



SINC Review and Borough Ecological Survey of the London Borough of Southwark

Southwark Surveys 2014-2015

Report for London Borough of Southwark

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Executive Summary

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned in June 2014 to undertake a review of Southwark's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) to provide up-to-date information on the condition of sites and to inform policies in the emerging New Southwark Plan. No survey of this kind had been undertaken since 1994/5, when a Southwark-wide survey was carried out by the London Ecology Unit. The aims of this project were:

- To re-survey 59 existing SINC's¹ to evaluate their current status, condition and wildlife value;
- To survey 50 Open Spaces identified by the Borough as candidate SINC's and to determine if they meet the Greater London Authority SINC criteria in the context of Southwark;
- To assess the extent and condition of wildlife habitats in Southwark and report changes in the amount or quality of these in comparison to the 1994/5 survey;
- To identify areas of habitat/features of biodiversity interest that have the potential for enhancement, including key linkages between the SINC sites and other habitats of importance; and
- Provide recommendations on the enhancement of sites and habitats to improve their biodiversity value.
- Seven SINC's were not surveyed as part of this project. These comprised, Deal Porter's Walk, Durand's Wharf, King Stairs Garden, Kirkwood Road Nature Garden (part of Nunhead Railway Cutting SINC), The River Thames, Surrey Canal Walk and Warwick Gardens. The majority of these sites had been surveyed in recent years. The River Thames was not included as only a small portion of the whole site is located in the borough.
- The remaining Open Spaces in the borough were below the minimum size (0.25ha), and or had limited habitat;

¹ This comprised a total of 69 Open Spaces as some SINC's contained more than one Open Space

The key findings were:

- The most abundant habitat types (by area), were amenity grassland (including scattered trees), native broadleaved woodland and artificial habitat such as hardstanding.
- In the context of inner London, Southwark has a diverse range of habitats listed in the London and Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan. Of greatest significance are the areas of native woodland in the south, wetland habitats in the north and large areas of recently created herb-rich neutral grassland (a new category).
- These habitats support assemblages of woodland and wintering birds, common reptiles, hedgehogs, bats and common amphibians.
- As a result of habitat enhancements, there are marked gains in a new habitat category known as “other neutral grassland (herb rich)”. Semi-improved neutral grassland, marginal vegetation and reed swamp have also seen significant gains, which recognise the enhancements that have been undertaken by the Council in years since the last survey was undertaken in 1994/1995.
- The largest declines in habitat were for acid grassland and ‘roughland’, potentially due to development, habitat succession and/or change in management.
- No major threats such as invading plants, safety or erosion were identified across the Open Spaces nor were there any significant or frequent disturbances such as vandalism or tipping.
- The key opportunity for enhancement was identified within the large areas of amenity grassland that are regularly mown to a uniform, short sward which limits value to wildlife. Reducing the mowing frequency below trees along site boundaries would provide additional habitat to invertebrates and birds. Other opportunities include diversifying grassland flora, wetland habitat creation and woodland management including hedge laying.

Recommendations were:

- Of the 59 SINC’s surveyed, three have been assessed as exceeding the level of Local Importance designated in 1994/1995 and have been recommended to be designated at the Borough level. These are: Dog Kennel Hill Wood, Galleywall Nature Garden and Nairne Grove Nature Garden. This reflects the enhancements that have been undertaken in recent years.
- Apart from the existing Metropolitan SINC’s comprising Nunhead Cemetery, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods, Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting and the River Thames, no existing SINC’s or candidate sites are proposed at the Metropolitan level.

- Three candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Borough Importance comprising: Grove Park Allotments, Nursery Row Park and Greendale Playing Field.
- The designation of the three candidate sites and the upgrade from local importance of three SINC's to borough level would reduce the size of the two Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature in the north and central parts of the borough.
- 15 candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Local Importance comprising: Cherry Gardens, Redcross Gardens, Christchurch Gardens, Cossal Park, Long Meadow, Faraday Gardens, Grange Road Allotments (North), Grange Road Allotments (South), Holy Trinity Churchyard, Holly Grove Shrubbery, Mint Street Park, Nunhead Allotments, Salisbury Row Park, St James' Churchyard and St Peter's Churchyard.
- It is recommended that two candidate SINC's namely, Old Nursery Site and Surrey Docks Sports grounds (Pitch 1), will be combined with nearby existing SINC's: Southwark Park and Russia Docks Woodland respectively. This is partly due to their small size, contiguous habitat and boundaries.
- There is one proposed deletion to the SINC series, comprising SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden, which contained insufficient habitat to warrant SINC designation. All remaining SINC's are proposed to remain at the same level, as they retain the ecological interest for what they were designated for in 1994.
- The remaining candidate SINC's still support habitats of value to wildlife; however, these were either limited in extent or contained commonly occurring low-value habitats, or had no active management for nature conservation.
- Six SINC's were considered to have declined and are in need of active conservation. These were: Leathermarket Gardens and Community Park, Lucas Gardens, Surrey Gardens, Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf, Surrey Docks Farm and Geraldine Harmsworth Park. The current issues and proposals are provided in Section 4.
- Four SINC's are proposed to be separated by Open Space boundaries to ensure sufficient information is provided in SINC citations. These comprise: Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk, Albion Channel, Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak Crematorium and adjacent areas.
- Four SINC's (with multiple Open Spaces), are not to be separated so they retain their borough value. These comprise Dulwich Upper Woods, Greenland Dock & St. Georges Wharf, Nunhead Railway Embankments, and Russia Dock Woodland &

Stave Hill. The latter SINC is unusually large and complicated requiring both retaining, separating and combining of Open Spaces to rationalise boundaries.

- The southern half of Cox's Walk runs through Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods SINC as a narrow fenced footpath and also falls within the Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Sydenham Hill Wood and Fern Bank boundary. It is proposed that this part of the footpath remains as part of Sydenham Hill Wood SINC site (OS 181), rather than altering the Open Space boundary to reflect the footpath alignment. As a result of the Open Space boundaries Cox's Walk (OS175), stands apart from the LNR.
- 23 boundary changes have been proposed to existing and candidate SINC's. The majority of changes will result in an increase in area, as a result of habitat creation. Only a small proportion is the result of development intruding on existing SINC's.
- 11 Open Spaces require minor amendments to their open space boundaries as a result of digitisation errors in original mapping (rather than actual boundary changes). Those affected are: Belair Park, Tabard Garden, Sunray Gardens, Benhill Road Nature Garden, Surrey Dock Farm, Lettsom Garden, Dickens Square (Rockingham Park), Consort Park, St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Galleywall Road Nature Garden and James Allen School playing fields.
- A number of existing SINC's and candidate SINC's are to be renamed. This reflects the separation of large SINC's by Open Space boundaries, changes in site use, or to better represent habitat present.
- Due to changes in the Greater London Authority (GLA), survey and assessment methodology, all Borough Grade I and Borough Grade II SINC's are being combined into one Borough category.
- The mapping of green corridors is recommended to provide protection to mature tree boundaries that currently have no ecological protection.
- Other open space that have undergone recent biodiversity enhancement (e.g. Crossbones in the Better Bankside area), and the Peckham Coal Line (in Peckham), should be surveyed in the near future as they could support wildlife habitats in areas of the borough that have limited open space and access to nature.
- New site numbers will need to be given to new SINC's and citations. We would recommend the Council use its service level agreement with GIGL, to make necessary updates.

Table 1: The table lists those SINC's and candidate SINC's surveyed for this project. The Open Space number and name are provided for each, as large SINC's often contained more than one Open Space. For large SINC's, there are habitat maps for each Open Space. Proposed recommendations are provided for boundary changes, SINC designation, SINC number and name. Details are given on citations that have been updated or new. Habitat maps are provided in Appendix 2 in a separate document. The boundary changes are provided in Appendix 3 and citations in Appendix 4.

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)							
M050 Nunhead Cemetery	OS 126	Nunhead Cemetery LNR	53	No boundary changes	Metropolitan	M050 Nunhead Cemetery LNR	Updated
M075 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods	OS 181	Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	101	Half of Cox's Walk is located within Sydenham Hill Woods and is to be retained in this SINC site.	Metropolitan	M075 Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	Updated
M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	206 (Lewisham Reference)	Forest Hill to New Cross Railway Cutting	59	n/a (only a very small part is located within Southwark)	Metropolitan	M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	No change.
Sites of Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)							
SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	OS 8	Lavender Pond (LNR)	47	Extension to north boundary	Borough	SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	Updated
SoBI03 One Tree Hill	OS 150	One Tree Hill (LNR)	60	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI03 One Tree Hill (LNR)	Updated
SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Stave Hill Nature Park	OS 36	Stave Hill	39	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill Ecological Park (OS37).	Borough	SoBXX Stave Hill & Ecological Park	New citation
	OS 37	Stave Hill Ecological Park	40	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill (OS 36).			
	OS 38	Russia Dock Woodlands	89	Reduction (along east boundary), boundary	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
				extension (along north-west) to include Surrey Docks Sports Ground Pitch 1 (OS6) and perimeter vegetation of OS7 (Pitch 2&3)		Woodland & Surrey Docks Park	
	OS 7	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitches 2&3)	88	Perimeter vegetation of sports fields to be retained as part of Russia Dock Woodland SINC.	Partly Borough Partly Open Space		
SoBI06 Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk	OS 173	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	103	No boundary changes Southern part of Cox's Walk is to remain within Sydenham Hill Woods SINC and LNR (OS 181).	Borough	SoBI06 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	Updated
	OS 174	Cox's Walk	100	No Boundary changes	Borough	SoBXX Cox's Walk	New
SoBI07 Dulwich Upper Woods	OS 187	Dulwich Upper Woods (LNR)	92	Retained as one SINC with two Open Spaces. Extension in southern and eastern corner	Borough	SoBI07 Dulwich Upper Wood (LNR) & College Road wood	Updated
	OS 188	College Road	93	Reduction along eastern boundary			
SoBI08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	OS 149	Camberwell Old Cemetery	38	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	Updated
SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park and Common	OS 124	Peckham Rye Park, Common & Piermont Green	52	Extensions to include Piermont Green (south-west corner) and line of trees (northern tip)	Borough	SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park, Common and Piermont Green	Updated
SoBI10 Dulwich Park	OS 159	Dulwich Park	106	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI10 Dulwich Park	Updated
SoBI11 Albion Channel	OS 35	Albion Channel	75	Extension along east and west boundary	Borough	SoBI11 Albion Channel	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
	OS 55	Canada Water	102	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Canada Water	New
	OS 5	Surrey Water	42	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Surrey Water	New
SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	OS 121	London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening	82	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	Updated
Sites of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC reference)							
SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	OS 110	Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to North Dulwich Railsides	108	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	Updated
SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	OS 138	Sunray Gardens	07	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	Updated
SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery, Honour Oak Crematorium and adjacent areas	OS 145	Camberwell New Cemetery, Honour Oak Crematorium, Sports Ground.	58	Excluding OS151 Honor Oak Allotments	Borough	SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery and Surrounds	Updated
	OS 151	Honor Oak Allotments	57	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Honor Oak Allotments	New
SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	OS 183	Countisbury House Lawns	17	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	Updated
SoBII08 Burgess Park	OS 91	Burgess Park	91	A small reduction along the eastern boundary and a small addition in the southern end.	Borough	SoBII08 Burgess Park	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII09 Belair Park	OS 160	Belair Park	01	A small reduction along the northern boundary	Borough	SoBII09 Belair Park	Updated
SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	OS 156	Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides.	18	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	Updated
SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	OS 185	Carlton Place/ Hitherwood	15	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	Updated
SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	OS 135	James Allen's Girls School Playing Fields	81	Large reduction along western boundary. Minor reduction along northern boundary.	Part Borough SINC Part Open Space.	SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	Updated
SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	OS 143	Aquarius Golf Course	110	Large extension to include the majority of the Open Space / Golf Course.	Majority is Borough SINC, Northern tip is Open Space.	SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	Updated
SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	OS 164	Dulwich Mill Pond	80	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	Updated
SoBII15 Walworth City Farm	OS 81	Walworth Garden Farm	73	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII15 Walworth Garden	Updated
SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	OS 41	Surrey Docks Farm	77	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	Updated
SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	OS 186	Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	12	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	Updated
SoBII18 Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf	OS 64	Greenland Dock	45	Large extension to the north	Borough	SoBII18 Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf	Updated
	OS 65	South Dock	46	SINC to remain as one site with two Open Spaces.			

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	OS 114	Lettsom Gardens	107	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	Updated
SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawson's Hill)	OS 155	Dawson's Hill	02	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawson's Hill)	Updated
SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	OS 144	Brenchley Gardens	94	Small extensions to north-west boundary.	Borough	SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	Updated
SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	OS 80	South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	78	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	Updated
SoBII23 Southwark Park	OS 53	Southwark Park	43	Large extension along the north eastern boundary. To also include the nature area and Old Nursery Site (CW2)	Borough	SoBII23 Southwark Park	Updated
SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	OS 108	Nunhead Railway Embankments	86	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	Updated
	PN 6	Kirkwood Road Nature Garden	86	To be retained as part of Nunhead Railway Embankments			

Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	OS 20	Leathermarket Gardens	11	No boundary changes	No change	SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	Updated
SoL02 Dickens Square Park (Rockingham Park)	OS 44	Dickens Square Park	95	No boundary changes	No change	SoL02 Dickens Square & Butterfly Walk	Updated
SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	OS 97	Benhill Road Nature Garden	34	Large reduction along northern boundary	No change	SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL07 Lucas Gardens	OS 105	Lucas Gardens	5	No boundary changes	No change	SoL07 Lucas Gardens	Updated
SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden	OS 68	Victory Community Park	27	No boundary changes	No change	SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Community Garden	Updated
SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	OS 103	Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	49	No boundary changes	No change	SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL14 Surrey Square	OS 77	Surrey Square Park	67	No boundary changes	No change	SoL14 Surrey Square	Updated
SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	OS 56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	104	Extension in southeast corner	Site of Local Importance	SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	Updated
SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	OS 95	Bird-in-Bush Park	54	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	Updated
SoL17 Consort Park	OS 116	Consort Park	96	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL17 Consort Park	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	OS 31	St Mary's Churchyard Gardens	64	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	Updated
SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey	OS 49	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey	24	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard Bermondsey	Updated
SoL21 Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	OS 106	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	72	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL21 Bellenden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood	OS 119	Dog Kennel Hill Open Space and Adventure Playground	105	Extension along the south-eastern boundary.	Upgrade to Borough	SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood and adventure playground	Updated
SoL23 Nairne Grove Nature Garden	OS 134	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	71	No boundary changes	Upgrade to Borough	SoL23 Bessemer Grange School Nature Garden	Updated
SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	OS 63	Aspinden Road Nature Garden	76	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	OS 74	Galleywall Nature Garden	85	No boundary changes	Upgrade to Borough	SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	Updated
SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	OS 115	McDermott Grove Nature Garden	51	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	OS 89	Varcoe Road Nature Garden / Bramcote Nature Garden	35	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	Updated
SoL28 Surrey Gardens	OS 82	Surrey Gardens AKA Pasley Park	66	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	Parsley Park	Updated
SoL29 Tabard Gardens	OS 46	Tabard Gardens	04	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL29 Tabard Gardens	Updated
SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	OS 146	Herne Hill Cycle Stadium and Sports Ground	56	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	Updated
SoL32 Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden	OS 21	Snowsfield Nature Garden	63	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL32 Snowsfields Nature Garden	Updated
SoL33 Alleyne School	OS 140	Alleyne's School Playing Field (North of Townley Road)	n/a	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL33 Alleyne School	Not updated.
SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden	OS112	William Griggs Garden	98	No boundary changes	Downgrade	n/a	Not updated.
SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Garden	Unique Reference unknown OSXX2	Northfield House Wildlife Garden	90	Site not previously digitised, although central meadow listed as SoL18 on citation and listed in Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan, (BAP)	Site of Local Importance	SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Gardens	Updated
SoL 8 Plough Lane Pond	OS 148	Plough Lane Pond	n/a	No change	No change	n/a	Not updated
Candidate SINC's Open Spaces (Alphabetical Order)							

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 163	Barclay Way	30	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 61	Bermondsey Spa Park	09	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 93	Bethwin Road Open Space	14	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 99	Brimmington Park	55	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS101	Brunswick Park	06	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 96	Caroline Gardens	69	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 25	Cherry Gardens	32	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Cherry Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 1	Christchurch Gardens	26	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Christchurch Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 107	Cossal Park	50	Extension along the northern boundary	Site of local importance	SoLXX Cossal Park	New citation
n/a	OS 175	Cox's Walk Allotments	68	None	No change	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 184	Long Meadow	08	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Long Meadow	New citation
n/a	OS 85	Faraday Gardens	79	Extension along north-east corner and minor addition and reduction in south-east part.	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Faraday Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 152	Honor Oak Sports Ground	59	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden	36	None	None	n/a	n/a

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 180	Grange Road Allotments (North)	112	No boundary changes	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments West	New citation
n/a	OS 178	Grange Road Allotments (South)	111	No boundary changes.	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments East	New citation
n/a	OS 128	Greendale Playing Field	03	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBXX Greendale Playing Field	New citation
n/a	OS 154	Dulwich Library Gardens	31	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 168	Dulwich Common Allotments	113	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	393	Grove Park Allotments	87	None	Borough	SoBXX Grove Park Allotments	New citation
n/a	OS 130	Dulwich Hamlet	70	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 39	Holy Trinity Churchyard	41	None	Site of local importance	SoLXX Holy Trinity Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 167	Honor Oak and Tulse Hill Playing	115	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 54	King George's Field Park	44	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 16	Little Dorrit Park	33	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 17	Marlborough Playground	16	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 113	Holly Grove Shrubbery	97	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Holly Grove Shrubbery	New citation

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 14	Mint Street Park	22	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Mint Street Park	New citation
n/a	OS 10	Nelson Square Gardens	29	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 42	Newington Gardens	10	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 133	Nunhead Allotments	116	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Nunhead Allotments	New citation
n/a	OS 69	Paragon Gardens	25	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 9	Pearson Park	99	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 76	Nursery Row Park	13	Large addition along the northern boundary. Two small additions the along the western boundary	Borough	SoBXX Nursery Row Park	New citation
n/a	CW 2	Old Nursery Site	84	Combined with Southwark Park	Borough	SoBI23 Southwark Park	Updated
n/a	OS 84	Pelier Park	61	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 75	Pullens Gardens	62	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 15	Redcross Gardens	37	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Redcross Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 132	Ryehill Park (Waterworks)	109	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 70	Salisbury Row Park	19	Two additions proposed to join up disparate parts of the park	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Salisbury Row Park	New citation

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 104	St Giles' Churchyard	20	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 72	St James' Road Allotments	114	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 52	St James' Churchyard	23	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St James' Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 170	St Peter's Churchyard (Lordship Lane)	28	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 86	St Peter's Churchyard	65	Large extension along northern boundary	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St Peter's Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 120	St. Francis' Park	21	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 102	Sumner Park	48	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	CW 4	Surrey Docks Adventure	83	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 6	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitch 1)	88	To be combined with Russia Dock Woodland SINC Site	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Surrey Docks	Updated
n/a	400	Bonar Road Allotments	74	None	None	n/a	n/a

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by London Borough of Southwark to carry out a review and ecological survey of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's), during 2014 and 2015. The purpose of completing a SINC review for Southwark was to inform policies in the forthcoming New Southwark Plan. Southwark's current habitat records are from 1994/5, where the original "Southwark Wildlife Survey" was undertaken by the London Ecology Unit. No subsequent survey of this scale has taken place. Due to the age of these records, Southwark requires an up-to-date picture of its biodiversity assets.
- 1.2 This assessment provided up-to-date information on the status and condition of 59 SINC's (containing 69 Open Spaces), and 50 other Open Spaces identified as potential candidate SINC's. The survey, assessment and reporting uses the framework established by the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB), to ensure the SINC review and selection is consistent across London and with national, regional and local policy documents and current legislation.
- 1.3 Seven SINC's were not surveyed as part of this project. These comprised, Deal Porter's Walk, Durand's Wharf, King Stairs Garden, Kirkwood Road Nature Garden (part of Nunhead Railway Cutting SINC), The River Thames, Surrey Canal Walk and Warwick Gardens. The majority of these sites had been surveyed in recent years and did not need a re-survey. The River Thames was not included as only a small portion of the whole site was located within the borough.
- 1.4 Of the 216 Open Spaces in Southwark, 183 contained some form of habitat. An analysis of these was undertaken by Southwark Council, with 64 deemed to have limited habitat, being dominated by amenity grassland (managed primarily for sports use), and did not require surveying. The remaining 119 were surveyed as part of this project. Table 1 below lists the 64 sites not surveyed.

Table 1: List of SINC's and Open Spaces not surveyed (Ordered Alphabetically)

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
1	n/a	OS147	Alleyne School Playing Pitch (Carlton Avenue)	Limited habitat - Playing fields
2	n/a	OS22	Bermondsey Playground	Limited habitat - Small local park
3	n/a	PN5	Brayards Green	Limited habitat - Amenity site within an estate
4	n/a	OS153	Burbage Road Playing Fields.	Limited habitat - Sports fields
5	n/a	377	Calypso Gardens	Limited habitat - Small local park
6	n/a	OS100	Camberwell Green	Limited habitat - Local park
7	n/a	375	Central Venture Park	Limited habitat - Adventure play park
8	n/a	376	Central Venture Park	Limited habitat - Children's playground
9	n/a	OS136	Charter School	Limited habitat - Playing field
10	n/a	OS177	College Sports Ground, South Grange Road.	Limited habitat - Playing fields
11	n/a	BB2	Crossbones Graveyard	Limited habitat – Development site
12	n/a	OS59	David Copperfield Gardens	Limited habitat -Linear open space
13	SoL37 Deal Porter's Walk	OS 34	Deal Porter's Walk	Surveyed and assessed in 2012
14	n/a	OS117	Dr Harold Moody Park	Limited habitat - Small park adjacent to OS116.

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
15	n/a	OS24	Dr Salter's Playground	Limited habitat -Playground
16	n/a	OS171	Dulwich College	Limited habitat - Formal playing fields with mature trees on boundaries and in centre
17	n/a	OS161	Dulwich College Playing Fields and Sports Ground (East Gallery Road).	Limited habitat - Playing fields
18	n/a	OS157	Dulwich College Playing Fields and Sports Grounds (Turney Road and West Galley Road)	Limited habitat - Several sports fields
19	n/a	OS172	Dulwich College Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Sports fields
20	n/a	OS169	Dulwich Common Sports Ground and Cricket Club	Limited habitat- Cricket pitch
21	n/a	OS158	Dulwich Picture Gallery Grounds	Limited habitat - Gardens with café
22	SoL35 Durand's Wharf	OS 40	Durand's Wharf	Surveyed and assessed in 2012
23	n/a	EC1	Elephant Road	Development site
24	n/a	OS90	Forsynth Gardens	Limited habitat - Small local park
25	n/a	OS122	Goose Green Common	Limited habitat - Small park
26	n/a	OS123	Goose Green Playground	Limited habitat - Playground area
27	n/a	OS129	Greendale Artificial Playing Pitch	Limited habitat - Artificial turf pitch
28	n/a	OS12	Grotto Open space	Limited habitat - Development site

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
29	n/a	OS19	Guy Street Park	Limited habitat - Small park
30	n/a	OS142	Homestall Road Playing Field	Limited habitat - Football ground
31	n/a	OS127	Ivydale Road Playing Field.	Limited habitat - School playing field
32	n/a	OS139	James Allen's Girls Schools Sports Club	Limited habitat - Sports ground
33	n/a	OS92	Kennington Open Space	Limited habitat - Small local park
34	n/a	OS27	King Edward III Manor House	Limited habitat - Manor house grounds
35	SoL36 King Stairs Garden	OS 28	King's Stairs Gardens	Surveyed and assessed in 2012
37	SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	PN 6	Kirkwood Road Nature Garden	Surveyed and assessed in 2012 – Not surveyed as part of this project.
38	n/a	OS94	Leyton Square	Limited habitat - Small local park
39	n/a	OS62	Lucey Way/Alexis Street	Limited habitat - Local park
40	n/a	OS176	Mary Datchelor Playing Field	Limited habitat - Playing field
41	n/a	PN2	Melon Road	Limited habitat - two low fenced green spaces
42	n/a	OS118	Nunhead Green	Limited habitat - Small greenspace
43	n/a	OS125	Nunhead Reservoir	Limited habitat - Reservoir
44	n/a	OS166	Old Alleynian's Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Rugby pitch/club house

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
45	n/a	OS78	Patterson Park (Western part)	Limited habitat Small park
46	n/a	OS4	Potter's Field Park	Limited habitat
47	n/a	OS165	Pynners Close	Limited habitat- Playing field
48	M031 River Thames	RT1	River Thames	Only a small proportion of the site is located in Southwark
49	n/a	OS73	Shuttleworth Park	Limited habitat -Small park
50	n/a	OS162	Southwark Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Football pitches and associated clubhouse
51	n/a	OS18	St George's Churchyard and Gardens	Limited habitat - Churchyard
52	n/a	OS23	St John's Churchyard	Limited habitat
53	n/a	OS30	St Mary's Churchyard	Limited habitat - Churchyard
54	n/a	OS67	St Mary's Churchyard	Limited habitat - Corner park with many historic trees/children's play area
55	n/a	CW1	St Pauls Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Artificial turf pitch
56	SINC reference unknown Surrey Canal Walk	OS 98	Surrey Canal Walk	Surveyed and assessed in 2012 – Not surveyed as part of this project. SINC not recorded in GIGL data but listed in Southwark BAP.
57	n/a	OS60	Swanmead	Limited habitat - Small local park
58	n/a	OS179	The Fort Camping Ground	Limited habitat - Camp site with car park and recreational green area
59	n/a	OS131	The Gardens Square	Limited habitat - Private gardens

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
60	n/a	OS79	The Stables	Limited habitat - Stables
61	SINC reference unknown Warwick Gardens	OS 111	Warwick Gardens	Surveyed and assessed in 2012 – Not surveyed as part of this project. SINC not recorded in GIGL data but listed in Southwark BAP.
62	n/a	OS137	Waverley School	Limited habitat- Play area and green space
63	n/a	OS57	West Square Garden	Limited habitat - Well maintained central garden

LEGISLATION

1.5 Important habitats and species are protected in the UK by legislation, and by the planning framework at both national and local levels. This section highlights legislation and policies that are relevant to the review of SINC's in Southwark.

1.6 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act), and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) are the major pieces of legislation protecting wildlife species and habitats in England.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended)

1.7 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (as amended), (WCA), provides for, inter alia, the protection of certain species of flora and fauna. All bats, reptiles and nesting bird species receive protection under the WCA, although the level of protection varies from species to species.

1.8 Nationally important areas of special scientific interest, by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features, are notified by the countryside agencies as statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and latterly the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

1.9 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), implement the Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EC), (Habitats Directive), in England and Wales. Amongst other things the Regulations give protection to certain species of flora and fauna including bats and great crested newts. The Regulations also provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000

1.10 Part III of the CRoW Act deals specifically with wildlife protection and nature conservation. It makes it an offence to "...recklessly disturb..." the sheltering places of wild animals designated under Schedule 5 of the WCA. Section 74 of the CRoW Act places a duty on all Government departments to have regard for the conservation of priority species and habitats listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), and on the Secretary of State to further, or promote others to further, the conservation of these

species and habitats. However, this has now been superseded by Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 – see below.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and the Biodiversity Duty

- 1.11 Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 states 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’, otherwise known as the Biodiversity Duty. Guidance produced by Defra/Natural England makes it clear that biodiversity, as covered by the Section 40 duty, includes all biodiversity and not just the habitats and species of principal importance.
- 1.12 Under Section 41 of the Act, the Secretary of State must publish a list of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity. There is an expectation that public bodies would refer to the S41 list when complying with the Section 40 duty.

PLANNING POLICY

- 1.13 The principal planning guidance at the national level is the National Planning Policy Framework. This is used to inform planning policies that are included in regional and local plans.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.14 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), emphasises the need for sustainable development. In regard to biodiversity the Framework specifies the need for protection of designated sites and priority habitats and priority species. In determining planning applications, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from adverse harm; there is appropriate mitigation or compensation where significant harm cannot be avoided; opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments are encouraged and planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.
- 1.15 At the National scale, the Natural Environment is one of 13 Core Planning Principles outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012. Of particular relevance are paragraphs 114 and 117. Paragraph 114 states that LPAs should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and

green infrastructure. Paragraph 117 states the duties of the LPA are to plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale. This includes:

- *Identifying and mapping components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of designated sites, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them to other local initiatives to enhance biodiversity; and*
- *Promoting the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats; ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets and identified in suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the Local Plan.*

1.16 The priority habitats and species mentioned above refer to those which have been identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, (JNCC, 2015). Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011), and the UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012), which replaced the England Biodiversity Strategy and the UK BAP, have resulted in changes to the terminology. At the National Level priority habitats and species are now referred to as Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in England under the NERC Act 2006² (hereafter referred to as 'Species of Principal Importance' and 'Habitats of Principal Importance'). At regional and local levels the former are still in use.

The London Plan: The Mayor's Spatial Strategy for Greater London

1.17 The London Plan: The Mayor's Spatial Strategy for Greater London (GLA, 2011), including published Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan (REMA), (GLA, 2013), and Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP), (GLA, 2015), deal with matters of strategic importance for spatial development in London. Chapter 2 London's Places and Chapter 7 London's Living Places and Spaces sets out the policies that impact, amongst other factors, upon the quality and function of green infrastructure and biodiversity in London. The relevant policies are summarised below:

² 56 Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity and 943 Species of Principal Importance for Biodiversity are included in the NERC Act. These are all the habitats and species in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

Policy 2.18 (Green Infrastructure) of the London Plan

1.18 Policy 2.18 commits the Mayor to develop a multifunctional network of green infrastructure that secures benefits to biodiversity and commits the Council to making planning decisions that ensure development incorporates green infrastructure links.

1.19 Paragraph “D” mentions SINC’s in relation to development proposals stating that the appropriate protection should be provided to sites in relation to their importance and including metropolitan, borough and local sites. Paragraph “F” requires LPAs to consider four aspects to the biodiversity resource in relation preparing Local Development Frameworks. These are replicated in full below:

- *Identify and secure the appropriate management of sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation in consultant with the London Wildlife Sites Boards (LWSB);*
- *Identify areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and seek opportunities to address them;*
- *Include policies and proposals for the protection of protected³/ Habitats and Species of Principal Importance⁴ and the enhancement of their populations and their extent via appropriate regional and local BAP targets; and*
- *Identify and protect and enhance corridors of movement, such as green corridors, that are of strategic importance in enabling species to colonise, re-colonise and move between sites.*

Policy 7.19 (Biodiversity and Access to Nature) of the London Plan

1.20 This policy commits the Mayor to support The Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy and commits the Council to making planning decisions to ensure development makes a positive contribution to biodiversity through achieving Biodiversity Action Plan targets and having due regard to European or nationally designated sites and protected species. This policy also commits the Council to making planning decisions to ensure ‘strong protection’ to SMIs, with due regard to the mitigation hierarchy.

1.21 The Mayor and London Biodiversity Partnership have identified targets for the re-creation and restoration of priority habitats as recommended in the NPPF. Habitat

³Legally protected species include those listed in Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981; Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010; or in the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992.

⁴ Species of Principal Importance are those listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006.

opportunity maps created by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL), indicate the most appropriate areas where these habitats may be created. The following areas have been identified within Southwark:

- Acid grassland –potential in the southern corner;
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh – potential in the northwest;
- Woodland – potential across the whole borough;
- Reedbed – potential in the northwest, central, and central west of the borough;
- Lowland meadow –potential in the northeast and northwest;
- Standing open water – potential in the south and northeast;

The Southwark Plan (Open Space and Biodiversity)

1.22 Policy SP 15 Open space and biodiversity recognises that Open Spaces make a significant contribution to the landscape of Southwark, providing a valuable resource to those living, working and visiting the borough. It recognises the importance of providing and protecting a network of open spaces with natural areas providing important habitat for a wide variety of plant and animals, which must be preserved to ensure biodiversity is protected.

Southwark Core Strategy (Conserve and Protect Historic and Natural Places)

1.23 Policy Objective 2F Conserve and Protect Historic and Natural Places states that Southwark’s heritage assets and wider historic environment will be conserved and enhanced. Open spaces and biodiversity will be protected and made more accessible and improved.

Southwark’s Biodiversity Action Plan

1.24 Southwark’s Biodiversity Action Plan (2013-2018), has a number of national or regional priority habitats that are present in Southwark. Baseline data on the types and amounts of these habitats are found in Table 1 below.

1.25 Access to nature is increasingly seen as a key component of living in an urban environment. The London Plan policies 7.18 and 7.19 are the drivers for addressing access to nature. Southwark has good access to green spaces; however, in some parts of the borough people do not enjoy easy access to green spaces with significant wildlife value.

1.26 Localities where people are further than 1km walking distance from a publicly accessible site of Metropolitan or Borough level of significance for nature conservation

are defined by the GLA as ‘Areas of Natural Deficiency (AoND), in Access to Nature’. Southwark has two AoND’s covering 23.37% of the borough. One is located in the northwest covering an area from Bermondsey in the east to Elephant and Castle in the south to the border with Lambeth in the west. The second AoND is located diagonally across from Queen’s Road Peckham in the east to East Dulwich in the south.

Single Data List and the Council Plan

1.27 The single data list is a catalogue of all the datasets that local government must submit to central government in a given year. Improved local biodiversity is one of those data sets. Southwark Council set a target for the council plan in 2010. This was to increase the number of SINC’s in positive management. This target was originally known as National Indicator 197. Table 2 below lists key management targets.

Table 2: SINC Management Targets 2012-2014

2010 Baseline	2011/2012 Target	2013/2014 Target	2013/2014 Target
72.88%	76.27%	81.35%	83.30%

1.28 Southwark contains a number of habitats of national value known as Habitats of Principal Importance and regional value, known as Priority Habitats. In 2012, habitats (e.g. woodland, standing water), and land – use types (green corridors, parks and open spaces), were mapped within Southwark to provide baseline information on area (in hectares), to inform the borough’s Biodiversity Action Plan. The types mapped are listed in Table 3 below. It is unknown how this data was generated.

Table 3: Southwark’s broad habitat baseline 2012 (Biodiversity Action Plan)

Habitat type	Area (Ha)
Woodland incl. wet woodland	54
Orchard	0.50
Hedgerows	0.83
Meadows / grassland incl. acid grassland	6.77
Reed beds	2.58
Rivers	11.15
Ponds	7
Parks and Open Spaces	363
Green Corridors	125.62
Standing water	62

1.29 It is unknown how these figures have been generated and are given here as a guide only.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Services

1.30 Southwark has identified a number of actions for the conservation and enhancement of wildlife. This is one of five theme actions which replace the individual habitats and species action plans that have traditionally been produced. Ecosystem services are goods and services provided for free by the natural environment such as cleaning the water and air of pollutants, decomposition of waste materials and pollinating food crops by insects. Below lists the relevant actions to this project.

- Achieve a target for 5% of grassland in parks to be managed for biodiversity through management plans – target of 65,000m²;
- Retain dead wood and retain standing dead wood in situ in parks and green spaces. Install new invertebrate loggeries across parks;
- Identify and map potential new green corridors and link to existing strategies;
- Review baseline of current biodiversity value of wildlife habitats including areas of woodland, reedbed, rivers and streams, standing water, meadow, wildlife corridors; green roof, open mosaic habitat on previously developed land;
- Maintain the extent of wildlife habitat from the 2012 baseline with aim of no net loss of biodiversity;
- Create one hectare of new reedbed;
- Create one hectare of new wildflower meadow. Species mix to be selected to provide biodiversity habitat and visual interest;
- Plant nectar and pollen-rich plants in border and beds in parks and open spaces. Target 30% of new planting to meet these criteria target;
- Restore Benhill Road Nature Garden local SINC;
- Install four new clay lined ponds across the borough;
- Create 1km of native hedgerow in parks and green spaces including replacement of existing low value biodiversity hedges where appropriate;
- Build one reptile refuge for common lizards on all sites where lizards or slow worms are recorded; and
- Restore Dulwich Mill Pond Borough SINC to favourable ecological condition.

Southwark's land-uses & habitats – An Overview

1.31 The nature of Southwark's biodiversity is the result of past land-uses, density of residential areas and more recent regeneration. The north of the borough forms part of the Central Activity Zone, part of London's central business, tourist and cultural centre

as well as including some residential areas. The east, formally industrial docklands and closely connected to the River Thames, has undergone large-scale regeneration with new habitats created in the former docks, including woodland and some of Southwark's most diverse and species-rich wetland habitats. The southern part of Southwark contains significantly more open space than elsewhere, and supports the borough's only areas of ancient woodland (remnants of the Great North Wood), with mature trees and fragments of former open countryside. The middle areas of the borough around Elephant and Castle, Peckham, Denmark Hill and Herne Hill are densely residential and natural and semi-natural habitats are few and isolated. Many wildlife sites are associated with privately owned land including churches and school gardens. The railway lines that cross the borough form habitat corridors. The regeneration of large areas in recent years, including Burgess Park and Russia Dock Woodlands, are providing wildlife habitat in the heart of the borough.

Southwark's Growing Population and Access to Greenspace Deficiency

- 1.32 Southwark is one of the most densely built up inner city boroughs, being the ninth most populated London borough with 9,988 residents per square kilometre (km²), significantly higher than the London average of 5,199 residents per km². The population is expected to increase to 349,000 by 2027 (ONS, 2014), which will result in additional pressure on existing services and facilities in the borough. Southwark Planning Authority aims to provide 1ha of Local Nature Reserves (SINC's), per 1,000 residents to improve residents' access to natural space. This will require the provision of at least 269.2ha more open space to meet the needs of the 2016 population level (Southwark Council, 2013).

2. Methodology

OVERVIEW

- 2.1 The habitat survey was carried out in accordance with the revised Survey Specification devised by the Greater London Authority (GLA), in 2004 and the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (2002) which has been updated from the original survey method developed in 1984/85 by the London Wildlife Trust. The GLA methodology and survey form is provided in Appendix 1 at the back of this report. Key elements are reproduced below including amendments to survey methodology.

Habitat Survey Method

- 2.2 The smallest unit of area is the “*habitat polygon*” generated in GIS from the Phase 1 habitat survey (JNCC) methodology⁵ as adapted by the GLA’s revised survey specification (2004). A hand-drawn map was produced by the ecologist and later digitised in the GIS environment. Linear habitats such as hedges and vegetated wall/tombstones were mapped as lines in a separate layer. Target notes were mapped as point features as a separate layer.
- 2.3 One or more habitat polygons form a larger area of land termed a “*parcel*”. A parcel was as homogenous as possible in terms of habitat, ownership and public access. Each parcel has a written record of one or more standard A4 forms. A separate plant recording form was used for the more interesting or diverse parcels.
- 2.4 The term “*site*” was used to refer to either a registered Open Space or SINC. The distinction will be necessary in each case due to some Open Spaces not containing SINC’s, whilst others do. Furthermore, some SINC’s contain more than one Open Space, or only a portion of one, depending on the reasons for designation and context. If the Open Space or SINC has been surveyed as part of this project, it will contain one or more parcels and at least one habitat polygon.

Amendments to Survey Methodology

- 2.5 A number of amendments have been made to the methodology as a result of recent approaches to amenity horticulture to record habitat enhancements (e.g. wildflower grassland) and habitats under scattered trees and to enable the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to calculate habitat areas.
- 2.6 Three additional habitat types have been added to the list to accommodate recently created vegetation types in Southwark. These include recent approaches to amenity horticulture such as ‘pictorial meadows’ and ‘prairie style planting’ which were grouped under the new category of “herbaceous planting”.
- 2.7 The existing GLA category neutral grassland (herb-rich) has a very restrictive species criteria, to the extent that very few areas of the borough would be assessed as supporting this habitat. For this reason a new category referred to as “other neutral grassland (herb-rich)” was created to enable grassland with an abundance of more

⁵ JNCC (2010). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit*. JNCC. Peterborough

commonly occurring wildflower species to be recorded where habitat enhancements/ or wildlife management had taken place in the borough. Good abundances of the following species were included in the new category and comprised ox-eye daisy, common or greater bird's-foot-trefoil, common knapweed, ladies bedstraw, wild carrot, cowslip, primrose, agrimony, salad burnet and field scabious.

- 2.8 Scattered trees were recorded on the survey forms as a percentage over and above the ground-level habitat (e.g. amenity grassland 100%, scattered trees 40%). This was to ensure ground level habitat was comprehensively surveyed. The Phase 1 maps do not record tree canopy. Further information on tree cover was recorded in the survey form notes and SINC citations. Aerial photography was used to indicate particularly prominent tree canopy corridors to inform the section on habitat linkages.

SURVEY PREPARATION

Desk study

- 2.9 Information regarding the present and historical ecological interest of Southwark was obtained primarily from The Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL, 2014). This comprised the following ecological datasets:

Habitat Data

- Site boundaries of existing SINC's and open spaces;
- Habitat parcel boundaries for existing SINC's recorded in 1994; and
- Habitat percentages attributed to parcels (in Excel format) for SINC's recorded in 1994.

Species Data

- Species data for the London Borough of Southwark, including confidential species, point and area records for protected, rare or notable species.

Other GIS Data

- Areas of Natural Deficiency (AoND), for Southwark; and
- South east London green chain route.

- 2.10 Information on habitat maintenance was provided by Southwark Council, where possible, to allow the surveys of grassland habitat prior to scheduled cutting times

Site Access Protocol

- 2.11 The London Borough of Southwark provided a list of owners of sites on private land in MS Excel format. A letter was sent and followed by up to three phone calls when

contact could not be established. If after these measures were exhausted and a land owner could not be contacted, the site was surveyed from its boundaries as recommended by the GLA guidance. Access was particularly difficult for allotment sites and some school nature areas, of which half of these sites were not surveyed in full (refer to the Limitations Section, Table 3 (page 21), for the list of SINC's / Open Spaces where access was not possible).

Field Survey Protocol

2.12 The fieldwork was undertaken from June to October 2014, with woodland surveys undertaken in late March 2015 to enable the recording of as much vernal flora as possible. Field survey information was recorded on A4 survey forms provided by the GLA (Appendix 1), which required data collection under 10 headings. These were:

- Open Space typology and facilities;
- Threats and disturbances;
- Interests / potential for enhancements;
- Changes since last survey;
- Habitats and qualifiers;
- Interests;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Target Notes / sketch map.

Open Space Typology and Facilities

2.13 Brief information was provided on the type of Open Space (e.g. park, nature reserve or allotment), planning status (e.g. SSSI, SINC or Metropolitan Open Land), ownership, public access, accessibility, maintenance and management and level of use.

Threats and Disturbances

2.14 Brief information was given for any identified threats and disturbances at the parcel level, (including details of severity), for invading plants, erosion, safety and security, litter and dog fouling.

2.15 Invading plants included species that were non-native and dominating a site as well as invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

2.16 Due to the urban context of Southwark, several listed threats and disturbances are relevant to all sites. These included intrusive buildings, boundary treatment,

redevelopment, aircraft noise and road and rail noises. As such, these were not necessarily mentioned.

- 2.17 Some threats were considered part of the same issue e.g. the presence of vandalism and motorcycle scrambling may cause safety issues. Tipping could also be considered a severe case of litter and not necessary a separate issue.

Interest / Potential for Enhancements

- 2.18 Brief information on the existing interests of the site and the potential for enhancement were provided, where appropriate, to the parcel. This included specific details relating to habitat structure, ecology, education and accessibility. Fuller information was also provided in the notes section of the GLA field survey form (an example is provided in Appendix 1).

Changes since Last Survey

- 2.19 Brief information was provided on any identified changes since the last survey, such as boundaries and habitat enhancements.

Habitats and Qualifiers

- 2.20 Information on the percentage cover of habitats was provided for each parcel as assessed by eye in the field. This included linear features and scattered trees (the latter as a percentage over the 100% ground cover). Relevant qualifying features of importance to nature conservation were noted for woodland (e.g. coppicing, dead wood), grassland (frequently mown, cuttings removed) and wetland habitats (floating and emergent vegetation).

Interests and Species Richness

- 2.21 Information was determined through field observation of the likelihood for eight species (or species groups), to be present comprising: invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds, higher plants and bryophytes, lichens and fungi. Species richness (for flora only) was a comparative assessment with other sites in the borough and included six categories, which ranged from poor to rich.

Nature Conservation Value

- 2.22 Information was provided by the surveyor of their opinion on the nature conservation value of the site along with brief reasons such as: the presence of BAP Priority Habitats and the potential for protected and/or BAP Priority Species.

Target Notes and Sketch Map

- 2.23 This section of the form was used to record the dominant and notable plant species, birds and butterflies identified during the site survey. Hand-drawn maps of complex (small-scale) habitats were also included here.
- 2.24 The presence of habitats considered to meet the criteria for Habitats of Principal Importance in England and BAP habitats relevant to Southwark were noted in this section.
- 2.25 Plant species abundance was recorded using the DAFOR⁶ scale with qualifiers to record additional botanical/habitat information (e.g. if a species is locally abundant or planted rather than naturalised or the maturity of the trees present). A separate species recording form (Appendix 1), was used to provide fuller information on species abundances and to avoid over-filling the parcel form.
- 2.26 The presence of any 'notable' species could include, Red data list species or Species of Principal Importance⁷; Species listed on Schedule 5 and/or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended); axiophytes (quality indicators), using guidance published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles⁸; and species identified as notable in Greater London by the Greater London Authority (2008)⁹.
- 2.27 Target notes were recorded in this section to provide fuller information on the location of ecological features (but were too small to map e.g. bat roosting potential, invasive species, mature trees or a stag beetle loggery). These have been digitised in GIS but are not shown on the habitat maps.
- 2.28 The survey team consisted of four ecologists, all whom are full members of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM,) and hold Field Identification Species Certificate (FISC), Level 4.

⁶ Based on a percentage (%) of the plant species abundance, where D = dominant, A = abundant, F= frequent, O = occasional and R = rare.

⁷ JNCC (undated). Conservation designations for UK taxa [on-line] <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3408> (accessed March, 2014).

⁸ BSBI (undated) Axiophytes. [on-line]. <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/axiophytes.html> (accessed March, 2014).

⁹ London Biodiversity Action Plan, Review of Priority Species, Greater London Authority, January 2008 available from <http://www.lbp.org.uk/londonpriority.html>

MAPPING

Habitat data

- 2.29 The London Borough of Southwark provided OS Master Map data. This was used to generate field maps for use during the site survey to digitise new or amended SINC boundaries and map habitats and parcels on to habitat maps for each site surveyed (Appendix 2 SINC and proposed SINC maps in separate document).
- 2.30 Where Master-Map features did not exist (e.g. for newly created habitats or for small features within sites), polygons were digitised using aerial photography and estimated from field survey.
- 2.31 Sites that were below the minimum mappable unit of 0.25ha (GLA, 2004), often contained small areas of different habitat types. For these sites habitat mapping was undertaken at a larger / more detailed scale to capture habitat diversity.
- 2.32 In accordance with the Phase 1 habitat mapping methodology, trees are mapped as a point or area symbol and are not necessarily accurate in location or size. Mapping habitat below the trees was given greater priority.

Boundary data

- 2.33 Digitised SINC boundaries were ground-truthed to ensure they were still valid. Habitat was mapped beyond the SINC boundary where this provided useful information on proposed boundary changes. Any changes were recorded on the field parcel form and accompanying habitat map produced.
- 2.34 Minor errors that exist in the GIS SINC boundaries (as a result the original digitisation), was also noted and habitats mapped to Master Map lines rather than incorrect open space boundaries. Minor boundary errors were not mapped as proposed boundary changes (Appendix 3), but listed in the recommendations section under GIS boundary errors.
- 2.35 The habitat maps for SINC's and proposed candidate SINC's are provided in Appendix 2 (in separate document). Each SINC or Open Spaces has at least one habitat map. For SINC's that contain more than one Open Space an additional map or maps is provided to illustrate the boundaries of the component parts.

Map References

- 2.36 Habitat maps refer to the Open Space number (on the map in light green and in the map key). The SINC number is shown on the map in blue, where applicable.

2.37 Open Spaces or SINC's that had no corresponding site boundary digitised on the GIS data set were given a temporary OS number (OSXX – OSXX2). This occurred for three Open Spaces comprising;

- OSXX - Rye Hill Park – Part of the Waterworks Open Space 132
- OSXX1 – Bellenden Road Tree Nursery SoL21 & Open Space 106
- OSXX2 – Northfield House Community Garden Unknown SINC & Open Space Reference. This site is listed as a SoL18 in citation and listed in Southwark BAP

2.38 Map 87 should be named Grove Park Allotments not Lettsom Gardens, which is located adjacent.

Target Notes

2.39 Target notes recorded during the field survey and noted on the survey forms have been digitised on GIS. They have been left off the habitat maps.

Species

2.40 Species data (confidential, point and area) were extracted for the sites to include records that fell within or intersected the boundary of a SINC or candidate site and also those records within a 200m buffer. Only records between the years 2000-2015 were used to provide a realistic assessment of species likely to be present on site.

EVALUATION

2.41 Following completion of field surveys, and habitat mapping, information was summarised for the borough, with the main topics listed below. Bar and pie charts were generated in order to compare results and an assessment made, drawing upon desk study information and field survey:

- Habitat type, extent and distribution across the borough;
- Trends in habitat change from 1994/95 to 2014/5;
- Trends in wildlife interest;
- Trends in threats and opportunities;
- Habitat linkages.

Habitat Type, Extent and Distribution across the borough

2.42 This information was collated through GIS, whereby habitat polygons digitised to create the Phase 1 maps were sorted to provide information such as: total area per habitat;

number of sites and total area of habitat type per site. Habitat quality and condition was assessed through information recorded on the survey forms.

Trends in Habitat Change 1994 - 2015

2.43 The 1994/95 habitat data received in excel format from GIGL required significant reconfiguration and sorting to enable comparison with the current survey data. The main issues were.

- Habitat information was embedded in the same column in both text and numerical format. An example row would appear as amenity grassland (45%, 1.15ha); scattered trees (25%, 0.64ha); shrubbery (15%, 0.38ha); bare artificial (15%, 0.38ha); and native woodland (10%, 0.26ha);
- Larger SINC's with more than one parcel would require additional calculation as habitat percentages were associated with parcels not at the site level (e.g. a site with four parcels would contain 400% habitats);
- SINC's which contained multiple Open Spaces would have less habitat accuracy than those with only one Open Space. This was due to habitat percentages being assessed at the parcel level that could span more than one Open Space;
- Scattered trees were assessed as a percentage of the total area (with no information of the habitat underneath);
- Hedges (native and non-native), running water and vegetated walls/tombstones were assessed as a percentage of the parcel, rather than as a length measurement, which was the preferred method in the recent survey; and
- 24 sites surveyed in 2014/15 had to be excluded from assessment due to no corresponding habitat information in 1994/95. This included a number of candidate sites but also SINC's. The list of Open Spaces is given on page 35).

Data Simplification

2.44 To enable comparison of the two data-sets, (from 1995/1995 and 2015), the following assumptions and simplifications were made:

- Three habitat types (conifer woodland, bracken and arable), were recorded in 1994/95 but were not recorded as present in 2014/15. As the score was very low (<0.1), they were combined with the closest corresponding habitat: bracken was

combined with tall herb; arable¹⁰ was combined with allotment; and conifer woodland was combined with non-native woodland;

- For both data-sets, poorly recorded habitats including bare-ground, chalk grassland, orchard and improved grassland were combined with ephemeral, herb-rich neutral grassland, allotment and amenity grassland respectively in order to minimise the number of habitat types;
- Fen carr was recorded in 1994/95 but not in 2014/215 and Typha swamp was recorded in 2014/15 but not in 1994/15. Due to the complexities surrounding data capture of these habitats, these were excluded from the comparison and discussed in the text only;
- All linear features comprising native, non-native hedgerows, running water, vegetated walls and tombstones were excluded from the assessment; and
- The percentage area of scattered trees for the 1994/95 data was combined with the main habitat type recorded within the corresponding habitat parcel. This was either amenity grassland or hardstanding. Habitat type 'scattered trees' was not quantified.

Trends in Wildlife Interest

2.45 Trends in wildlife interest were assessed at the parcel level where information was collated in an excel format from all 353 parcel survey forms and presented in a bar chart.

2.46 Species data obtained from GIGL was identified for each site to accurately document biological records over the last five years (1999 - 2014). Records for London and Southwark notable species, BAP priority species and confidential species from within the site and up to 200m from the site were included in the assessment. Incidental records from site owners were recorded as were surveyor's field observations during the day.

Trends in Threats and Opportunities

2.47 Trends were assessed at the parcel level where information was collated in excel format from all parcel survey forms and presented as bar charts: Potential threats and

10 A small amount (<0.1ha) of arable was recorded in 1994/1995, which might have been recorded for an area of newly created allotment area. Arable was not recorded in 2014/15.

disturbance issues were categorised into four broad subjects: invading plants; erosion; safety and litter. Opportunities for habitat enhancement were summarised in 12 categories, some were broad such as wetland habitat and woodland management, whilst others were prescribed, such as reduce mowing, plant spring bulbs.

Habitat Linkages

2.48 In accordance with the NPPF and Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2019, an assessment of existing and potential habitat linkages was identified. The location of existing SINC's and aerial photographs were used to determine potential linkages. Table 4 lists the terminology used to describe the different components of a resilient and coherent ecological network. Reference to the GLA methodology was also made in relation to wildlife gardens and tree canopy.

Table 4: Terminology used to describe ecological networks (Lawton 2012).

Term	Description
Core areas	<p>These are areas of high nature conservation value which form the heart of the network. They contain habitats that are rare or important because of the wildlife they support the ecosystem services they provide. They generally have the highest concentration of species or support rare species. Core areas provide places within which species can thrive and from which can disperse to other parts of the network. They include protected wildlife sites and other semi-natural areas of high ecological quality.</p> <p>In Southwark this would be the major parks, which are all designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and five Local Nature Reserves.</p>
Corridors and stepping stones	<p>These are spaces that improve the functional connectivity between core areas, enabling species to move between them to feed, disperse, migrate or reproduce. Connectivity need not come from linear, continuous habitats; a number of small sites may act as "stepping stones" across which certain species can move between core areas. Equally, a land mosaic between sites that allows species to move is effectively an ecological corridor.</p> <p>In Southwark this would include the smaller parks and railway corridors, and gardens.</p>
Restoration areas (core habitat areas for the future)	<p>These are areas where measures are planned to restore or create new high value areas (which will ultimately become "core areas") so that ecological functions and species populations can be restored. They are often situated so as to complement, connect or enhance existing core areas.</p> <p>In Southwark some of the parks and SINC sites are under pressure from intensive-use and management, or have been neglected so that the nature value has declined. Given time, enhancement and management these sites could be restored to become the core habitat areas for the future.</p>

Term	Description
Softening the matrix	<p>These are areas within the wider landscape focused in the sustainable use of natural resources and appropriate economic activity, together with the maintenance of ecosystem services (Bennett and Mulongoy 2006). Set up appropriately, they help to 'soften the matrix' outside the network and make it more permeable and less hostile to wildlife.</p> <p>In Southwark this would include the built environment surrounding the open spaces, which could contain street trees, private gardens, community spaces around housing estates and buildings.</p>

REVIEW OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED SINC'S

2.49 Recommendations for new SINC's provided by the GLA were used to identify the three kinds of site; Site of Metropolitan Importance, Site of Borough Importance and Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. Brief descriptions of these are given below.

- Sites of Metropolitan Importance are those sites that contain the best examples of London's habitats and species and contain important habitat or species assemblages or important populations of species. Should one of these sites be lost or damaged, something would be lost which exists in a very few other places in London.
- Sites of Borough Importance (Grade I and Grade II), are those sites that are important at a borough perspective in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the whole of London. Although sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, damage to these sites would mean a significant loss to the borough. As with Metropolitan sites, while protection is important, management of borough sites should usually allow and encourage their enjoyment by people and their use for education.
- Due to recent changes in the GLA methodology Grade I and Grade II Borough Sites are to be combined into one Borough grade to reflect their value at the borough level, regardless of size.
- Sites of Local Importance are those sites that have a local value such as for local residents or schools. Local sites are particularly important in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites. To aid the choice of these further local sites, Areas of Deficiency (see below) are identified. Further Local sites are chosen as the best available to alleviate this deficiency.

2.50 The outcome of the review of SINC's and candidate sites was tabulated and presented in the Recommendations section of this report along with other information on

boundary and name changes and opportunities for enhancement. A number of sources were used to review existing sites and propose new sites. These included:

- Reviewing the SINC citations to determine whether features for which the sites were listed remained in good condition, and if not why, or whether the sites have been enhanced to a sufficient degree to warrant an increase of the SINC grade. This was considered in terms of the Local Wildlife Site Board (LWSB), criteria (adapted from the GLC and GLA approaches);
- Identifying changes in habitat area between 1994 and 2014/15;
- Identifying the presence of UK, regional or local BAP priority habitats;
- Identifying the potential of the site to support priority or protected species;
- Areas of Deficiency;
- Location of existing habitat corridors.

2.51 A conclusion was then drawn for each site, which justified the grade for which the site had been designated or to recommend a new grade. These comprised :

- Existing SINC qualifies at Metropolitan/Borough or Local level;
- Existing SINC exceeds level at which it was designated – recommend upgrade;
- Existing SINC qualifies at level of designation but is in decline – priority for conservation work;
- Existing SINC no longer qualifies at level it was designated – recommend downgrade; and
- Candidate site qualifies as potential SINC of Borough or Local Importance– recommend designation.

2.52 Where a SINC citation stated the presence of notable or rare plant species which was subsequently not recorded in the 2014/15 survey, this did not affect the site's designation. If a specific species could not be found during the survey then it was assumed to remain and the citation was not changed, unless there were strong reasons to suggest that feature of interest was unlikely to remain.

2.53 Several existing SINC's are smaller than 0.25ha – such as Galleywall Road (0.08ha), Snowsfield Primary School (0.12), and Aspinden Road Nature Garden (0.04ha). Although this is contrary to the GLA methodology, the sites support ecological habitats,

which are important to the borough and their size reflects the lack of open space in these areas.

Habitat Comparison between Proposed and Remaining SINC'S

2.54 A habitat comparison was undertaken between the proposed candidate sites and those that were not considered to meet the criteria. This was calculated as a percentage of the total area of habitat for proposed SINC's against the remaining candidate SINC's.

Changes to SINC Site Boundaries

2.55 Changes to site boundaries were identified during the site visit and confirmed with the borough ecologist, to ensure land ownership and responsibilities were clearly defined. This ensured site boundaries were accurate and excluded where new development might have taken place or where roads intersected the site. Boundary extensions were also proposed in some cases, to include adjacent habitat of value to biodiversity (Appendix 3, in separate document).

SINC Citations

2.56 All existing SINC citations were updated with information gathered from the GIGL species records (within the last 5 years), incidental records and species and habitat information collected from field surveys. New citations were written for proposed SINC's (Appendix 4, separate document). Fuller information was provided in relation to the following where relevant:

- Main habitat types and their nature conservation value;
- Recorded Habitats of Principal Importance and London/ Southwark BAP habitats;
- Value of habitats to species and species groups;
- Recorded Species of Principal Importance and London / Southwark BAP species;
- Wider ecological value (e.g. as a habitat corridor);
- Current management;
- Current or proposed enhancement works;
- Value to the community;
- Threats and opportunities.

LIMITATIONS

- 2.57 Whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the sites, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.
- 2.58 Southwark contains 216 Open Spaces. This project surveyed 119 Open Spaces in total. Seven SINC's (containing seven Open Spaces), were not surveyed as part of this project. These comprised; Deal Porter's Walk, Durand's Wharf, King Stairs Garden, Kirkwood Road Nature Garden (part of Nunhead Railway Cutting SINC), The River Thames, Surrey Canal Walk and Warwick Gardens. The majority of these sites had been surveyed in recent years and did not need a re-survey. The River Thames was not surveyed due to only a small proportion of the site occurring within the borough. 56 Open Spaces were analysed by Southwark Council and deemed to have limited habitat and dominated by amenity grassland managed for sports use. The remaining 41 Open Spaces were not surveyed as they fell below the minimum size threshold (0.25ha), provided in the GLA methodology and the majority contained predominantly hard surfacing with limited habitat.
- 2.59 In the duration of this project, Open Spaces that were not surveyed may have been enhanced and new habitats created. It was not possible to survey these sites retrospectively.
- 2.60 It is important to note that, even where data is held, a lack of records for a identified geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may be simple under-recorded.
- 2.61 The assessment of protected or notable species provided a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species occurring on-site, based on the suitability of the habitat, known distribution of the species in the local area provided in response to our enquires, and any direct evidence of the site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group. Nor does the site survey constitute a full botanical survey.
- 2.62 Access to privately-owned or managed sites was not always possible. This affected several sites of which most were allotments and railway corridors. These are listed in Table 5 below. However, in most cases surveys were possible from publicly accessible vantage points (such as from bridges or adjacent roads or open space).

Table 5: List of Open Spaces where access was not possible in the project time frame.

Open Space Number	Name of Site
OS 140	Alleyne School Playing Field (North of Townley Road)
400	Bonar Road Allotments
OS185	Carlton Place Copse
OS175	Cox's walk Allotments
OS119	Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground (playground not accessible)
OS130	Dulwich Hamlet
OS87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden
OS186	Gipsy Hill Railway Cutting
OS110	Grove Park and East Dulwich Railway Cuttings and Embankments
OS151	Honor Oak Allotments
OS167	Honor Oak and Dulwich Sports Ground
OS108	Nunhead Railway Embankments
OS148	Plough Lane Pond
OS21	Snowfields School Nature Garden
OS80	South Bermondsey Railway Embankments
CW4	Surrey Docks Adventure Playground
OS156	Sydenham Hill Railway Cutting
OS181	Sydenham Hill Wood LNR & Dulwich Woods (Southern section not accessible).
OS68	Victory Community Park (Elba Place garden not accessible)

2.63 Wetland habitats were often small and occurred around the periphery of standing water which was difficult to map accurately. On large sites, these areas would have been target noted and mapped as standing water. This has affected how certain habitats including marginal vegetation, reed swamp and fen carr have been quantified.

2.64 Mapping is a simplification of the real world and thus has limitations in presenting the value of habitats present in the context of the site. In particular, the Phase 1 methodology is not able to show the variations in habitat management, maturity and

structure of the tree canopy. The accurate mapping of individual trees is also not required in this methodology.

2.65 The age of the data and lack of a definitive SINC list posed difficulties in correctly referencing Open Spaces. Clarification is given where necessary, but in general the GIGL GIS data was used to reference SINC's and the Southwark Open Space Strategy was used to reference Open Spaces. In many cases the SINC name is slightly different from the Open Space name.

2.66 Despite these limitations, it is considered that this report accurately reflects the habitats present within the borough, their biodiversity value and provides a robust evidence base to support the selection of new SINC sites and inform new policies.

3. Results & Analysis

SOUTHWARK'S HABITATS

Overview

3.1 Information on the habitats recorded across the borough is provided below in summary paragraphs. Figure 1 and 2 on the following pages show the area (in hectares) for the main habitat types relating to number of open spaces they occurred.

- 59 SINC's (containing 69 Open Spaces) and 50 other Open Spaces were surveyed. This constitutes to 453ha;
- The urban context of the borough and the amenity needs of the population was evident by the high proportion of amenity grassland (167ha), hardstanding (57ha) and planted shrubbery (12ha) recorded. The large parks, namely Dulwich Park, Southwark Park, Burgess Park, Peckham Rye Park and Common and Belair Park contributed greatly;
- The borough had a score of 80ha of native broadleaved woodland (a London BAP priority habitat), with remnant ancient woodland present at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods (28.11ha), and Dulwich Upper Woods (1.8ha), and secondary native woodland at Nunhead Cemetery (8ha), and along Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railway Cutting (7ha). Native woodland within 26 smaller sites across the borough also contributed 8ha to the total;
- Similarly, a score of 22ha was recorded for standing open water (also a London BAP Priority Habitat), with 14ha located in the northwest of the borough alone.

Apart from 2.6ha in Burgess Park, the remaining 4ha was spread across 30 Open Spaces throughout the borough. The majority of standing water also supported marginal vegetation, providing suitable conditions for a range of wildlife. Ten of these sites also supported reed and/or Typha swamp (0.3ha).

- The majority of the 37ha of neutral grassland (semi-improved), was recorded within three sites (two in the south and one centrally), namely Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk (13ha), Camberwell New Cemetery (11ha), and Burgess Park (4ha). The remaining 4ha was recorded across 20 Open Spaces throughout the borough; and
- A sizeable 9.5ha of herb-rich neutral grassland was recorded, which is a London BAP Priority Habitat (lowland meadow). A large proportion occurred in four SINC's namely Aquarius Golf Course (0.9ha), Peckham Rye Park (1.6ha), Dulwich Park (1.3ha), and Burgess Park (2.9ha). The remaining 2.9ha was spread across 28 Open Spaces, many of which were located in the north-west.
- Small SINC's that contained herb-rich neutral grassland and were particularly species-rich included Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR), Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden and Countisbury House Lawn.
- Albion Channel and Lavender Pond Nature Park SINC's supported the largest proportion of wetland habitat with good areas of reed swamp, fen Carr and marginal vegetation.
- Ponds within nature gardens and allotment sites, although small supported some amount of marginal vegetation, providing important habitat for invertebrates and amphibians;
- 0.32ha was recorded for reed bed, a figure which is likely to be less than actual coverage. This is a result of the limitations of mapping this habitat on large sites such as Burgess Park, Southwark Park, Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park. It is more than likely that the Southwark target of 1ha reed bed has been reached.
- A total of 2.6km of native hedgerow has been recorded, 23m of non-native hedgerow and 259m of vegetated wall was recorded.

Habitat Distribution Overview

3.2 The industrial docklands in the north-west contained a large proportion of the borough's standing water resource and also supported substantial areas of newly

created wetland, woodland and grassland. The ridge of high ground south of Dulwich, which historically would have been less suitable for farming, supports the remaining fragments of the Great North Wood. Mature trees in gardens and along roads allude to the Woods former size. In contrast, the north and central parts of the borough are densely residential, industrial and commercial, with very few open spaces, except for Burgess Park, which grew out of the demolishing of bombed streets and buildings after the War. Aspinden Road Nature Garden along with other small nature gardens have a similar war-time origin.

Figure 1: Bar Chart showing widespread and abundant habitats in Southwark

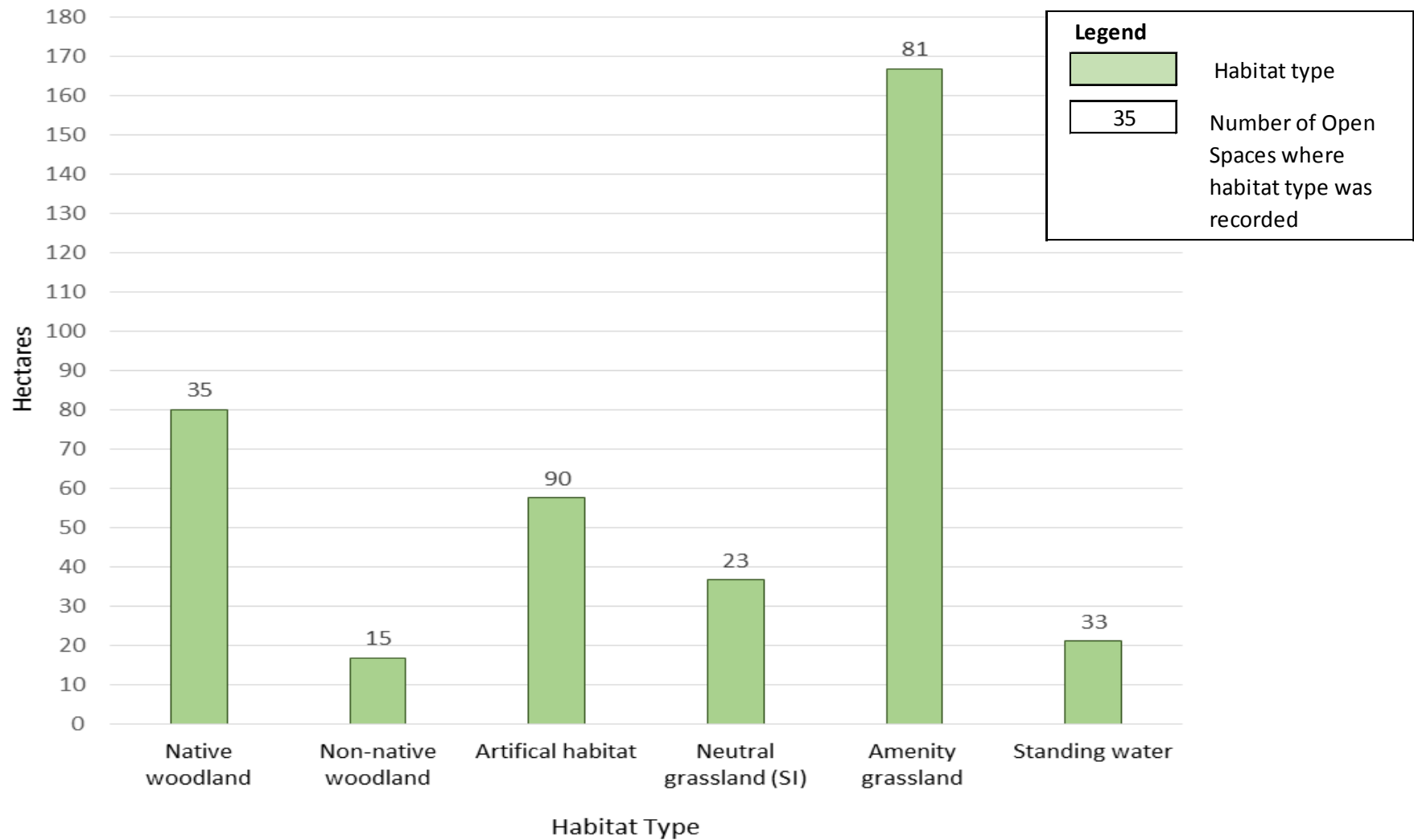
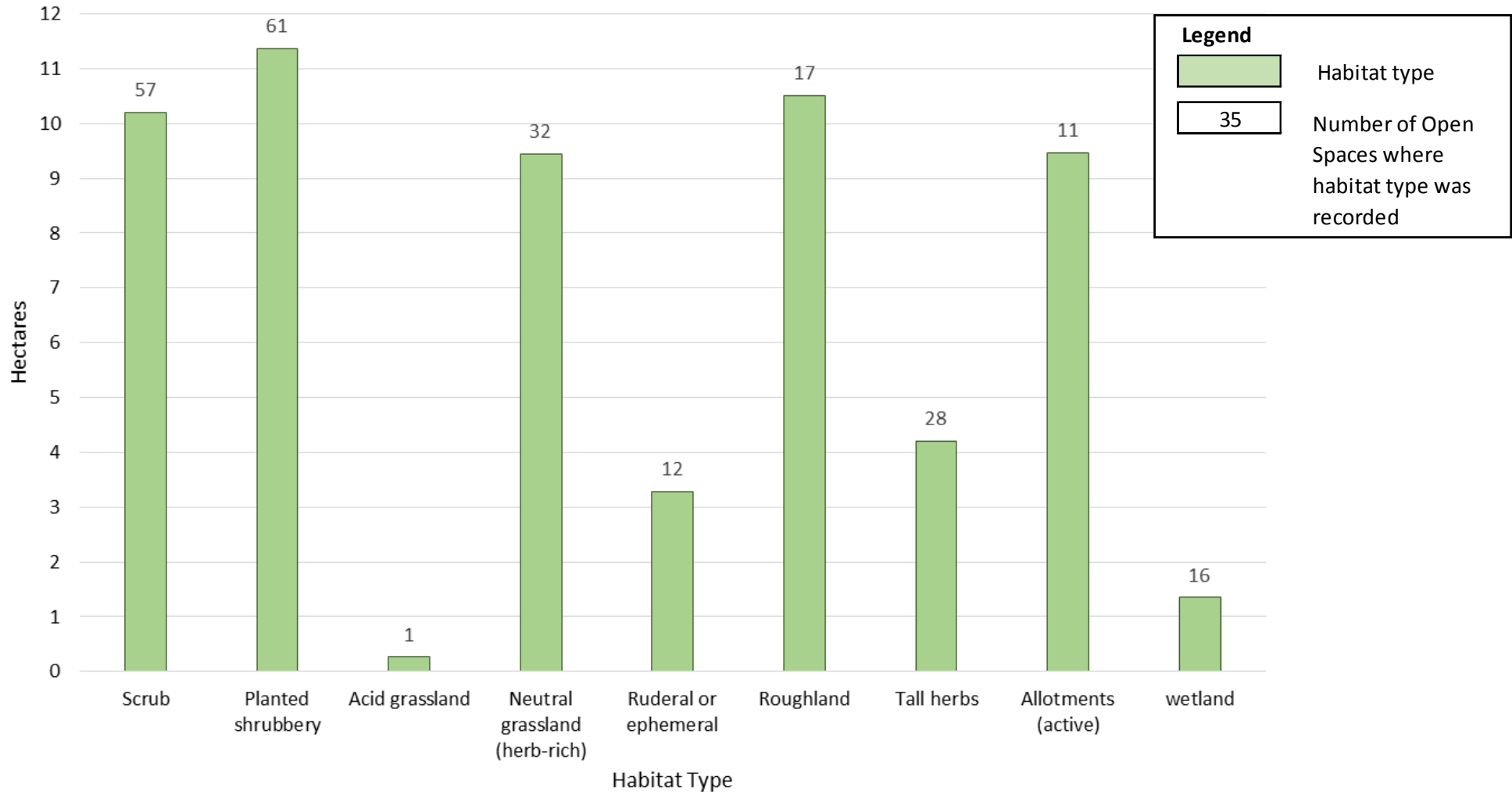


Figure 2: Bar Chart showing other habitats in Southwark



HABITAT CHANGES 1995 – 2015

3.3 The habitat change assessment was based on data for 87 Open Spaces (30 Open Spaces and a portion of two Open Spaces were excluded as there was no corresponding habitat information from 1995). Table 6 lists those Open Spaces not included. Figure 3 and 4 below show the comparison between the two years. A number of assumptions and simplifications were made to enable a comparison between two data-sets. This is described in the methodology.

Table 6: List of Open Spaces excluded from habitat comparison.

Open Space Number	Open Space Name	Current Status
OS163	Barclay Way	Candidate SINC
OS106	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	SINC
OS96	Caroline Gardens	Candidate SINC
OS175	Cox's Walk Allotments	Candidate SINC
OS168	Dulwich Common Allotments	Candidate SINC
OS130	Dulwich Hamlet	Candidate SINC
OS87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden	Candidate SINC
OS56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	SINC
OS178	Grange Road Allotments (North)	Candidate SINC
OS180	Grange Road Allotments (South)	Candidate SINC
393	Grove Park Allotments	Candidate SINC
OS135	James Allens Girls School Playing Fields	Part SINC
OS114	Lettsom Gardens	SINC
OS184	Long Meadow	Candidate SINC
OS17	Marlborough Playground	Candidate SINC
OS115	McDermott Road Nature Garden	SINC
OS14	Mint Street Park	Candidate SINC
OSXX2	Northfield House Community Garden	SINC
OS133	Nunhead Allotments	Candidate SINC
CW2	Old Nursery Site	Candidate SINC
OS69	Paragon Gardens	Candidate SINC
OS148	Plough Lane Pond	SINC
OS15	Redcross Gardens	Candidate SINC
OS132	Rye Hill Park	Candidate SINC
OS72	St James Allotments (Bermondsey)	Candidate SINC
OS102	Sumner Park	Candidate SINC
OS6	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (pitch 1)	Candidate SINC
OS7	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (pitches2,3)	Part SINC
OS112	William Griggs Garden	SINC
Partially excluded		
OS99	Brimmington Park	Candidate SINC
OS146	Herne Hill Velodrome	SIINC

Figure 3: Bar chart showing habitat change between 1994 and 2015 with percentage change for widespread and abundant habitats

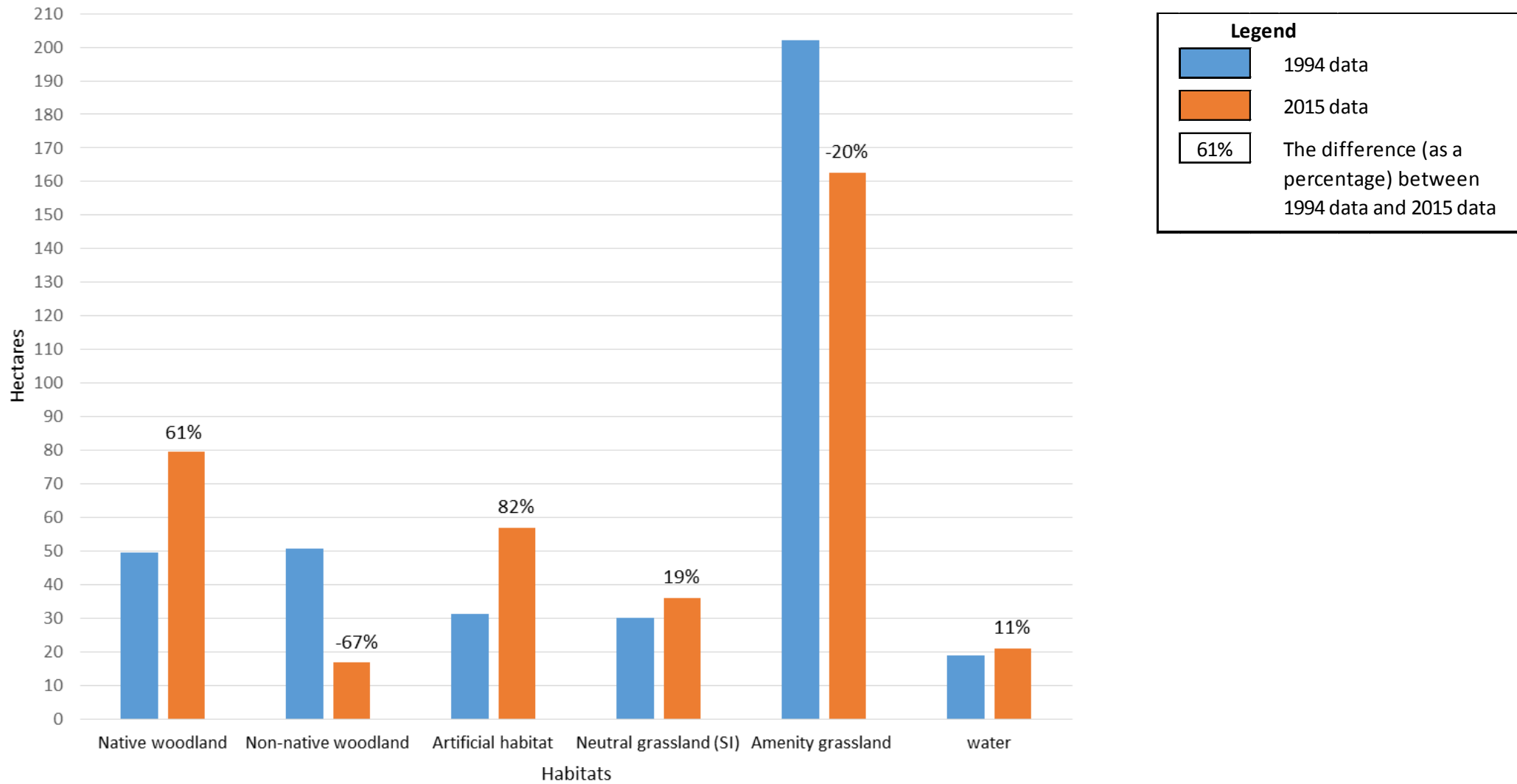
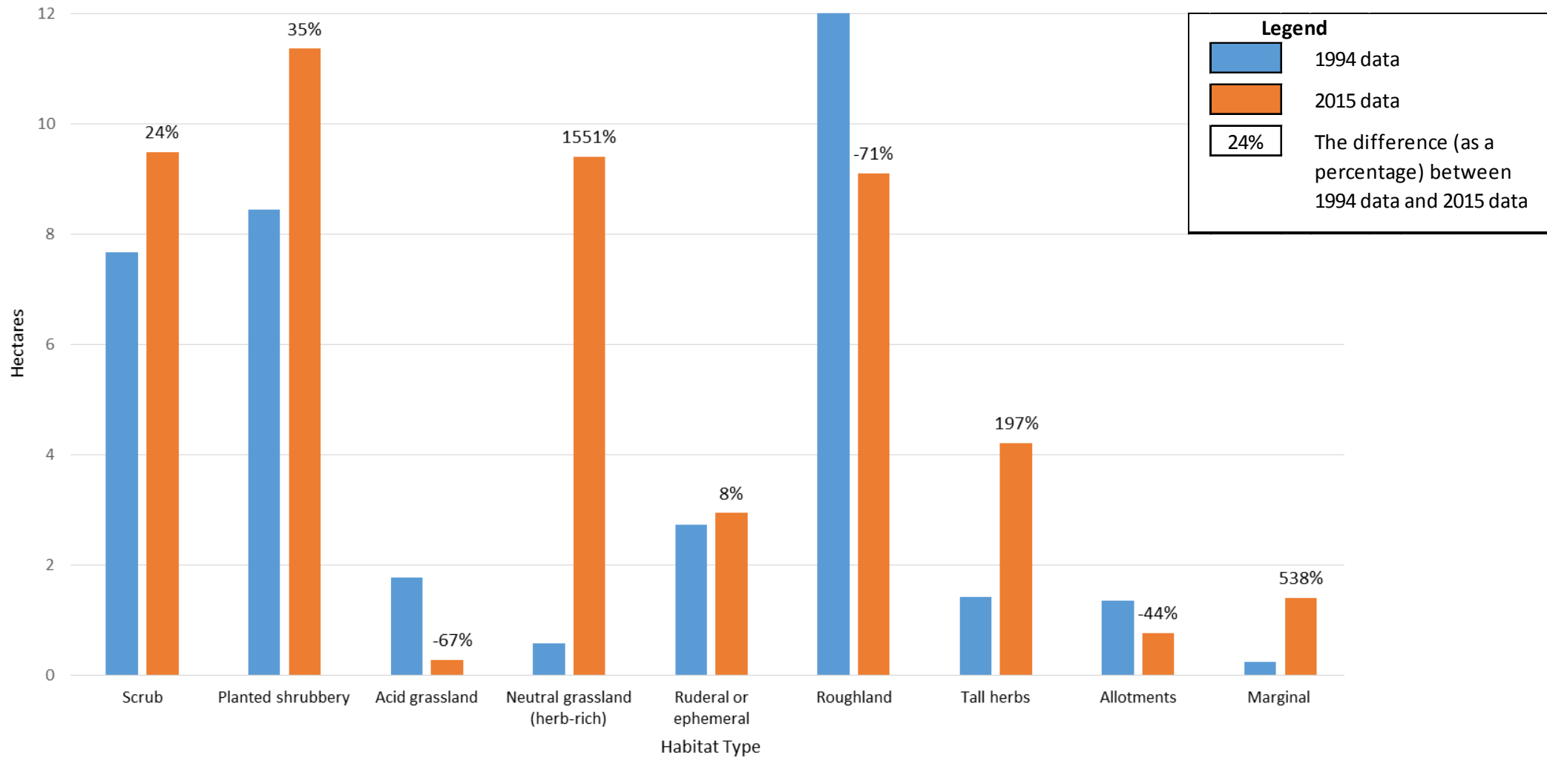


Figure 4: Bar chart showing habitat change for “other” habitats - between 1994 and 2015.



Woodland Habitats

- 3.4 In 1994, a similar ratio of native and non-native broadleaved woodland was recorded, whereas, in 2014, almost five times the area of native broadleaved woodland was recorded as non-native broadleaved woodland. Given that the combined totals of native and non-native broadleaved woodland has not significantly changed between 1994 (approximately 100ha), and 2014 (approximately 97ha), it is likely that the difference in the type of woodland recorded is because a considerable proportion of the broadleaved woodland habitat present in Southwark's SINC's contains a mixture of both native and non-native trees. Also, the increase in parcels for the 2014/15 surveys may have enabled greater detail to be recorded, whereby a portion of native species-dominated woodland could be separated from the remaining non-native woodland. This occurred at Dawson's Heights (Dawson's Hill), where no native woodland was identified in 1994. Some sites also contained wet woodland (not mapped separated) a rare habitat in London and dominated by alder, crack willow, goat willow and aspen. This habitat was recorded at Belair Park, Nairne Grove Nature Garden, Consort Park and Peckham Rye Park and Common. Both native and non-native broadleaved woodland meet the criteria for BAP priority habitat 'woodland' in London. Retention of dead woodland and creation of new stag beetle loggeries were frequently recorded in SINC's and Open Spaces across the borough and included Mint Street Gardens, Dulwich Upper Woods and Christchurch Gardens.

Grassland Habitats

- 3.5 Total areas for amenity grassland and scattered trees had fallen by approximately 40ha in the twenty year period between 1994 and 2014. Some may have been lost to play and sports provision or new car-parking and buildings. Equally it is possible that the decrease has been a result of the creation of habitats such as planted shrubbery, herb-rich neutral grassland and scrub, the totals for each of these three habitats having increased since 1994. This is most notable for neutral grassland (herb-rich), of which the area has risen by almost 9ha, with the majority of the grassland having been created in Burgess Park over recent years. This figure exceeds Southwark's 1ha target for lowland meadow and contributes substantially towards the London BAP targets for meadows and pastures.
- 3.6 A large proportion of the decrease in amenity grassland may also be accounted for by the increase in bare artificial habitat, which has risen by approximately 25ha across between 1994 and 2014. This might be to accommodate new areas of play and all – weather sports facilities. Part of it also might be better mapping, through the use of

Master-Map data, including the recording of paths (as opposed to relying solely on visual assessment by the field surveyor).

- 3.7 There has also been a marked loss of 85% of acid grassland since 1994. In 1994/95 acid grassland was recorded at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods (0.18ha), Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk (1.59ha), but neither site recorded that habitat in 2014. This could be attributed to a change of grassland management or succession. Both these sites are large and small areas of grassland may have been missed during the field survey. Conversely, at One Tree Hill, acid grassland was not recorded in the 1994/95 data (although it is mentioned on the interpretation for the site), in 2014 0.24ha was recorded in 2014.
- 3.8 The assessment criteria for herb-rich neutral grassland had been modified in order to record herb-rich grassland which contained abundances of a wider range of wildflowers. This explains the large increase for this habitat type. Small SINC's that contained herb-rich neutral grassland and were particularly species-rich included Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR), Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden and Countisbury House Lawn. The latter SINC probably contains the oldest grassland in the borough due to the presence of a number of unusual species more typical of older grassland (but conversely are not included in the GLA herb rich neutral grassland category). These included cork-fruited water dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, field wood-rush *Luzula campestre* and cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*.

Wetland Habitats

- 3.9 There is a discernible difference between the total wetland (reed swamp and marginal vegetation), in 1994 to 2014 as a result of habitat improvements. In particular, the large docks in the north-east have had floating pontoons installed and restoration at Surrey Waters has resulted in the wetland now supporting marginal vegetation, reed and bulrush swamp and birch and alder carr. Recent habitat creation at Burgess Park has also increased the wetland resource substantially including new areas of wet woodland, fen and marginal vegetation in the north east of the park and around the fishing lake.
- 3.10 The increase in marginal vegetation as opposed to other wetland habitats is partly the result of limitations in mapping fen carr, reed and bulrush swamp at a visible scale on larger open spaces. Although not GIS mapped in the 2014/15 data, these habitats were recorded at Lavender Pond, Surrey Waters and Dulwich and Sydenham Golf

Course. At the latter SINC, several ponds had been created as part of the sites sustainable drainage system, storing water drained from the fairways.

WILDLIFE INTEREST

- 3.11 The wildlife interest across the borough was assessed from the potential for species to be present within the survey parcels and from species records obtained from GIGL. Summary finds for eight species groups are illustrated in Figure 5 on the next page.

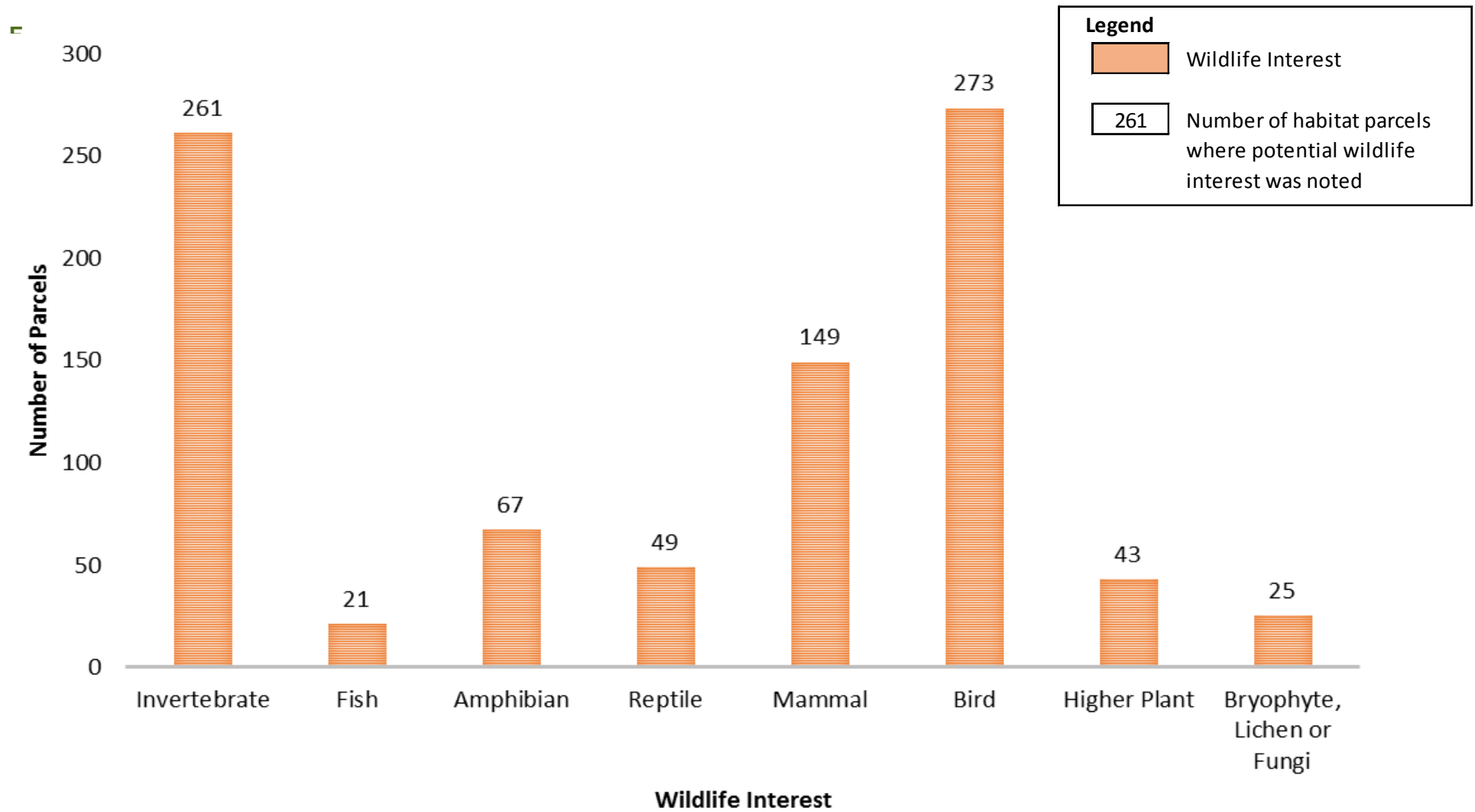
Overview

- 3.12 Across the 347 parcels there were 888 references to wildlife interest. Parcels within Dulwich Mill Pond, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course, and Dulwich Upper Woods contained seven out of eight species groups (excluding only fish). As these names suggest, all these sites are located around Dulwich and support the borough's only ancient woodland, remnants of the Great North Wood and now a living landscape (The Wildlife Trusts, 2012).
- 3.13 A total of 17 parcels (excluding those described above), contained habitat of value to five species groups. As mammals, reptiles and amphibians need to forage and disperse, the location of these parcels is particularly important for the maintenance of populations. These parcels were located at Herne Hill Velodrome, Stave Hill Ecological Park, Brenchley Gardens, Russia Dock Woodlands, Burgess Park, all three railway sites, Camberwell Old and Camberwell New Cemetery, Greendale Playing Field, Grove Park allotments, Honor Oak allotments and Cox's Walk Allotments. Greendale Playing Fields and Cox's Walk Allotments are candidate SINC sites.

Species Richness

- 3.14 Floral species richness was recorded for each survey parcel using a six level grading system ranging from poor through to rich. This was a broad assessment based on the surveyors' experience in Southwark and London as a whole. A total of 23 parcels were recorded as rich, of which 20 of these were SINC's and two proposed non-SINC's. For the SINC's, obvious inclusions were the ancient woodlands and cemetery sites, but less obvious were the parcels in some of the large parks including Burgess Park, Belair Park, Peckham Rye and Common, Stave Hill Ecological Park and The London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening. The latter supports a wide range of habitats and species including a small bank supporting calcareous grassland.

Figure 5: Showing wildlife potential interest across all habitat parcels.



- 3.15 A parcel containing native woodland at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park (north-east of the borough) was also noted, but this is currently outside the SINC boundary, in the southeast corner of the site. This is one of several SINC boundary extensions, which are listed in the recommendation section of this report. The “rich” parcels recorded at the candidate SINC sites were namely Red Cross Gardens and Nursery Row Park, both located in the north west of the borough. Although small in size, the wildlife pond at Red Cross Gardens and a good-sized wildflower meadow at Nursery Row Park provide valuable habitats within the densely built up areas and are known to support local BAP species including common newts and common blue butterfly respectively.
- 3.16 A large number of parcels (and SINC's), comprised habitat types that were intensively managed and of limited ecological value. This was likely to be the cause for the high score of ‘average’ species richness (127 parcels and twice as many as other grades), across the total number of sites. Sixty-nine parcels were recorded as ‘poor/average’ and 61 parcels were recorded as ‘average/rich’, whilst 53 parcels were recorded as poor. Seven were recorded as unknown.

Birds

- 3.17 SINC's that contain large areas of standing water and/or sizeable areas of woodland have been recognised for their important bird assemblages in the context of the borough. Birds were also the highest recorded wildlife interest with 273 parcel references which can be attributed to the majority of sites containing planted shrubbery, scrub and scattered trees of some value to breeding and foraging birds. Birds are also active during the day and therefore much more visible and/or identifiable than other species groups such as mammals.
- 3.18 In the south eastern corner of the borough, three records of kestrel on existing SINC's suggest suitable foraging habitat (rough grassland and small mammals). A number of less common species including wood warbler, hobby, hawfinch and tawny owl have been recorded at Dulwich Upper Wood and Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting. Pochard was recorded at Dulwich Mill Pond. Peregrines have been recorded in flight over many sites across the borough; however, nest sites are likely to be limited to high rise buildings in the north east of the borough.

Mammals

- 3.19 Within the last five years, records for bats were not necessarily limited to sites along obvious habitat corridors. Three species (common and soprano pipistrelle and *Nyctalus* sp), have been recorded at Surrey Gardens located just north of Burgess

Park, whilst up to four species of bat (soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle sp, noctule and Leislars bat (also known as lesser noctule), have been recorded at Lettsom Garden, west of Peckham Town Centre. There were a total of 149 references to the potential for sites to support mammals (bats). Hedgehogs have a limited distribution within the borough due to the dense road network and lack of habitat. SINC's known to have populations are Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk, Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, One Tree Hill and the proposed candidate SINC Greendale Playing Fields.

Reptiles

- 3.20 Common reptiles have been recorded in five Open Spaces, namely Honor Oak Allotments, One Tree Hill, Camberwell New Cemetery and Russia Dock Woodland & Stave Hill Ecological Park. Apart from the latter SINC, which is located in the north east, all the other SINC's are found in the south-east of the borough. Suitable habitat for reptiles was identified within 49 Open Spaces, suggesting that either the population of reptiles could be larger than anticipated or that future re-introductions could be successful. A major limiting factor for the colonisation of sites by reptiles would be roads.

Amphibians

- 3.21 Most sites with standing water supported common toad and common frog, but only the Centre for Wildlife Gardening had records for smooth newt and Dulwich Upper Woods and Gypsy Hill Railway cutting had records of palmate newt. On the basis of incidental records, Red Cross Gardens, a candidate SINC, supports common and palmate newts and common toads, which makes this site particularly rich for amphibians. Suitable habitat for common amphibians was identified at 67 Open Spaces, many of which contained either a small pond or large parks, which contained lakes with some marginal planting of value to amphibians.

Invertebrates

- 3.22 SINC's in the southern half of the borough contained records for stag beetle, including Herne Hill Velodrome, Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides, Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides and One Tree Hill. Butterflies including common blue (a London BAP priority species), and meadow brown were recorded by surveyors across the borough, even in the north-west. Species of dragonflies were frequently recorded close to aquatic habitat with common species including broad-bodied chaser. Several bee species were also recorded. Important assemblages of dead-wood invertebrates are likely to be associated with ancient

woodland and mature trees within the larger parks. Areas that contain bare ground with ephemeral species such as Bird and Bush Park (north-west), and at Herne Hill Velodrome may also support locally important assemblages.

THREATS AND DISTURBANCES

- 3.23 The main threats and disturbances are summarised in three paragraphs below comprising; safety and security; invading plants and erosion and litter.

Safety and Security

- 3.24 Concern for safety and security were identified as a potential problem in 35 parcels, which is minor when considering the urban context of the borough. The “problem” parcels were often associated with wooded or rough vegetation, places where the general public would not normally venture. Four parcels with anti-social issues were recorded at Burgess Park, three parcels at Russia Dock Woodlands, two parcels at Dawson Heights and one parcel at Stave Hill Ecological Park. The effects of anti-social behaviour are likely to be worse (for public use), at the single-parcel sites due to their smaller size. This comprised Nursery Row Park, Dickens Square (Rockingham Park), and Bellenden Tree Nursery.

Invading Plants

- 3.25 The presence of invading plants was recorded in 94 parcels and was the most commonly recorded issue. The threat posed by invasive species is generally low given the nature of the habitats they affect and thus, for the most part, can be tolerated. These species often provide habitat structure and also reflect the interaction of urbanisation and ecology that are characteristic of the borough. The presence of Japanese knotweed does have implications for management and was recorded on at least ten sites. These were Nunhead Cemetery, Burgess Park, Dickens Square (Rockingham Park), St Peter’s Churchyard (Lordship Lane), Camberwell New Cemetery, Camberwell Old Cemetery, Russia Dock Woodlands, Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Course, Holy Trinity Churchyard and Honor Oak Sports Ground. Japanese knotweed was also frequently recorded along all the railway corridors.
- 3.26 The presence of invasive garden plants within ancient woodland was also worth noting due to the importance of these habitats. Species such as snowberry, which has been identified as an invasive species of concern by the London Invasive Species Initiative. In addition, cherry laurel and spotted laurel were frequently recorded in Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods and Dulwich Upper Woods.

Erosion & Litter

3.27 Erosion was recorded in only 14 parcels across the borough but found in a range of situations. Of most concern is the erosion of banks around water-bodies which can limit value for wildlife. This was due to overuse by waterfowl or human access and was recorded at St James Churchyard and Belair Park. Erosion from paths was recorded in several woodland parcels. Foot traffic may be one contributing factor to the degradation of acid grassland and ancient woodland flora. For a densely urban area, the problem of litter and tipping was minor, being recorded at 37 parcels recorded out of 347 parcels. Quite often, litter was found collected in water-bodies which, apart from looking unsightly, could pose a risk to water-birds. This was seen as an issue at Canada Water, Burgess Park and Belair Park and Goldsmith Road Nature Garden. Tipping from adjacent gardens was noted in Russia Dock Woodland.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT

3.28 Opportunities for enhancement were noted by the field surveyors for each parcel on the survey parcel form. Information was then collated from all parcel forms across all Open Spaces. Two hundred and nine parcels had no recommendations recorded. It is likely that these open spaces are well used for other outdoor pursuits (for which space is at a premium), and thus reducing space for wildlife-managed vegetation. For the 132 remaining parcels the main findings are illustrated in Figure 6 and described below in four main headings comprising: woodland habitats; wetland habitats; grassland habitats and other habitats.

Woodland Habitats

3.29 The common themes to woodland scrub and hedgerows were:

- Selective thinning of sycamore, false acacia and ivy from woodlands located in the east and south of the borough which contain the majority of the woodland resource and could benefit from increased diversity/structure in certain parcels;
- Additional planting of native shrubs, particularly blackthorn, hazel and fruit trees;
- Extend, gap-fill and lay maturing native hedges;

- Install bird and bat nesting features close to good foraging habitat. Ensure nest boxes suit specific requirements of species to encourage (e.g. house sparrow on buildings and blue tits in trees); and
- Removal of non-native shrub-species within ancient woodland.

Wetland Habitats

3.30 The common themes to wetland habitats were:

- Enlarge areas of wet marginal vegetation to a size that provides suitable habitat for reed bunting and reed warbler (two London BAP species);
- Improve water retention of existing ponds to provide permanent water;
- Additional planting of marginal vegetation and relaxing of mowing around water's edge to improve shelter for amphibians and provide habitat for dragonflies;
- Thinning of trees to increase light to water's edge;
- Install willow-spilling to reinforce eroded banks;
- Increase the number and size of floating pontoons; and
- Minimise lighting from adjacent streets/development.

Grassland Habitats

3.31 The common themes to grassland habitats were:

- Relax the mowing regime of amenity grassland, particularly around scattered trees, hedgerows and boundaries to provide better habitat continuity for mammals, common reptiles and invertebrates;
- Increase grassland diversity by seeding native, nectar-rich wildflowers which are good for invertebrates, particularly birds'- foot trefoil which is the larval food plant of the common blue butterfly (a London / Southwark BAP priority species); and
- Plant spring bulbs to provide an early nectar source for invertebrates.

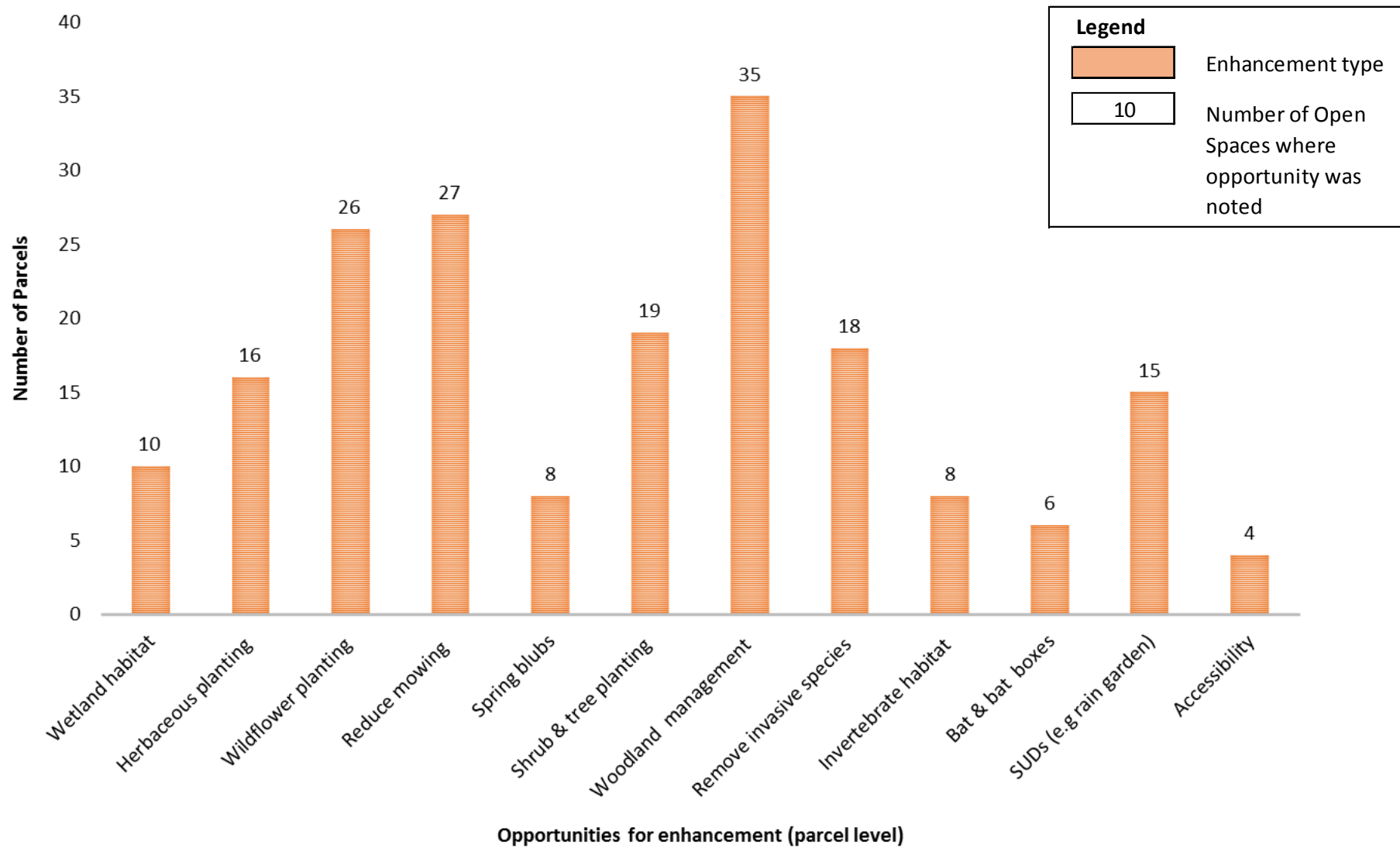
Other Habitats

3.32 Other recommendations included:

- Where possible, plant shrubs and herbaceous species of known value to wildlife with the aim of providing nectar throughout the season and a range of habitat structure for nesting birds. This is relevant to all amenity focused Open Spaces throughout the borough;

- Better utilisation of unused hardstanding/paved areas by establishing food growing plots, planting trees and rain gardens. Depave (<http://depave.org>), has good examples of what can be achieved with limited capital costs. A similar approach may be appropriate at Surrey Docks Farm and in the north-east part of Burgess Park;
- Better utilisation of surface water runoff from adjacent roads and roofs by channelling through sustainable urban drainage (SUDs), features, creating wildlife-rich ponds, rain gardens and ditches. Southwark has a number of flooding hotspots caused by hard-surfacing (Southwark, 2013). Open spaces across the borough (but excluding ancient woodland) could be better utilised for these functions;
- Better integration of wildlife features within the site (rather than limited to a small, discrete corner with restricted access). This could be achieved by creating natural play areas for children <http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources/play,-naturally-a-review-of-children's-natural-play.aspx>; integrating habitats into utilitarian objects such as bin shelters, street signs and roofs: <http://greenroofshelters.co.uk/make-provide/>, <http://www.theediblebusstop.org/> and changing ground maintenance contracts <http://www.grassroofcompany.co.uk/urban-maintenance.htm>. This is particularly important for many sites in the north-west and Peckham;
- The impact of habitat fragmentation and barriers to movements is a key issue for Southwark as a borough dominated by buildings, roads, walls and fences. Improving habitat connectivity between core habitat areas (large parks), to aid movement would be advantage for Southwark's rarer species such as the hedgehog and common lizard. In built up areas, the presence o
- Planting within the built environment would help to buffer and complement existing habitat within SINC's. New street trees, green roofs, rain gardens, green walls and community spaces can provide valuable habitat and improve species movement.
- Better information, such as plant labels, interpretation boards or smart phone links. Increasing local participation should also be encouraged to provide ways for people to connect with nature (https://www.goodgym.org/how_it_works, <http://www.tcv.org.uk/greengym>), and foster a sense of ownership.

Figure 6: Opportunities for enhancement by survey parcel (multiple recommendations were possible).



REVIEW OF EXISTING & PROPOSED SINC'S

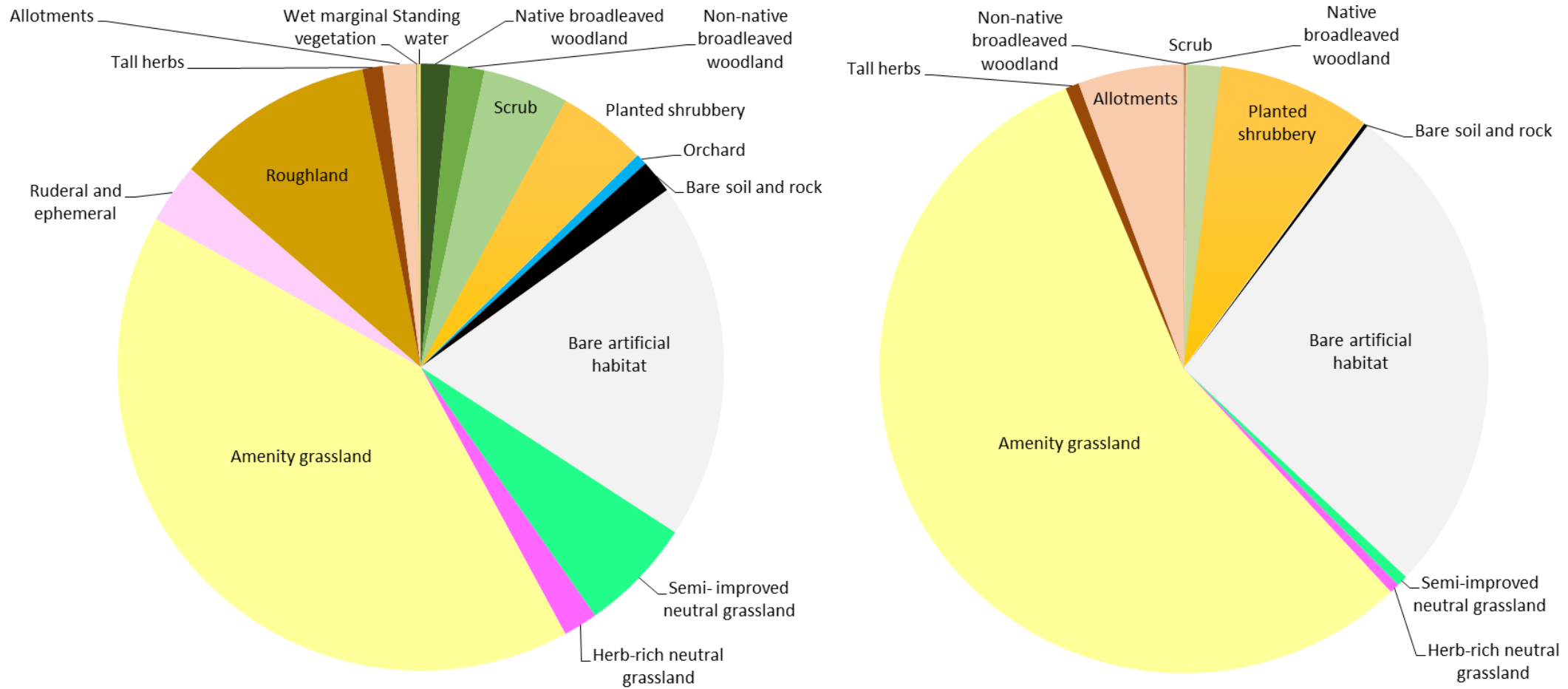
3.33 The process for recommending a new SINC site was based on criteria set out by the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB, 2013). Due to recent changes in the GLA methodology, the Grade I and II Borough sites have been combined into one category. For this reason, the identification of three not four kinds of SINC's was required and included; Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation and Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. A number of different sources were used to aid the assessment, in particular:

- Identifying the presence of UK, regional or local BAP priority habitats;
- Identifying the potential of the site to support priority or protected species;
- Evidence of active management for nature conservation including bird boxes;
- Identifying changes in habitat area between 1994/5 habitat parcel to 2014/15 – i.e. evidence of habitat improvement;
- Areas of deficiency; and
- Presence of existing habitat corridors.

Habitat Comparison

3.34 A habitat comparison was undertaken between the proposed candidate sites and those that were considered not to meet the criteria. This was calculated by totalling the percentage of each habitat recorded at the candidate sites proposed as SINC's with the remaining sites. Figure 7 presents this information in two pie charts.

Figure 7: Habitat comparison between proposed SINC's (left) and remaining candidate sites (right).



3.35 It is evident from the comparison between the two pie charts that the proposed SINC's comprise a greater range of habitats and a greater proportion of habitats of value to nature conservation than those present at the remaining candidate sites.

3.36 The charts show that both groups of sites contain a high proportion of amenity grassland and hardstanding, habitats of low ecological value but with potential for enhancement through management. Planted shrubbery is similarly quite high for both groups, whilst the remaining sites have a noticeably larger area of allotment. The remaining candidate sites are missing several habitat types including roughland, ruderal and ephemeral, orchard, standing water and marginal vegetation. Both groups contain a proportion of semi-improved and herb-rich neutral grassland, but the proposed SINC's have a larger proportion of both.

Remaining Candidate Sites

3.37 A large number of candidate sites were considered to be of insufficient ecological value to warrant inclusion in the SINC series but, nevertheless, they provide important green space and are of some wildlife value. The main reasons that these sites did not meet the SINC selection criteria were:

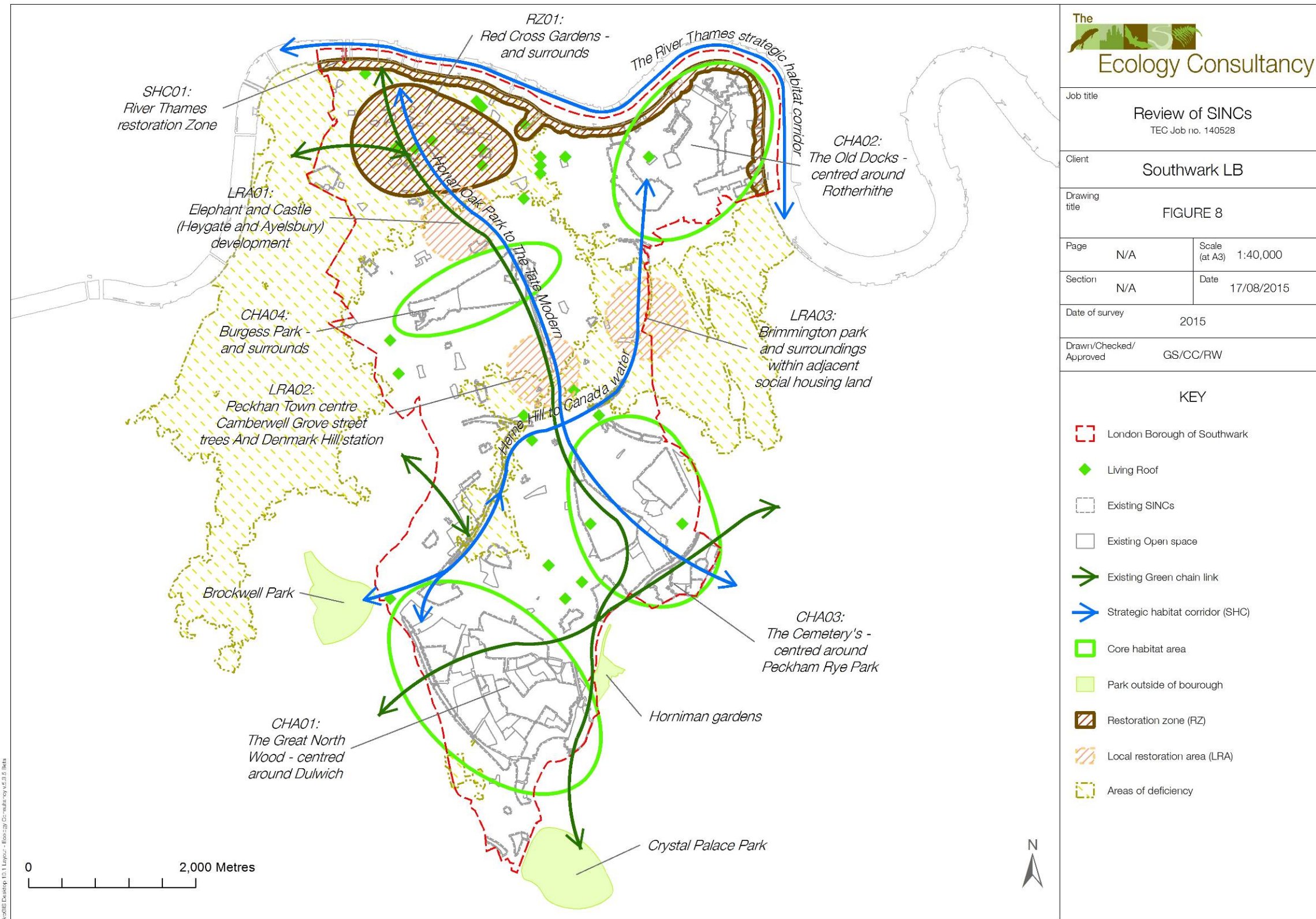
- Dominance of low ecological habitats such as hard-standing, amenity grassland or planted shrubbery of little known value to wildlife;
- Trees were immature and/or non-native and thus of low value to wildlife; and
- There was no active management for nature conservation.

HABITAT LINKAGES

Overview

3.38 This project has identified a number of biodiversity hotspots in the borough. In the context of Southwark, the clusters of SINC's in certain areas could be referred to as Core Habitat Areas. Four such areas have been identified. Figure 8 below illustrates these and the other components that form the borough's primary ecological network, including three strategic habitat corridors, regional and local restoration areas and in relation to existing SINC's, AoNDs and existing green links.

Figure 8: A Strategic overview of the ecological networks in Southwark



Android Developer 10.1 Layout - Ecology Consultancy v2.2.5 Beta
 This plan is provided solely for the purpose of supporting the description of the ecological features of the site as contained in the accompanying report

Core Habitat Areas (CHA 01-04)

3.39 The four core habitat areas represent the best of Southwark's habitats and assemblages of birds and other wildlife and form large areas of green space in what, otherwise, is a highly urbanised borough. The maturity and contiguous nature of the Great North Wood Core Habitat makes this area particularly important. Mature trees within adjacent social housing land, private gardens and street trees are a legacy of the former extent of the wood. The Old Docks and The Cemeteries Core Areas are not as continuous, but they still form a discrete cluster made up of closely-spaced sites that are linked to each other through a wider habitat matrix (of private gardens street trees and other open spaces). Burgess Park Core Habitat Area has recently undergone large-scale restoration and re-creation of flower-rich grassland and wetland planting. Urban regeneration surrounding the park will implement complementary habitats created including sustainable urban drainage, green roofs and new community parks.

Restoration Areas (RA01)

3.40 The restoration area (or zone) in the north, around Bankside (RA01), recognises that enhancement measures have started and are set to continue to restore or create new high value areas (and which could ultimately become a Core Area in the future). Sites maybe small but should be numerous and may include innovative space-saving features such as green walls, green roofs and rain gardens, providing stepping stones for wildlife and softening the urban environment around existing Open Spaces.

Strategic Habitat Corridors (SHC01-03)

3.41 The River Thames is the largest Metropolitan SINC in the borough and stretches across the entire northern boundary of Southwark. Although the river is heavily engineered it is still an important green/blue link for wildlife and there are under-utilised opportunities for access for people at low tide. Surrey Docks Farm, Durand's Park and King Stairs SINC's and the proposed Cherry Gardens are located adjacent to the river providing complimentary habitat resource adjacent to the river's edge. Terrestrial habitat, although of limited ecological value (due to a dominance of hard-surfacing), could be enhanced for wildlife and people.

3.42 The strategic habitat corridor between Herne Hill and Canada Water (SHC 02), utilises part of Grove Park and West Dulwich Railway Corridor and an adjacent strip of private gardens south of Herne Hill. The western spur of the railway corridor links through to Brockwell Park (Lambeth), via an existing tree line at Denmark Hill Railway Station. Nunhead and South Bermondsey SINC railway corridors form small sections, whilst

Southwark Park and Surrey Waters and Canada Water (via Albion Channel form the link with the Thames).

- 3.43 The strategic habitat corridor (SHC 03), between Honor Oak Park and the Tate Modern runs along the existing green chain route (GLA, 2012), which utilises Camberwell New Cemetery, Peckham Rye Park and Common, Surrey Canal Walk and Burgess Park.

Local Restoration Areas (LRA01-02)

- 3.44 There are three discreet gaps which form Local Restoration Areas (LRA01-03), at Peckham town centre (LRA01); around Brimington Park (LRA02); and north of Burgess Park (LRA03). Habitat enhancements should be targeted for these areas to improve connectivity and ecological function of the Strategic Habitat Corridors. Where possible new development should incorporate green infrastructure, whilst existing areas of the public realm, private gardens, and land around social housing should be managed for wildlife (including people), to strengthen habitat corridors and soften the built environment. A summary of the strategic ecological components are provided below:

Core Habitat Areas (CHA)

- CHA01: The Great North Wood – centred around Dulwich
- CHA02: The Old Docks – centred around Rotherhithe
- CHA03: The Cemeteries – centred around Peckham Rye Park
- CHA04: Burgess Park – and surrounds

Strategic Habitat Corridors

- SHC01: The River Thames
- SHC02: Herne Hill to Canada Water
- SHC03: Honor Oak Park to the Tate Modern

Restoration Area (or zone)

- RA01: Red Cross Gardens – and surrounds

Local Restoration Areas

- LRA01: Peckham Town Centre
- LRA02: Around Brimington Park
- LRA03: North of Burgess Park

4. Recommendations

REVIEW OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED SINC'S

Overview

- 4.1 As a result of the field survey analysis, species records, and assessment of habitat change, recommendations have been made to update the SINC series within the London Borough of Southwark, providing a robust framework for emerging policies in the New Southwark Plan. Table 7 on the next page tabulates relevant SINC's and candidate sites, where changes are being proposed to designation and site boundaries. Boundary changes are recommended for both existing and proposed SINC's where appropriate.

Table 7: The table lists those SINC's and candidate SINC's surveyed for this project. The Open Space number and name are provided for each, as large SINC's often contained more than one Open Space. For large SINC's, there are habitat maps for each Open Space. Proposed recommendations are provided for boundary changes, SINC designation, SINC number and name. Details are given on citations that have been updated or new.

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)							
M050 Nunhead Cemetery	OS 126	Nunhead Cemetery LNR	53	No boundary changes	Metropolitan	M050 Nunhead Cemetery LNR	Updated
M075 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods	OS 181	Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	101	Half of Cox's Walk is located within Sydenham Hill Woods and is to be retained in this SINC site.	Metropolitan	M075 Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	Updated
M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	206 (Lewisham Reference)	Forest Hill to New Cross Railway Cutting	59	n/a (only a very small part is located within Southwark)	Metropolitan	M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	No change.
Sites of Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)							
SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	OS 8	Lavender Pond (LNR)	47	Extension to north boundary	Borough	SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	Updated
SoBI03 One Tree Hill	OS 150	One Tree Hill (LNR)	60	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI03 One Tree Hill (LNR)	Updated
SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Stave Hill Nature Park	OS 36	Stave Hill	39	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill Ecological Park (OS37).	Borough	SoBXX Stave Hill & Ecological Park	New citation
	OS 37	Stave Hill Ecological Park	40	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill (OS 36).			

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
	OS 38	Russia Dock Woodlands	89	Reduction (along east boundary), boundary extension (along north-west) to include Surrey Docks Sports Ground Pitch 1 (OS6) and perimeter vegetation of OS7 (Pitch 2&3)	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Surrey Docks Park	Updated
	OS 7	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitches 2&3)	88	Perimeter vegetation of sports fields to be retained as part of Russia Dock Woodland SINC.	Partly Borough Partly Open Space		
SoBI06 Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk	OS 173	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	103	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI06 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	Updated
	OS 174	Cox's Walk	100	Part of Cox's Walk is to remain within Sydenham Hill Woods SINC and LNR.	Borough	SoBXX Cox's Walk	New
SoBI07 Dulwich Upper Woods	OS 187	Dulwich Upper Woods (LNR)	92	Retained as one SINC with two Open Spaces. Extension in southern and eastern corner	Borough	SoBI07 Dulwich Upper Wood (LNR) & College Road wood	Updated
	OS 188	College Road	93	Reduction along eastern boundary			
SoBI08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	OS 149	Camberwell Old Cemetery	38	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	Updated
SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park and Common	OS 124	Peckham Rye Park, Common & Piermont Green	52	Extensions to include Piermont Green (south-west corner) and line of trees (northern tip)	Borough	SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park, Common and Piermont Green	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBI10 Dulwich Park	OS 159	Dulwich Park	106	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI10 Dulwich Park	Updated
SoBI11 Albion Channel	OS 35	Albion Channel	75	Extension along east and west boundary	Borough	SoBI11 Albion Channel	Updated
	OS 55	Canada Water	102	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBI11 Canada Water	New
	OS 5	Surrey Water	42	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBI11 Surrey Water	New
SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	OS 121	London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening	82	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	Updated
Sites of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC reference)							
SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	OS 110	Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to North Dulwich Railsides	108	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	Updated
SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	OS 138	Sunray Gardens	07	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	Updated
SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak Crematorium and adjacent areas	OS 145	Camberwell New Cemetery, Honour Oak Crematorium, Sports Ground.	58	Excluding OS151 Honor Oak Allotments	Borough	SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery and Surrounds	Updated
	OS 151	Honor Oak Allotments	57	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBII05 Honor Oak Allotments	New

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	OS 183	Countisbury House Lawns	17	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	Updated
SoBII08 Burgess Park	OS 91	Burgess Park	91	A small reduction along the eastern boundary and a small addition in the southern end.	Borough	SoBII08 Burgess Park	Updated
SoBII09 Belair Park	OS 160	Belair Park	01	A small reduction along the northern boundary	Borough	SoBII09 Belair Park	Updated
SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	OS 156	Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides.	18	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	Updated
SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	OS 185	Carlton Place/ Hitherwood	15	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	Updated
SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	OS 135	James Allens Girls School Playing Fields	81	Large reduction along western boundary. Minor reduction along northern boundary.	Part Borough SINC Part Open Space.	SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	Updated
SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	OS 143	Aquarius Golf Course	110	Large extension to include the majority of the Open Space / Golf Course.	Majority is Borough SINC, Northern tip is Open Space.	SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	Updated
SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	OS 164	Dulwich Mill Pond	80	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	Updated
SoBII15 Walworth City Farm	OS 81	Walworth Garden Farm	73	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII15 Walworth Garden	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	OS 41	Surrey Docks Farm	77	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	Updated
SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	OS 186	Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	12	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	Updated
SoBII18 Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf	OS 64	Greenland Dock	45	Large extension to the north	Borough	SoBII18 Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf	Updated
	OS 65	South Dock	46	SINC to remain as one site with two Open Spaces.			
SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	OS 114	Lettsom Gardens	107	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	Updated
SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawsons Hill)	OS 155	Dawsons Hill	02	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawsons Hill)	Updated
SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	OS 144	Brenchley Gardens	94	Small extensions to north-west boundary.	Borough	SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	Updated
SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	OS 80	South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	78	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	Updated
SoBII23 Southwark Park	OS 53	Southwark Park	43	Large extension along the north eastern boundary. To also include the Old Nursery Site (CW2)	Borough	SoBII23 Southwark Park	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	OS 108	Nunhead Railway Embankments	86	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	Updated
	PN 6	Kirkwood Road Nature Garden	86	To be retained as part of Nunhead Railway Embankments			
Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)							
SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	OS 20	Leathermarket Gardens	11	No boundary changes	No change	SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	Updated
SoL02 Dickens Square Park (Rockingham	OS 44	Dickens Square Park	95	No boundary changes	No change	SoL02 Dickens Square & Butterfly Walk	Updated
SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	OS 97	Benhill Road Nature Garden	34	Large reduction along northern boundary	No change	SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL07 Lucas Gardens	OS 105	Lucas Gardens	5	No boundary changes	No change	SoL07 Lucas Gardens	Updated
SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden	OS 68	Victory Community Park	27	No boundary changes	No change	SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Community Garden	Updated
SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	OS 103	Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	49	No boundary changes	No change	SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL14 Surrey Square	OS 77	Surrey Square Park	67	No boundary changes	No change	SoL14 Surrey Square	Updated
SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	OS 56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	104	Extension in southeast corner	Site of Local Importance	SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	Updated
SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	OS 95	Bird-in-Bush Park	54	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	Updated
SoL17 Consort Park	OS 116	Consort Park	96	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL17 Consort Park	Updated
SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	OS 31	St Mary's Churchyard Gardens	64	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	Updated
SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard,	OS 49	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey	24	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	Updated
SoL21 Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	OS 106	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	72	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL21 Bellenden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood	OS 119	Dog Kennel Hill Open Space and Adventure Playground	105	Extension along the south- eastern boundary.	Upgrade to Borough	SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood and adventure playground	Updated
SoL23 Nairne Grove Nature Garden	OS 134	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	71	No boundary changes	Upgrade to Borough	SoL23 Bressemer School Nature Garden	Updated

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	OS 63	Aspinden Road Nature Garden	76	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	OS 74	Galleywall Nature Garden	85	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	Updated
SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	OS 115	McDermott Grove Nature Garden	51	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	OS 89	Varcoe Road Nature Garden / Bramcote Nature Garden	35	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	Updated
SoL28 Surrey Gardens	OS 82	Surrey Gardens AKA Pasley Park	66	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	Parsley Park	Updated
SoL29 Tabard Gardens	OS 46	Tabard Gardens	04	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL29 Tabard Gardens	Updated
SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	OS 146	Herne Hill Cycle Stadium and Sports Ground	56	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	Updated
SoL32 Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden	OS 21	Snowsfield Nature Garden	63	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL32 Snowsfields Nature Garden	Updated
SoL33 Alleyne School	OS 140	Alleyne School Playing Field (North of Townley Road)	n/a	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL33 Alleyne School	Not updated.

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden	OS112	Highshore Open Space	98	No boundary changes	Downgrade	n/a	Not updated.
SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Garden	Unique Reference unknown OSXX2	Northfield House Wildlife Garden	90	Site not previously digitised, although central meadow listed as SoL18 on citation and listed in Southwark BAP.	Site of Local Importance	SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Gardens	Updated
Reference Unknown	OS 148	Plough Lane Pond	n/a	No change	No change	n/a	Not updated
Candidate SINC's Open Spaces (Alphabetical Order)							
n/a	OS 163	Barclay Way	30	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 61	Bermondsey Spa Park	09	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 93	Bethwin Road Open Space	14	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 99	Brimmington Park	55	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS101	Brunswick Park	06	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 96	Caroline Gardens	69	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 25	Cherry Gardens	32	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Cherry Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 1	Christchurch Gardens	26	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Christchurch Gardens	New citation

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 107	Cossal Park	50	Extension along the northern boundary	Site of local importance	SoLXX Cossal Park	New citation
n/a	OS 175	Cox's Walk Allotments	68	None	No change	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 184	Long Meadow	08	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Long Meadow	New citation
n/a	OS 85	Faraday Gardens	79	Extension along north-east corner and minor addition and reduction in south-east part.	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Faraday Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 152	Honor Oak Sports Ground	59	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden	36	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 180	Grange Road Allotments (North)	112	No boundary changes	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments West	New citation
n/a	OS 178	Grange Road Allotments (South)	111	No boundary changes.	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments East	New citation
n/a	OS 128	Greendale Playing Field	03	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBXX Greendale Playing Field	New citation
n/a	OS 154	Dulwich Library Gardens	31	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 168	Dulwich Common Allotments	113	None	None	n/a	n/a

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	393	Grove Park Allotments	87	None	Borough	SoBXX Grove Park Allotments	New citation
n/a	OS 130	Dulwich Hamlet	70	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 39	Holy Trinity Churchyard	41	None	Site of local importance	SoLXX Holy Trinity Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 167	Honor Oak and Tulse Hill Playing	115	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 54	King George's Field Park	44	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 16	Little Dorrit Park	33	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 17	Marlborough Playground	16	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 113	Holly Grove Shrubbery	97	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Holly Grove Shrubbery	New citation
n/a	OS 14	Mint Street Park	22	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Mint Street Park	New citation
n/a	OS 10	Nelson Square Gardens	29	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 42	Newington Gardens	10	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 133	Nunhead Allotments	116	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Nunhead Allotments	New citation
n/a	OS 69	Paragon Gardens	25	None	None	n/a	n/a

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 9	Pearson Park	99	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 76	Nursery Row Park	13	Large addition along the northern boundary. Two small additions the along the western boundary.	Borough	SoBXX Nursery Row Park	New citation
n/a	CW 2	Old Nursery Site	84	Combined with Southwark Park	Borough	SoBII23 Southwark Park	Updated
n/a	OS 84	Pelier Park	61	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 75	Pullens Gardens	62	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 15	Redcross Gardens	37	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Redcross Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 132	Ryehill Park (Waterworks)	109	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 70	Salisbury Row Park	19	Two additions proposed to join up disparate parts of the park	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Salisbury Row Park	New citation
n/a	OS 104	St Giles' Churchyard	20	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 72	St James' Road Allotments	114	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 52	St James' Churchyard	23	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St James' Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 170	St Peter's Churchyard (Lordship Lane)	28	None	None	n/a	n/a

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 86	St Peter's Churchyard	65	Large extension along northern boundary	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St Peter's Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 120	St. Francis' Park	21	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 102	Sumner Park	48	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	CW 4	Surrey Docks Adventure	83	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 6	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitch 1)	88	To be combined with Russia Dock Woodland SINC Site	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Surrey Docks	Updated
n/a	400	Bonar Road Allotments	74	None	None	n/a	n/a

SINC's that Exceed their Current Status

4.2 Three SINC's have been assessed as exceeding the level at which they were designated and have been proposed as sites of Borough Importance. These comprise Dog Kennel Hill Wood, Galleywall Road Nature Garden and Nairne Grove Nature Garden. Table 8 provides the justifications for each site.

Table 8: Justifications for upgrade to Borough Importance.

SINC No, Name & Open Space no	Justification
Sol22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood OS119	<p>A small but varied site, comprising secondary woodland, an orchard and an adventure playground. The sycamore-dominated woodland is quite species-rich with a good understory of native shrubs of hawthorn, silver birch and bramble and a ground flora including cow parsley, wood avens and native bluebell (the latter most likely planted). A recently planted orchard (within the adventure playground) has a good diversity of heritage fruit trees, infrequently mown herb-rich grassland and tall ruderal understory. Grasses include giant fescue, meadow foxtail, and cock's-foot. Herbs include yarrow, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil and ox-eye daisy. A good range of native shrubs are present including spindle, hazel, wild privet, wild cherry and alder buckthorn. There are also scattered mature oak trees. Numerous bat and birds boxes have been installed in the woodland and mature trees also provide potentially suitable roosting habitat for bats. An extension to the SINC is proposed along the road in the southeast, to include an area of semi-mature, native trees and shrubs. The site forms the northern end of a habitat corridor which links through Greendale Playing fields, James Allen School and East Dulwich railway line to the south, of value to commuting and foraging bats, hedgehogs and common reptiles, all species that have been recorded in the area.</p>
Sol25 Galleywall Road Nature Garden OS74	<p>Galleywall Road Nature Garden is located in a heavily built-up area south of Southwark Park, but has been imaginatively designed to make best use of the space. Of most striking is the large invertebrate habitat wall, made out of recycled materials and gradually being built by volunteers. Its borders the site on all sides and when it is finished, it is likely to be the largest of its kind in the Borough (or even London). Within the garden, an attractive pond has been created on one side with good marginal vegetation, including flag iris, water mint, purple loosestrife, marsh marigold, flowering rush, water-lily species and reed canary grass amongst others. A smaller pond (less well-established) is located on the other side, with numerous native and non-native wetland species still in pots. The grassland is semi-improved but with a number of planted native species including bird's-foot trefoil, primrose and wild carrot. A good range of native shrub and trees are also present including a mature oak tree, young birch, dogwood and grey willow. The site is currently well used by the adjacent school, and raised beds, native climbers and a bee hive are proposed to encourage more public interest in the garden.</p>

SINC No, Name & Open Space no	Justification
SoL23 Nairne Grove Nature Garden OS134	This site is probably the only aspen woodland in Southwark. A small nature garden in north Dulwich with abundant tall, semi-mature aspen and a well-developed understorey of willow, wild privet, hazel and bramble. At the northern end is a small pond, scattered trees and a large loggery (doubles up as a climbing frame). A range of species occur that are noted on the Southwark and London BAP including common frog, house sparrow and stag beetle. A mature ivy-clad ash has potential to support roosting bats. The woodland is regularly managed by a local tree surgeon who has created some good dead-hedging along the paths. It is well used by the adjacent Bressemer School, who have recently added a small wildflower meadow, and a clay oven.

Proposed Borough SINC Sites

4.3 Three candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. The reasons for designation are justified in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Reasons for designating Candidate SINC's at Borough Level.

Open Space no and Name	Justification
OS128 Greendale Playing Field	The main habitats at this site are a mosaic of species-poor semi improved grassland, scrub and tall herbaceous vegetation dominated by false oat grass, rough meadow grass and bramble. These habitats are common and widespread but the site contains a large amount of the area present in the borough. Anthills are numerous within the rough grassland and provide structural diversity. Plants recorded include hoary cinquefoil, ivy broomrape, dog rose, honeysuckle, evening primrose, welved thistle, and hop. A number of Southwark BAP species have been recorded on site including hedgehog, stag beetle, common frog and house sparrow. The site forms continuity of habitat between Dog Kennel Hill SINC to the north and open space and SINC's the south including James Allen School playing fields and rail-side habitats. This habitat corridor is likely to be of value to foraging bats and reptiles if present in the wider area. The site probably offers one of the few remaining accessible areas of natural habitat in the local area as most nearby open spaces are managed for amenity and recreation.

Open Space no and Name	Justification
393 Grove Park Allotments	<p>An active allotment located adjacent to Lettsom Gardens, accessed via the entrance from Grove Park road and managed by the same organisation. The allotments have a good range of native and non-native perennials and shrub species. There are approximately nine semi-mature - mature apple trees and a recently planted native orchard, of value to invertebrate species. In between the allotment beds, the grassland is left long and consists of a range of grassland species including perianal rye grass and Yorkshire fog. An overgrown hedge in the middle of the allotment contains a number of edible and native species including plum, walnut, English oak, elder and bramble. At the northern end of the hedge is a large, mature ash tree, which has numerous cracks and crevices of potential value to bats as roosting habitat. Three species of bat, have been recorded foraging in the vicinity of the allotments and include noctule, soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle. All bat species are noted in the London and Southwark BAP. The Southwark BAP species common frog and common toad have also been recorded on site. The allotments are likely to provide complimentary habitat to Lettsom Gardens, of value to wildlife including bats, birds and invertebrates.</p> <p>Current plans are to create a pond, reduce the use of slug pellets to favour birds such as the song thrush and plant an edible hazel hedgerow along the eastern wall.</p>
OS76 Nursery Row Park	<p>A medium sized park, located in the north west of the borough that has undergone enhancements and contains a number of habitats of value to wildlife including herb-rich grassland, an orchard, mature scattered trees, planted shrubbery and vegetated walls. The grassland covered a large area in the centre of the site and was managed as a meadow. Species included field scabious, wild carrot, ladies bedstraw, salad burnet, bird's-foot trefoil, common toadflax, bladder campion and chicory. The butterflies meadow brown and common blue, (the latter a London BAP species) were recorded on site along with bumblebees and crickets. Goldfinches and house sparrows were also recorded and likely using the site for foraging (these are uncommon species and the latter a Southwark BAP species). The orchard was located in the north (proposed extension), and contained a wide range of native fruit trees with scrub, including Callery pear, wild cherry, crap and domesticated apple, hazel, wild service tree, privet, hawthorn and blackthorn. This area is valuable habitat for foraging birds and overwintering invertebrates, and complements the adjacent pollinator-rich meadow. The south east part of the site contains a number of large, mature, London plane trees. The trees form an almost complete tree canopy cover with amenity grassland underneath. This area is popular with local residents (during hot weather) and has numerous log seats, and stag beetle loggeries. The remainder of the site has good cover of planted shrubberies, overgrown vegetated walls and more recent ornamental grasses and herbaceous planting. Climbers included abundant honeysuckle, wisteria, ivy, Virginia creeper, clematis and jasmine. Other shrubs included dogwood, weeping birch, hornbeam and elder.</p>

Proposed Sites of Local Importance for Conservation

4.4 15 candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. Table 10 lists Open Spaces and justifications.

Table 10: Justification for candidate SINC's designation as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS25 Cherry Gardens	<p>A linear garden planted with a mix of native and non-native trees and shrubs and located next to the River Thames Site of Metropolitan Importance. The eastern area contains the majority of the native species including hazel, wild cherry and weeping birch, forming a closed canopy in parts. A number of large willows line the river front, their canopy reaching over the river wall, providing a more natural transition between aquatic and terrestrial habitat. This is one of the few places along the Thames where access down to the River is safe and within an existing open space. Other parts of the garden to the east contain a mix of semi-mature, non-native trees, under planted with shrubs and herbaceous species some of which are of known value to wildlife. The gardens are likely to be of value to a range of common birds and invertebrates. The gardens are well used by local residents as well as tourists that walk along the Thames path, or take boat trips from the Cherry Gardens Pier, located in the middle of the gardens</p>
OS133 Nunhead Allotments	<p>A large, informal allotment site located on a slope with a number of wildlife-friendly features. The top half of the site is more akin to roughland due to the density of planting plots and slope (potentially older and longer established). Allotment beds support a good range of herbaceous and cultivated crops of known value to pollinators. Fruit trees including domesticated plum, apples, peaches and pear were frequent and densely planted in two locations – forming small orchards. Between the beds, areas of unmanaged grassland, comprised a good range of species including false oat grass, bents, creeping cinquefoil, common couch, common mallow and timothy. Bare areas supported ruderal species including scarlet pimpernel, annual dog's mercury, and creeping jenny. Ponds were typically small but frequent, with good marginal vegetation comprising marsh marigold, arrowhead and waterlily and sloping sides, providing habitat for common frogs and toads. Grassland composition varied across the site, some areas exhibiting species more typical of drier soils (potentially the result of dumped construction rubble from previous use of land) and herb rich including wild carrot, meadow vetchling and wild marjoram (although possibly planted). The site is likely to provide foraging habitat for a wide range of birds such as song thrush, house sparrow. Grey heron are seen frequently and have been known to take fish from the ponds. The site forms a habitat corridor between Nunhead Cemetery – Site of Metropolitan Importance (which borders the site along its north-eastern boundary) and Peckham Rye Common - Site of Borough Importance, just beyond Peckham Rye Road in the south east. Nunhead covered reservoir forms the northern boundary. .</p>

Open Space no & name	Justification
<p>OS180 Grange Road Allotments (North)</p>	<p>A large, informal allotment site, with a number of wildlife-friendly features. The allotment beds had been laid out to form almost continuous belts of vegetation, which comprise a good range of herbaceous and cultivated crops of known value to pollinators. There were numerous small areas of tall, semi-improved grassland (some being unmanaged plots), with a range of common meadow species such as cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, meadow buttercup, common knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, creeping thistle and teasel, Individual plants of male and ladies fern, wood melick and bracken were also recorded and may be self-sown from adjacent ancient woodland. Ponds were typically small but frequent, with good marginal vegetation and sloping sides, providing habitat for common frogs and toads. A narrow strip of predominantly native woodland and scrub was present along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site with the adjacent Metropolitan SINC – Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods. Species consisted of pedunculated, sessile oak, beech, hazel, common birch, grey willow, sycamore and Norway Maple. A hawthorn hedge lines the western boundary, whilst the northern boundary is lined by an old boundary of mature, oak trees (base of trees located in adjacent land – part of the SINC site Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course).</p>
<p>OS178 Grange Road Allotments (South)</p>	<p>A large, well maintained allotment site located contiguous with Sydenham Hill Woods Metropolitan SINC, which forms its southern boundary. The site supports a number of features of high nature conservation value, comprising a mature oak boundary hedgerow (along Grange Lane), and a mature, native oak woodland in the north-eastern corner of the site. These habitats may providing supporting habitat for bat, bird and invertebrate populations located in Sydenham woods. The woodland on site appeared unmanaged with a dense understory of bramble, common nettle, and young tree regrowth of sycamore, elder and ash. Plots are generally well tended and neat with mown, improved grassland. Allotment rules allow for a third meadow, a third vegetables and a third flowers – which is likely to provide a good range of foraging habitat for common but declining invertebrate's species.</p>
<p>OS184 Long Meadow</p>	<p>Long meadow is a fragment of the former countryside surrounded by residential development. It represents quite a large area of informal grassland an uncommon habitat in Southwark providing refuge and foraging habitat for invertebrates, birds, bats and possible small mammals. The northern half is more intensively mown. Scattered mature trees line the site's perimeter, providing a commuting and foraging resource for bats. A native hedgerow dominated by hawthorn with other native species forms the northern boundary. It is likely to be a well-used open space for local people.</p>

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS85 Faraday Gardens	Faraday Gardens is a small park containing areas of native woodland, scrub, planted shrubbery and amenity grassland. The native woodland is dominated by hornbeam, ash and horse chestnut, with an understory containing scattered holly, hawthorn and box. Scattered scrub occurs along the western perimeter and includes dogwood, elder and hawthorn. The southern wall supports maidenhair spleenwort <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> and hart's tongue fern. Planted borders contain a diverse range of perennial plants providing a rich nectar source to invertebrates. For a small space, a good range of species and habitats are present and are likely to provide a good habitat resource for common birds and invertebrates. The southeast corner of the site comprises hard standing and a fenced play area mature climbers and planted shrubbery surrounding the fenced area provide good cover and nectar source for pollinators. The park is located within a residential area and is likely to be popular with local people. St Peter's churchyard, also a proposed local SINC shares part of the southern boundary.
OS86 St Peter's Church Yard	St Peter's churchyard contains a church surrounded by amenity grassland, scattered mature London plane trees and planted shrubbery. Shrubs area largely non-native although occasional elder, hazel and hawthorn present. The mature trees provide some bat roosting potential. The park is located within a residential area and is likely to be popular with local people. The site is being extended to include the church building and area of mature trees, shrubbery and grassland in the east of the site. The variety and maturity of vegetation is likely to be of value to a wide range of common but declining bird species including house sparrow and invertebrates. Faraday gardens also a proposed local SINC shares part of the northern boundary.
OS70 Salisbury Row Park	A medium-sized park of amenity grassland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery and a small fenced off area of native woodland. The planted shrubbery contains some species of known value to wildlife and are likely to provide some nesting opportunity for common bird species. The small area of broadleaved woodland is dominated by ash and sycamore with lime and cherry. A rich mix of native shrub species are present including gorse, dogwood, and rowan. Ground flora is notable quite diverse in one area comprising of flag iris, purple loosestrife and pendulous sedge (perhaps a dried out pond). Elsewhere cow parsley and nettle are frequent. Several habitat features have been created including a dead hedge and bird boxes. The site is located in proximity to a number of other open spaces, providing a habitat stepping stone for invertebrates, birds and potentially bats within this densely urban location.

Open Space no & name	Justification
<p>OS107 Cossal Park</p>	<p>A medium sized park in a residential area comprising amenity grassland with scattered trees, native scrub and climbers. Trees include mature London planes and common limes with semi-mature cherry, English oak, crack willow and apple. The majority are located along the south-west and south eastern boundaries and almost form a closed canopy. Scrub include hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn, with climbers of old man's beard, clematis and burnet rose around the perimeter of the park. There are also a number of food growing beds managed by the local community. Together these habitats provide shelter, breeding and foraging habitat for widespread species of birds and invertebrate. The local BAP species house sparrow has been recorded in the park. An area of scrub and roughland (fenced off) in the north, provide additional cover and refuge for nesting birds and overwintering habitat for invertebrates. The site is located in close proximity to Nunhead railway corridor (a site of Borough Importance), which forms part of a strategic habitat corridor in the borough. The site is likely to regularly used by local residents in nearby flats. The large area of amenity grassland provides opportunities for enhancement such as pond creation and/or native hedge wildflower planting.</p>

Open Space no & name	Justification
<p>OS15 Redcross Gardens</p>	<p>Redcross Gardens is located in a heavily built-up area, close to London Bridge and within an area of deficiency. It supports one of the best small ponds in the borough for wildlife, along with good herbaceous and shrub planting, scattered trees and a sedum, green roof. The pond is a good size and has natural banks with well-developed marginal, emergent and floating vegetation. Dominant emergent vegetation includes yellow flag iris, common reed, and water plantain, lesser spearwort and water forget-me-not. White water lily covers one third of the water surface. Marginal vegetation along the banks includes dense meadowsweet, marsh marigold, ornamental astible, golden rod, Michaelmas daisy and ornamental grasses. A small patch of semi-improved (mown) herb-rich grassland is located around the peripheral of the pond and includes greater birds-foot trefoil, black medick and devil's bit scabious. Many of the native plant species listed above are found in very few other places in Southwark and their presence at this small site is particularly important for a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. The pond supports a population of smooth newts, a rare species in Southwark and provides breeding and foraging habitat for common frog, common toad and potentially a number of odonata species including darter, broad-bodied chaser and blue damselfly. Butterflies include small white, red admiral and comma (the latter is known to breed on the native hop growing on one of the walls within the garden. The pond and garden is frequented by a number of wildfowl species including mallard. House sparrow, a Southwark BAP species has been recorded, along with green finches and goldfinches. The remainder of the garden is laid out to amenity grassland (well used at lunch-time by city workers), and herbaceous borders with a good range of nectar-rich plants. Species include lavender, California poppy, red valerian, rosemary, hollyhocks, bear's breeches and cat mint. Three mature hornbeam trees provide bird nesting opportunities (boxes attached) and the perimeter walls, provide additional cover, and nectar sources for invertebrates and birds.</p> <p>Formally the garden of Octavia Hill (one of the founders of The National Trust and the Occupational Health Organization) the garden was first created to provide a place for factory workers to rest and play (as conditions for the working class were particularly bad in the late 1800s). Over the years it has fell into disrepair, but in 2006, with funding and local support has been gradually restored to a garden that reflects Octavia's original intentions, and is a fine example of community effort. It is now managed by a dedicated team of volunteers at Bankside Open Spaces Trust. It is a popular garden for city workers and is used for events in the summer. It also has an "outdoor meeting room" - perhaps the only one of its kind in the borough.</p>

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS14 Mint Street Park	Mint Street Park is the second largest open space in the north-west of the Borough comprising areas of amenity grassland, herbaceous and shrub planting and scattered trees. The planted borders are particularly diverse in the south-eastern corner and include tall perennial planting and crevice and rock garden planting. Species such as evening primroses, Verbena spp, great mullein, teasel, wild and ornamental thymes, rock roses and Mexican fleabane are particularly good for pollinators. A small area of roughland and scrub dominated by nettles, bramble, hawthorn and dog rose provide shelter and nesting habitat for common birds and invertebrates throughout the year. Recent habitat enhancements undertaken by Better Bankside Open Space Trust (BBOST) include a large stag beetle loggery. The site is regularly used for holding events and is popular at lunch-time for city workers.
OS52 St James' Churchyard	St James Churchyard supports a pond of high nature conservation value due to its aquatic and riparian fauna including common newts and dragonflies. It has good variety of native marginal plants including flag iris and branched bur-reed. Adjacent to the pond is a large area of mixed native and non-native scrub with scattered trees. A wide range of species are present including hawthorn and blackthorn providing good foraging and nesting habitat for birds. Goldfinch and house sparrow, species noted on the Southwark BAP have been recorded. An area of herb rich grassland, is managed as a wildflower area and provides a good source of nectar for bees and other invertebrates. The common carder bee has been recorded along with common blue and red admiral. Species present include black knapweed, cocksfoot, meadow foxtail and wild carrot. Crickets are audible. The church tower has potential to support roosting bats. The site is located within a densely urban area but within proximity to other small open spaces to the north and west. It is also within close proximity to the River Thames. The aquatic habitats on site are likely to provide a stepping stone for invertebrate species (particularly dragonfly species) in the local area.
OS39 Holy Trinity Churchyard	Holy Trinity Churchyard supports a small area of mature, non-native woodland with a canopy of hybrid black poplar and sycamore. A dense understory comprises of elder and cherry laurel with a ground flora dominated by ivy and bramble. A small open glade comprises amenity grassland and tall herbs dominated by nettle. The site provides good foraging habitat for bats and potentially suitable bat roosting features within dense ivy on trees and on adjacent building. The mature trees on site also form part of a habitat corridor with street trees along Salters Road and Bonding Yard Walk to the south. There is plenty of nesting and foraging habitat for birds, as is dead wood for ground-dwelling invertebrates. The Southwark BAP species house sparrow has been recorded on site. A relatively little-used and relaxed site in contrast to the adjacent Surrey Docks Farm, it offers local residents a tranquil alternative for accessing nature.

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS1 Christchurch Gardens	Christchurch Garden is located in the north of the borough, a block away from the River Thames and in a heavily built up area. A large brick church is surrounded by mature trees, scrub, herbaceous, shrub planting and amenity grassland. It is has under gone recent enhancement through active management by Better Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BBOST), which have added new planting and dead wood habitat for stag beetle and other invertebrates. There is a wide strip of native shrub planting underneath the tree canopy on the northern perimeter including dogwood, beech, hawthorn, wayfaring tree and hazel. Woodland ground flora includes cow parsley, common dog violet, and wood spurge. Other species present include teasel, false oat grass, pendulous sedge and honeysuckle. Mature trees include London plane and common lime – the latter having potential for bat roosting features. The garden is likely to provide a good habitat resource for common invertebrates and foraging for common bird species. The Southwark BAP species house sparrow has been recorded on site along with blue tit and the speckled wood butterfly. It is likely to be a well-used by office workers at lunch-time during hot weather.
OS113 Holly Grove Shrubbery	Holly Grove Shrubbery is a linear site comprising a winding footpath, with scattered mature trees and planted shrubbery, with by a mix of native and non-native shrubs including holly, blackthorn, and hazel, sunshine bush and laurel. A large number of mature, Norway maple trees are scattered through the site. The maturity and range of shrubs provide ideal habitat for nesting birds and pollinating invertebrates. Although currently managed for amenity purposes, there is an opportunity to plant a great proportion of native hedgerow species (particular edible varieties) to provide greater foraging value for wildlife and people. The site joins onto an open area to the east which forms a continuation of this site (with scattered trees, blub planting and seats). Located in the densely urban center of Peckham it provides local people an attractive route to walk to the shops and is well used.

Combining with existing SINC'S

- 4.5 Two candidate SINC's namely Old Nursery Site and Surrey Docks Sports grounds (Pitch 1) will be combined with nearby existing SINC's: Southwark Park and Russia Docks Woodland respectively. This is partly due to their small size, contiguous habitat and boundaries. Table 11 below list these changes.
- 4.6 There is one proposed deletion to the SINC series, comprising SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden which contained insufficient habitat to warrant SINC designation. This does not mean the Open Space has no wildlife value, it is likely to be of value in the local vicinity and be used by local residents. . It is proposed that all remaining SINC's stay at the same level of designation as in 1994, as they retain the same level of ecological interest.

- 4.7 The remaining candidate SINC's still support habitats of value to wildlife; however, these were either limited in extent or contained commonly occurring low-value habitats, or no active management for nature conservation was taking place.

SINC's of Priority for Conservation

- 4.8 Six SINC's have been assessed as meeting their current level of designation, but are a priority for conservation. This comprises Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf (particularly South Dock OS65), Leathermarket Gardens and Community Park, Lucas Gardens, Surrey Gardens, Surrey Docks Farm and Geraldine Harmsworth Memorial Park. South Dock has become a busy marina and has limited value due to high disturbance from boat activity and lack of vegetation. For the other sites, the management for nature conservation is limited to small areas rather than being an integral part of the whole site. People and wildlife are not mutually exclusive and other Open Spaces (e.g. Red Cross Gardens) integrate the two with a high degree of success. Table 11 provides a brief explanation of the current issues and potential solutions for the six sites.

Table 11: Opportunities for enhancement at existing SINC's.

SINC Name	Current Issue	Solution
Leathermarket Gardens and Community Park	Managed intensively for amenity use.	Engage community to assist with the creation of edible hedgerows and herbaceous planting of known value to wildlife.
Surrey Gardens	Dominated by amenity grassland	Allow areas of grassland to be left uncut, particularly around site boundaries and under trees. Seed with wildflowers to create visual amenity and pollinator habitat.
Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf (particularly South Dock OS65)	Actively used for boat mooring with no vegetation.	Identify a corner of the dock where habitat enhancements could be created, whilst not obstructing boat operations. Plant floating pontoons of reed, and marginal vegetation.
Surrey Docks Farm	Focus is on farm animals. Wildlife "confined" to small woodland area" rather than whole site.	Provide educational resources that illustrate the value of the whole site for wildlife, including the orchard, allotment beds, old buildings and woodland area. Establish new planting along river wall and provide safe access to River Thames foreshore. Create new pond to replace concrete duck pond.

SINC Name	Current Issue	Solution
Geraldine Harmsworth Memorial Park	Large park dominated by amenity grassland with wildlife areas locked and hidden from view.	Establish flower-rich meadows, to provide visual and pollinator value. Promote as part of the Bee – Line campaign (Buglife). Provide interpretation and engagement to visitors. Use park grounds to show case other artefacts of war in museum and design a walking route.
Lucas Gardens	Large park dominated by amenity grassland	Extend wildlife habitat along the entire eastern boundary of the site. Habitats could include climbing logs / loggeries, seeded grassland, a native hedgerow maze, edible planting.

Separating SINC's and name changes

- 4.9 Eight SINC's contain multiple Open Spaces. Four are proposed to be separated by Open Space boundary whilst retaining their current designation to ensure each Open Space has a dedicated SINC citation. Whilst the remaining five are to remain together in order to avoid downgrading part of the SINC. Table 12 lists changes to relevant SINC's and recommendations to name changes.

Complicated SINC's

- 4.10 Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park is unusually large and complicated requiring both retaining, separating and combining of Open Spaces to rationalise boundaries.
- 4.11 The southern half of Cox's Walk runs through Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods SINC as a narrow fenced footpath. It is proposed that this part of the footpath remains as part of Sydenham Hill Wood SINC site (OS 181), rather than altering the Open Space boundary to reflect the footpath alignment. As a result of the Open Space boundaries Cox's Walk (OS174) also falls within the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Sydenham Hill Wood and Fern Bank boundary. As a result it remains as a site of borough importance and not Metropolitan.

Table 12: List of SINC's with Multiple Open Spaces and Recommendations

SINC no	SINC name	Open Space no	Recommendations
SoB106	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk	OS173, OS174,	Separate into two SINC's by Open Space boundaries. Proposed names: Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course / Cox's Walk.

SINC no	SINC name	Open Space no	Recommendations
SoB05	Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park	OS36, OS37, OS38, OS7, OS6	Separate into two SINC's with Stave Hill (OS36) retained as part of the Ecological Park (OS37), to avoid downgrading if separated. Combine OS6 with Russia Dock Woodland. Retain existing perimeter vegetation in OS7 and combine additional area with Russia Dock Woodland.
SoBI11	Albion Channel	OS35 OS55 OS5	Separate into three SINC's by Open Space boundaries. Proposed names: Albion Channel / Canada Water / Surrey Water.
SoBI24	Nunhead Railway Embankments	OS 108 PN6	Retain as one SINC. This is to avoid downgrading Kirkwood Nature Garden.
So11B05	Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak Crematorium and adjacent areas	OS145, OS151	Separate into two SINC's by Open Space boundaries. Proposed names: Camberwell New Cemetery and surrounds / Honor Oak Allotments
SoB106	Dulwich Upper Woods LNR	OS187, OS188	Retain as one SINC. This is to avoid downgrading College Road non-native secondary woodland.
SoB08	Greenland Dock & St George's Wharf	OS64, OS65	Retain as one SINC. This is to avoid downgrading South Dock (OS65) if separated.
SOBI23	Southwark Park	OS53	Combine with the Old Nursery Site (CW2), which is contiguous with the new site boundary in the north east.

Existing SINC's Recommendations for Enhancement

4.12 Brief recommendations are given in Table 13 for relevant existing SINC's. More detailed information is provided in individual citations.

Table 13: Opportunities for Enhancement in specific Open Spaces

Open Space no:	Open Space Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed
OS91	Burgess Park	Sustainable urban drainage around the perimeter of the park utilising surface runoff from adjacent roads. Removal of areas of hard-standing that are not in use (e.g. redundant roads or in north east part of the site).
OS173	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf course	A good site already. An invertebrate survey would be recommended to inform management of potentially valuable site features (including ditches, sand bunkers, woodland, old trees and roughs).

Open Space no:	Open Space Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed
OS53	Southwark Park	Wildflower planting within area of amenity grassland adjacent to the car park, due to lack of recreational use and small size. The section of amenity grassland should be allowed to grow to a higher sward with a rough grassland margin which could be enhanced with native perennial wildflowers. Bat boxes to be installed on some of the scattered trees to compensate for loss of natural roosting features. Planters within the bandstand could be planted with nectar-rich species to benefit pollinators. The marginal vegetation around the lake could be extended. The roughland should be better managed under a Habitat Management Plan.
OS126	Nunhead Cemetery	It is recommended that Japanese knotweed is removed. The Beeches pathway should be managed to reduce scrub/ruderal encroachment and improve plant diversity.
OS143	Aquarius Golf Course	Maintain existing woodland, scrub and rough/herb-rich grassland along the north and eastern perimeter of the site. Create new areas of vegetation (e.g. planted trees, scrub or reduce mowing in a strip) along the western and southern boundaries to link up with existing areas on and off site.
OS64	Greenland Dock	Information boards for history/ wildlife. More pontoons would increase nesting habitat for breeding waterfowl and could provide shelter for fish fry.
OS160	Belair Park	Lay native hedgerow to provide improved habitat for nesting birds.
OS38	Russia Dock Woodland	Thin woodland along the eastern boundary and manage bramble encroachment in roughland mosaic to allow sunlight to reach ground flora. Reduce shading over standing water to increase macrophyte cover and diversity. Control invading false acacia, holm oak and snowberry.
OS56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	Potential to increase native orchard species and reduce mowing below to provide high value habitat for invertebrates and potentially meet the criteria for London/Southwark BAP priority Orchard habitat. Improve boundary vegetation e.g. by planting a hedgerow or tree line to reduce noise from adjacent roads and provide better habitat for birds. Include woodland area (currently outside of the site boundary). Extend and allow open access to the nature area along the northern boundary.
OS46	Tabard Gardens	The wildflower bank could be enhanced with planting of native perianal wildflowers. Interpretation of value of scrub habitat and provide interpretation board/ Smart Phone link.
OS105	Lucas Gardens	Expand the nature area (wildlife grassland and scrub) along the western boundary of the site, currently dominated by amenity grassland.
OS138	Sunray Gardens	Additional bank reinforcement around the lake with willow spilling would help reduce erosion.
OS82	Surrey Gardens aka Pasley Park	Additional planting within woodland of scrub and ground flora species.

Open Space no:	Open Space Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed
OS20	Leathermarket Gardens	Currently managed by Southwark Parks Department. Bankside Open Spaces Trust have created a small wildflower area for invertebrates. Extend native hedgerows along site boundaries. Seed wildflower grassland along other boundaries. Potential to replace roses and ornamental shrubs with native species or those with known value for wildlife.
OS41	Surrey Docks Farm	Plant a biodiverse green roof to replace the failing one on the café roof. Consider removing sections of paving along waterfront and plant with native shrub/tree species.
OS49	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	Additional planting of native shrubs.
OS114	Lettsom Gardens	Thin sycamore, bramble and ivy within woodland to reduce competition, increase structural variation and enable native ground flora to establish.
OS68	Victory Community Park	Reduce mowing frequency and seed with wildflowers
OS95	Bird-in-Bush Park	Provide information about value of bare ground to invertebrates. Seed or plant wild flowers of high nectar value.
OS31	St Mary's Churchyard Gardens	Reduce mowing under trees and in the western part of the site. Plant flowers of known value to wildlife within borders and rockery rather than evergreen shrubs.
OS185	Carlton Place Copse/ Hitherwood	Selective removal of holly to provide light for ancient woodland ground flora. Remove rubbish. Provide information and engagement to local residents to improve stewardship of site and reduce tipping.
OS116	Consort Park	Lay hedgerow along western boundary (in five years). Install bird boxes on trees. Plant woodland ground flora (such as cyclamen, hellebores and ferns around trees and on banks less used by children.
OS89	Varcoe Road Nature Garden / Bramcote Nature Garden	Extend species-rich hedgerow around entire boundary.
OS21	Snowfield Nature Garden	Current proposal is to enhance the roof top terrace into an outdoor classroom with planted beds.
OS183	Countisbury House Lawns	Seed contiguous areas of grassland with corky fruited water dropwort and other grassland herbs.
OS81	Walworth Garden Farm	Limited due to garden focus. Retrofit green roof on office building. Plant wildflowers in small areas of amenity grassland and allow to grow tall and set seed. Plant native climbers along western boundary.
OS134	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	Potential to create invertebrate habitat wall along eastern fence.
OS112	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	Improve boundary vegetation with hedging and climbers to reduce openings and prevent illegal entry. Ponds no longer present and so could be re-established.

Open Space no:	Open Space Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed
OS74	Galleywall Road Nature Garden	Currently lacks local recognition or public involvement. As such a beehive and small allotment plots are being proposed to improve this. The invertebrate habitat wall is a feature worth promoting.
OS63	Aspinden Road Nature Garden	Potential to enhance the pond to create a permanent water feature, as currently it is prone to drying out. Planting of understorey shrubs such as hazel and blackthorn would provide foraging and nesting habitat for common species of birds. Under plant woodland with wildflowers
OS103	Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	Community involvement to improve condition.

Boundary Changes and Mapping errors

4.13 A number of SINC's and candidate SINC's require boundary changes as a result of new development or that new habitat had been created adjacent and should be included in the site boundary. A number of sites also had minor boundary errors that are more likely the result of digitisation rather than actual boundary changes. Table 14 lists SINC's and Open Spaces effected.

Table 14: Proposed amendments to SINC and candidate SINC boundaries.

SINC Y/ proposed	SINC / Open Space name	Changes	Reasons
Boundary changes			
Yes	Albion Channel	1	Extend boundary to include the strip of scattered trees along the eastern boundary of the channel and around Surrey Water.
Yes	Aquarius Golf Course	1	Extend SINC boundary to include the whole golf course which supports additional areas of herb-rich grassland, woodland and scrub and has good habitat continuity with Brenchley Gardens in the north and Camberwell New Cemetery to the south.
Yes	Benhill Road Nature Garden	1	Northern section excluded due to school development.
Yes	Brenchley Gardens	2	To include areas of herb-rich grassland within adjacent grassland.
Yes	Burgess Park	2	Amend the eastern boundary to exclude a private property, extend the boundary south of the café close to Addington Square to correspond with the extent of grassland.

SINC Y/ proposed	SINC / Open Space name	Changes	Reasons
Proposed	Cossal Park	1	Extend boundary to include area of scrub to the north of the park (formally old tennis courts). This area provides excellent habitat for foraging and nesting birds and overwintering habitat for invertebrates.
Yes	Dog Kennel Hill Wood	1	Extend boundary to include area of semi-mature, secondary woodland along the south east corner of value to breeding birds.
Yes	Dulwich Upper Woods	Several	Amend boundary to include native woodland to the south and east of the existing SINC. Remove grassland along College Road.
Yes	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth	1	Extend to include area of native woodland in the south east corner of the site.
Yes	Greenland Dock & St Georges Wharf	1	Extend to include area of standing water to the north, which supports aquatic habitat, of value to amphibian's birds and invertebrates.
Proposed	Grove Park Allotments	1	Extend boundary to include access driveway and boundary walls to allotments, which has been planted and contain mature fruit trees and climbers.
Yes	Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	1	Extend northern boundary at western end of site to include planting.
Yes	James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	several	Exclude area that dominated by hardstanding and include area of grassland with mature oak trees.
Yes	Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	1	Extend to include small entrance to the north with mature trees.
Yes	Northfield House Community Garden	1	Extend to include the whole of Northfield House Grounds, which contain two other gardens and extensively vegetated walls.
Proposed	Nursery Row Park	Several	Extend boundary to the north to include area of scrub, orchard planting and amenity grassland. Extend boundary to the west to include two small areas recently planted with herbaceous species.
Yes	Peckham Rye Park and Common	1	Extend boundary to include Piermont Common in the south east corner.

SINC Y/ proposed	SINC / Open Space name	Changes	Reasons
Yes	Russia Dock Woodland & Stave Hill Ecological Park	several	Exclude triangle of land in the east as a result of development. Include habitat (woodland and new park) within Surrey Docks Sports Ground. (OS7 and OS6). Amend boundary along road to exclude hard-standing.
Proposed	Salisbury Row Park	Several	Extend boundaries to include two small areas of amenity grassland (former roads) with the rest of the proposed SINC.
Proposed	Old Nursery site	1	Merge with Southwark Park SINC, which is contiguous with its southern boundary.
Yes	Southwark Park	Several	Extend park boundary to include linear area along the eastern boundary contiguous with the old nursery site (CW4).
Proposed	Faraday Gardens	2	Boundary line needs amending in the south-west corner (most likely a mapping error). Extend boundary in the northwest to include recently created wildlife pond and herbaceous planting.
Proposed	St Peter's Churchyard	Several	Extend boundary to include the church building and land to the north west which comprises scattered mature trees, boundary walls and planted shrubbery.
Changes due to existing GIS mapping errors			
Yes	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	1	Northern boundary
Yes	Sunray Gardens	2	North East/South West boundaries
Yes	Tabard Gardens	2	South East/North West boundaries
Yes	Galleywall Road Nature Garden	1	Southern boundary
Yes	Benhill Nature Reserve	2	Eastern and western boundaries
Yes	Surrey Docks Farm	1	Eastern boundary
Yes	Belair Park	1	Northern boundary
Yes	Lettsom Gardens	3	South, north and western boundaries
Yes	Dicken's Square (Rockingham Park)	1	North-west boundary

SINC Y/ proposed	SINC / Open Space name	Changes	Reasons
Yes	Consort Park	1	North-west boundary

Changes to SINC and Candidate SINC Names

4.14 Existing SINC's and Candidate SINC proposed changes to names are listed in Table 15. This reflects proposed changes in site boundaries and changes in site use or management. It is also hopes to go some way in reducing the confusion between SINC names and Open Spaces Names, which are often slightly different. The table excludes the SINC's to be separated, which the proposed names have been listed above.

Table 15: Proposed name changes.

SINC no	SINC Name	Proposed SINC Name	Reason
M075	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods	Sydenham Hill Wood LNR and Dulwich Woods	Better reflects the part of the site with LNR status.
M075	Nunhead Cemetery	Nunhead Cemetery (LNR)	Better reflects the sites full designation.
SoBI07	Dulwich Upper Woods	Dulwich Upper Wood (LNR) & College Road wood	Better reflects the sites full designation
SoBI09	Peckham Rye Park and Common	Peckham Rye Park, Common & Piermont Green	Reflects all areas contained within SINC site.
SoBI03	One Tree Hill	One Tree Hill (LNR)	Better reflects the sites full designation
SoL23	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	Bressemer Garden	Name on entrance to garden
SoL21	Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	The name given to the sign on the front gate.
SoL34	Bellenden Nature Garden / Highshore Open Space	William Griggs Garden	The name on the plaque next to the garden
SoL18	Northfield House Community Garden	Northfield House Community Gardens	Correcting spelling mistake on GIS data.
SoL22	Dog Kennel Hill Wood	Dog Kennel Hill Wood, & Adventure Playground	More accurate description.
SoL32	Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden	Snowsfields Nature Garden.	Simpler description

SINC no	SINC Name	Proposed SINC Name	Reason
SoL28	Surrey Gardens aka Pasley Park	Pasley Park	Correct name of site
SoBII15	Walworth City Farm	Walworth Garden	The site does not house any animals and is a garden that focuses on a wide range of exotic / horticultural plant varieties
SoL11	Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden	Victory park & Elba Place Community Garden	Reflects community involvement.
SoL02	Dickens Square Park (Rockingham Park)	Dickens Square park & Butterfly Walk	Better description of habitats.
SoL23	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	Bressemer School Nature Garden	The name given on the gate.
Proposed	Bermondsey Spa Park	Bermondsey Spa Park	Correcting spelling mistake on GIS data.
Proposed	Grange Road Allotments (North)	Grange lane Allotments West	More accurate description
Proposed	Grange Road Allotments (South)	Grange Lane Allotments East	More accurate description

GIS data

- 4.15 A number of anomalies occur in the GIS data, Southwark BAP document in relation to Open Space numbers and names (Table 7 at the beginning of this section). It is recommended that the borough dedicate some time to update records and ensure a definitive, up-to-date list of SINC's to reduce confusion in the future.

SINC Citations

- 4.16 New citations have been written for all proposed local or borough SINC's. New citations have also been written for existing SINC's that are being proposed to be separated to reflect open space boundaries more closely. The council through their service level agreement with GIGL will need to provide new SINC references for all new SINC's and those separated by their Open Space Boundaries. Area and central grid reference information (highlighted in red) will also need to be updated once confirmed. All existing SINC's citations have also been up-date to reflect current habitats and management practises. Appendix 4 lists updated SINC citations (separate document).

Candidate SINC's - Biodiversity Potential

4.17 The potential for the remaining candidate SINC's to be enhanced for biodiversity was assessed, taking into consideration: current use of the site, size and the ease to which enhancements could be made. Marlborough Playground was identified as having the highest potential for improving biodiversity, whilst six other Open Spaces were identified as having moderate potential. The remaining Open Spaces were considered to have limited potential for biodiversity primarily due to their current intensive use for sports, amenity and recreation. Table 16 provides fuller information.

Table 16: Open Spaces with Greatest Potential for Biodiversity.

Open Space no	Open Space name	Enhancements
High Potential		
OS17	Marlborough Playground	A large site in the north west of the borough dominated by hardstanding and well used for a range of sports activities. The local BID district (Better bankside) are keen to create a sports garden, recognising the value of the space for multiple uses, including greening, biodiversity and climate change adaptation.
Medium Potential		
OS99	Brimmington Park	A medium-sized park in an area of deficiency and located along a strategic habitat corridor. The site is currently dominated by hardstanding but could be enhanced by de-paving areas and creating new habitats such as a wildlife pond, raised allotments, orchard and a small native woodland. The railway arches have potential to support roosting bats.
OS42	Newington Gardens	Remove hard standing and plant shade-tolerant scrub/shrub planting under tree cover.
OS69	Paragon Gardens	Create ecological play features from logs, rocks and ropes
OS10	Nelson Square Gardens	Planting of species of known value to wildlife. Westminster Gardens may provide some useful ideas. Remove paved areas and plant with shade-loving, winter flowering species of value to invertebrates early in the year.
OS163	Barclay Way	Reduce mowing under the scattered trees. Plant climbers along brick boundary walls and access routes. Consider SuDs features.
OS86	St Peter's Churchyard	Plant more trees to provide a better barrier to pollution and noise from adjacent road.

Protection of Mature Boundary Trees

4.18 There are a number of Open Spaces (around Dulwich) that are dominated by amenity grassland, mown for sports use, but support mature boundaries of mature oaks and

scrub. The boundaries are likely to be wildlife corridors and could support ancient woodland species or acid grassland. It is advised to identify and map these as green corridors (using the GLA methodology) and ensure a basic-level of protection to these ecological features in planning.

New enhancements

- 4.19 Other open spaces that have undergone recent biodiversity enhancement (e.g. Crossbones in the Better Bankside area) and the Peckham Coal Line (in Peckham) should be surveyed in the near future as they could support wildlife habitats in areas of the borough that have limited open space and access to nature.

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Glossary

Areas of Deficiency

Are defined as built-up areas more than one kilometre's actual walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough site. These aid the choice of Sites of Local Importance.

Blue Ribbon Network

A spatial policy covering London's waterways and water spaces and land alongside them.

Brownfield land

Refers to a site that has previously been used or developed and is not currently fully in use.

Central Activities Zone (CAZ)

The Central Activities Zone is the area where planning policy recognises the importance of strategic finance, specialist retail, tourist and cultural uses and activities, as well as residential and more local functions.

Green Chains

These are areas of linked but separate open spaces and the footpaths between them. They are accessible to the public and provide way-marked paths and other pedestrian and cycle routes.

Geodiversity

The variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms, soils and natural processes, such as weathering, erosion and sedimentation, that underlie and determine the character of our natural landscape and environment.

Green corridors

This refers to relatively continuous areas of open space leading through the built environment which may be linked and may not be publicly accessible. They may allow animals and plants to be found further into the built-up area than would otherwise be the case and provide an extension to the habitats of the sites they join.

Green infrastructure

The multifunctional, interdependent network of open and green spaces and green features (e.g. green roofs). It includes the Blue Ribbon Network but excludes the hard-surfaced public realm. This network lies within the urban environment and the urban fringe connecting to the

surrounding countryside. It provides multiple benefits for people and wildlife including: flood management; urban cooling; improving physical and mental health; green transport links (walking and cycling routes); ecological connectivity; and food growing. Green and open spaces of all sizes can be part of green infrastructure provided they contribute to the functioning of the network as a whole.

Green roofs/walls

Planting on roofs or walls to improve biodiversity and habitat resource and provide climate change, amenity, food growing and recreational benefits.

Heritage

The evidence of the past, such as historical sites, buildings and the unspoilt natural environment, considered collectively as the inheritance of present-day society.

Nature conservation

Protection, management and promotion for the benefit of wild species and habitats, as well as the human communities that use and enjoy them. This also covers the creation and re-creation of wildlife habitats.

Open space

The term open space covers all land use in London that is predominantly undeveloped other than by buildings or structures that are ancillary to the open space use. This definition covers a range of types of open space within the urban area, both in public or private ownership and whether access is unrestricted, limited or restricted.

Open Space Sites

Each Open Space has a unique reference number (for example OS88). They may or may not include a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation Interest (SINC's) which will form either the entire Open Space Site or only the part of most value to nature conservation.

Parcels

The basic unit of survey is a piece of land termed a "parcel". A parcel is broadly homogeneous in terms of habitat, ecological value, ownership and public access. Parcels are grouped together to form an Open Space. Large Open spaces may have numerous parcels, whilst smaller ones are likely to have fewer or only one parcel.

Field Survey Form

Each parcel also has a written record on one or more standard A4 forms (see Appendix 1). Every parcel must be noted on the first form, which collects information about its name, location, ownership, habitats, species richness and details of the surveyor and the date and duration of visit. The reverse of the form collects information on land use and planning status, accessibility, nature conservation interest, recreational facilities, potential for enhancement, threats, change since previous survey and an evaluation of the nature conservation importance of the parcel. There is a field on this form to cover every aspect normally covered in surveys of this kind except for the species of plants present, and for detailed change statistics.

Plant recording form

A plant recording form will usually only be used for the more interesting or diverse parcels. It allows the collection of a list of species identified, with a coarse indication of abundance and qualifiers relating to maturity and distribution within the parcel. This information can also optionally be written on the parcel form.

Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SINC's)

SINC's are sites within Southwark that are designated for their nature conservation interest. There are four grades of site; Metropolitan, Borough Grade I and Grade II and Local. Each site has a unique reference number (for example M50 for a Site of Metropolitan Importance, SoBII12 / SOBII11 for a Site of Grade II / Grade I Importance and SoL21 for a Site of Local Importance) SINC's always form at least part of an Open Space (which has its own unique reference number – e.g: OS88). Many SINC's in Southwark comprise more than one Open Space. Recent guidance from the Greater London Authority is proposing that Grade II and Grade I are merged into a single grade at Borough level, regardless of whether it is currently a Grade I or Grade II.

Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS)

An alternative approach from the traditional ways of managing runoff from buildings and hardstanding. They can reduce the total amount, flow and rate of surface water that runs directly to rivers through storm-water systems.

Urban Greening

Urban greening describes the green infrastructure elements that are most applicable in central London and London's town centres. Due to the morphology and density of the built environment in these areas, green roofs, street trees, and techniques such as soft landscaping, are the most appropriate elements of green infrastructure.



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