

Borough Grade Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII13
Site Name: Waterworks / Aquarius Golf Course
Summary: A variety of habitats on the banks of a covered reservoir.
Grid ref: TQ 353 746
Area (ha): 2.4
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): herb rich neutral grassland, secondary woodland, amenity grassland, tall herb, scrub
Access: No public access
Ownership: Thames Water

Site Description:

The steep eastern bank of this golf course, supports herb rich neutral grassland, thought to be the best in the borough. A sward dominated by Yorkshire-fog contains a wide variety of wild flowers including agrimony, tufted vetch, bulbous buttercup, common dog-violet, black knapweed, red clover and bird's foot trefoil. Meadow barley and both subspecies of grey sedge (*Carex divulsa*) have also been recorded; the latter occurs nowhere else in Southwark.

Smaller patches of herb-rich grassland also occur on bunds and in rough areas around the perimeter of the site. The scarce great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) has been recorded next to the golf club. Secondary woodland and scrub around the northern perimeter provide habitat for birds and invertebrates. Mature oak and ash trees provide potential roosting for bats. Several species noted in the Southwark BAP have been recorded including stag beetle, and house sparrow. Geese and starlings also feed on the short grassland in the center of the golf course. The site provides a habitat link with nearby Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. These include Peckham Rye Park in the north and Brenchley Gardens and One Tree Hill in the south. The size, connectivity and variety of habitats could support species of reptile – a Southwark BAP species, which is known to be present in adjacent SINC.

The golf course is owned by Thames Water Utilities and there is no public access.

Opportunities

Maintain and enhance the habitat corridor along the north and eastern boundary. This could be achieved by reducing the mowing frequency, allowing scrub to develop or planting native trees or shrubs.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 20/03/2015

Citation last edited: 23/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 09/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL24
Site Name: Aspinden Road Nature Garden
Summary: A small nature garden with a woodland and dense nettle beds.
Grid ref: TQ 349 788
Area (ha): 0.04
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Pond, secondary woodland, tall herbs
Access: Locked site – access only with password / organized groups
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

South-west of Southwark Park, this small nature garden was a remnant of bomb damage and has developed naturally, with semi-mature sycamore woodland, dense nettle beds and a shallow pond. Shrub species include elder, bramble field maple, blackthorn and hawthorn. Snowdrops and rampions are also present. The pond was dominated by floating sweet grass. Several Southwark BAP species have been recording including Pipistrelle bats common toad and common frog. A mature sycamore tree has potential to support roosting bats.

The nature garden is owned by the Council and is now leased to Bede House Association and has a small group of committed local residents managing the site.

Threats and Opportunities

The invasive Virginia creeper is beginning to invade from adjacent gardens.

There would be value in improving the existing pond, so that it was less prone to drying out. It would then be able to support marginal plants and provide habitat for a wider range of invertebrates including dragonflies.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 18/12/2006 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Importance
Site Reference: SoBII09
Site Name: Belair Park
Summary: An historic landscaped park with a lake fringed with woodland, and some fine pollarded oaks.
Grid ref: TQ 328 735
Area (ha): 9.98
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Wet woodland, lake, scattered trees, herb-rich grassland, amenity grassland, native hedgerows.
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

The main feature of nature conservation interest in Belair Park is the lake surrounded by wet alder woodland and marginal vegetation. The woodland canopy is dominated by alder with pedunculate oak, goat and grey willow and an understory of holly, hawthorn and bramble. Similar woodland covers the island. Wet woodland is a UK Habitat of Principal Importance and a rare habitat in London. The lake's more open margins support marginal vegetation such as lesser pond-sedge, gipsywort, purple-loosestrife and common reed. The lake supports a number of breeding waterfowl including tufted duck, mallard, coot, moorhen and Canada goose. It is likely that the lake and surrounding habitats support common amphibians and invertebrates.

The rest of the park is mostly amenity grassland, but contains some fine mature trees, including oak pollards dating from before 1750. Stag beetle, a Southwark BAP species has been recorded. Two flood-defense bunds have been created on either side of the lake and recently planted with a wildflower mix. A number of native species rich hedgerows are present, with one delineating the entire western boundary of the park. Other bird species recorded include mistle and song thrush, stock pigeon and common starling. The bat species: Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule have also been recorded. The site forms part of a larger area of open space contiguous with Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation including Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railway line (contiguous with the parks western boundary) and Dulwich Park (to the east).

Belair is owned and managed by the Council with free public access. There is an active Friends of Belair group. The park is of considerable historic and horticultural interest, and is a Grade II* Listed landscape.

Threats and Opportunities

Bank erosion around the lake.

Native hedgerows should be laid using a traditionally method to ensure they maintain their value to nesting birds and invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 22/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL34
Site Name: Bellenden Road Nature Garden (formally known as Bellenden Road Tree Nursery)
Summary: Small nature garden with scattered trees, shrubs and grassland.
Grid ref: TQ 340 766
Area (ha): 0.3
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Scattered trees, shrubs, tall herb, hedgerow and semi-improved grassland.
Access: No public access unless by prior arrangement
Ownership: Owned by the Council and licensed to the London Wildlife Trust

Site Description:

The small, nature garden contains several mature trees and shrubs with small areas of tall herbs and herb-rich grassland. Species comprise frequent sycamore and ash with a good mix of native shrubs including spindle, hawthorn, dogwood, hazel and cherry plum. Old man's beard and honeysuckle are also present. Herbs include common knapweed, field scabious, garlic mustard, redampions and cow parsley. It is likely to be a haven for the local bird population due to it being relatively undisturbed. Dead hedges around the perimeter of the garden and stone banks provide refuge for insect life including bees.

Owned by the Council and licensed to the London Wildlife Trust, who manage it with the help of the Probation Service, the garden has considerable educational potential and as such is used by students from Highshore School for wildlife investigations. It is not open to the public but can be easily viewed from the road.

Threats and Opportunities

There are signs of anti-social behavior.

Improving visibility to the street may help to reduce anti-social behavior. Consider laying the hedge using a traditional method. The temporary pond could be better established to provide water all year round.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 20/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 20/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Conservation
Site Reference: SoL05
Site Name: Benhill Road Nature Garden
Summary: Nature garden used primarily by school children
Grid ref: TQ 328 771
Area (ha): 0.21
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Scrub, native woodland, pond, herb-rich grassland, native hedgerow
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

One of the oldest nature gardens in the Borough, which has been heavily overgrown but contains a mixture of scrub, young woodland and rough grassland. Species include traveler's-joy, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel coppice, ash, birch and buddleia. The site has recently being restored with a new pond (created by Froglife), wildflower meadow and a native hedgerow.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/2003

Citation last edited: 20/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 20/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL16
Site Name: Bird-in-Bush Park
Summary: An imaginatively-landscaped small park with long grass, plenty of trees and shrubs, and an ecology area.
Grid ref: TQ 346 774
Area (ha): 0.45
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Bare ground, ephemeral, scattered trees, shrubs, amenity grassland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small park, which is less intensively managed than most. It has long grass and plenty of trees and shrubs. An ecology area in the north-east corner consists of native shrubs and trees including hawthorn, elder, field maple, dog rose and wild privet. A BMX track supports short ruderal species such as Canadian fleabane. Bare south facing banks provide potential nesting opportunities for solitary bees and other invertebrates. Speckled wood butterfly and several birds including robin and goldfinch have been recorded. The park had new community beds installed in 2005.

Opportunities

Sow a wild-flower ephemeral/annual seed mix around BMX track to provide an additional nectar source for invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 17/01/2007 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 20/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII21
Site Name: Brenchley Gardens
Summary: A linear park established on an old railway line, with secondary woodland and species rich grassland.
Grid ref: TQ 353 743
Area (ha): 3.63
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Secondary native woodland, herb-rich neutral grassland, scattered trees, amenity grassland.
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This linear park has a narrow strip of secondary native woodland along its north-western edge, with a good structure and wide variety of trees, the canopy of which is dominated by pedunculated oak, ash and aspen, the latter is a rare species in Southwark. Great horsetail, scarce in London, is common in the ground flora. There are some fine mature trees, including a line of pollarded ash and aspen (a former railway boundary feature). To the north-east of the park, the linear strip of vegetation continues into an amenity area around housing, supporting herb-rich neutral grassland on the steep slopes. Some areas are tussocky, with frequent anthills and dominated by coarser grasses such as Yorkshire fog and tall fescue. Short grassy area are more species rich with frequent black knapweed, mouse-ear hawkweed, ox-eye daisy, sweet woodruff, bird's foot trefoil and cowslip. A substantial population of cowslip is supposed to occur in the short grass, the origins of which are not known, but they are the only ones in the Borough which might be wild. Mare's tail (*Equisetum arvense*) an uncommon species in Southwark, has also been recorded on the boundary with Aquarius Golf Course. The site is known to support a number of locally important species including common kestrel pipistrelle bats. This site is contiguous with Aquarius Golf Course Site of Borough Importance and is separated by Brenchley Gardens Road from One Tree Hill and Camberley New Cemetery.

Threats & Opportunities

Regular mowing by contractors typically reduces the value of grassland to wildlife. Consider modifying the management contracts of social housing estates to allow herbs and grasses to flower. Where road improvements are required, consider installing underpasses to allow movement for small mammals and reptiles between adjacent SINC sites.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 20/03/2015
Citation last edited: 20/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 20/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI08
Site Name: Camberwell Old Cemetery
Summary: A Victorian cemetery with a fine collection of mature trees and range of other habitats.
Grid ref: TQ 348 741
Area (ha): 11.61
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Non native woodland, scattered trees, roughland, herb-rich neutral grassland, vegetated wall/tombstones.
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This is a Victorian cemetery containing an excellent selection of mature trees, including several old oak pollards, presumably old boundary markers pre-dating the cemetery, a particularly fine pear tree and a single native black-poplar, a nationally scarce and declining tree. The secondary non-native woodland, which covers almost half of the site is dominated by sycamore and ash. The canopy is thick with young trees with scattered older standards and coppiced trees along the rides. The ground layer is dominated by ivy and bramble. The rides comprise of herb-rich grassland supporting species such as meadow vetchling, red clover and common knapweed. The former is an uncommon species in Southwark. Another area of flower-rich grassland is noted in the north-east corner of the cemetery, where older, tightly-packed graves probably inhibits regular mowing. Here species such as bird's foot trefoil and red clover are frequent. The cemetery's north-west area consists largely of goat willow, regenerating ash and sycamore, pedunculate oak and horse chestnut. Scarlet pimpernel and enchanted nightshade (two ancient woodland indicators) were recorded in this area. There is also a large area of roughland (mix of scrub, tall herbs and ruderal vegetation) that may meet the criteria for a Habitat of Principal Importance in England known as Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land. A number of species noted in the Southwark BAP have been recorded including stag beetle, house sparrow and the common blue butterfly. Other invertebrates include buff-tailed and tree bumblebee and meadow brown butterfly. The range and maturity of habitats within the cemetery is also likely to support foraging and roosting bats and a wide range of breeding birds. The remainder of the cemetery grounds is dominated by species-poor amenity grassland with is closely-mown on a regular basis, limiting its ecological value. Smaller areas of semi-improved grassland, have a more relaxed mowing regime, allowing common grasses to flower, but species composition is still limited.

Threats and Opportunities

Over management of grassland to retain "tidy" appearance. A woodland burial method should be considered to minimise loss of existing mature woodland habitat and provide a wildlife-friendly / ecosystem services driven habitat alternative to that of intensively mown grassland.

The invasive Japanese knotweed is present within areas of roughland, bare ground and woodland to the north-west of the site, with potential to spread further if not controlled. The potential presence of asbestos was also noted in the areas cleared for new graves. Relaxing of the mowing regime in certain areas would improve habitat structure of value to invertebrates (whilst still retaining a managed appearance to visitors). Grassland in the north-east corner of the site could easily become meadow quality with additional plug planting. Scrub habitat along the southern boundary would be of greater value to wildlife if adjacent grassland could be allowed to grow long. Isolated pockets of species-rich habitat in the southwest part of the site could be enhanced for wildlife by linking together (through additional scrub, shrub or tree planting).

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI12
Site Name: Centre for Wildlife Gardening
Summary: An educational center in Peckham, run by the London Wildlife Trust, which demonstrates how to make gardens more attractive to wildlife.
Grid ref: TQ 338 755
Area (ha): 0.22
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Native woodland, chalk grassland, planted shrubbery, hedge, pond, ephemeral/short perianal, scrub, herb-rich neutral grassland/ biodiverse green roof, tall herb,
Access: Access at limited times
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark. Leased to London Wildlife Trust

Site Description:

Created as a tree nursery in 1989 by the London Wildlife Trust, the Centre for Wildlife Gardening now plays a major role in promoting greening of the environment, as well as being greatly valued by the local community and schools. Apart from the nursery, there are many types of habitats, demonstrating what can be created to encourage wildlife in gardens and window boxes. These include three ponds with good marginal vegetation and which support thriving populations of common frogs, toads and smooth and palmate newts, as well as several species of dragonflies. The fairy shrimp has also been recorded in one pond. Other habitats include a chalk bank – the only chalk grassland in Southwark, a hedgerow, spring and summer meadows, urban roughland, two living (biodiverse) roofs, raised beds and ephemeral / tall herbs. Eight species of butterflies breed on the site and a wide range of common bird species use the site to forage and breed. An on-site building, designed to very high environmental standards and an educational feature in itself, contains a classroom and meeting room, interpretation, and office space for the full-time project manager and assistant. Owned by the Council and managed by the London Wildlife Trust, the Centre is normally open to the public on Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday from 10.30am to 4.30pm, and sometimes at other times (phone 020 7252 9186 for details). The Trust runs numerous events, and the center provides large numbers of trees to organisations and individuals in the Borough and beyond.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL17
Site Name: Consort Park
Summary: A natural looking, small park with scattered scrub of goat willow.
Grid ref: TQ 347 761
Area (ha): 0.34
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, native hedgerow
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small undulating, informal park characterized by scattered goat willow scrub. The catkins provide an important early source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects and provides foraging for birds. Goat willow is also an uncommon species in Southwark. The grass is allowed to grow long and contains typical 'wasteland' wild flowers such as lucerne. A young, native hedgerow borders the western boundary and contains frequent hawthorn, blackthorn and elder. A range of other native semi-mature tree species are also present. The parks mounds, steep, short slopes and climbable trees are likely to be a valuable natural play resource for local children. The park is located adjacent to Nunhead Railway Embankments Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation and may provide additional foraging habitat for bats.

Opportunities

Additional Woodland features such as a willow tunnel and logs would provide habitat for invertebrates and additional play features for local children. The hedgerow would benefit from being traditionally laid in a few years to provide denser vegetation for nesting birds and refuge for invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 03/04/2007 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII20
Site Name: Dawson's Heights (Dawsons Hill)
Summary: A small open space on the side of a steep hill with woodland and scrub habitat.
Grid ref: TQ 343 738
Area (ha): 2.68
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Native and non-native woodland, roughland, native hedgerow, scattered trees, amenity grassland.
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This public open space on the side of a steep hill comprises predominantly roughland (an intimate mix of semi-improved grassland, scrub, scattered trees and tall herbs) and secondary woodland dominated by sycamore and hybrid black poplar with occasional ash, wild cherry and small leaved lime, the latter is an ancient woodland indicator and a rare species in Southwark. The woodland understory is dominated by hawthorn, with a ground flora (much of it planted) of ramsons, lords-and-ladies and native bluebell. A small area of native woodland dominated by a rich mix of shrubs is located along the south-west corner of the site. Species include field maple, rowan and Midland hawthorn (also a rare species in Southwark). Grassland is dominated by tussock grasses such as Yorkshire fog and false oat grass. Ant hills are a notable feature. The abundance of scrub provides good habitat for breeding and foraging birds with goldfinch and linnets recorded. Roughland provides habitat for hedgehogs, common reptiles and common invertebrates such as the speckled wood butterfly. There are also number of old fruit trees, at the top of the hill near the tennis court. Southwark Council manage the site with support from a local voluntary group called The Friends of Dawson's Hill. There is also much school use of the site. The site is used for local events, and a number of educational leaflets have also been published.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 12/10/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoL02

Site Name: Dickens Square Park (Rockingham Park)

Summary: An informal and pleasant little open space

Grid ref: TQ 324 793

Area (ha): 1.01

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scrub, tall herb, scattered trees, secondary woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

An informal, natural-looking site providing a wildlife haven in an area otherwise urban area with limited habitats for wildlife. Many small open spaces in Southwark are heavily-managed and so the informality of Dickens Square Park provides a valuable refuge to birds and invertebrates, particularly during winter. The edges of the park have evolved into woodland of sycamore and hybrid black poplar, with hawthorn, hazel, bramble and elder in the undergrowth. Rough grassland, bramble scrub and tall herbs such as cow parsley, mugwort and nettles provide further habitat and a gradual transition between woody vegetation and mown grassland. In a recent survey of bird life in almost 300 of London's smaller parks and squares, this site scored among the top ten, with 11 species recorded. These included some very uncommon species for central London such as blackcap and green woodpecker. Robin, wren, great tit and long-tailed tit can also be found here and jay and chiffchaff have been recorded. This site is valuable in its own right but it also forms a stepping stone allowing some species to move between other nearby parks such as Tabard Gardens and Newington Park.

Threats and Opportunities

Potential loss of informal habitat types including tall ruderal, scrub and secondary woodland in order to improve the site for amenity use. Presence of invasive plant species including a small amount of Japanese knotweed. The site suffers from some anti-social behavior.

Opportunity to plant native climbers in woodland area and around the perimeter of the site to provide additional nesting habitat and nectar for birds and invertebrates. Enhance the adventure playground with natural wildlife-friendly play features.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI06
Site Name: Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course
Summary: A large golf course with some fine old oaks, native oak woodland and ponds
Grid ref: TQ 338 728
Area (ha): 33.79
Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native woodland, veteran trees, semi-improved grassland, standing open water.
Access: Accessible to members only
Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

This large golf course contains pockets of mature, oak woodland, and numerous fine old /veteran and dead standing oaks scattered between the fairways. There are also several ponds and small lakes on the lower slopes (created to drain the fairways) and which support diverse scrub, marginal, emergent and floating vegetation. Woodland areas are generally even –aged with numerous mature oak standards with an understory dominated by ivy, bramble and elder. Other tree species include ash, sycamore, Norway maple and wayfaring tree. In some places the trees are covered by large growths of ivy and dead standing and fallen wood is abundant. Other woodland areas are more open with scattered scrub of hawthorn, broom and gorse, grassland, tall ruderal or used as an area to store soil and arising's.

The fairways grade quickly into species-poor grassland dominated by Yorkshire fog, bents and red fescue, whilst smaller areas are more herb –rich with common knapweed, frequent hypcharis species and ladies bedstraw. Numerous dry ditches crisscross the golf-course –the remains of old field boundaries and may support small areas of acid grassland, due the sparsely vegetated banks. Numerous ponds provide diverse wetland habitats supporting species such as water horsetail (*Equisetum palustre*), lesser and greater pond sedge, flowering rush, arrowhead, lesser cats tail (*Typha latifolia*) and flag iris, many of which are uncommon species in Southwark. Larger ponds along the western boundary are also fringed with willows. The golf course has a large number of mature, /veteran native oak trees, that provide ideal habitat for a wide range of bats, of which five species (*Pipistrelle*, *Noctule*, *Natterer's*, *Brown-long-eared*, *soprano pipistrelle*) have been recorded. The woodland areas, partly as a result of being contiguous with Sydenham Hill Woods to the south supports good populations of birds including lesser spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, tawny owl and hobby. The large areas of grassland and adjacent scrub are likely to provide foraging for birds: the house sparrow, song thrush and mistle thrush have all been frequently recorded. Other species also include hedgehog and the stag beetle, both species noted on the London and Southwark BAPs. The ponds are likely to support amphibians and potentially grass snake. The purple hairstreak butterfly and scarce silver-lines moth have been recorded in the past. Other invertebrates present are likely to be at least of local significance. The London Wildlife Trust currently provides advice to the site manager on favourable management and undertakes bat surveys.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: M075
Site Name: Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods
Summary: The closest ancient woods to central London, with a good range of woodland plants, fungi and birds.
Grid ref: TQ 344 724
Area (ha): 28.11
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Pond/lake
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: Dulwich Estate, leased to London Borough of Southwark sub leased to LWT.

Site Description:

The largest remnant of the historic Great North Wood, and one of the closest ancient woods to central London. Mostly sessile oak-hornbeam woodland, with a wide variety of other tree and shrub species, including numerous exotics planted when the wood included parts of large gardens. The flora includes numerous indicators of long-established woodland with wood anemone, lily-of-the-valley and hairy wood-rush present. The last two of these are uncommon in London. All three British woodpeckers breed, along with nuthatch, treecreeper, tawny owl and sparrowhawk. Hawfinches are recorded occasionally and may also breed. Invertebrates are well recorded and include the purple hairstreak butterfly and several nationally scarce bees and wasps. Fungi are also well recorded (174 species) and mosses include *Mnium punctatum* at its only known London locality. Two ponds contain aquatic vegetation and support amphibians and dragonflies. The section of disused railway line in the east supports predominantly mature ash with oak (of more recent origin) and ivy and pendulous sedge dominates the ground cover. The now disused tunnel at the southern end is a known bat hibernation roost. Sydenham Hill Wood is a Local Nature Reserve and managed by London Wildlife Trust.

Site first notified: 19/09/1988 **Boundary last changed:** 28/10/1990
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:** 25/11/2002
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII14
Site Name: Dulwich Mill Pond
Summary: This is the oldest pond in the Borough of Southwark.
Grid ref: TQ 332 731
Area (ha): 0.86
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Lake, herb-rich grassland, native hedgerow, scattered trees
Access: Locked, can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership: Dulwich Estate

Site Description:

As the oldest pond in Southwark, the mill pond is fringed with mature alder trees, tall marginal and bank side vegetation, surrounded by herb-rich grassland and a mature tree-lined hedgerow. Marginal vegetation is located on the eastern bank and dominated by stands of yellow iris, greater reedmace and common club rush. Bank side vegetation is left uncut and comprises a rich mix of herbs including greater bird's foot trefoil, salad burnet, agrimony and ladies bedstraw along with more common ruderal species including creeping thistle and hemlock. The grassland to the south supports common sorrel, common knapweed and mouse-ear hawkweed, with some patches remaining uncut. There are numerous mature scattered horse chestnuts and a large mature oak next to the pond. The eastern boundary is delineated by an overgrown native hedge with a number of mature ash trees with potential value to roosting and foraging bats. The site is likely to provide suitable foraging habitat for a wide range of common birds, amphibians, invertebrates and foraging bats. A large number of waterfowl have been recorded using the pond, including Canada geese, tufted duck, moorhen and mallard and pochard. The latter is a rare species in Southwark.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989
Citation last edited: 24/04/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 11/08/2017

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI10
Site Name: Dulwich Park
Summary: A fine landscaped park with some magnificent old oak trees and a sizeable lake.
Grid ref: TQ 336 735
Area (ha): 29.58
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, pond/lake, scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, veteran trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large park with some magnificent old trees, particularly pollarded oaks, which may have been old boundary markers. One group of oaks has been fenced off and is infrequently mown, supporting species-rich neutral grassland. Several other areas of the park have recently been transferred into meadow management, with a corresponding increase in butterflies and other invertebrates seen foraging in the area. A sizeable lake, supports a diverse range of native emergent and marginal vegetation surrounded by broadleaved woodland, scrub and tall ruderal. Waterfowl such as tufted duck, coot, mallard and Canada goose are known to breed. The park has a whole contains a large diversity of bird species including thrush, pigeon, teal and warbler species. Pipistrelle bats are regularly seen, and there are unconfirmed reports of Daubenton's bats (a rare species in London) feeding over the lake. Dulwich Park is a Grade II* Listed Landscape of considerable horticultural and historic interest, and has recently received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for its restoration. A Friends group has recently been established.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBI07

Site Name: Dulwich Upper Wood & College Road Wood

Summary: A very attractive woodland nature reserve.

Grid ref: TQ 337 711

Area (ha): 2.14

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Secondary woodland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site), including wheel-chair access.

Ownership: The Dulwich Estate, leased to London Borough of Southwark and sub leased to TCV.

Site Description:

Dulwich Upper Woods (OS187), Local Nature Reserve. The site is a small fragment of ancient oak woodland, surrounded by secondary woodland of oak, sycamore, lime and ash, with a good variety of other trees and shrubs. Coppiced hazel is a distinctive component of the shrub layer. The ground flora in the ancient part includes wood anemone, bluebell, ramsons and yellow pimpernel, the latter is the only site in Southwark. Other species include male fern, hart's tongue fern and pendulous sedge. A large population of ivy broomrape of around 200 plants is present throughout the wood. A good selection of breeding birds have been recorded including Eurasian hobby, hawfinch, turtle dove and wood warbler. Notable a tawny owl was recorded in 2010. Fungi are particularly well recorded, with over 200 species noted. Amphibians are also reported present, potentially using the small pond on site. Species include common toad, common frog and palmate newts. The site is managed as an educational nature reserve by The Conservation Volunteers, who have an office on site and employ a full-time warden. On-site facilities include classroom/interpretive centre, an invertebrate friendly shipping container, stag beetle loggery and a small edible garden. Dulwich Upper Wood was declared a statutory Local Nature Reserve in August 2005. College Road Woods located to the north east and up a steep slope (OS188) comprises predominantly of semi-mature sycamore with abundant ivy. It is unmanaged and access is limited.

Threats and Opportunities

Spotted laurel is spreading through the southern part of the woodland. Management of this species and other non-native would be recommended.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/10/2017 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/10/2017

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL15
Site Name: Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park
Summary: Best known as the park which surrounds the Imperial War Museum, with a large number of mature trees.
Grid ref: TQ 313 792
Area (ha): 6.17
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Scattered trees, native woodland, orchard, amenity grassland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site), the nature garden is locked and accessible only with prior arrangement.
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark, IWM.

Site Description:

The largest open space in the north-west of the Borough and surrounding the Imperial War Museum. The majority of the park is dominated by a large number of mature and tall London plane trees. There are also a number of other species, including (supposedly) the only white mulberry in the Borough. The hairy buttercup a London rarity has also been recorded in the grassland areas in the past. More recent tree planting has featured a higher proportion of native species including silver birch, hornbeam and oak. In the south-east corner of the park, The charity "Trees for Cities" has created a trail of 'Ice age trees' with labelled specimens. In the same area, is a small orchard (native and exotic fruits) with an understorey of closely mown grass and common wild flowers including garlic mustard, wood avens and common mallow. In the southeast corner of the park (proposed extension of the SINC boundary) there is a small area of native woodland, with a canopy dominated by pedunculate oak and both silver and downy birch the latter is rare in Soutwark. The ground flora is quite diverse with native bluebell and agrimony. A walled garden in the north, contains a wildlife pond, surrounded by beds of nectar-rich herbaceous plants. This park is well used by visitors who come to visit the museum. A 'Peace Garden' offers a quiet spot for reflection and there is also a small playground.

Threats and Opportunities

There is great potential for this park to become a site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. However, current features of ecological value are located around the periphery of the site and limited in size. It would be beneficial to reduce the mowing regime underneath the trees and seed with wildflowers and or spring bulbs, to improve the value of these large areas for invertebrates. A new hedgerow or small woodland could be planted along the northern boundary to provide potential nesting and foraging habitat for birds. This would provide a buffer from the adjacent road (noise and fumes) which get particularly bad during rush hour and detracts from the Peace Garden located in the same area.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 11/08/2015

Citation last edited: 05/01/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII17
Site Name: Gipsy Hill Railway Cutting
Summary: A steep railway cutting with a mix of scrub, roughland and scattered mature trees.
Grid ref: TQ334711
Area (ha): 1.25
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, scrub, scattered trees
Access: No public access
Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

A steep railway cutting in the far south-west of the borough contains typical railway roughland. The lower slopes have recently been cleared, leaving a mature tree line at the top of the cutting dominated by pedunculate oak, sycamore, ash and hazel. Native scrub dominates the eastern end. Potentially due to its close proximity to Dulwich Upper Wood Local Nature Reserve, the site has a good range of bird species recorded including Eurasian hobby, turtle dove, hawfinch, wood warbler and tawny owl. Amphibians including common toad, frogs and palmate newts have also been recorded. Although only a small section is within Southwark, the railway line continues west into Lambeth and is well treed all the way to Norwood Park and beyond. This is likely to make it a foraging and commuting corridor for bats, reptiles and possible hedgehogs. There is no public access, but the vegetated cutting forms a pleasant backdrop for rail travelers.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/03/2005 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL12
Site Name: Goldsmith Road Nature Garden
Summary: A small nature garden, close to the center of Peckham.
Grid ref: TQ 345 769
Area (ha): 0.09
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): swamp, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This small nature garden, situated in a densely built-up part of Peckham, offers one of very few opportunities for local people to have contact with nature. A good mix of native scrub and young trees consisting of dense blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and silver birch surrounded by rough grassland and a concrete-lined pond with a small dipping platform. A number of common birds have been recorded including robin and blue tit and it is likely to provide important nesting habitat for other common birds. There are some wood carvings and seating in the garden.

Threats & opportunities

The pond would benefit from more regular management.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/2003
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII18

Site Name: Greenland Dock & adjacent wharfs

Summary: A large dock basin & adjacent wharfs good for wintering birds.

Grid ref: TQ 364 791

Area (ha): 11.31

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Standing water

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Greenland Dock (OS64) is a large basin; used primarily for boating, and hence is less suitable for birds compared to other docks in the area. Nevertheless, great crested grebes have nested in recent years, and it is regularly used by gulls and cormorants, and occasionally by waterfowl, particularly in hard weather, when the brackish water stays open when other freshwater lakes have frozen. An American ring-necked duck was a rare visitor to this site during freezing weather in the mid-1990s. During summer small-vegetated pontoons provide nesting habitat for coots and moorhens. Kingston wharf to the north is proposed to be included within the SINC, due to its sheltered and well vegetated margins, which are likely to support a good range of plant species, and provide habitat for birds, invertebrates and amphibians. To the south, lies St George's Wharf also known as South Dock (OS65), which is currently used as a boat-yard. All three waters connect to each other and to The River Thames via a number of locks and may be important waters for nursery fish and foraging bats.

Threats & Opportunities

Boat activity is increasing and this is likely to reduce the value of the waters for birds. The provision of floating habitats (on a large pontoon in the corner of the docks) could increase habitat value to fish and a range of common waterfowl.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 03/24/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII02
Site Name: Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides
Summary: Thickly-wooded railsides form an important green corridor for wildlife.
Grid ref: TQ 335 759
Area (ha): 10.64
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland, scrub
Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

Southwark's longest railway corridor stretching from Peckham roughly in the center of the borough to just beyond North Dulwich. At its broadest part at Grove Park, between Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill stations, the vegetation is largely dense sycamore woodland, with a shrub layer of elder and hawthorn and ground flora of ivy, cow parsley and bramble. The woodland has a good structure. There are also areas of roughland consisting of a typical mix of coarse grasses, tall herbs, bramble and elder scrub. The railway running south from this cutting through East and North Dulwich stations to Herne Hill Stadium runs through a narrow cutting, then on an embankment, both of which contain a similar mix of sycamore - ash woodland and roughland. The habitat corridor supports a good range of bat species with records for soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle, noctule and lesser noctule bats being present. Common frog and stag beetle have also been recorded. The site forms a strategic habitat corridor through a residential part of the borough, connecting a number of SINC's and open spaces together including Herne Hill Velodrome in the south, then James Allen School, Greendale fields through to Dog Kennel Hill Estates and Warwick Gardens in the north. For this reason, it is of high value as a foraging and dispersal corridor for wildlife. Hedgehogs have been recorded around Greendale fields and reptiles are likely present in the area. Owned by Network Rail, there is no public access to the site, but the railsides form a pleasant backdrop for train travelers.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL31
Site Name: Herne Hill Velodrome
Summary: A sizeable area of roughland which can be visited when there are events on at the Velodrome.
Grid ref: TQ 327 741
Area (ha): 8.3
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland, scattered trees, amenity grassland, native hedge.
Access: Access at limited times
Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

The most interesting part of the site for nature conservation is a sizeable area of land along the south western boundary of the velodrome, which consists mostly of roughland with smaller areas of non-native sycamore woodland to the north-west. The mosaic of habitats are likely to provide foraging and refuge for invertebrates (particularly butterflies), nesting birds, hedgehogs and common reptile species. The stag beetle, a London and Southwark BAP species has been recorded on site. Notable bird species have included lesser spotted woodpecker, hobby, meadow pipet, common and mistle thrush and willow warbler. A wide range of perennial, ephemeral and ruderal species are present including scrub and scattered trees, which may meet the criteria for the Habitat of Principal Importance known as open mosaic habitat on previously developed land. Wasteland is also noted in the London and Southwark BAP. The whole of the open space around the stadium is included in the SINC; most of this is amenity grassland, but there are scattered trees and hedges. The site is located adjacent to Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides and may provide additional foraging habitat for bats.

The Velodrome is owned by the Dulwich Estate, and managed on a day to day basis by VC Londres Cycling Club. Now that the original Wembley Stadium has been demolished, Herne Hill Velodrome is the last remaining venue from the 1948 London Olympic Games that is still in active use. It is one of the best cycling tracks in the United Kingdom. There is access when the playing fields and stadium are open for events, as well as in the summer months when it is open most weekday evenings and weekends, with some of the paths being used for off-road riding. In winter it is generally only open on Saturdays.

Threats and Opportunities

Grassland habitat could be improved for invertebrates by additional tree planting and reduction in mowing frequency around the perimeter of the site.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/03/2004
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII11
Site Name: Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)
Summary: A small fragment of ancient woodland, surviving in the middle of a housing estate.
Grid ref: TQ 336 715
Area (ha): 0.37
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Ancient woodland
Access: No public access
Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

A small area of ancient woodland, with mature pedunculate oak and ash dominating the canopy with occasional hornbeam and sycamore. The understory is dense with abundant holly, and hawthorn along with non-native shrubs (most likely garden escapees) and butterfly bush. The ground flora is limited to bramble and hedge bindweed, although the native bluebell has been recorded in the past. The maturity of the habitat provides high potential for roosting and foraging bats and birds. Abundant dead wood and log piles are highly likely to provide habitat for the stag beetle, a Southwark BAP species and other deadwood dependent invertebrates. Although the woodland is small and located in the middle of a housing estate, the surrounding built environment (streets, social housing land and back gardens) contain a large number of mature trees either closely spaced or forming interlocking canopies. This provides habitat connectivity with ancient woodland located a few streets away at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Dulwich Upper Woods (LNR). Access is restricted to local residents, who have keys.

Threats and opportunities:

The Site suffers from neglect and dumping from the housing. The site has not had positive woodland management for a few years.

The site is included in the Great North Wood action area so engagement with residents could turn the site management to a positive.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 21/10/17 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 21/10/2017

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII12
Site Name: James Allen's Girls' School Botany Gardens
Summary: Woodland and garden within school grounds.
Grid ref: TQ 330 746
Area (ha): 0.37
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Native woodland, pond, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland.
Access: Access by prior arrangement
Ownership: James Allen's Girls' School

Site Description:

A corner of the school grounds comprises mature native woodland, herb-rich neutral grassland, a pond and planted shrubbery. Of particular value is a copse of native woodland dominated by even-aged, mature pedunculate oak, with a good native understory including holly, yew, spindle and wild cherry. The presence of butcher broom and bracken are notable components of the ground flora and are rare species in Southwark. The woodland is known to support a wide range of birds including greater spotted woodpecker. The mature trees have the potential to support roosting bats and the adjacent garden, pond and scattered trees are likely to foraging foraging for bats, particularly due to its location next to a wooded railway corridor (part of Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides Site of Borough Importance). A recently planted nuttury and fruit trees have been planted along the western boundary of the SINC. A smaller, open and predominantly native woodland is located in the centre of the site and consisted of broom, scots pine, birch and pedunculate and sessile oak. Adjacent is a recently created pond, with seeded banks, consisting of common knapweed, bird's foot trefoil and greater knapweed. The latter is a rare species in Southwark. The gardens are well used by the school.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL36
Site Name: Kingstairs Gardens
Summary: A medium sized river front park with mature trees and meadows
Grid ref: TQ 349 797
Area (ha): 3.46
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Parkland, meadows, hedges, mature trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Kingstairs Gardens is a river front site situated in the north of Southwark. The site acts as an important green link between the Thames and the larger Southwark Park.

The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, planted trees, shrub, hedges and herbaceous perennials as well as smaller areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation.

In the southern section of the site recent secondary woodland dominated and is composed of young field maple *Acer campestre*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, and Norway maple. The ground flora was sparse and dominated by Norway maple and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* saplings with occasional wood avens *Geum urbanum*, and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

The park has had new habitat creation including pollinator gardens, two meadows, one traditional and one exotic show meadow.

A laurel and mixed native shrub border is situated along the Jamaica Road boundary.

Threats and Opportunities

Laurel is considered a non native invasive species and should be replaced.

Site first notified: 01/06/2010 **Boundary last changed:** 01/05/2011

Citation last edited: 01/05/2011 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/11/2016

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI01
Site Name: Lavender Pond Nature Park
Summary: A wonderful pond, managed as an educational nature reserve.
Grid ref: TQ 362 803
Area (ha): 0.73
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Pond/lake, reed bed, wet grassland, secondary non-native
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

By far the best pond in the borough, with luxuriant and diverse growths of submerged, emergent and marginal vegetation. Associated mosaic of damp habitats have been created, including reed bed, damp meadow supporting uncommon species such as purple loosestrife, greater reed mace and marsh woundwort. Reed bed is a Habitat of Principal Importance and noted in the London and Southwark BAP. An area of young, native woodland borders the pond, comprising predominantly of field maple and locally abundant alder. Habitat restoration/ enhancement was currently being undertaken on part of the site in 2015. Breeding birds include reed warbler and reed bunting, species that require a sizeable area of reed habitat, which is present here. A good range of invertebrates, including the broad body chaser dragonfly and common blue, red admiral, speckled white and large heath butterflies have been recorded. There is good cover for amphibians including common frog, common toad and smooth newt. Rudd and carp fish are also present. Small numbers of pipistrelle bats are regularly seen. The proximity to Russia Dock Woodlands to the south and the River Thames to the north, is likely to provide complimentary habitat and linkages for foraging bats and birds. The site is a Local Nature Reserve and managed as an educational nature reserve by The Conservation Volunteers, who employ a full-time warden. Numerous stag beetle loggeries have been created. There is an educational center in nearby pump house and is well used by schools.

Threats and opportunities:

Remove the invasive snowberry bush from within the woodland.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989
Citation last edited: 23/10/2017 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 23/10/2017

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL01
Site Name: Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park
Summary: A small and very popular park in the far north of the Borough, much frequented by office workers in their lunch breaks.
Grid ref: TQ 330 797
Area (ha): 1.23
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, herb-rich neutral grassland, young native woodland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description

A small park located in the far north of the borough, close to London Bridge station. The gardens are mostly formal, with some mature trees, but the recently created Community Park is informally landscaped, with many young trees and shrubs forming a small patch of secondary woodland in one corner. Some of the grassy areas have been sown with wildflower mixes, but these are now kept short. A small wildflower area with planted fruit trees has been created by the Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST). It is one of few green spaces that provide access to nature in an otherwise densely built up area. It is very popular with local residents and office workers at lunchtime.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII19
Site Name: Lettsom Gardens
Summary: An attractive, wooded community garden.
Grid ref: TQ 333 758
Area (ha): 0.54
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Non-native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, vegetated walls
Access: No public access. The gardens are owned by the Council and managed by the Lettsom Gardens Association. Access is restricted to members of the Association.
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

The garden is predominantly non-native, sycamore woodland with frequent semi-mature pedunculated oak and ash. There is also a mature and very large evergreen oak in the western corner. The understorey is overgrown with bramble, ivy, hawthorn with some exotic species including highclear holly, bay and several mature mulberry and fig trees. The latter probably a relic of the time when this site was the garden of the 18th century botanist John Coakley Lettsom. The ground flora is dominated by ivy, but several uncommon species are present including stinking iris, false wood brome, broad-leaved meadow grass and wood sedge. An open area comprising semi-improved grassland is supposed to contain a colourful selection of wild flowers, including wild angelica, which is rare in Southwark. The site is accessed via a driveway off Grove Park Road, where several semi-mature apple trees and fig tree have established along the boundary walls. Numerous climbers and recently planted fruit trees are also present. The garden is well used by member's children, where the dense undergrowth, climbable trees and aging garden features have become an endless source of imaginative play. The nature of vegetation is likely to support a wide range of common breeding birds. 4 bat species including notcule, lesser noctule, pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle have also been recorded and the site is likely to provide good foraging habitat. The site is located adjacent to Grove Park Allotments a proposed SINC site, surrounded by a number of mature gardens and Grove Park and East Dulwich Railway Cuttings Site of Borough Importance to the north and southeast, making this area particularly valuable area for birds, bats and potentially hedgehogs.

Threats and Opportunities

Ivy is particularly dominant as a ground cover / shrub layer in parts of the woodland and is becoming dominant at the cost of other grassland species. Consider localised removal / management.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015
Citation last edited: 24/03/2013 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL07
Site Name: Lucas Gardens
Summary: A small and well-used park, right opposite the Town Hall.
Grid ref: TQ 332 765
Area (ha): 1.72
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A very pleasant small park in a heavily built-up part of Peckham, right opposite Peckham Town Hall, with a fine selection of mature trees and planted shrubbery. Pipistrelle and soprano Pipistrelle bats have been recorded and may use the site for foraging and potentially roosting. A wide range of common birds are also likely to forage on site. In the south-west corner an herb-rich wildflower meadow has been created, left uncut with native scrub and standing dead wood. In the context of the site this is likely to be important foraging habitat for pollinators and provide cover for invertebrates over winter.

Opportunities

Plant a species rich hedgerow along the Western boundary and allow the adjacent grass fringe to be left uncut.

Improve Eastern boundary with planting to provide forage for bats.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL26
Site Name: McDermott Grove Nature Garden
Summary: A delightful little garden designed by Charlie Dimmock.
Grid ref: TQ 341 759
Area (ha): 0.13
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, native hedgerow, planted shrubbery,
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This site is a little gem and this is no surprise when it is realised that it was extensively made over by the garden celebrity, Charlie Dimmock. It includes a semi-formal garden, a wildflower meadow and scattered trees - the latter includes mature native trees of birch, field maple, ash and pedunculate oak. Scrub species include hazel, common hawthorn, elder, dogwood and dog rose. A native hedgerow along the southern boundary consists of wild privet and hawthorn. New planting of apple and pear trees is planned in the south east corner. The garden is much used by Bellenden Primary School, located across the road and replaces the one lost within the school grounds. It is owned by the Borough's Housing Department and managed by a Friends group.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/032015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: M050
Site Name: Nunhead Cemetery
Summary: A wonderful Victorian cemetery of unique character, combining wildlife and historical interest. It is the nearest large woodland to central London.
Grid ref: TQ 355 755
Area (ha): 20.16
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Native secondary woodland, roughland, herb-rich neutral grassland, spring-fed pond, Vegetated wall/tombstones
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

One of London's most important Victorian cemeteries of historical and wildlife interest that has developed a character that is almost unique. The nearest large area of woodland and scrub to south-central London, and an outstanding site for its location. It is largely an ash-sycamore woodland, natural in structure and growing amongst gravestones, with many remnants of the Victorian plantings also remaining, including mature horse chestnut, holm oak, turkey oak and pedunculate oak. There is also a well-developed shrub layer with native and non-native shrubs. The ground flora is limited in dense shade but in opens areas along rides and in proximity to the spring-fed pond, a wide range of herbs area present including most notably yellow loosestrife, agrimony, old man's beard, false wood-broom, cowslip, reed sweet grass and meadowsweet. A good list of breeding woodland birds includes at least 60 pairs of wrens, chiffchaff, blackcap, great spotted woodpecker, tawny owl, sparrow hawk and jay. The invertebrate fauna includes the nationally scarce white-letter hairstreak butterfly. Foraging and roosting bats are highly likely. A borough-owned site, managed in partnership with the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery. The friends organise a conducted tour of the cemetery on the last Sunday of each month at 2.15 p.m., starting at the Linden Grove gates. Nunhead Cemetery is a Local Nature Reserve and a Grade II* Listed landscape.

Site first notified: 19/09/1988 **Boundary last changed:** 01/03/1994
Citation last edited: 12/10/2005 **Mayor Agreed:** 25/11/2002
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 09/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII24
Site Name: Nunhead Railway Embankments
Summary: Two steep, narrow railway embankments covered in dense woodland.
Grid ref: TQ 350 760
Area (ha): 5.2
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland
Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

Two steep, narrow railway embankments covered mostly in dense woodland of sycamore with occasional wild cherry and ash. A few open areas contain roughland of bramble, tall herbs and false oat-grass or grassland dominated by false oat-grass. The site forms part of much larger habitat corridor, which extends eastward towards Brockley (linking with the northern tip of Nunhead Cemetery) and is thus likely to be an important foraging and commuting route for bats. Other uncommon species may also use the habitat including hedgehogs and reptiles. There is no public access, but the woodland forms a pleasant landscape feature for train travellers.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI03
Site Name: One Tree Hill
Summary: A wooded hill, overlooking the City and interesting for its history as well as relic acid grassland and native woodland.
Grid ref: TQ 354 742
Area (ha): 6.92
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Native woodland, acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This is a steep hill with wooded slopes and pockets of acid grassland. The acid grassland is a mixture of re-seeded rye-grass and the original acid grassland, which contains heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), which is scarce in London, and compact rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*), which is rare in Southwark, among a sward of bents and fescues. This is one of only two sites in the Borough with acid grassland. Towards the southern part of the site (at the top of the hill), acid indicators are largely absent, the sward being dominated by tussock-forming grasses such as cocksfoot and false oat grass. The woodland is dominated by pedunculate oak and ash, but there are also a large number of mature London plane and hybrid black-poplar, relics from the former landscaping. The latter bearing numerous woodpecker holes, providing roosting opportunities for bats. The woodland has a good structure with a wide variety of other trees and shrubs. The ground flora includes male fern and native bluebell. Being part of a hilly ridge, forming a green chain with other wooded SINCs and open spaces (such as Sydenham Hill Woods and Nunhead Cemetery), it is a traditional migratory route for birds. Warblers (black cap, chiff chaff, willow and garden) visit in summer, whilst redwing, fieldfare and firecrest arrive in winter. Over 50 species of birds have been recorded including swifts, starlings, dunnock and song thrush along with sightings of birds of prey such as red kite and common kestrel. Common lizard, slow-worm, and stag beetles are also present. The numbers and range of species present are indicative of the variety of habitats present and the size of the site. The Site was designated Local Nature Reserve in 2007 and has considerable historical interest. The Friends of One Tree Hill have been helping Southwark Council implement the management plan by planting native hedgerows, woodland bulbs and plants, clearing bramble from glades and looking after the bird boxes.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Site Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII08
Site Name: Burgess Park
Summary: A large park, which includes several features of interest for nature conservation, such as the lake and the nature area on New Church Road.
Grid ref: TQ 332 777
Area (ha): 48
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): amenity grassland, scattered trees, pond/lake, secondary native and non-native woodland, herb rich and semi-improved neutral grassland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large, comparatively recently-created park with several features of nature conservation interest. This includes the lake, scrub, woodland and semi-improved grassland as well as newly created wetland habitats, diverse herbaceous planting and flower-rich grassland. It is an excellent example how to manage a strategically important open space for recreation and wildlife.

The lake supports a diverse range of common breeding and wintering water birds including tufted duck, great crested grebe, mallard, coot and mute swan, and is used by large numbers of foraging bats. Newly created marginal planting of reeds and other emergent vegetation provide cover for invertebrates and nesting waterfowl. New ponds support a rich mosaic of wetland vegetation, and reedswamp and wet woodland and provide suitable habitat for amphibians and invertebrates such as dragonflies. Notable native plant species include dittander, aspen, cyperus sedge, flowering rush and hemp agrimony, most present due to recent replanting. Several large landforms have been recently created near Albany Road and seeded with herb rich neutral grassland and pictorial meadow mixes, that provide good habitat for bees and butterflies including the common blue which is a declining species. The remainder of the park is predominantly tightly mown amenity grassland and scattered trees but patches of herb rich grassland are present and include abundant bird's foot trefoil, common knapweed and wild carrot. There are also several old sycamore trees and a single black mulberry. The nature area near New Church Road contains a good variety of trees and shrubs, and rough grassland with a reasonable floristic diversity. Elsewhere there are several scattered areas of woodland, scrub and rough neutral grassland that provide habitat for birds such as song thrush and green finch. Intensively managed sports pitches to the east of Peckham Hill Street support winter flocks of fieldfare and redwing as well as large numbers of gulls. The park is owned and managed by the Borough, with free public access.

Threats and Opportunities

Anti-social behavior is an issue in some of the peripheral wooded areas. Light spillage from night time use of sports pitches affects lake and may have an adverse effect on bats. The long-term success of new wetland and pictorial meadows will require appropriate and potentially high-intensity management. The presence and spread of invasive plant species including giant bramble, Japanese knotweed, Virginia creeper and Russian vine should be monitored to avoid them spreading.

Grassland management could be improved for invertebrates by reducing the mowing frequency, particular those areas that are herb-rich or in the shade of mature trees.

Phased development of the park will provide opportunities to create significant new areas of habitat for biodiversity.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 27/01/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 27/01/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII06
Site Name: Countisbury House Lawns
Summary: The lawns of this large block of council flats comprise of species rich, damp neutral grassland supporting rare species
Grid ref: TQ 343 722
Area (ha): 0.18
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): herb-rich neutral grassland, scattered trees
Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

The lawns of this large block of Council flats comprise of species rich, damp, neutral grassland containing a large population of the nationally scarce plant corky-fruited water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), one of only about six sites in London, as well as cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) which is rare in Southwark. Other species include tall fescue, common and black bent, greater bird's foot trefoil and cowslip. The grassland is left uncut until autumn to allow it to set seed. The site is owned and managed by the Council's Housing Department. The lawns can easily be viewed over low walls from Sydenham Hill.

Threats and Opportunity

Prune trees to minimise shading on grassland. Extend areas of species-rich grassland into adjacent grassland areas. Provide engagement opportunities with local residents.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989
Citation last edited: 06/02/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 06/02/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI09
Site Name: Peckham Rye Park and Common
Summary: A large and popular open space, with many areas that are good for wildlife within the historic landscape.
Grid ref: TQ 347 750
Area (ha): 41.6
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Running water, pond/lake, secondary woodland, herb-rich grassland, amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, scattered trees.
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large park with several valuable habitat features. The most important of these is the only remaining above-ground section of the River Peck and the most natural stream in the borough. The stream is heavily shaded by native, unmanaged native wet woodland dominated by alder, ash and pedunculated oak with a ground cover of pendulous sedge and bramble. Alder dominated woodland is a rare habitat in Southwark. Although somewhat altered with weirs, other artificial structures and ornamental planting, some sections are still in their natural banks and includes yellow flag, watercress, water figwort and cuckooflower. The largest of three ponds supports marginal vegetation including hemp agrimony, a variety of waterfowl, including tufted duck, coot, Canada goose and mallard, nest on the wooded island. Substantial flocks of gulls visit the park in winter and bats are likely to forage over the water. A small block of predominantly native woodland, on the boundary between the Park and the Common, is dominated by oak and ash with a well-developed understory, but sparse ground flora. Spring bulbs have been planted. This and several dense shrubberies support a good bird population. Small numbers of pipistrelle bats are present.

Infrequently mown grassland is located in three large areas. The two within the common are thought to be natural relics, whilst the third was seeded in 2009. All had a similar composition including giant fescue, ladies bedstraw meadowsweet, black knapweed and wild carrot with frequent anthills in the common areas. The rest of the park, and most of the Common, consist of amenity grassland, with some fine mature trees. The nationally-scarce musk stork's-bill (*Erodium moschatum*) occurs in short turf in the north of the Common. A small community garden managed by the Friends of Peckham Rye supports a small pond with good marginal vegetation, a stag beetle loggery and a range of nectar rich herbaceous planting. The Park is a Grade II Listed landscape, and has recently been restored with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The SINC boundary is to be extended in two places. Firstly in the southwest corner to include Peirmont Green, which comprises amenity grassland and mature native and ornamental trees. The second area is located in the northern corner of the SINC, to include an area that comprises mature trees and hard standing, and located on the central reservation (where the A2215/ Peckham Rye road splits in two).

Threats and Opportunities

The park has limited ground-level connectivity to adjacent SINC, due to being surrounded by busy main roads. Where road improvements are required in the future, such as along Homestall Road, adjacent to Aquarius Golf Course SINC, and along the A2215/Peckham Rye road, consider constructing an underpass for mammals / amphibians, and enhancing boundary vegetation. Retrofitting sustainable drainage features could also help provide structural diversity and habitat in areas currently not in active use (e.g. central reservation where the A2215 splits south of Peckham).

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoL08

Site Name: Plough Lane Pond

Summary: A pond located in a private garden.

Grid ref: TQ 339 741

Area (ha): 0.04

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): standing water, marginal vegetation, scrub.

Access: Private – no public access

Ownership: Private landowner

Site Description:

A wildlife pond located within the back garden of a private house, located off Plough Lane, north of Dulwich Park. Ponds are valuable for a wide variety of wildlife, including foraging birds, amphibians, reptiles and a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. Small ponds are particularly under threat in Southwark, as they are often seen as a safety risk to children and can become unmanaged and unsightly. This is a densely residential area, but back gardens form corridors of habitat, that are likely to be of value to a wide range of common but declining species of birds and invertebrates, including dragonflies. Back garden land may also provide foraging habitat for bats within proximity to nearby SINC's - Dulwich Park (to the south) and Camberwell Old Cemetery (in the east), which are both of borough importance for nature conservation.

Site first notified:

Boundary last changed:

Citation last edited:

Mayor Agreed:

Defunct:

Last Updated: 09/12/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoB

Site Name: Albion Channel

Summary: A canal connecting Surrey Water and Canada Water.

Grid ref: TQ 35771 79728

Area (ha): 0.88

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Canal, reed swamp, typha swamp, marginal planting, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A canal, with a series of floating pontoons spaced approximately 2m apart and planted with a range of species including abundant common reed, greater reedmace, flag iris, common bulrush, galingale (*Cyperus longus*) and white water lily. The hard-edges of the canal are lined with semi-mature white willow. At least 3 species of dragonfly and common species of amphibian are known to breed in the canal. The vegetated pontoons are valuable nesting habitat for coots and moorhens. The water and trees are likely to be an important foraging / commuting route for bats, with pipistrelles bats recorded in the area. Other common birds are likely to be attracted to the water and tree line. Species that have been recorded include house sparrow and grey wagtail, the former is noted in the Southwark BAP. The canal forms an important habitat corridor between Surrey Water and Canada Water which are Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. There is free public access along either side of the canal.

Threats and Opportunities

Potential for duckweed to spread if left unmanaged for too long, which could reduce the oxygen levels in the water (and value to aquatic invertebrates). Accumulation of litter should be removed on a regular basis to avoid injury to birds.

Joining two or more adjacent pontoons to create a larger area of reed swamp, could provide habitat for reed bunting and reed warbler, less common species, which have been recorded in the area.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL25
Site Name: Redcross Gardens
Summary: An imaginatively-designed nature garden with a variety of habitats.
Grid ref: TQ 323 799
Area (ha): 0.08
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Pond, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees.
Access:
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark. Leased to BOST

Site Description:

Redcross gardens is located in an 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.

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 Bankside Open Spaces Trust, BOST. 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.

Site first notified: 24/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 24/04/2015
Citation last edited: 24/04/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 09/12/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Cherry Gardens

Summary: One of few places along the River Thames in Soutwark, where vegetation overhangs the Thames river wall.

Grid ref: TQ 34553 79740

Area (ha): 0.312

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native scrub, scattered trees, planted shrubbery

Access: Open access

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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 an herbaceous species some of 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 boats trips from the Cherry Gardens Pier, located in the middle of the gardens.

Threats and Opportunities

Improving, formalising and providing safer access (and safety information) about the River Thames foreshore would be encouraged at this location. Currently access is possible but not advertised. Potential to remove areas of hardstanding between the trees (not affecting walking route) to provide additional habitat / places to sit. Installation of bat, bird and invertebrate boxes. New lighting from new development or streets could detract from the habitat.

Site first notified: 10/08/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 10/08/2015

Citation last edited: 10/08/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Christchurch Gardens

Summary: A mature, shaded churchyard garden in a very heavily built-up area.

Grid ref: TQ 316 802

Area (ha): 0.91

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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 has under gone recent enhancement through active management by Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), 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.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Cossal Park

Summary: A medium-sized park in a residential area

Grid ref: TQ 346 765

Area (ha): 1.121

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, acattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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) borders the park along the north boundary.

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.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Faraday Gardens

Summary: A church with unmanaged secondary woodland

Grid ref: TQ 325 782

Area (ha): 1.230

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): native woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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 *Asplenium trichomanes* 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.

Threats and opportunities

Habitat features (e.g. an invertebrate logger, unmanaged grassland) could provide overwintering habitat for invertebrates – complimenting the existing nectar source. Similar features could provide natural play for local children.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoLXX
Site Name: Grange Lane North (Gunsite) Allotments
Summary: An informal allotment site with numerous wildlife ponds
Grid ref: TQ 342 725
Area (ha): 3.049
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Active allotments, native woodland, ponds, scrub, semi-improved grassland
Access: Private site but not locked
Ownership: The Dulwich Estate

Site Description:

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 and wood melick and bracken were also recorded and may be self sown from adjacent 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).

Threats and Opportunities

Formalising the allotments would reduce the value to foraging and sheltering wildlife. Use of slug pellets should be discouraged to provide foraging habitat for ground feeding birds such as song thrush.

Site first notified: 10/08/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 10/08/2015
Citation last edited: 10/08/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoLXX
Site Name: Grange Lane north (South) Allotments
Summary: A large allotment site with ancient boundaries and native woodland
Grid ref: TQ 337 726
Area (ha): 4.246
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Active allotments, native woodland, scrub, semi-improved grassland
Access: Private site
Ownership: The Dulwich Estate

Site Description:

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 an 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 tendered 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.

Threats and Opportunities

Use of slug pellets should be discouraged to provide foraging habitat for ground feeding birds such as song thrush. Creation of one or two wildlife ponds would provide habitat for invertebrates and common amphibians.

Site first notified: 09/09/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 09/09/2015

Citation last edited: 09/12/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct:

Last Updated:

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Grove Park Allotments

Summary: Allotments managed with wildlife in mind

Grid ref: TQ333759

Area (ha): 0.365

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Active allotments, native hedgerow

Access: Restricted access to members of allotment

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

An active allotment located adjacent to Lettsom Gardens, accessed via the entrance from Grove Park road and managed by the same organization. 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 perennial 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.

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.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Holly Grove Shrubbery

Summary: An urban green lane with shrubs and mature trees

Grid ref: TQ 341 763

Area (ha): 0.322

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Planted shrubbery, scattered trees, native scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL
Site Name: Holy Trinity Church
Summary: A church with unmanaged mature, non-native woodland
Grid ref: TQ 364 795
Area (ha): 0.612
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Non native woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub, tall herb
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: Private

Site Description:

Holy Trinity Church 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.

Threats and Opportunities

The woodland could benefit for regular management, including thinning and removal of non-native species.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct:

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL
Site Name: Long meadow
Summary: A fragment of the open countryside between two main roads.
Grid ref: TQ 332 715
Area (ha): 1.458
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, native hedgerow.
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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.

Threats and Opportunities

The meadow could be enhanced by additional wildflower planting.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct:

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Mint Street Park

Summary: The largest park in the north-west of the borough popular with city workers

Grid ref: TQ 322 798

Area (ha): 0.91

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Planted shrubbery, amenity grassland, scattered trees,

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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 Bankside Open Space Trust (BOST) include a large stag beetle loggery. The site is regularly used for holding events and is popular at lunch-time for city workers.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoLXX
Site Name: Nunhead Allotments (also known as St James Allotment)
Summary: A large, informal allotment site with a mosaic of grassland, scrub and ruderal species
Grid ref: TQ 353 751
Area (ha): 3.453
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Active allotments, orchard, roughland, pond
Access: Access by prior arrangement
Ownership: Thames Water

Site Description:

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 (an intimate mix of scrub, semi-improved grassland and tall herb), 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 possible 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.

Threats and Opportunities

Formalising the allotments would reduce the value to foraging and sheltering wildlife. Use of slug pellets should be discouraged to provide better habitat for song thrush and hedgehogs.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: B
Site Name: Nursery Row Park
Summary: A recently enhanced park with a good range of habitats
Grid ref: TQ 326 785
Area (ha): 1.450
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Mature Trees, Meadow, Community orchard, hedging and herbaceous planting.
Access: Free public access
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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, ladie's 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. Gold finches 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 is 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.

Site first notified: 09/12/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 09/12/2015

Citation last edited: **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct:

Last Updated:

Site Grade: Proposed Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBXX
Site Name: Greendale Playing Field
Summary: Disused playing fields, that are undisturbed and unmanaged forming a mosaic of scrub, rough grassland and scattered trees.
Grid ref: TQ 330 751
Area (ha): 2.123
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, ruderal and ephemeral, scrub and scattered trees
Access: free access (all/most of site), one entrance point
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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, welshed 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 SINCs 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.

The site is owned by London Borough of Southwark, currently leased to Dulwich Hamlet Football Club and unmanaged. Access is informal and from a small secluded entrance in the north east corner.

Threats and Opportunities

Flood lights from adjacent sports ground could cause light spillage on habitats and may affect bat behavior. The little managed and semi natural nature of the site is what sets this site apart for nature conservation but litter bins, interpretation and management to maintain and enhance the habitat mosaic already present would be appropriate.

Site first notified: 27/01/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 27/01/2015
Citation last edited: 27/01/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: No
Last Updated: 27/01/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL
Site Name: Salisbury Row Park + Annex
Summary: A medium-sized park in a residential area
Grid ref: TQ 328 788
Area (ha): 1.141
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Native woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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 rowen. 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.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: No
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoLXX
Site Name: St James Churchyard
Summary: A church with a wildlife pond with native scrub and a wildflower meadow
Grid ref: TQ342793
Area (ha): 0.755
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Pond woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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 an 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.

Threats and Opportunities

Duckweed is abundant and may reduce oxygen levels of the water. Removal of the duckweed and planting of oxygenating species would increase the value of the pond to wildlife. A dipping platform and regular pond management would increase the value of the pond to local residents.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: No
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoLXX
Site Name: St Peters Churchyard
Summary: A church with amenity grassland, scattered trees and planted shrubbery
Grid ref: TQ 325 781
Area (ha): 0.446
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: Private

Site Description:

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.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL22
Site Name: Dog Kennel Hill Wood
Summary: An adventure playground with adjacent woodland.
Grid ref: TQ 331 755
Area (ha): 1.29
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Orchard, non native woodland, roughland, amenity grassland scattered trees, scrub
Access: Free public access (all/most of site) except to adventure playground.
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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 understorey 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 understorey. Grasses include giant fescue, meadow foxtail, and cocksfoot. 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 to 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, species that have been recorded in the area.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 09/09/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Site of borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL25
Site Name: Galleywall Nature Garden
Summary: An imaginatively-designed nature garden with a variety of habitats.
Grid ref: TQ 347 785
Area (ha): 0.08
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Pond, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees.
Access: Access by prior arrangement
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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. It borders the site on all sides and when finished 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, mint, purple loosestrife, marsh marigold, flowering rush, water lily species and reed canary grass amongst others. Whilst 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 seeded 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. The Garden is Leased to the Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/04/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (currently Site of Local Importance)
Site Reference: SoL23
Site Name: Nairne Grove Nature Garden – now known as Bressemer Nature Garden
Summary: One of very few aspen woodlands in Southwark.
Grid ref: TQ 328 750
Area (ha): 0.11
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Native woodland, pond, scrub
Access: Access by prior arrangement
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

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.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference:	SoL18
Site Name:	Northfield House Community Wildlife Garden
Summary:	A community wildlife garden, managed and used by the tenants of the adjacent flats.
Grid ref:	TQ 343 776
Area (ha):	0.6
Borough(s):	Southwark
Habitat(s):	Scrub, herb-rich grassland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, native hedgerow, scattered trees, planted shrubbery, vegetated walls.
Access:	Free public access
Ownership:	London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Just off the Old Kent road and located on the edge of a social housing estate, the grounds of Northfield House Council flats have been transformed into a wildlife haven, with three gardens supporting a range of habitats. The largest garden contains a wildflower meadow with a good range and frequency of herbs. Scattered trees include a large number of fruit bearing species, including apple and fig. A small pond overgrown with bramble scrub supports common frog. A long, native hedgerow dominated by hawthorn and elder forms the eastern boundary, adjacent to the road. Proposals are to lay an overgrown hedge along the eastern boundary to improve its value to nesting birds. If undertaken, it is likely to be one of very few laid hedgerows in Southwark, and probably the only one on a housing estate. Two other smaller gardens along the northern boundary support abundant herbaceous planting and shrubberies, raised beds, improved grassland and scattered trees. Some notable species include hop, hazel and fig, of value to pollinators including BAP priority species. Walls along the western and northern boundaries are over-spilling with abundant climbers including hop, Virginia creeper and shrubs of known value for wildlife. Even the wall adjacent to car-parking is not left bare. Wren and house sparrows have been recorded, the latter is noted in the Southwark and London BAP.

The garden is owned by the Council and managed by the Tenants Group with assistance from the London Wildlife Trust.

Threats & Opportunities

Although freely accessible, there could be better interpretation from Peckham Road bus stop – which views into the main garden to entice local bus users to visit (particularly if they have just missed their bus). The site could make an ideal demonstration garden to show local residents what can be achieved in their own community spaces and the value it could bring.

Site first notified:	01/06/1995	Boundary last changed:	01/06/1995
Citation last edited:	24/03/2015	Mayor Agreed:	
Defunct:	Y		
Last Updated:	24/03/2015		

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL32
Site Name: Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden
Summary: A sizeable school nature garden in the shadow of Guy's Tower.
Grid ref: TQ 330 798
Area (ha): 0.13
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Hedge, roughland, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland
Access: No public access
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This sizeable school nature garden in the north-west of Southwark is within hearing distance of the loudspeakers on London Bridge station and overlooked by Guy's Hospital Tower. Containing scrub, rough grassland and a hedge, it is an excellent resource not only for Snowsfield School but also for other local schools which use the area by arrangement. The nature garden is quite wild with a good mix of native trees and shrubs including hazel, hawthorn, buddleia, silver birch, alder, dogwood, guelder rose, holly and bird cherry. Also to be found are foxglove, comfrey, fennel, teasel, bluebells, snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and periwinkle. There is a fair-sized pond containing water lilies, flag iris and sedge. Newts and frogs use the pond, and pipistrelle bats are often seen flying around the garden at dusk. This site is well used by birds. The school runs an after school club on Fridays to work in the garden. Current proposals include raising funds to make use of a large roof space for growing food.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 03/04/2007 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 03/04/2014

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII22
Site Name: South Bermondsey Railway Embankments
Summary: A network of active and disused railway embankments to the east of South Bermondsey station, with a good mix of typical railway habitats.
Grid ref: TQ 351 783
Area (ha): 2.29
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland
Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads on by train.
Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

A network of active and disused railway embankments to the east of South Bermondsey station extending into Lewisham, with a good mix of typical railway habitats. The area within Southwark is dominated by roughland vegetation, with scattered sycamore and large patches of Japanese Knotweed. From the platform, old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) was notable abundant at the top of the embankments and is likely to be of value to foraging and sheltering invertebrates. The nationally-rare Bermuda-grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) has been recorded beside the path leading down to the road from the station. Works are underway on the eastern half of the site as part of the Thames Link upgrade, so habitat is likely to change in the near future.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 15/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII23
Site Name: Southwark Park
Summary: A large landscaped park with plenty of mature trees and a lake.
Grid ref: TQ 350 791
Area (ha): 26.571
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Hedge, lake, scattered trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large park with very good tree cover, almost forming a closed canopy over much of the northern part of the park. The trees are mostly London planes and other exotics, but they support a good bird population, including breeding spotted flycatchers, and the park holds perhaps the closest speckled wood butterflies to central London. A small lake with a wooded island supports breeding tufted duck, mallard, coot and moorhen; it has little marginal vegetation, but concrete planters support emergent and other habitat enhancements are being made. The pond supports marginal vegetation and common amphibians. A small numbers of pipistrelle bats are regularly seen. Southwark Park is a Grade II Listed landscape of considerable arboricultural interest and has held a green flag award since 2006.

A nature garden was created in 2003 on an old playground (with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund). The created wildflower meadow has become overgrown and comprises herb-rich roughland, surrounded by scrub and scattered trees. This small area is managed by Southwark Council.

The old nursery site to the north east of the Park, is proposed to be included within the site. This area has been unmanaged for some time and has been colonised by common ruderal and ephemeral species including nettle and butterfly bush.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 24/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII05
Site Name: Camberwell New Cemetery and Surrounds
Summary: A large area of open land, including a cemetery and the site of a former nursery, with a good range of plants and animals.
Grid ref: TQ 358 745
Area (ha): 20.09
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Semi-Improved grassland, Amenity grassland, Hedge, Ruderal, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Most of Camberwell New Cemetery is fairly intensively managed, but there are small areas of mixed woodland, scrub and rough grassland in the south-west corner. Ant hills are frequent in the less disturbed grassland and support a number of herbs including ox-eye daisy and autumn hawkbit. The cemetery also contains some fine hedges and a wide variety of mature trees. The adjacent crematorium is formally landscaped, but contains plenty of dense shrubberies, which provide nesting habitat for birds, a small pond, and numerous mature trees. A number of species noted on the Southwark BAP have been recorded on site, these are pipistrelle bats, slow-worm, common lizard, stag beetle and house sparrow. Several of these are also Species of Principal Importance in England. Habitat (including trees and scrub) along the eastern edge of the Crematorium is likely to be provide supporting habitat to the adjacent Forest Hill to New Cross Gate railway cutting, a Site of Metropolitan Importance.

One other area is included in the site; known as the the former Honor Oak Nursery/Honor Oak Training Centre site. The nursery site is largely covered in ruderal vegetation, with a wide diversity of plants, some of them relics of the previous nursery use. The future of the nursery site is uncertain. Together these sites form a substantial block of open space, contiguous with One Tree Hill and separated only by roads from Benchley Gardens and Camberwell Old Cemetery, which provides a good diversity of habitats for birds and invertebrates.

Threats and Opportunities

Invading plants such as Japanese knotweed, buddleia and snowberry are a localised problem. The creation of woodland burial plots within currently intensively managed plots would provide valuable habitat to existing wildlife.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 23/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 09/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI05
Site Name: Russia Dock Woodland
Summary: A linear park with interesting woodland and wetlands.
Grid ref: TQ 36181 79729
Area (ha): 9.67
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Non- native woodland, pond, running water, marsh, swamp, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Russia Dock Woodland is a linear park created in 1980, with belts of mixed woodland and scrub, containing a high diversity of mostly native species, areas of grassland which have been sown with wildflower mixes, and a linear water feature connecting a series of ponds and lakes. The latter is currently dry in places, as the water level was reduced for safety reasons, but still contains a good variety of wetland vegetation. Breeding birds include sedge warbler at its only Southwark site, reed warbler, reed bunting, mallard and moorhen. Kingfishers and mute swans are seen occasionally. The range and interconnectivity of habitats are known to support a good range of species, including the specially protected great crested newt, along with other amphibians, hedgehogs, and reptiles. Its linear shape connects to the River Thames in the north to Greenland Dock to the south making it an important foraging/commuting route for bats. Russia Dock Woodland is owned by the Council and managed with assistance from the Trust for Urban Ecology, which run volunteer work days. The site is a proposed Local Nature Reserve.

The site is to be extended to include Metropolitan open land (part of open space OS7) along Legado Mews and Salters Road in the north east, which will be contiguous with vegetation along Beatons Walk (part of this site). A triangular-area of semi-mature native woodland comprising abundant field maple is located along Salters Road, and will be contiguous with a proposed park comprising amenity grassland, scattered native trees and hedgerows.

Threats and Opportunities

A number of non-native species including holm oak, snowberry, false acacia, and Japanese knotweed are particularly abundant in places. The site suffers from vandalism, including damage to bird boxes and tipping from adjacent gardens. Remove snowberry from within native woodland. Localized vegetation thinning, particularly around standing water would increase macrophyte cover.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 12/10/2005 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI05
Site Name: Stave Hill & The Ecological Park
Summary: A park with an excellent range of habitats including herb rich grassland and a short section of chalk stream.
Grid ref: TQ 36158 79904
Area (ha): 2.06
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Scrub, secondary woodland, herb-rich neutral grassland, orchard
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark leased to The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

Site Description:

Stave Hill and the Ecological Park have been developed since 1987 and now contain an excellent range of habitats, including several types of scrub, secondary woodland, orchard, herb-rich neutral grassland, two ponds with good marginal vegetation and a short section of chalk stream (A wind pump draws groundwater up from the chalk aquifer to supply the stream and ponds, and also the water feature in Russia Dock Woodland), as well as a butterfly garden. The mosaic of habitats are of high value to a range of wildlife, including less common species such as hedgehog, reptiles and foraging bats. Meadow brown, common blue and large heath butterflies have been recorded along with three species of dragonfly. This site forms a habitat corridor with Russia docks woodland to the northeast and Surrey Dock to the west, via Docks Hill Avenue. Managed by TCV, it is well-used by local schools.

Threats and Disturbances

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 12/10/2005 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBI11
Site Name: Canada Water
Summary: A disused dock basin with swamp and willow carr along one side.
Grid ref: TQ 35583 79364
Area (ha): 1.8
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Lake / tyhpa swamp, reed swamp, fen/carr woodland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

The southern bank of Canada Waters has been landscaped and supports a mosaic of reed bed, reed-mace swamp and other emergent vegetation willow and alder carr. Reed bed and wet woodland (alder and willow carr) are Habitats of Principal Importance and noted in the London and Southwark BAP. Lesser reed-mace, *Thypha latifolia*, a scarce plant in London has also been recorded. The site supports a large variety of breeding birds include mute swan, tufted duck, mallard, moorhen, coot and reed bunting, and large numbers of tufted ducks are present in winter. Kingfishers are reported occasionally. This disused dock basin is connected to Surrey Waters by Albion Canal (both Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation).

Threats and Opportunities

Butterfly bush is present but currently not invading. Increasing the size and breadth of the reedbed or wet woodland would be valuable additional habitats to wildlife and provide additional habitat to less common species such as reed bunting and potentially willow warbler. Interpretation of the ecology and heritage of the site would be beneficial, particularly due to its proximity to Canada Water Tube station and shops. Sustainable urban drainage features could be considered for new paving areas around the site – providing complimentary habitat and filtering surface water run-off before it runs into the Dock.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/2003

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 20/11/2014

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBXX

Site Name: Cox's Walk

Summary: A green lane lined with mature oak trees

Grid ref: TQ 344 732

Area (ha): 1.083

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Scattered trees, veteran trees, semi-improved grassland,

Access: Free public access / part of the Green Chain Walk

Ownership: Dulwich Estates Leased to Southwark Council sub leased to LWT.

Site Description:

Cox's Walk follows the route of an old avenue and footpath, which runs from Dulwich Common (A201) in the north, through to Sydenham Hill Road in the south-east. The northern part is lined with mature pedunculate oaks, which forms a wide, wooded corridor, with an understory of native shrub species including elder, holly, ash, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, and hornbeam. Ground flora species include ground elder, wood aven, lesser celandine, and a few plants of the native bluebell. The southern part of the footpath narrows as it passes through Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods - Site of Metropolitan Importance and a Local Nature Reserve. A native, species-rich hedgerow has recently been planted along the footpath, within the wood. The northern half of Cox's walk is known to support a good bird population and includes less common species such as the nuthatch and green woodpecker. Mature oaks support rare invertebrate species including the Stag Beetle, noted on the London and Southwark BAP. Foraging bats are likely to benefit from the dark corridor and proximity to foraging habitat within adjacent grassland and allotments. Cox's Walk is regularly used by walkers and is part of the Green Chain Walk. The site is also protected under London's Squares Act.

Threats and Opportunities

Lighting in close proximity to the woodland corridor could reduce the value of the habitat for foraging bats.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989

Boundary last changed: 11/08/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015

Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoB
Site Name: Honor Oak Allotment - also known as One Tree Hill Allotments
Summary: Mosaic of semi-natural habitats, allotment beds and with a good range of plants and animals.
Grid ref: TQ 356 742
Area (ha): 2.16
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, native broadleaved woodland, hedgerow, active allotment, scattered trees
Access: Restricted access (locked site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Less intensively managed allotments, which comprise a habitat mosaic of roughland, native woodland, scrub, grassland, tall herb and scattered trees. A good range of native trees and shrubs, including hawthorn, ash and pedunculate oak are present throughout. The grassland includes abundant cocksfoot, false oat grass, common nettle and common thistle, the latter forming tussocks in places. The site is known to support common lizard, one of only four sites in Southwark and is a Species of Principal Importance in England. Other species noted in the Southwark BAP that are present include common amphibians, stag beetle and house sparrow. The site is also likely to support numerous breeding birds and forms a habitat corridor between One Tree Hill in the southwest and Camberwell New Cemetery to the north.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoB
Site Name: Surrey Water
Summary: A disused dock basin
Grid ref: TQ 35688 80015
Area (ha): 3.87
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): potentially saline lake, marginal vegetation
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Surrey Water is a large disused dock with water (that could potentially be slightly brackish) and delineated by semi-mature trees. It is connected to the River Thames via a short section of canal and lock near The Old Salt Quay. Approximately 30 floating pontoons (connected in a line across the dock) support marginal vegetation including frequent greater reedmace and common reed. The open water and pontoons provide good foraging habitat for bats and birds and are likely to support fish and common amphibians. Dense submerged growth of rigid hornwort, fennel pondweed and Canadian waterweed have been recorded in the past and if still abundant are likely to make this an important fish nursery. At least two species of damselfly breed. The mature tree canopy surrounding the docks is likely to provide an important commuting and foraging route for bats travelling between Albion Channel, Dock Hill Avenue, Deal Porter's Walk and the River Thames. The disused dock basin is connected to Canada Waters by Albion Canal (both Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation).

Threats and Opportunities

Some plants have failed on the pontoons and need re-stocking. The occurrence of algae blooms reduces the value of aquatic habitat for fish. Re-establish aquatic, marginal vegetation to improve water quality and appearance.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL20
Site Name: St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey
Summary: An attractive churchyard in the historic centre of Bermondsey.
Grid ref: TQ 333 794
Area (ha): 0.7
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, native hedge, roughland, scattered trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: Diocese of Southwark

Site Description:

A churchyard now managed as a park, dominated by amenity grassland, scattered semi-mature trees and planted shrubbery. A mixed hedge of sweet briar and pycnantha runs along the northern boundary. Behind the hedge is a narrow strip of fenced-off roughland, which is allocated for use by the Scouts.

The churchyard is in the historic center of Bermondsey, close to the site of the Priory (later Abbey) of St Saviour, which was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537. The first church here dated from 1296 and was built to serve the workers at the Priory. The present church was completed by 1690, but there have been many subsequent alterations. Although it has busy roads on two sides, and the quieter Bermondsey Street on the west side where the church is, the churchyard is quite spacious and with its 18th century and later tombs still retains its historic atmosphere.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL19
Site Name: St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe
Summary: A churchyard at the historic centre of Rotherhithe.
Grid ref: TQ 351 797
Area (ha): 0.23
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, scattered trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: Diocese of Southwark

Site Description:

The churchyard now acts as a small park, with a good cover of non-native trees and planted shrubs. A small environmental allotment has been designed by the Trust for Urban Ecology, and is tended by local community groups from the Time & Talents Centre. It contains a good variety of nectar plants. The Church of St Mary, completed in 1716 by local shipbuilders to replace a 12th century church, is very much the historic centre of Rotherhithe. Its surrounding churchyard has many links to the sea in its memorials. Most notable is the sailing of the Mayflower in 1620 from Rotherhithe to America with the Pilgrim Fathers and three of the four owners of the Mayflower are buried in the churchyard. The 18th century pub 'The Mayflower', opposite the churchyard, also commemorates this event, although it was only given this name in 1957.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 03/04/2007 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII03
Site Name: Sunray Gardens
Summary: A small park with a tree-lined, spring-fed pond, which provides a home for water birds.
Grid ref: TQ 327 748
Area (ha): 1.58
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Spring-fed pond, wetland, native wet woodland, scrub scattered trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This small park in North Dulwich contains a sizeable spring-fed pond, one of very few natural ponds in Southwark and small area of wet woodland containing mature crack willow and alder a rare habitat in the borough. The pond supports breeding waterfowl, including tufted duck, mallard, coot and Canada goose, which nest on a wooded island. Small clumps of marginal vegetation contain yellow iris, pendulous sedge, lesser pond sedge, purple loosestrife and greater willowherb. A good variety of fish, including roach, crucian carp, common carp and sticklebacks, are present. The park is likely to be of value to other wildlife, including foraging bats, amphibians, notably common frog and toad, and invertebrates, particularly dragonflies and stag beetles. The rest of the park is currently of limited nature conservation value, although it contains a couple of fine old hornbeams, and a large dead wood feature. It is a Grade II Listed landscape.

Threats and Opportunities

Being spring-fed, the level of water in the pond (and the wildlife it supports) could be disrupted by underground works within proximity to the site (e.g. basement development). Willow spilling could improve bank stabilisation and provide additional refuge for amphibians.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII16
Site Name: Surrey Docks Farm
Summary: A city farm with a variety of livestock and horticulture providing an interesting educational experience.
Grid ref: TQ 36630 79688
Area (ha): 0.88
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Orchard, native woodland, improved grassland, pond, Scattered trees, allotment
Access: Access at limited times
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark Leased to Surrey Docks Farm

Site Description:

A livestock farm located on the banks of the River Thames, with a wide variety of non-native horticultural planting, an orchard, a small nature area and a grass-dominated living roof. The orchard, a Habitat of Principal Importance (except for its limited size), contains approximately 30 mature fruit trees (old varieties). The grassland is semi-improved and grazed by sheep. The small nature area includes a pond and a variety of native trees, shrubs and a recently seeded wildflower area. A laid hawthorn hedge borders the area. A large part of the farm is dedicated to the housing of livestock, with improved grassland paddocks, barns and a yard. The range of planting is likely to be of value to a wide range of common invertebrates. Breeding and foraging birds are also present, including the Southwark BAP species house sparrow. A range of water birds including greater scaup, herring gull, Eurasian teal, grey heron and mute swan have also been recorded on the site, but these were most likely flying over. Some old buildings provide potential for roosting bats. The site is managed by the Surrey Docks Farm Provident Society. The farm is open to the public from 10am to 5pm every day except Mondays. There is an organic cafe, which provides an excellent range of refreshments. Recent plans are to replace the café roof and install solar panels.

Threats and Opportunities

Improved access and habitat transition should be considered between the River Thames Site of Metropolitan Importance and the farm. This could include safer access during low tide and interpretation, river habitat enhancement such as reed beds or tree and shrub planting along the banks. There is likely to be a good educational interest and ecological gain in achieving this.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL28
Site Name: Pasely Park (formerly Surrey Gardens)
Summary: A small park with a nature conservation area in one corner giving a display of wild flowers.
Grid ref: TQ 319 780
Area (ha): 1.56
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees,
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This is a small park in Kennington with a nature conservation area in one corner. The latter consists of an area of long grass, surrounding a children's playground. It has a reasonable variety of wild flowers which are mostly species of disturbed ground. Also here is a tiny plot of sycamore woodland into which several native trees have been planted. The site has recorded sighting of 4 London BAP species including house sparrow, and pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and Nyctalus bat species.

Opportunities

Extend the sycamore woodland and plant native hedgerows.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 18/12/2006 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 05/01/2007

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL14
Site Name: Surrey Square Park
Summary: A small park, just off the Old Kent Road, which now includes a former nature area developed by the neighbouring school.
Grid ref: TQ 332 783
Area (ha): 1.22
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Herb-rich neutral grassland, scrub, amenity grassland, scattered trees
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small park in the Aylesbury Estate and just off the Old Kent Road, Surrey Square Park is less intensively managed than most. Two areas of rough grassland support a rich diversity of herbs including black knapweed, salad burnet, meadow cranesbill and field scabious. Native hedgerows and scrub support a good range of native species including buckthorn. The northeast corner has recently undergone improvement with sandy mounds planted with a non-native annual flower mix. Tall herbs and ruderals particular butterfly bush are also present. Three, large tree trunks provide innovative natural, climbing features in the center of the park. The range of plants and shelter are likely to be of value to common species of birds and invertebrates. The common blue butterfly has been recorded. The site is managed by Southwark Council and well used by local residents.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII10
Site Name: Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides
Summary: The wooded railsides between Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich stations are a valuable corridor for wildlife.
Grid ref: TQ 335 722
Area (ha): 9.86
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland
Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths, roads or from the train.
Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

The broad cutting at Sydenham Hill station is densely wooded. Sycamore dominates, and other species include some fine old oak and ash trees. The woodland structure is good, with hawthorn, elder and young sycamore in the shrub layer, and ivy and cow parsley on the ground. The nettle leaved bellflower has also been recorded, which is a rare species in Southwark and possibly the only location for it (but potentially a garden escapee). Further north, the cutting narrows and becomes an embankment with a similar tree species and open areas comprising of roughland (a mix of coarse grasses, tall herbs and bramble scrub). The continuity of habitat from Sydenham and Dulwich woods in the south to just below Herne Hill in the north, is likely to provide an important commuting/ foraging route for wildlife including bats, and potentially hedgehogs and reptiles. Of the species recorded, Pipestrelle bats have been seen, along with birds such as song thrush, mistle thrush, house sparrow, hawfinch and tawny owl. The latter two species more likely to occur towards the south and in closer proximity to Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods – a site of Metropolitan Importance. Stag beetle has also been recorded. As much of the site is out-of-bounds to the public and only frequented by passing trains, the site is also relatively undisturbed, and of value to bird species less that prefer rougher habitats tolerant of disturbance, such as black redstart or linnet. A New Leaf educational garden is located at West Dulwich platform which contains a number of planted shrubs, scattered trees and a small pond.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL29
Site Name: Tabard Gardens
Summary: A welcome open space in a very heavily built-up area.
Grid ref: TQ 327 794
Area (ha): 0.91
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Quite a large park located between Great Dover Street and Long Lane and not far from Borough High Street, Tabard Gardens consists mostly of closely-mown amenity grassland with a line of ornamental semi-mature maple (*Acer* sp.) trees around the perimeter. Its main nature conservation interest lies in a dense thicket of native shrubs in the center of the park. This is the best part to look for birds, such as great tit, greenfinch, robin, blackbird, wren and flocks of house sparrow. The park also features two raised banks which have been sown with wild flowers and more recently an annual seed mix. Goldfinches visit to feed on the seed heads. The remainder of the park contains species poor amenity grassland with planted shrubbery. The gardens form a stepping stone between nearby open spaces including St Mary's Magdalen Church, Leathermarket Gardens (to the east and north) and Dickens and Newington Gardens (to the south and west).

Threats and Opportunities

Allowing the scrub to grow too large has encouraged anti-social behavior in the past. Potential solution might be to create a separate patch of scrub a distance away, so to retain sight lines but at the same time increasing habitat for birds.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 05/01/2007 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Graded **Local**

Site Reference: SoL27

Site Name: Varcoe Nature Garden (also known as Bramcote Nature Garden)

Summary: A small park with some interesting landscaping, it is partly managed and used by the nearby primary school.

Grid ref: TQ 350 780

Area (ha): 0.19

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, pond, semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Despite its name, this site, is more of an interestingly-landscaped small park than a nature garden. Plentiful shrub planting in informal groups provides good habitat structure, but consists almost entirely of exotic species. Some of the grass is allowed to grow long, but most is close-mown. A small pond suffers badly from rubbish dumping. The nature garden is protected by the London Squares Act and its urban location in south Bermondsey suggests its likely to be well used by local residents.

Opportunities

Management of the site could be improved for wildlife and local residents. Better stewardship could improve the pond habitat and reduce rubbish dumping.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 05/01/2007 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 05/01/2007

Borough Grade: Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoL11
Site Name: Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden
Summary: A community park and nature garden in one of the most densely-developed parts of Southwark, close to the Elephant & Castle.
Grid ref: TQ 325 788
Area (ha): 0.5
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Pond, Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, Hedge, Roughland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Vegetated wall/tombstones
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Located in the soon-to-be-redeveloped Heygate Estate, between the New Kent Road and Walworth Road, this Community Park is informally managed, with a good range of herbaceous plants and shrubs of value to pollinators and nesting birds. Occupying a small area in the center is Elba Place Nature Garden, surrounded by native scrub and containing a pond, a wildflower bank and raised allotment beds. For such a small area, there is a wide range of native species and the pond is known to support common amphibians. Wren and house sparrow have been recorded and likely to benefit from the dense scrub/shrub habitat. Notable plants including purple loosestrife bracken, marjoram, wayfaring tree and tansy. The site is managed by the local Community Association, and a local school.

Opportunities

Provide additional cover for invertebrates by leaving a strip of uncut grass around the boundaries of the nature garden.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/06/1995
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: SoBII15
Site Name: Walworth Garden Farm
Summary: This horticultural city farm is a valuable resource for environmental education in a densely built-up area.
Grid ref: TQ 318 781
Area (ha): 0.17
Borough(s): Southwark
Habitat(s): Planted shrubbery, scattered trees, herbaceous planting, pond/, biodiverse roof, wall, native hedgerow.
Access: Access at limited times
Ownership: London Borough of Southwark Lease to Walworth Garden

Site Description:

A small, well-tended horticultural, city farm, with predominantly non-native shrubs and herbaceous species, along with three mini biodiverse green roofs (out-building roofs), amenity grassland, an orchard, and a nature area containing a pond (2m x 2m), native trees and shrubs. A laid, hawthorn hedgerow and three limestone walls (dry-stone) are notable features and valuable to invertebrates. A wide range of European, Asian and Afro-Caribbean vegetables are grown and are a valuable resource for environmental education, both for schools and for the long-term unemployed to whom it offers horticultural and ecological training. Trainees have carried out habitat creation in several parks and schools in the area. The site is owned by the Council and managed by a social enterprise.

Threats and Opportunities

A number of non-native and potentially invasive species are present, including parrot feather – an invasive aquatic species. There is potential to retrofit a biodiverse green-roof on the office building. Plant native climbers along western boundary wall, which is currently bare.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1989
Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 24/03/2015