support the development of new user groups and develop a programme of activities and events that showcase and support increased usage and involvement by seldom heard from groups, including activities to involve communities in nature and activities to support thoughtful behaviour
- Develop a Marketing and Communications Plan that supports increased usage and involvement by seldom heard from groups
- Communicate with key partners and stakeholders to help them understand and support the Priority of more inclusive parks in Haringey
- Hold an annual celebration of community involvement and activity in parks
- Review internal and external funding options to further support inclusive parks

### **Biodiversity and climate change**

How does climate change affect biodiversity?

Climate change affects biodiversity in several ways such as changes in:

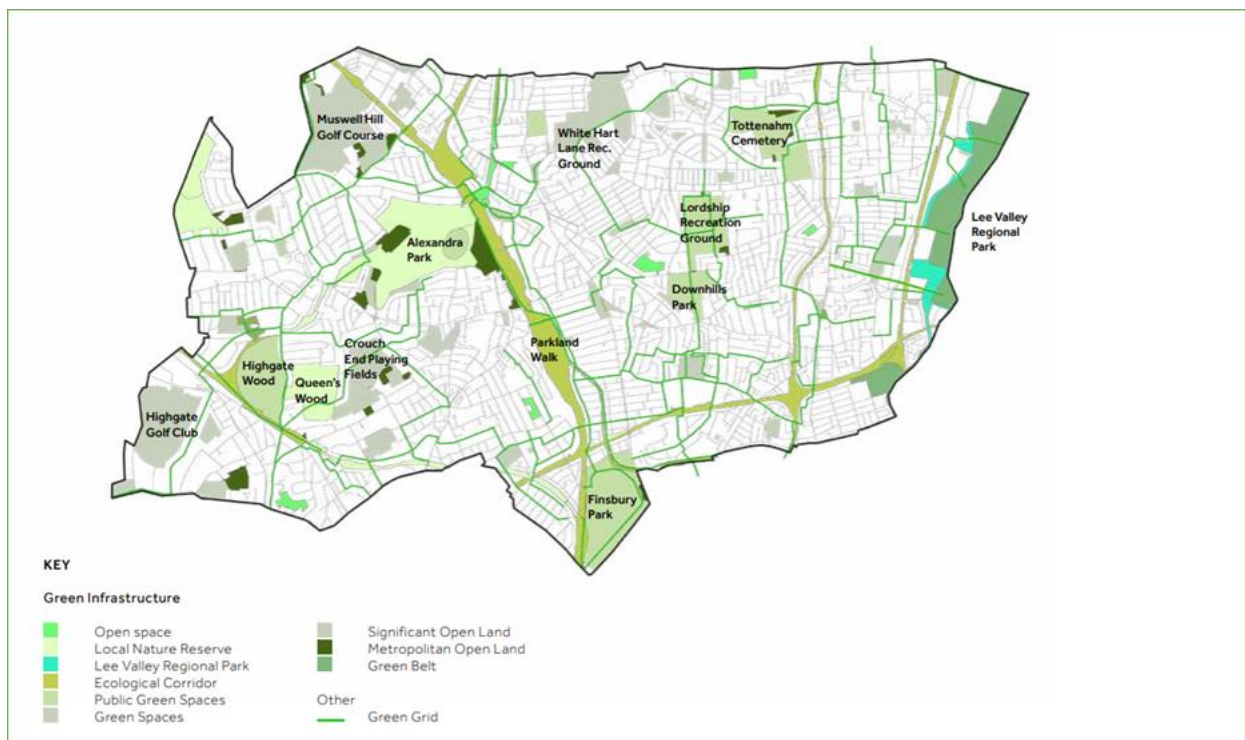
- timing of reproduction of animals and plants
- migration pattern of animals
- length of growing season
- species distribution
- population sizes
- frequency of pest and disease outbreaks

Haringey Council has declared a climate and environment emergency in March 2019 and pledged to work towards making Haringey net zero carbon by 2030. It comes after the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in October 2018 that the world has until 2030 to avoid an increase in global temperatures above 1.5°C, which would have devastating impacts on the planet and people's lives.

Climate change is the biggest long-term threat faced by our natural environment and ecosystems, and therefore our own life support systems. We are already seeing signs of long-term changes in weather patterns and an increase in extreme weather events such as droughts, fires, floods and storms.

A recent study in London showed that urban areas will experience enhanced urban heat island, alteration in flood risk and urban drainage, air quality, invasive species,

changes in composition of plants, microbial and animal communities. Similar to many other urban areas across UK, changing parameters of freshwater system in urban areas such as river corridors and wetlands is a threat to aquatic life. Events such as changing rainfall pattern are altering wetland characteristics. For example, the ecological integrity is compromised by the deteriorating water quality, altered water regimes, increased rates of decomposition in bogs, and alterations to habitat composition. Climate change is also a driving factor for terrestrial habitats, with alteration to species range, life cycles timing, physiology and behaviour. Extreme winter and summer weather such as heavy rainfall, extreme heat, reduced soil moisture content, extreme winter frosts, late spring frosts, and climate-related pest and diseases will interfere with the terrestrial flora and fauna.



### Green Infrastructure and natural environment – Haringey

Haringey’s green infrastructure is essential in reducing the impacts of climate change on the lives of our residents. Vegetation has been shown to reduce the effects of raised urban temperatures through evaporative cooling, shading surfaces, and allowing natural drainage. This can work in reverse in winter where greenery such as green roofs and walls can reduce the heat lost by buildings by providing better insulation and thus lowering energy use. Street trees and urban greening are also a major contribution to the capture and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> and improvement of air quality. As well as vegetation, the presence of open bodies of water, such as ponds, can assist with the cooling of surrounding areas and in reducing daytime temperatures.

### Green Infrastructure and natural environment Strategy

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which can deliver a wide range of



environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity. (National Planning Policy Framework, 2021)

Given the urban nature of much of Haringey it is vitally important that we protect and enhance our green infrastructure and natural environment. The New Local Plan will ensure that public open spaces such as parks, amenity spaces and commons continue to be protected and improved and promote opportunities for new accessible open spaces.

Haringey Council will develop a new Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment Strategy as part of the Local Plan. <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/new-local-plan-first-steps-engagement>

### **Local Nature Recovery Plan**

In accordance with recent legislation, a new Local Nature Recovery Plan will be developed and consulted on as a replacement for the BAP and will include nature conservation, biodiversity and ecological objectives as part of a new Green Infrastructure Strategy to:

- map the most valuable existing habitat for nature
- map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals; and
- agree priorities for nature's recovery

Local Authorities will be required by government to prepare Local Nature Recover Strategies. The data collected as part of this audit will provide an important resource for Haringey Council as they prepare this plan by allowing the identification of:

- Existing networks of sites or particular habitat types:
- Areas where gaps between these may be closed or bridged.
- Nature Recovery Areas (or similar) – as has been done in a neighbouring borough (Massini, et al., 2021).



## 2009 Biodiversity Action Plan Appraisal

To inform this new Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), an appraisal of the 2009 Biodiversity Action Plan was carried out. The review evaluated the aims and targets against the actions achieved and current national and London policy and strategies.

A study has been undertaken to inform the development of the new BAP. The main areas of research are described below.

- Carbon management evaluation around grass verges, wildflower meadows/tall grasses. Identifying new or improved habitat management and enhancements and ways of 'creating improved grassland types' potentially adding higher nature value.
- Biodiversity net gain (BNG) metric and habitat connectivity, exploring biodiversity metric accounting/positive contribution to biodiversity net gain; Local nature recovery strategies and targeted investment into the environment as well as 'access to nature matters' and key development requirements following the Environment Bill (2023).
- An allotment survey that delivered qualitative and quantitative data for the boroughs 27 managed allotments. Also, stakeholder engagement with the Allotment steering group reviewed the BAP allotment actions delivering new management objectives for the borough.

Research on defining the aims and targets for the new BAP has been valuable and with informing engagement aims with stakeholders.

Place holder for picture

# Haringey's Policies and Plans

## Building a fairer, greener borough – Haringey Labour Manifesto 2022-26

Following the local elections in May 2022 the Council's ambition and priorities are based on putting residents at the heart of everything the Council does. For the remainder of 2022 and into 2023, the Council will work with residents to develop the Haringey Local Deal. The Haringey Local Deal will seek to empower communities to make change, putting local people at the forefront of decision-making. The Biodiversity Action Plan will support the delivery of the Haringey Local Deal and in turn the manifesto commitments.

Below we have included extracts from the Manifesto that the BAP will help to either directly deliver or support.

### **Inclusion and Wellbeing**

Directly:

- Community gardening and tree planting on estates and trees
- Co-produce designs for pocket parks, community gardens and street side verges

Support:

- Participatory budgeting to help the council set its spending priorities
- Contribute to the development of the Young Voices Programme

### **Climate Change and Sustainability**

Directly:

- Plant street trees until each ward reaches 30% canopy cover
- Plant 10,000 new trees by 2030
- Invest in sustainable drainage systems to reduce flooding
- Work to create three brand new nature reserves by 2026 and introduce Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Support:

- Reduce and eliminate the use of single use plastics
- Install green pollution barriers on schools on main roads
- Explore green energy production in parks
- Identify sites for local food growing can take place

### **Quality Parks**

Directly:

- Install more LED Parks lighting to keep people safe

Support:-

- Apprenticeships
- SEND opportunities

## Wider policy context

### National Strategies

#### The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. It states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the natural environment, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services of trees and woodlands, for example. Specifically, the NPPF provides for the protection of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodlands and veteran trees. It also requires planning decisions to contribute to conserving and enhancing the local environment.

#### The 25 Year Environment Plan 2018

This plan sets out the government's aims and objectives for improving the environment. A central tenet of the plan is to increase tree cover in the UK to meet a target of 12% tree cover by 2060. Protecting and planting trees and woodlands in and around towns and cities is a key objective because of the benefits of urban trees that are set out in 'Vision for a Resilient Urban Forest'.

#### Environment Act 2021

The Act will bring into UK law environmental protections and recovery putting the environment at the centre of policy making. It will make sure that Local Planning Authorities have a cleaner, greener and more resilient country for the next generation. It includes details on enhancing our greenspaces and a legally binding target to be set to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.

## Regional Strategies

### The London Environment Strategy (GLA 2017)

This strategy sets out a number of ambitions in relation to trees and woodlands including the protection and management of the existing urban forest; increasing canopy cover by 10% from current levels, creating 200 hectares of species-rich woodland by 2050 and encouraging naturalistic approaches to flood water management and climate change adaptation.

It also commits to the preparation of an Urban Forest Plan to identify how this will be achieved, for example, through a major programme of tree planting; larger scale woodland creation projects in the Green Belt; improving the methods and data required to identify locations for tree planting and to monitor change in tree canopy cover; and to support and promote the work of the London Tree Officers Association, the Trees and Design Action Group and other partners.

### The London Plan 2021

The plan outlines the overarching need for green infrastructure and natural environment within the city. It recognises that the network of green and blue spaces, street trees, green roofs and other major assets such as natural or semi-natural drainage features must be planned, designed and managed in an integrated way.

Policy G1 sets out the strategic green infrastructure approach and provides a framework for how this can be assessed and planned for. The remaining policies in the Plan provide detail on specific aspects of green infrastructure, which work alongside other policies in the Plan to achieve multiple objectives including;

- Promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change and the urban heat-island effect improving air and water quality
- Encouraging walking and cycling
- Supporting landscape and heritage conservation;
- Learning about the environment
- Supporting food growing
- Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience alongside more traditional functions of green space such as play, sport and recreation

### The London i-Tree Assessment

A quantitative baseline of the air pollution, carbon storage and sequestration benefits of trees as well as the amenity and stormwater benefits they provide. This is supported with detailed information on the structure and composition of London's urban forest.

### Natural Capital Account for London's Public Parks

'Natural' capital is made up of the elements of nature that benefit people directly or indirectly. These assets include ecosystems, species, fresh water, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions. Benefits can include goods (such as timber and food) and services (such as clean air and water).

In an urban context, these assets are our parks, rivers, trees, and features such as green roofs that collectively form an essential green infrastructure. Designed and managed as green infrastructure, natural capital can:

- promote healthier living
- lessen the impacts of climate change
- improve air quality and water quality
- encourage walking and cycling
- store carbon
- improve biodiversity and ecological resilience

A natural capital account can help to inform and improve decision-making by framing public green spaces as economic assets and highlighting the range and value of benefits that they provide. This approach is supported by a national and London policy framework.

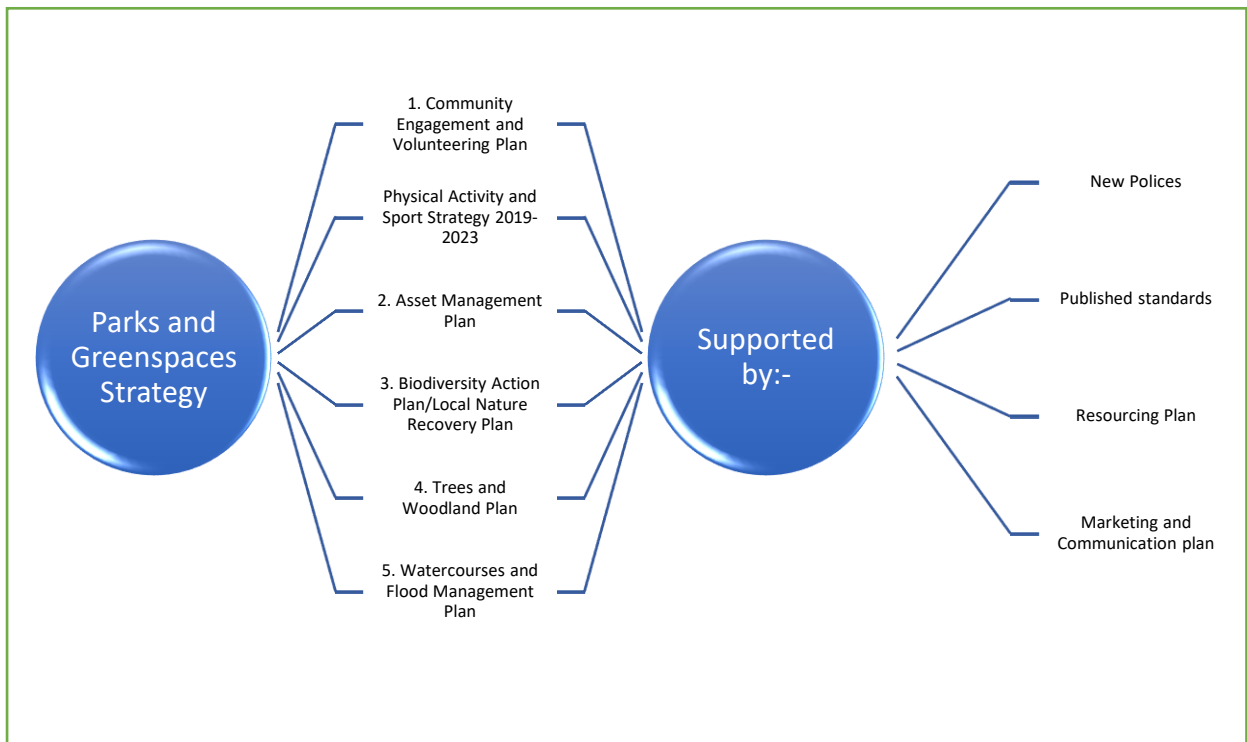
## Policy Context for Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan

National	National Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC)	Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) WCA	National Planning Policy Framework (2019) Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
	Natural Environment White Paper (2014) NEWP	ODPM Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)	UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework
Regional	London Plan policies (2020) G1 Green Infrastructure G2 London's Green Belt G3 Metropolitan Open Land G4 Open Space G5 Urban Greening G6 Biodiversity and Access to Nature G7 Trees and Woodland G8 Food Growing 7.28 Restoration of Blue Ribbon Network	Connecting Londoner's with trees and woodlands: A Tree and Woodland framework for London 2005
	Connecting with London's nature: The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy 2002	The All London Green Grid
	London Biodiversity Action Plan	The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy 2015
Local	Haringey Local Plan Climate Emergency declaration Borough Plan EQIA for the Borough Plan (see page 33). Biodiversity Action Plan Trees and Woodland Plan Community Engagement & Volunteering Asset Management Plan Watercourse and Flood Risk Management Plan Workforce development Plan	Haringey Local Plans policies (2017): SP13 Open Space & Biodiversity DM20 Open Space & Green Grid TAAP9 Tottenham Green Grid DM19 Nature Conservation DM21Ac Sustainable Design, Layout and Construction: Biodiversity Food Growing in Parks Park Safety Waste Management in Parks Sustainable Design and Planting Project Development and Prioritisation
	Parks & Green Spaces Strategy (POSS)	DM19 Nature Conservation
	SP13 Open Spaces and Biodiversity	DM21AC Sustainable Design, Layout and Construction: Biodiversity
	DM20 Open Space and Green Grid	Natural Capital Account
	Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Accessibility Study
	Funding Plan	Haringey Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2019

## Parks and Greenspaces Strategy

Other plans within the Parks and Greenspaces Strategy also support these objectives:

- Trees and Woodlands Plan
- Watercourses and Flood Management Action Plan
- Community Engagement and Volunteering Plan
- Asset Management Plan: climate change and sustainability/biodiversity, soft assets
- Asset Management Plan: community
- Asset Management Plan: climate change and sustainability/hard assets





# Legislation and planning policy

## Relevant wildlife legislation and planning policy

In addition to obligations under wildlife legislation, the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) updated on 20 July 2021 requires planning decisions to contribute to conserving and enhancing the local environment.

The London Borough of Haringey has produced an adopted Local Plan Strategic Policies 2013-2026 document which covers the below policies relating to biodiversity and habitat conservation. In particular Policy SP13: Open Space and Biodiversity states:

*“... All development shall protect and improve sites of biodiversity and nature conservation, including private gardens through its:*

- Contribution to wildlife and ecological habitats and, where possible, include green and brown roofs, rainwater harvesting, green walls, bird and bat nesting/roosting opportunities;
- Protection, management and maintenance of existing trees and the planting of new trees where appropriate; and
- Protection, enhancement and creation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

A new Local Plan is currently consultation and is proposed to run from 2022 to 2037.

## Biodiversity net gain

Under the Environment Act 2021 the Government mandated biodiversity net gain to ensure that new development enhances the environment, contributes to our ecological networks and conserves our precious landscapes. From November 2023, the Bill will make it mandatory for housing and development to achieve at least a 10% net gain in value for biodiversity for example planting a woodland or sowing a wildflower meadow with the minimum 30-year duration for which new biodiversity gains must be secured in future.

Biodiversity Net Gain will highlight local nature recovery strategies to target investment into the environment, Access to nature matters (demonstrating the value of green spaces) and key development requirements following the Environment Bill (2023). This could help with securing gains for key habitats from external development, delivering the borough's Local Development Framework to incorporate net gain for biodiversity.

Legal and financial commitment from the Council to make sure that Biodiversity enhancements needs are an integrated part of the capital investment programme (to meet those targets) These are all Politically sensitive strategic key decisions that would need to be considered.

# Biodiversity Infrastructure in Haringey

Locally, Haringey's green infrastructure, including our parks and open spaces, gardens, allotments, railway corridors and street trees, provides a valuable function. It not only makes the borough a greener and more visually attractive place to live but reduces the risk of flooding, improves air quality, provides us with locally grown food, improves health and well-being, and helps to cool urban areas in summer. In all it plays an essential role in the everyday lives of every Haringey resident.

Despite its urban environment Haringey is blessed with a variety of valuable habitats for wildlife such as the ancient woodlands of Bluebell, Coldfall, Highgate and Queen's Woods in the west of the borough and Tottenham Marshes in the east, as well as large and historic public parks including Finsbury Park and Alexandra Palace. The large number of private gardens and housing estate land also play a significant part in habitat provision throughout the Borough.

## Current situation

- Haringey has a wealth of natural assets including designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and 5 Local Nature Reserves
- The Lee Valley Regional Park straddles the eastern boundary of the borough and is home to European designated sites and many Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- 151 parks and green spaces
- 59 Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC)
- 27 Council managed Allotments (plus 3 externally managed)
- 25 Green Flag Parks

Place holder for picture

## Biodiversity in Haringey

The London Borough of Haringey is a metropolitan London authority covering approximately 29 sq km in North London. Like other London boroughs Haringey contains several sites which are designated for their importance for biodiversity as well as for enabling public access to and enjoyment of nature.

Although Haringey is a highly urbanised Borough, it supports a variety of habitats providing significant benefits for wildlife and people. Habitats include high quality examples of ancient woodland at sites such as Coldfall, Highgate and Queen's Woods.

Wetland habitats are represented within the Tottenham Marshes and the Lea Valley alongside more recently created habitats at the recently restored Moselle Brook within Lordship Recreation Ground. There are wet neutral grasslands in the east of the Borough and remnants of acid grassland in the west. There are numerous small parks which support areas of woodland and scrub alongside areas of green space provided by public gardens and housing estate land which provides a valuable, if until relatively recently, little acknowledged resource for wildlife.

Haringey has a coherent existing ecological network with the Lee Valley on the eastern border of the borough which has connectivity to Epping Forest, The River Thames and the countryside outside of London. There are several railway lines that run east to west or north to south across the Borough alongside other green corridors such as the New River which provide ecological links.

In terms of designations, the Borough supports 59 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)s which are protected through planning policy. These are made up of five sites of Metropolitan importance, nine of Borough Grade I importance, 13 of Borough Grade II and 32 of Local importance. Haringey also supports five Local Nature Reserves (LNR), described on page 22, while the adjacent Lee Valley is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and A Ramsar wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Haringey's five Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and waterways also offer a valuable habitat. The Lee Valley Regional Park straddles the eastern boundary of the borough and is home to European designated sites and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

# Areas of Nature Conservation Deficiency

## Deficiency in Access to Public Open Space

The London Plan sets out a maximum distance which London residents should have to travel to access a Public Open Space. Areas outside of these distances are classified as areas of deficiency.

### Sites of Local Importance:

- Sites of Local Importance tend to be of value to people within a local community (schools, community groups) and may have an educational role.
- They have value in Areas of Deficiency for access to nature (see GLA, 2018).

Despite a large network of SINCs there are some areas of the Borough where access to natural green space is not readily available. This is where people must walk more than one kilometre to reach an accessible parks or open space and where Ecological Corridors are inaccessible to the public.

The Westbury Banks Nature Reserve is a formerly neglected dumping ground for fly-tippers has been reclaimed via community action and now forms an impressively diverse wild space within an Area of Deficiency.

Duckett's Common is a sizable area of open greenspace lined of London plane trees, with sports pitches, exercise area and children's play area. providing important, accessible greenspace within a heavily urban area.

Green Chains are used for informal recreation providing walking and/or cycling routes through open spaces. Green Chains can also be Ecological Corridors such as the Parkland Walk Local Nature Reserve.

To reduce these areas of deficiency the Council can create new sites, mainly because of development, in areas of deficiency and remove barriers to existing sites of conservation by creating additional entrances.

# Designated Sites

What is a designated nature site?

Nature sites can be 'designated', which means they have special status as protected areas because of their natural and cultural importance.

These protected areas are protected by law to make sure they are not harmed or destroyed and can sometimes be used by people for recreation and study.

There can also be restrictions on activities and developments that might affect a designated or protected area, for example building new houses or roads. This includes areas next to as well as in natural areas.

These places are made into protected areas by organisations, such as Natural England and local councils and through national and international laws and organisations, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Gov 2022]. Parkland Walk is along the old railway track and is London's longest local nature reserve with over 200 species of wildflower. It has the protection type of statutory designation, local nature reserve which has been designated by the council for the purpose of nature conservation.

## Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. LNRs are for people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

They range from windswept coastal headlands, ancient woodlands and flower-rich meadows to former inner city railways, long abandoned landfill sites and industrial areas now re-colonised by wildlife. They are an impressive natural resource which makes an important contribution to England's biodiversity.

There are five designated Local Nature Reserves in Haringey;

- Alexandra Palace & Park
- Coldfall Wood
- Parkland Walk
- Queens Wood
- Railway Fields

Natural England states that for a site to become an LNR it must have natural features of special interest to the local area, and the authority must either have a legal interest in the land or have an agreement with the owner to manage the land as a reserve. LNR prove to be useful not only to protect habitats and wildlife but increase people's awareness of their environment. They are places where children can learn about nature, and they are often situated in or near urban areas.

## Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

Haringey carried out a boroughwide review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in 2021. Known nationally as Local Wildlife Sites, these are areas that have been recognised as being of particular importance to wildlife and diversity.

The review determines which if any current SINCs need to have their levels of designation (e.g., Metropolitan, Borough or Local) changed and for what reasons, whether any SINCs no longer meet the criteria for that designation, and whether there are any additional sites in the borough that should be recommended for designation as new SINCs.

This is especially important with respect to biodiversity so that sites identified as important for wildlife and the public's access and enjoyment of nature, are afforded suitable protection.

### Opportunities

As well as providing a baseline audit of the habitats present within the borough's SINCs, additional benefits arise from this audit;

- the identification of suitable areas for restoration or enhancement and permit direct comparisons between different options.
- enable insights into the drivers of poor condition in some habitats, for example through recreation pressures. This will help the council to target appropriate management measures, such as education and information, in the most relevant locations to improve the condition of the habitats and ultimately the biodiversity resource.
- the value of habitat restoration or enhancement using the habitat and condition metrics the DEFRA Biodiversity Net Gain v3.0 methodologies permits the undertaking of biodiversity net gain assessments where development occurs:
  - a) Within a SINC;
  - b) Elsewhere in the borough, but where opportunities for biodiversity offsetting/off-site biodiversity net gains need to be identified.

Detailed reports describe the habitats present in each SINC, their condition, species recorded during site surveys and available via Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), including invasive, non-native species and recommendations for enhancement and/or management. The review of SINC status is specifically aimed at assisting with the development of Haringey's New Local Plan appendix to this document and will provide an important foundation for the LNRP.

The results of the review will also be presented to the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB), which independently assesses and ratifies any recommendations for changes to a borough's SINCs and is made up of representative bodies including the GLA.

## Habitat and species

Place holder **Notable species**

*To be included in final document.*

Place holder **Alexandra Park Palace**

*To be included in final document.*



# Key issues and challenges

## Haringey's ancient woodlands climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation

Woodlands in the UK are home to a wealth of wildlife, and ancient woodlands in particular support more species than any other land-based habitat in the UK and they are home to more threatened species than any other. Centuries of undisturbed soils, mature native trees and accumulated dead and decaying wood have created the perfect environment for communities of fungi, insects, birds and mammals, some of which are only found in ancient woodlands.

Haringey contains four ancient woodlands; Queens wood, Coldfall wood, Bluebell wood and Highgate wood (which is managed by the City of London).

Haringey managed sites and others of ecological interest are protected and managed in accordance with their respective management plans and the borough Biodiversity Action Plan. Tree works in woodlands and conservation sites are predominantly carried out to mitigate actionable nuisances and potential risks to site users.

A recent Habitat Condition Assessment review of our Ancient Woodlands highlighted in the SINC report described the woods as being “in poor condition” suffering from soil erosion due to the excessive footfall (leading to compaction and loss of flora) and flash flooding.

Climate change is expected to have a number of impacts on UK forests including soil moisture deficits limiting growth in some areas; greater water table fluctuations limiting rooting depth and increase the risk of windthrow; tree disease and pest outbreaks; and greater risk of fire (2010, Forestry Commission research note).

We are engaged with external partners such as the Woodland Trust and other experts to draft new management plans for these sites to put things in place to restore Haringey's Ancient Woodlands ensure their long-term protection. Council officers also work closely with 'Friends' groups and volunteers under the guidance of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), to coordinate works such as coppicing and the clearance of invasive species.

Haringey Council seeks to develop its Ancient Woodland strategies for habitat restoration and flood management to include within the new Management plan and should consider;

- Coppicing: The benefits to overall plant diversity by the introduction of coppicing regimes (Bevan 1992) will lead to an increase in the availability of deadwood and a greater diversity of habitat, especially for invertebrates.
- Protection: In addition to coppicing activities, consideration should be given to protecting areas of woodland. The use of dead-hedging but in areas immediately adjacent to access points, more robust fencing types are likely to be needed as these are the areas experiencing the greatest damage.

- Education: An opportunity to provide education to the role of coppicing and the reason for fencing certain areas.

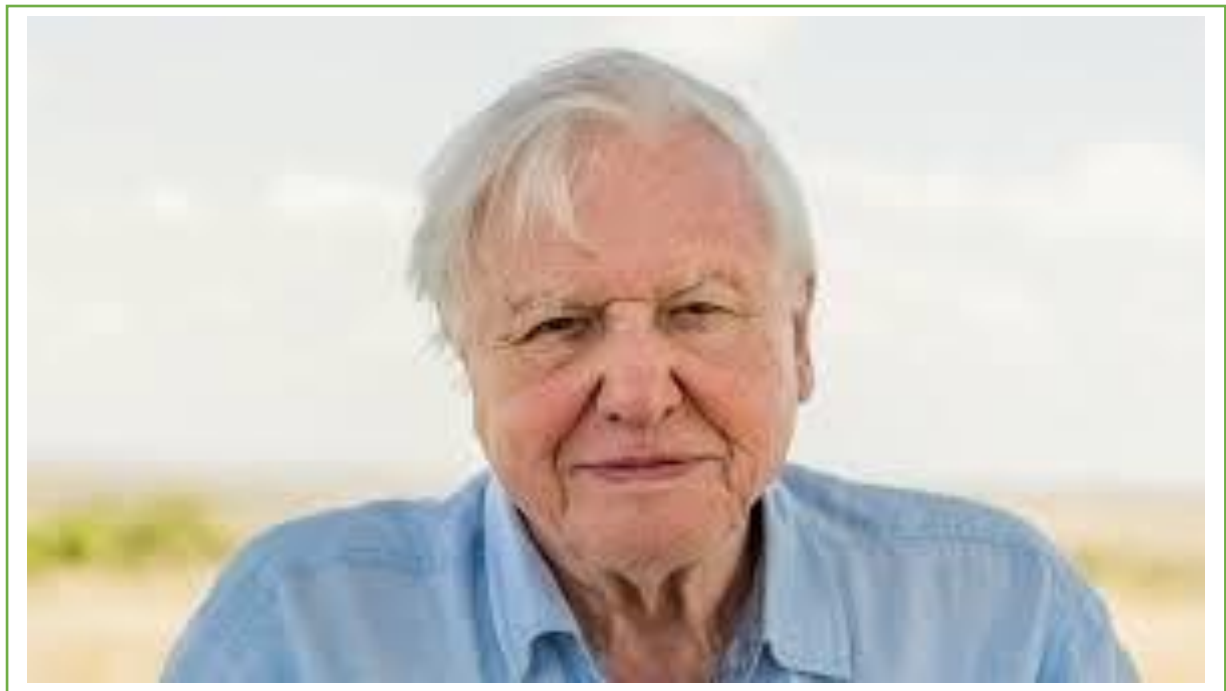
Limits to dog-walking: Dog walking was evident as a major source of recreational pressure (on the site visit, a professional dog walker had six animals, all off-lead).

## Ecological Emergency

*A "sudden-onset disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that causes or threatens to cause severe environmental damage as well as loss of human lives and property."*

(Source: UNEP/GC. 22/INF/5, 13 November 2002)

*"We're facing a crisis, and one that has consequences for us all. It threatens our ability to feed ourselves, to control our climate. It even puts us at greater risk of pandemic diseases such as Covid-19. It's never been more important for us to understand the effects of biodiversity loss, of how it is that we ourselves are responsible for it. Only if we do that will we have any hope of averting disaster."*



David Attenborough, Extinction: The Facts (BBC)

Haringey intend to address the Ecological Emergency in line with National and Regional Strategies e.g., Environment Act 2021, London Plan 2021 and the development of a new Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment Strategy as part of the Local Plan.

## Built Environment

To better use the Planning process to secure gains for biodiversity

Place holder **Built Environment**

*To be included in final document.*

## Invasive non-native species (INNS) and Climate change

What are the problems?

Invasive non-native species are Species which cause unwanted environmental or social impacts by spreading rapidly and becoming very abundant in the environment. They are one of the biggest causes of biodiversity loss and are also a global threat to food security and livelihoods according to the IUCN.

Climate Change facilitates the spread and establishment of alien plants allowing them to become invasive. Climate Change also reduces the resilience of habitats to biological invasions.

A London Biodiversity Partnership (London Invasive Species Initiative) has estimated that INNS also cost the British economy an estimated £1.7 billion annually.

London Invasive Species Initiative <http://www.londonisi.org.uk/>

As part of the Local Plan and PGSS review we have commissioned an Invasive non-native species study of all our Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) sites which will produce baseline data that is crucial in next steps to delivering a boroughwide strategy.

Risk and benefits

- Risk & liability. Avoiding civil liability. Lessons learnt from 'case studies' (TFL etc).
- Budget. Sustainable estimation of revenue and expenses for future proofing INNS control. (Wrong method=more expense).
- Chemical control
- Allotment management (Sensitive sites)
- Biodiversity Net Gain (& Loss). Species recovery.
- Planning and Development department, conditions for planning applications.
- Environmental impact: 1) inappropriate use of herbicide. 2) Duty of care/Waste carrier & waste disposal.
- Incorporate INNS surveying into borough habitat and species survey. Future proofing encroachment onto Council land. Monitoring and targets.
- Ecological value.
- Building resilience. Working with key and statutory partners.

Changes to Council Policy are essential to strategically manage, mitigate and monitor these species by developing a Council Invasive Plant strategy that will consider the full scope of services, project approach, biosecurity measures, deliverables, and fees for Haringey Council.

## Data, Monitoring and Evaluation

Data collected is used to inform Local Environmental Records e.g. Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI), Park Management Plans and Conservation Action Plans.

### GiGL datasets

- Species records
- Open space datasets
- Habitat surveys
- BAP habitat condition and suitability mapping
- Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCs) – including proposed SINCs for some boroughs
- Geodiversity sites
- Metropolitan Open Land
- Green Belt
- Areas of Deficiency in access to nature (AoD to SINCs)
- Areas of Deficiency in access to Public Open Space (AoD to POS)
- Borough and street trees
- Urban greening features (including green roofs, important bird roosts and Thames jetties)
- GiGL curated copies of statutory site datasets (NNR, SSSI, SAC, SPA, LNR and Ramsar sites), which are managed as open data by Natural England.
- Biodiversity Hotspots for Planning (BHP) dataset

What are the benefits of monitoring and evaluating?

1. Data collected will impact on future Conservation Action Plans.
2. Data collected will inform future actions.
3. Recording data creates a sustainable future for green spaces.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation enhances current biological records.

### Recording Monitoring and Evaluation

#### Objectives

Objective	Action	Delivery	Frequency
Record and monitor species data.	Carry out site surveys. Record data using survey sheets. Submit data to GiGL.	Volunteers Users of the Park Friends' Groups Community groups	Continuous
Evaluation of Conservation Action Plans.	Use recorded data to help inform future conservation actions.	Haringey Council TCV Friends' Groups	Once every 5 years

Evaluation of Park Management Plans.	Use recorded data to inform annual conservation actions.	Haringey Council TCV Friends' Groups	Once a year.
Use of social media App's as an informal way of recording species' data	Record species' data using the App. Record data within the 'Haringey Wildlife' project on the App.	Volunteers Users of the Park TCV Friends' Groups Community groups	Continuous

### **The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)**

TCV bring local people together to carry out nature conservation works via volunteers and are involved in delivering conservation activities within the borough, supporting the BAP.

### **Green Flag Award**

The Green Flag Award is the international mark of quality for greenspaces recognising and rewarding well managed parks and greenspaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the UK and around the world.

### **Park Management Plan**

A Park Management Plan guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of the park. It also describes the history of the park, how it is today and details future plans and aspirations and how these are to be achieved.

### **Conservation Action Plan (CAP)**

A CAP provides a framework for ongoing management and a summary of the conservation actions for each compartment and the conservation action to complete within that habitat. It provides guidance on conservation actions and form a basis for the work of TCV, Friends groups and other community organisations.

### **Haringey Friends of Parks**

Independent associations of local residents and park users, trying to improve their local park and get it better used for the good of the whole community. Each group has their own character, issues and priorities, activities, and ways of working.

### **Greenspace information for Greater London (GiGL)**

The Council holds a Service Level Agreement with GiGL (London environmental records centre) to access and capture biodiversity data from Haringey's biological and open spaces information to inform nature conservation decision making processes.

## Habitat Management

Focusing on key areas of improvement to our Parks and green spaces will enable us to create habitat diversity; green connectivity; support key/priority species and enhanced Climate resilience. We will deliver Specific, Measurable, Agreed (or Achievable), Realistic, and Time Bound (SMART) Park Management Plans with Conservation Actions that support the delivery of the Green Flag Award Criteria and boroughwide Nature Recovery and Biodiversity Gain as well as health and well-being of the wider public.

To assist with the monitoring of Ecological Degradation (Footfall, encroachment etc) we seek to increase resources available for enforcement on SINC's. Employee performance development can enable us to Improve standards, partnerships, communications, and outcomes to safeguard our natural habitats and to ensure sustainability of biodiversity enhancement for existing and new Schemes.

## Climate change, Water resources and Nature recovery

Even in the dry south-east of England water should be all around us. But in London nearly two hundred years of building and installing infrastructure has left us with almost no natural access. Instead, water is kept underground in pipes and culverts.

We think of it only in relation to drinking and bathing, to kitchens and toilets and to the controlled leisure of swimming pools and marinas. Most of London's streams and brooks have been buried, our ponds and wetlands long ago built over.

Water nature recovery in Haringey must change. If not, we will be unable to restore the urban water cycle, with all its beneficial cooling effects, and helpless to revive the eco-systems that depend on it.

### Challenges

- development: e.g. paving over a garden for vehicular parking
- pollution: e.g. misconnections of waste water pipes from domestic and commercial properties and/or discharge of contaminants such as cooking oil from small commercial business into our surface rainwater drains
- erosion and degradation: e.g. due to human and animal excessive footfall and lack of investment and management

### Opportunities

- protection and restoration through capital investment
- post-delivery management and maintenance planning (SuDS, ponds etc)
- filtering runoff from roadside verges preventing pollution entering into our surface water drains to avoid polluting our rivers e.g. the Lea and the Thames.
- creation of new storage in existing and new green spaces (streams, ponds and wetlands) and to protect against floods
- development of protected areas which can remain free from all footfall
- nature conservation, creating richer habitats and improved soils to help maintain the root systems which depend on it and to support wildlife and nature
- engagement enabling more people to get involved with volunteering



## Catchment Based Management Approach

An informed, engaged, and vigilant community involvement with residents, officers, practitioners, regulators and politicians who can contribute, collect data, keep records and take practical action to clear and clean our waterbodies. • To mitigate the impact of Climate Change/support and enhance the natural environment.

## **Haringey Rivers Forum**

A voluntary led organisation working with Haringey Council and partners listed elsewhere in this section to improve the Boroughs water courses. A key organisation to consult with when developing schemes.

## Funding

Biodiversity enhancements need to be an integrated as part of the Councils capital investment programme.

Lack of funding from the Government is unsustainable within the recommendation of the Strategies and their action plans. We await for National government and the Greater London Authority to strengthened their policies.

### Opportunities

- Biodiversity Net Gain will highlight local nature recovery strategies to target investment into the environment, Access to nature matters (demonstrating the value of green spaces) and key development requirements following the Environment Bill (2023).

This could help with securing gains for key habitats from external development, delivering the borough's Local Development Framework to incorporate net gain for biodiversity.

- Local Nature Recovery Grants
- Legal and financial commitment from the Council is needed to make sure that Biodiversity enhancements needs are an integrated part of the capital investment programme (to meet those targets).
- Within the Council's 2020/21 financial plan there are several approved capital funding streams that will support the delivery of this action plan. The Parks and leisure facilities carbon reduction programme (£3m over the next 5 years);" [The Borough Plan for 2019 to 2023 already contains a commitment to spend £3 million on flood relief work].
- At a local level policy commitment to securing gains for key habitats.

## Community Engagement

### Inclusion and Diversity

Haringey is a culturally diverse borough and this can be seen in the usage of our parks and greenspaces. There is little to no targeted engagement with seldom heard from communities to understand how they use parks and what improvements, or activities might help them to increase their use and engagement in the development of parks and greenspaces.

There is emerging research that indicates BAME communities are less likely to visit the natural environment for leisure and that their preferences for usage differ to those that the areas are designed by and for, who are usually older, educated and from white ethnic backgrounds. (*Weeds, Wildflowers and Whiteness, Snaith.B, 2016. Appendix 6*)

The Council do not currently understand all the barriers that prevent seldom heard from communities from engaging as stakeholders in parks and greenspaces. Parks can be contested spaces, with the demands on their resources coming from several different groups. Often those with the loudest voice or most obvious interest are heard above others.

The Park's Service currently has limited resources to support the sort of targeted engagement needed to ensure that seldom heard from communities are meaningfully included in park development and improvement conversations as key stakeholders.

Our current and main form of engagement is through key stakeholders such as Friends of Park Groups, but the Council acknowledge that these groups can often be unrepresentative of our diverse community. Many Friends Groups are made up of older, white, educated residents with English as a first language, but they are also challenged by their lack of time and capacity to target seldom heard from communities as they are voluntary groups themselves.

The Council do not have a clear and meaningful plan detailing our approach.

## Action Plans

The following plans describe and propose a series of conservation actions that support the protection, enhancement and restoration of the borough's biodiversity and habitats, assisting the delivery of carbon reduction projects in line with the Climate Change Action Plan.

### Mitigating Climate Change – actions

- To establish an interdepartmental coordinating group with representation from Parks, Planning, Housing, Highways, Flood Management and Regeneration to ensure effective collaboration between services in the development and ongoing management of programmes and policies that support the council's approach towards the Climate Emergency with regards to green and blue infrastructure, climate vulnerability and the natural environment
- To increase the overall area of greenspaces in Haringey in new developments and through the delivery of pocket parks by 250 sqm each year, supported by the new Local Plan
- To recruit a new officer to strengthen the contribution made from planning applications for trees and biodiversity through enhanced protection and biodiversity net gain
- To undertake a review of all current SINC's with a view to updating SINC designations and habitat and species information for SINC's
- To develop updated management plans for Local Nature Reserves
- To increase tree canopy cover in Haringey from 25% (2020) to 30%, and plant at least 10,000 new trees by 2030 in order to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, improve air quality and reduce ambient temperature
- To develop new Local Nature Reserves and 10 new Sites of Importance for nature Conservation
- To encourage biodiversity improvements to be delivered through sustainable urban drainage systems
- Provide activities and events that help promote access to the natural environment to people from BAME communities

The four Action Plans that form part of this BAP are:

1. The Built Environment
2. Parks, Housing Estates and Urban Green Spaces
3. Designated Sites
4. Access to Nature

## The Built Environment Action Plan

Inform future projects and strategies around the built environment and the greening of the urban environment to increase green connectivity across the borough.

- Declare an ecological emergency to act on the causes and impacts of climate change on biodiversity
- Update local policy and guidance to ensure consistency with best practice and London-wide policy
- Maintain and enhance Haringey's street tree resource
- Maximise biodiversity gains from new developments by requiring developments to incorporate biodiversity considerations
- Require all major developments and new build minor developments to incorporate high quality green roofs as standard, including on new Council buildings
- Encourage biodiversity improvements to be delivered through sustainable urban drainage systems
- Review landscaping proposals submitted with planning applications, to ensure that biodiversity benefits are maximised
- Provide specialist arboriculture advice on planning applications
- Increase the overall area of green spaces in Haringey in new developments and through the delivery of pocket parks, supported by the New Local Plan
- Reduce emissions of the borough's parks
- Increasing the biodiversity of Homes for Haringey open spaces and road-side verges
- To establish an interdepartmental coordinating group to ensure effective collaboration between services in the development and ongoing management of programmes and policies that support the Council's approach towards climate emergency with regards to green and blue infrastructure, climate vulnerability and the natural environment

## Parks, Housing Estates and Urban Green Spaces Action Plan

- Enhance where possible those parks and estates which are SINC (Sites of importance for Nature Conservation)
- Ensure the effective management of parks and estate SINC to protect their wildlife habitats
- Collate species data to help to monitor changes taking place to quality of wildlife habitats
- Protect and enhance features for London BAP priority species, e.g., house sparrows, bats, bees, swifts
- Protect, enhance or create new wildlife habitats in parks and urban greenspaces e.g., housing estates
- Provide support and guidance to Haringey's Cemeteries and allotments for biodiversity
- Protect and enhance trees in parks and open spaces
- Ensure planting plans adhere to Greenspace's Sustainable Planting Policy and renew this policy within the 5-year period
- Retain undisturbed dead wood on site wherever possible to benefit invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles
- Install 'bug hotels' and bird and bat boxes
- Ensure the benefits to wildlife are considered when decisions are made to remove ivy from trees and walls
- Provide on the ground training for grounds maintenance staff and ground maintenance contractors on wildlife habitats and their importance
- Become a chemical and pesticide free service

## Designated Sites Action Plan

- Continue to enter into annual Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) where budget allows, to access data and associated key benefits to aid biodiversity work
- Strengthen the SINC network through the adoption of new and upgraded SINC's through the Local Plan with a target of developing 10 new SINC's
- Liaise with Network Rail on the protection of rail side SINC's
- Action on planning policies for reviewing location of new areas to reduce Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature
- Seek to increase resources available for management and enforcement on SINC's
- Develop a Council Invasive Plant strategy that will consider the full scope of services, project approach, biosecurity measures, deliverables, and fees for Haringey Council.
- Create 250m" of new wildlife habitat per year in parks and green spaces
- Develop new Local Nature Reserves



## Access to Nature Action Plan

### Deficiency in Access to Public Open Space

- Enable people from groups underrepresented in visits to green space (e.g., BAME groups, disabled people, young people) to take part in biodiversity themed activities in local green spaces
- Encourage and support community action for wildlife projects such as groups who want to seek funding for projects which enhance biodiversity, e.g., planting for pollinators
- Engage Haringey residents and raise awareness of biodiversity through public events in parks, nature reserves and housing estates
- Provide volunteering opportunities for Haringey residents, businesses and other stakeholders to help manage and enhance wildlife habitats in Haringey's parks, nature reserves and housing estates
- Support and accommodate other forms of outdoor learning in Haringey's green spaces
- Secure additional resources to facilitate increased access

# Appendix A

## Summary of Recommendations for Haringey SINC Review

### Aims and scope of project

As part of MKA Ecology Ltd's input into the Haringey SINC review project, MKA Ecology Ltd undertook a boroughwide review of the 60 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) present within Haringey. SINCs are known nationally as Local Wildlife Site and comprise areas that have been recognised as being of particular importance to wildlife and diversity. This review has specifically aimed at assisting with the development of Haringey's New Local Plan and, in addition to covering a review of the SINCs themselves, this review has also encompassed a wider brief to assess the status and condition of all current SINCs, as well as identifying potential new SINCs. The aims of the overall review were as follows:

1. To undertake a review of the current status [a] and condition [b] of the London Borough of Haringey SINCs;
2. To identify any changes to the condition or content of Haringey SINCs which would affect their current status and/or level of designation, especially any changes from Local to Borough to Metropolitan designation and vice-versa;
3. To assess any new sites, as identified in discussion with the Council, which could merit being designated as a SINC, and at what level of designation;
4. To produce a report with justified recommendations, especially where there are proposed changes to the current designation level of named SINCs.
5. To identify and report on the presence of any non-native invasive plants which would affect their current status and/or level of designation, ecological/environmental and property (civil liability) risks, with a particular focus on The London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI) species of concern categories 2, 3 and 4.
6. The review also recorded all access points (GPS coordinates) in order to help map areas of deficiency (AOD) across the borough.

The produced report concentrates on the review of the status of each SINC (part 1a, above), identifying where changes in status are warranted (part 2), and assess and review new sites as potential SINCs (part 3). The detailed reports (part 4) produced describe the habitats present in each SINC, their condition (part 1b), species recorded during site surveys and data pertinent to update the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) records for each site, including invasive, non-native species (part 5) and recommendations for enhancement and/or management, along with supplementary data to support the review (all parts). In particular, this review will enable insights into the drivers of poor condition in some habitats, for

example through recreation pressures, which will help the council to target appropriate management measures, such as education and information, in the most relevant locations to improve the condition of the habitats and ultimately the biodiversity resource.

The results of the review will be presented to the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB), which independently assesses and ratifies any recommendations for changes to a borough's SINC's and is made up of representative bodies including the Greater London Authority (GLA).

### Summary of SINC Review Conclusions

Prior to the SINC review project the borough supported 60 SINC's, comprising three Metropolitan level, 22 Borough level, 35 Local level SINC's.

Following the review it is recommended that amendments are made to the level of designation for a number of the existing SINC's, whilst designation of 11 new SINC's has also been recommended. A summary of these recommendations for are set out in the tables below.

**Table 1: Summary of Existing SINC Recommendations**

Site ref.	Site name	Recommendation
M116 (Metropolitan)	Highgate Wood, Queen's Wood and Parkland Walk	Consider splitting into two separate SINC's: Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood; Parkland Walk  Queens Wood and Highgate Wood - no change in SINC status; Parkland Walk – no change in status
Site ref.	Site name	Recommendation
HgBI03 (Borough I)	Coldfall Wood	Upgrade to Metropolitan grade
HgBI08 (Borough I)	Bluebell Wood and Muswell Hill Golf Course	Splitting of the site into separate SINC's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bluebell Wood - upgrade to Metropolitan Importance</li> <li>• Muswell Hill Golf Course – downgrade to Borough Grade II SINC, subject to further reptiles surveys.</li> </ul>
HgBII01 (Borough II)	Fortis Green Covered Reservoir and Central Foundation Playing Field	Split into two SINC's and change boundary of SINC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western half -retain and split into two SINC's: o Fortis Green Covered Reservoir and Central Foundation Playing</li> </ul>

		<p>Field – retain as Borough Grade II o Fortis Green Community Allotments – downgrade to Local Grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern half – remove from SINC.</li> <li>• SINC citation to be updated to remove references to St Luke’s Hospital.</li> </ul>
HgBII03 (Borough II)	Tottenham Cemetery, All Hallows Churchyard and Bruce Castle Park	<p>Split into two SINCS and upgrade both to Borough I Grade:</p> <p>Tottenham Cemetery and All Hallows Churchyard</p> <p>Bruce Castle Park</p>
HgL03 (Local)	Chestnuts Park	Upgrade to Borough Grade II
HgL04 (Local)	Lordship Lane Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade to Borough Grade II</li> <li>• Extension to west</li> </ul>
HgL09 (Local)	Downhills Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in status</li> <li>• Extension to west</li> </ul>
HgL11 (Local)	New River Sports Centre, White Hart Lane Recreation Ground & Woodside Park	<p>Split into two SINCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New River Sports Centre and White Hart Lane Recreation Ground</li> <li>• Woodside Park</li> </ul>
HgL15 (Local)	Land beside Fortismere School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change boundary Remove northern half (Eden Primary School)</li> <li>• Southern section – no change in status.</li> </ul>
HgL18 (Local)	North Bank, Pages Lane	<p>Extend SINC boundary to west</p> <p>Upgrade to Borough Grade II SINC.</p>
HgL19 (Local)	Haringey Allotments	<p>Citation revision to update the fact that not all allotments are Local SINCS</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Update non-SINC allotments to this status.</p>

**Table 2: Summary of New SINC Recommendations**

Site ref.	Site name	Recommendation
pHgBII100	Lordship Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include as extension to Lordship Lane Recreation Ground</li> <li>• Include within designation to Borough Grade I</li> </ul>

Site ref.	Site name	Recommendation
pHgBII101*	North Bank, Pages Lane (west)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include within Extension to HgL18</li> <li>• Upgrade to Borough Grade II</li> </ul>
pHgL102	Downhills Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include as extension to Downhills Recreation Ground (HgL09).</li> <li>• Include within designation as a Local SINC</li> </ul>
pHgL103	The Westbury Banks Nature Reserve	Designate as a Local SINC
pHgL104	Duckett's Common and Green Gate Common	Designate as a Local SINC
pHgL105	Muswell Hill (aka Golf Course) Allotments	Designate as a Local SINC
pHgL106	Weir Hall Road Community Open Space	Designate as a Local SINC
pHgL107	Springfield Community Park	Designate as a Local SINC
pHgL108	Armadale Green	Designate as a Local SINC
pHgL109	Brunswick Road Open Space	Designate as a Local SINC
pHgL110	Stationers Park	Designate as a Local SINC

\* By convention (see GiGL Data Standards, H003), extensions to SINC are considered as potential SINC in the first instance. Whilst the descriptions of the extensions to Lordship Recreation Ground and Downhills Park are considered as separate sites here, the extension for North Bank, Pages Lane is listed in Table 2 for consistency, but the overall description of the extension area listed within the main SINC entry.

In addition, MKA Ecology Ltd are currently preparing habitat management plans for the five priority SINC within the borough (Parkland Walk, Finsbury Park and the Boating Lake, Coldfall Wood, Queens Wood and Bluebell Woods). These Habitat Management Plans will detail how to create and manage habitats to maximise the ecological value of the priority SINC in the long-term, along with recommendations for protected species enhancements measures. Method statements on how to enact these recommendations and methods for monitoring progress will also be provided. Detail on habitat creation, management and enhancement will also be shown visually through annotated location plans.

*SINC assessment criteria*

- *Representation*: The best examples of each major habitat type are selected. These include typical urban habitats such as abandoned land colonised by nature. Where a habitat is not extensive in a search area it will be appropriate to conserve all or most of it, whereas where it is more extensive a smaller percentage will be conserved.
- *Habitat Rarity*: The presence of a rare habitat makes a site important, because the loss of, or damage to, a few sites threaten the survival of the habitat in the search area.
- *Species Rarity*: The presence of a rare species also makes the site important.
- *Habitat Richness*: Protecting a site with a rich selection of habitat types not only conserves those habitats, but also the wide range of organisms that live within them and the species that require more than one habitat type for their survival. Rich sites also afford more opportunities for enjoyment and educational use.
- *Species Richness*: Generally, sites that are species rich are preferred, as this permits the conservation of a correspondingly large number of species (however, some habitats such as reed beds, heaths and acid woodlands, are intrinsically relatively species poor).
- *Size*: Large sites are generally more important than small sites. They may allow for species with special area requirements. Larger sites may be less vulnerable to small scale disturbance, as recovery is sometimes possible from the undisturbed remainder. They are more able to withstand visitors. Size is also related to the richness of habitat and species. The evaluation of the site's size was based on professional judgement, which was informed by the information on the extent of the site relative to the local area. For those sites of notable size, these were considered to be of particular importance in the local area, for example a large site within an urban area is considered to be of notable size, and which due to its size provides a significant contribution to a strategic wildlife corridor.
- *Important Populations of Species*: Some sites are important because they hold a large proportion of the population of a species for the search area.
- *Ancient Character*: Some sites have valuable ecological characteristics derived from long periods of traditional management, or even continuity in time to woodlands and wetlands that occupied before agriculture. Ancient woodlands, old parkland trees and traditionally managed grasslands tend to have typical species that are rare elsewhere. These habitats deserve protection also because of the ease with which they are damaged by changes in management.
- *Recreatability*: The more difficult it is to recreate a site's habitat the more important it is to retain it. (Ponds can be created from scratch within a few years – whereas woodlands take decades). Certain habitats cannot be recreated because of practical reasons such as land availability and cost.
- *Typical Urban Character*: Features such as canals, walls, bridges, railway sidings colonised by nature often have a juxtaposition of artificial and wild features. Some of these habitats are particularly rich in species/have rare species/communities. Particular physical or chemical substrates may allow rare species to thrive. They may also have particular visual qualities.
- *Cultural and Historic Character*: Sites such as historic gardens with semi-wild areas, garden suburbs, churchyards which have reverted to the wild may have a unique blend of cultural and natural history.
- *Geographic Position*: Considers the site within areas of deficiency in access to nature.
- *Access*: An important consideration – especially in areas where there are limited opportunities for large urban populations to enjoy the natural world. Some access

is desirable to all but the most sensitive sites, but direct physical access to all parts of a site may not be desirable.

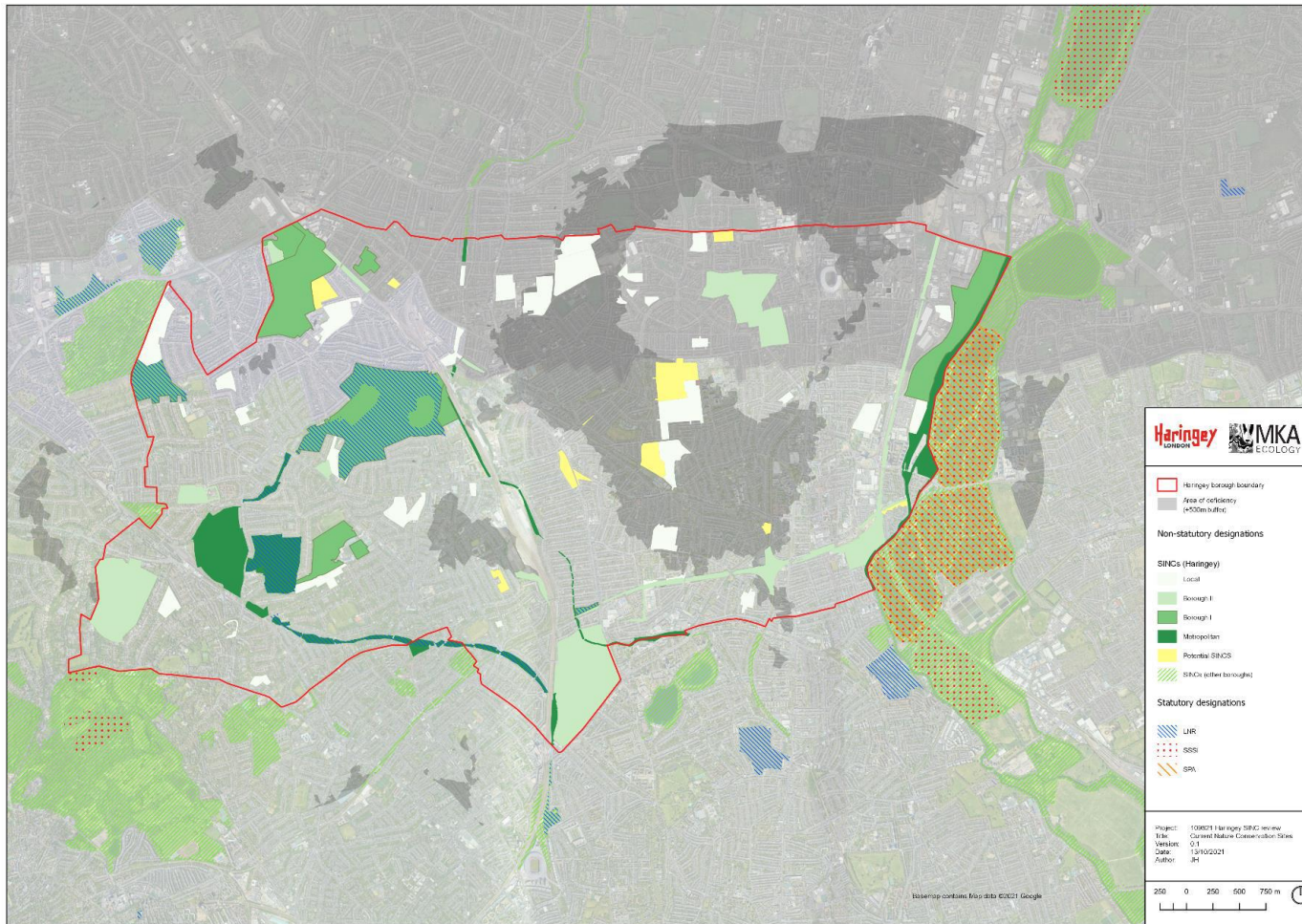
- *Use*: The current use of the site, relating to how the site is used by people.
- *Potential*: Where a site can be enhanced given modest changes in management practices gives it value. Opportunity exists where a site is likely to become available for nature conservation use, or where there is local enthusiasm.
- *Aesthetic Appeal*: Factors which contribute to the enjoyment of the experience of visiting a site seclusion/views/variety of landscape etc

These criteria may either be used solely (e.g., the presence of a rare assemblage alone) or in combination and are applied to assess a site's status. The emphasis is on the use of professional judgement and the application of a holistic view of the worth of a site, both within its boundaries (e.g., range and quality of habitats) but also within the wider landscape. The criteria are relative, not absolute.



# Appendix B

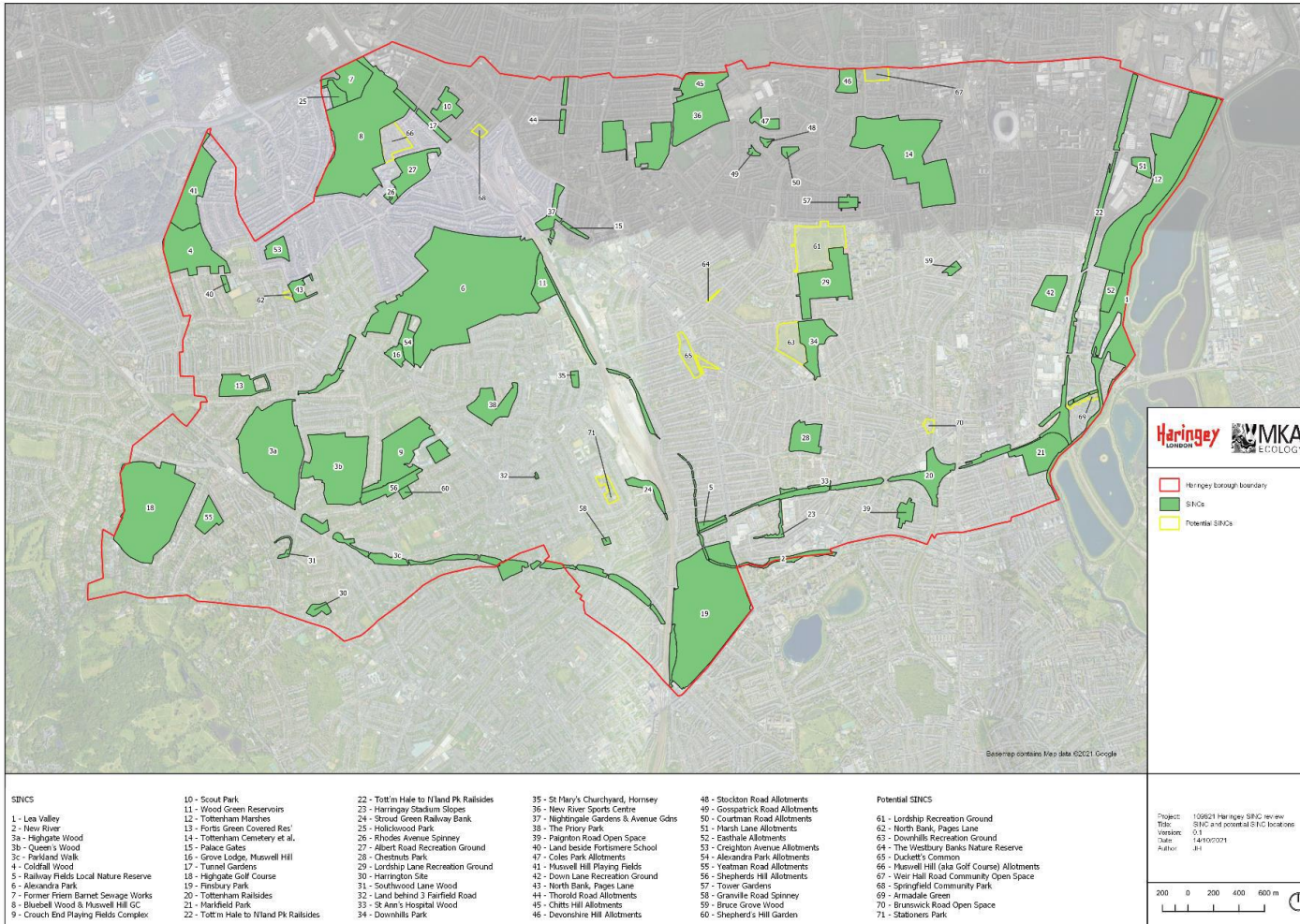
## Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation & Maps





# Appendix C

## SINCS and potential SINCS within the present study



# Appendix D

## 2009 Biodiversity Action Plan Appraisal SWOT

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Strengths</p>	<p>Good reference to existing policies and actions and includes Programme of new action.          Plan was made up with the help of several Council services and the LBH and London Biodiversity Partnerships.          Integration of Biodiversity within Council Services          Environmental Education Strategy, to promote National Sustainable Schools Framework. And to encourage and maintain behaviour and promote health and well-being.          Actions have a named lead officer. All SINC's and AoNCD identified.          LNR          Action tables are clear and easy to read.          Links to other local and regional action plans e.g. woodland to garden, bats.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Opportunity</p>	<p>Promotes specific actions on selected habitats and species to meet the biodiversity duty (NERC 2006) NI197 (pg 15) Sound statement of intent, targets and actions (may need reviewing)          How you can help tips, but perhaps not in the right place or clear enough?          Who are they for?          Habitats chosen may need reselecting whereas sites such as wasteland may need to be recognised.          To work with GiGL (London's biological records centre) to support nature conservation work in Haringey.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Weaknesses</p>	<p>Layout, whole document doesn't flow. Hard to read          List of tables and figures. Hard to read.          Legislation needs updating          Is street lighting relevant in BAP?          Links to Greenest borough – more of an environment management theme e.g. carbon reduction          Actions are not timely          Maps          No photos          Table of SINC's, should it contain more info e.g. kind of habitat, size?</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Threats</p>	<p>Climate change.          Incorporate biodiversity within our Community Strategies in meeting the challenges of building sustainable communities.          Appendix refers to previous BAP (2004) objectives and actions not being achieved and carried over to the 2009.          Voluntary work has not been recorded that could have influenced the targets.</p>

# References

Place holder **References**

*To be included in final document.*