London Borough of Hounslow

Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) 2023 - 2028

Achieving thriving biodiversity as part of a green and resilient future

Prepared by LUC & London Borough of Hounslow

March 2024

London Borough of Hounslow

Hounslow Nature Recovery Action Plan

Achieving thriving biodiversity as part of a green and resilient future

Project Number
11210

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Contents

[1]Chapter 1

Chapter 1

Delivering a Green and Resilient Future

Chapter 1
Delivering a Green and Resilient Future

The Vision for Nature Recovery in Hounslow

Biodiversity – 'the diversity of life' – refers to the variety of our flora and fauna, and the ecosystems that they are a part of. It reflects the nature of underlying soils and geology, the quality of surrounding environment (air, water and land) and the management (if any) devoted to its care. The London Borough of Hounslow, in recognising the need to take action to ensure our natural world is brought back to good health long-term, declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019 and subsequently adopted the Climate Emergency Action Plan[1] in July 2020. A Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for the borough was adopted in November 2022, this NRAP forms one of the delivery mechanisms by which the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI) will be implemented.

The term Nature Recovery can be understood in light of the Nature Recovery Network - identified in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan as an expanded, enhanced and increasingly connected network of places that are richer in wildlife and more resilient to climate change. The Nature Recovery Network is key to delivering thriving biodiversity outside, and supportive of, designated sites.

The nature recovery vision for Hounslow is to:

- Create and maintain a coherent ecological network across the borough which sustains thriving biodiversity in the long-term;
- Contribute to a cross-boundary network, through constructive partnership working;
- Deliver nature recovery which not only supports biodiversity but optimises wider environmental benefits such as flood alleviation, air and water quality, and carbon sequestration, thereby providing resilience to climate change;
- Provide access to nature for residents throughout the borough.

[1]https://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s162188/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Appendix%20A%20-%20Action%20Plan.pdf

Chapter 1

Delivering a Green and Resilient Future

This Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) is a high level ‘roadmap’ for nature to ensure that the long-term health of our environment is embedded into the Hounslow Local Plan to 2030, and to the Council’s ambition to be a greener borough. It provides a strategic overview of the biodiversity and nature conservation value in Hounslow. It identifies the opportunities and priorities to enhance biodiversity as a broad and cohesive network across the borough alongside wider environmental benefits such as flood alleviation, carbon sequestration and strengthening climate change resilience.

The NRAP is a continuation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2011 – 2016 . The Plan streamlines the actions and supports the delivery of those actions which remain ongoing or require renewal.

Summary of progress made on the Hounslow 2011-2016 BAP [2]:

- Published in 2011 and subsequently updated in 2013 following a borough wide SINC survey;
- Completion of approximately 53% of the actions within its five-year life span;
- Approximately 24% of the actions remain on-going;
- The remaining 23% of the actions remain either incomplete and/or were undeliverable due to unforeseeable circumstances and changes in the Plan.

In recognition of multiple functions of biodiversity assets, this NRAP forms one of the GBI Strategy delivery documents (see Figure 1.1). Opportunities identified in GBI Theme 2: Nature Recovery and Theme 4: Urban Greening are taken forward.

Alongside environmental benefits, biodiversity also serves local community cohesion, health and wellbeing. Engagement with, serves to foster shared ownership of, and dedication to, local biodiversity.

To thrive, however, biodiversity requires spaces that are undisturbed, unmanicured, and more wild. Access to wild spaces is integral to human health and wellbeing but undisturbed spaces remain essential for birds to nest, ground dwelling mammals to live or our rarer plants to prosper as part of a healthy ecosystem. The inherent value of biodiversity is recognised in the biodiversity crisis and need for nature recovery.

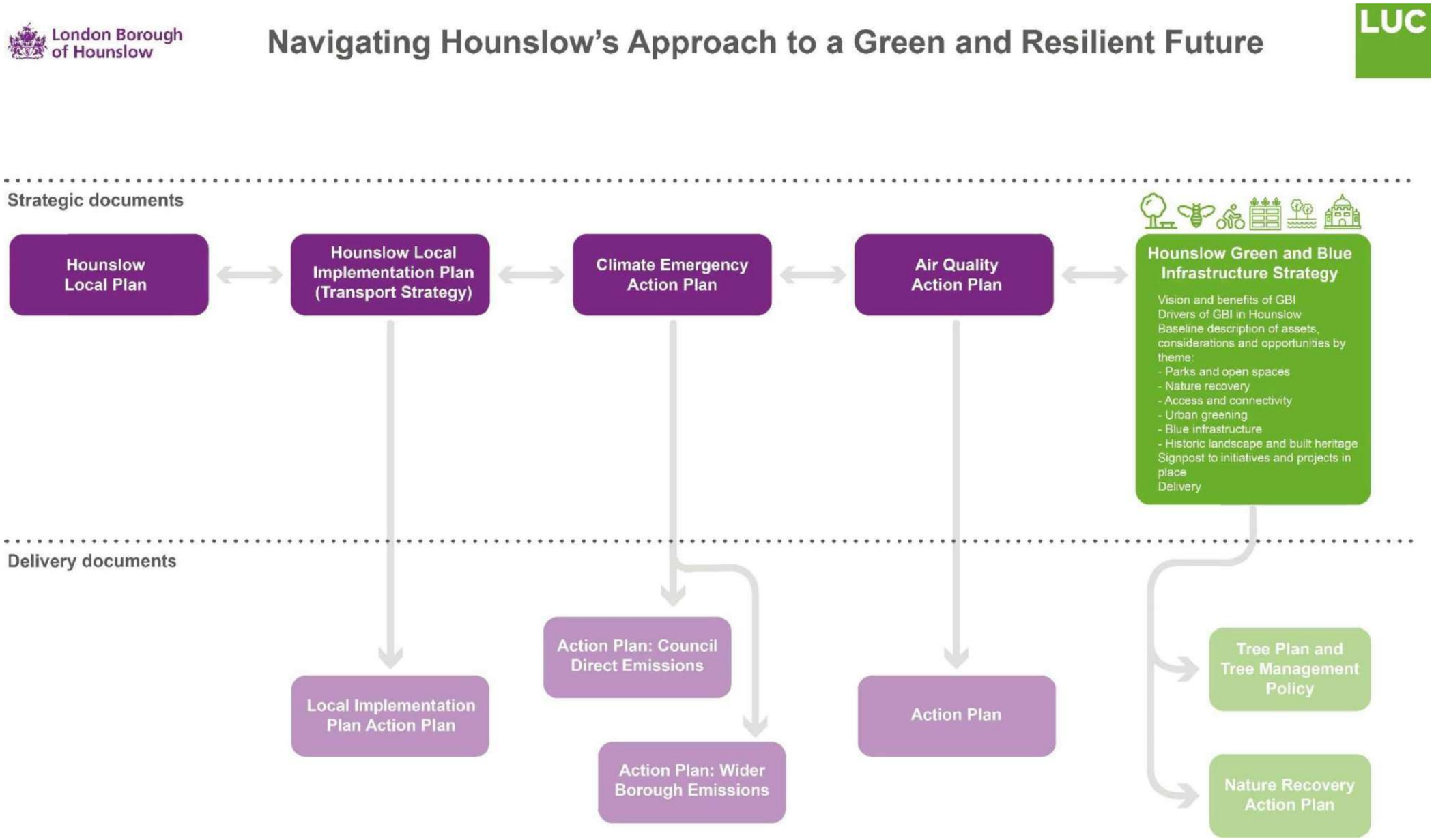
In support of the GBI Strategy, the aims of this NRAP are to:

- **Protect** – Ensure existing habitats are maintained in optimal health, focussing on the designated site network and key habitat features used by important species or populations.
- **Connect** – Optimise connectivity between protected sites and habitat features to support their favourable condition and, for species, opportunities for dispersal.
- **Create and enhance** – Expand and diversify the habitat mosaic to support thriving biodiversity more widely, which is resilient to climate change and serves the needs of the local community for health and well-being.
- **Engage and promote** – Raise awareness and facilitate successful partnership working to foster local engagement which will deliver tangible benefits to biodiversity in perpetuity.

A network-led approach is followed to align with the future cross-boundary LNRS process and, in due course, support delivery of a holistic approach to nature conservation efforts across London.

2 Summary provided by Council lead for the 2011-2016 BAP.

Figure 1.1: Hounslow NRAP – a GBI Strategy delivery document



The Need for a Network-Led NRAP

The national Nature Recovery Network (NRN), as identified in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan 2018, is an expanded, enhanced and increasingly connected network of places that are richer in wildlife and more resilient to climate change, that is key to delivering the Government's Nature Strategy outside of designated sites.

The national NRN aims to provide an integrated approach to nature recovery, benefiting wildlife and people. The delivery partnership will be led by Natural England (NE) (launched late 2020), supported by local partnerships delivering at the sub-regional scale through Local Nature Recovery Strategies LNRS (five pilots were undertaken in 2020/21). Under the Environment Act 2021, the Secretary of State has the power to designate the boundaries of an LNRS. These will typically be on a county-scale, and the area of a local authority, other than a county council, may not be split between more than one LNRS. This NRAP is designed to feed into a future LNRS that encompasses Hounslow, produced on a regional London wide level.

The LNRS must include a 'statement of biodiversity priorities' for the strategy area, and a local habitat map. The statement of biodiversity priorities details the priorities for nature recovery in the strategy area. The local habitat map identifies national conservation sites in the strategy area, any nature reserves in the area, other areas of particular importance for biodiversity in the area.

The Environment Act 2021 also requires local authorities to report on progress towards nature recovery and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity every 5 years (known as 'the general biodiversity objective'), as part of their responsibilities under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This report must contain a summary of the action that the authority has taken over the 5-year period to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and future plans towards this goal. It must also detail how Biodiversity Net Gain is being delivered in the authority and information about any biodiversity gains, as well as any quantitative data relating to biodiversity the authority holds. Details of these reports have not been defined yet, however they are expected to come forward in secondary legislation. As part of this reporting requirement, baseline surveying is necessary to understand Hounslow's current position at the start of the reporting period.

Key Strategic Actions within this NRAP are to establish a better understanding of the borough's current biodiversity through a large survey programme, for biodiversity reporting, biodiversity net gain (BNG) and LNRS.

The biodiversity of the borough was described in the Hounslow 2011-2016 BAP[3]. The BAP included a series of actions to ensure the baseline remains up to date, that the habitat and species listed as local priorities are maintained in favourable condition and that habitat restoration, enhancement and creation is appropriately identified and delivered. It recognised the value of biodiversity to the local community and the need for people to support local biodiversity. The actions of the 2011-2016 BAP are recognised, and where appropriate taken forward, in this NRAP.

Climate Change Resilience

Resilience to climate change is the ability of an ecosystem to maintain function despite, for example, changes in temperature or rainfall. The threats of climate change are therefore exacerbated where habitats are already under pressure, for example, as a result of fragmentation or degradation. Climate change will influence the assemblage within habitats, in part, as a function of adaptive species range (changes in geographic distribution). As seasonal fluctuations become more marked, extreme conditions in drought, flooding or wind will incur greater physiological stress to plants and animals. As different species adapt their cycles of breeding, hibernation and so forth at differing rates, a mismatch between interdependent species can arise, such as the hatching of garden birds and spring emergence of their invertebrate prey. The changing climate is also anticipated to bring an increase to the range and frequency of pest and diseases to which our native wildlife was not previously exposed and/or is weakly immune.

The latest IPCC report[4] contains the below graph, showing the potential for climate change mitigation through different technologies and techniques. The graph shows that reduced conversion of natural ecosystems, carbon sequestration in agriculture and ecosystem restoration, afforestation and reforestation are among the top 5 most impactful mitigation options available to us, highlighting the importance of improving our natural environment.

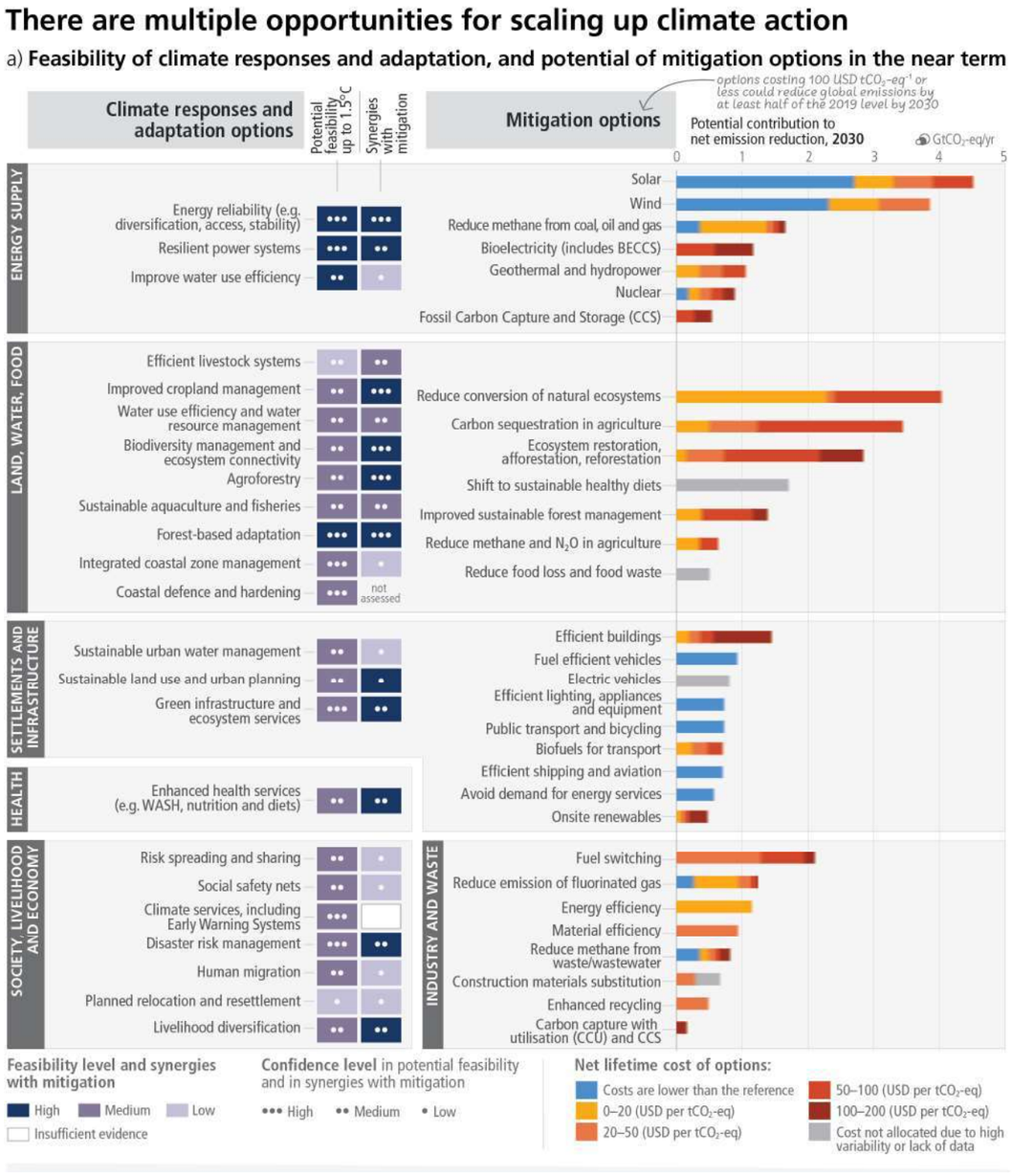
Measures to maximise resilience to climate change, in general terms, reflect the principles of having a healthy ecological resource which is '*bigger, better and more joined up*'[5]. Biodiversity can also serve to mitigate the effects of climate change, for example, helping to slow the infiltration of rainfall and so too the risk of flooding, the regulation of rising temperatures, and through carbon sequestration. Both resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change can be optimised through delivery of BNG.

3 Hounslow Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2016 Edition 2, replacing the original Hounslow BAP 2003 – 2008. Available: https://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s55221/Final%20draft%20of%20biodiversity%20action%20plan%2 0for%20consultation.pdf#:~:text=The%20Hounslow%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%20%28HBAP%29%20is%20a,sustainable%20use%20of%20biological%20resources%20in%20the%20borough

4 IPCC (2023) AR6 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/figures/summary-for-policymakers/figure-spm-7/

5 Lawton (2010) Making Space for Nature: A review of England's wildlife sites and ecological networks. Report to Defra

Figure 1.2: IPCC Opportunities for scaling up climate action[4]



Sibling Strategies & Cross-Reference to the NRAP

Hounslow have prepared a Tree Plan and Tree Management Policy as a sibling delivery document of the GBI Strategy (see Figure 1.1). This is expected for adoption in autumn 2023. The Policy addresses the management of council-owned trees, new tree planting (nursery stock species selection, minimum tree pit volume, etc) and aftercare.

Document Structure

- **Chapter 2** sets out the method to create this action plan, including cross-reference to sibling documents and the process of stakeholder consultation to date.
- **Chapter 3** describes the current biodiversity baseline, including information on the condition of assets, pressures or threats to favourable status. Specific consideration is given to the climate change resilience of each broad habitat type. Broad opportunities to address these issues and to support thriving biodiversity across the borough, as part of a wider cross- boundary network, are identified.
- The concept of a nature network is to optimise delivery of wider environmental benefits alongside those for biodiversity. **Chapter 4** highlights the local environmental priorities – such as flood alleviation and carbon sequestration – to target.
- **Chapter 5** lists the nature recovery actions, Strategic Actions and the Delivery Plan, including brief description of the approaches to their support – engagement and promotion, resourcing, funding and monitoring.
- A **glossary** of terms is provided to aid understanding and transparency.
- A concise description of the current legal and policy context for nature recovery, focusing on the changes since publication of the 2011-2016 BAP, is provided in **Appendix A**.
- A list of the SINC sites within Hounslow are provided in **Appendix B**.
- A list of potential collaborators to realise this Action Plan are listed in **Appendix C**.

Chapter 2

Approach to Nature Recovery

Chapter 2
Approach to Nature Recovery

The NRAP presents the transition from the previous borough BAP to an approach of ‘nature recovery’, in line with the Governments 25 Year Environment Plan. The actions:

- Take forward those that remain on-going from the 2011-2016 BAP;
- Include revision to reflect current legislation, policy and baseline conditions;
- Cross-reference the objectives of the 2021 GBI Strategy where appropriate;
- Provide foundation for nature recovery across the borough which may in the future be refined to reflect a city-wide LNRS.

Legal & Policy Review

Legislation and policy relevant to biodiversity conservation and the delivery of nature recovery have been collated. It is recognised that nature recovery requires action at a range of scales – from site specific to catchment-wide. Accordingly, requirements and aspirations are described at the national, London-wide and Hounslow borough scales.

To help streamline the document, the legal and policy context is provided in Appendix A.

Collating the Baseline

Hounslow's biodiversity baseline is described in terms of the networks of designated nature conservation sites, priority and notable habitats, and the habitats typically considered to be more 'common and widespread', which support much of the borough's flora and fauna.

These assets are described in terms of the weaknesses and threats, targets and opportunities faced, where such data is available.

Baseline data was sourced from the GBI Strategy, notably the themes of Nature Recovery (Theme 2), Blue Infrastructure (Theme 5), Parks & Gardens (Theme 1) and Urban Greening (Theme 4). Analysis for the NRAP included both borough-specific and cross-boundary datasets, such as:

- National – statutory designated sites, ancient woodland and national forest inventories, Natural England restoration and enhancement foci based on priority habitats and Environment Agency WWNP[6] watercourse and catchment potential mapping, Buglife B- Lines;
- City-wide – GIGL BAP Habitat Opportunity Mapping[7], canopy cover mapping[8], living roofs[9]; and
- Borough-specific – SINC designations, Hounslow Highways adopted amenity land, tree cover within the Council's highways and housing estate

Consultation and Co-Design

The broad opportunities for nature recovery (and related themes) identified within the GBI Strategy were extracted and developed for the NRAP. Actions of the 2011-2016 BAP were reviewed with the Council to select those which are on-going or require renewal to take forward within the NRAP.
The Hounslow NRAP has been written in collaboration with the Council Services which include Parks Management, Lampton Services Greenspace, Environment Strategy Spatial Planning, Flood Management, and from Hounslow Highways.
Overarching knowledge of the long-term consultation and partnership working which has delivered the BAP to date, was provided by the Council's Environment Strategy Team.

Additionally, relevant information arising from stakeholder engagement as part of the GBI Strategy has been considered[10]. This included input regarding nature recovery from the following groups:

- Borough residents – online survey;
- Council officers, statutory consultees, NGOs, conservation organisations and local partnerships – targeted workshop.

In March 2023, another engagement exercise was conducted with wide variety of stakeholders in Hounslow. This included major landowners, regional bodies and utility operators, and community groups.

Future consultation and engagement are required within the NRAP actions, ranging from strategic integration of nature recovery within the functions of all council departments, to the collation of up-to-date baseline data, detailed co-design with delivery partners, and fostering ownership within the local community. It is envisaged that this will detail the 'protect', 'connect' and 'create and enhance' maps to neighbourhood level. This will be led by the Council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Team.

Coordination of London-wide biodiversity and nature recovery action is currently led by the London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum, comprising the GLA, GIGL and London Wildlife Trust in partnership individual boroughs[11]. Hounslow is an established contributor to this partnership and will continue to reflect the wider strategic aims and objectives at each review of the NRAP where possible (Chapter 5: Monitoring Progress).

6 https://data.gov.uk/dataset/11873c69-d971-44ce-a648-872da9be847f/wwnp-floodplain-reconnection-potential
7 https://www.gigl.org.uk/habitat-data/bap-habitat-suitability-data/
8 https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands/treecanopy-cover-map
9 https://livingroofs.org/london-map-green-roof-boroughs/
10 For rapid reference, consultation findings are highlighted within the GBI Strategy as green boxed text. Most relevant are Theme 2: Nature Recovery and Theme 4: Urban Greening
11 The London Biodiversity Partnership disbanded in 2013 following a national decline in support for BAPs. However, there is still regional and organisational delivery of the London BAP (information now coordinated by GIGL), as well as many London borough-focused plans that translate its commitments at the local level. London BAP available: https://www.gigl.org.uk/londons-biodiversity-action-plan/

Chapter 3

The Biodiversity Baseline of Hounslow

Chapter 3
The Biodiversity Baseline of Hounslow

This chapter describes the priority sites and habitats across the borough, based on available data. Examples of progress made since publication of the 2011-2016 BAP are included where appropriate. Condition, including weaknesses or pressures on biodiversity assets, are described where known as well as strategic opportunities identified for habitat creation, enhancement or restoration. It provides a strategic overview from which the actions to Protect, Connect, Create & Enhance, Engage & Promote are subsequently identified.

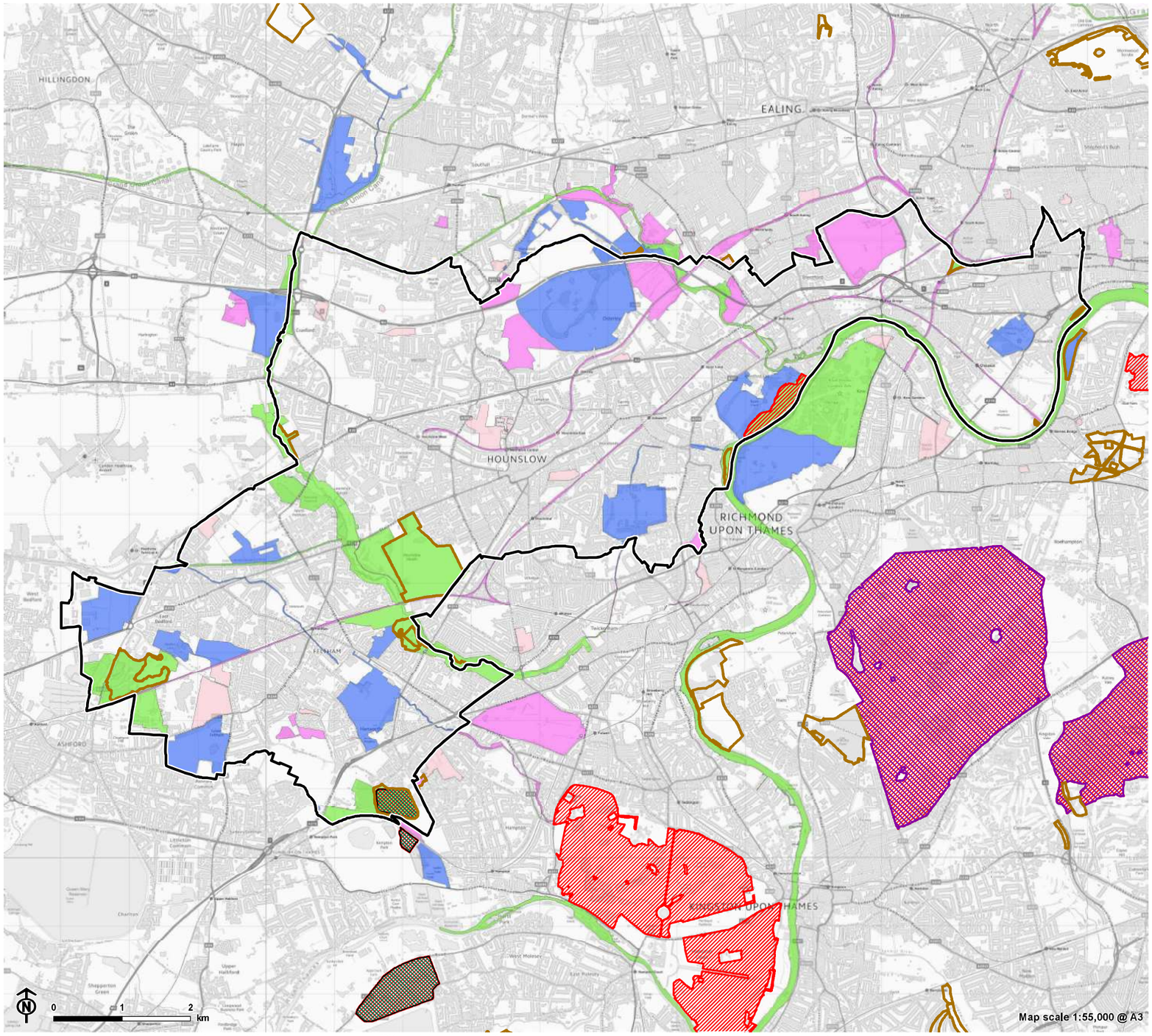
The London Plan sets a target for 50% green cover across the city. The Green cover across all London boroughs is mapped by the Mayor of London (extract provided in Figure 3.1), which provides a comparable, and systematically updated, cross-boundary dataset. This shows 2,677ha (47.31%) of Hounslow as ‘green’ and 178.21ha (3.15%) as ‘blue’, giving a total of 2,855ha (50.46%) as combined GBI. Note that this does not account for vertical habitats, such as green walls.

Chapter 3

The Biodiversity Baseline of Hounslow

Figure 3.1: Green cover mapping across Hounslow (extract: Mayor of London[12])

[12] https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-and-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands/tree-canopy-cover-map



Hounslow Nature Recovery Action Plan
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Figure 3.2: Designated Nature Conservation Sites

- London Borough of Hounslow
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar & Special Protection Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserve

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

- Metropolitan
- Borough I
- Borough II
- Local

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC FIGX_11210_r0_Designated_Nature_Conservation_Sites_A3L 18/01/2021
Source: OS, LBH, NE, GiGL

London Borough of Hounslow

Designated Nature Conservation Sites

International & National Designated Sites

The Southwest London Waterbodies Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site includes Kempton Park Reservoir, which lies in the south west of Hounslow. The reservoir is also designated as part of the Kempton Park Reservoirs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These designations reflect overwintering wildfowl population, which is particularly successful due to its limited public access. The SSSI is recorded to be in 'unfavourable recovering' condition owing to infestation of the invasive New Zealand pygmyweed, thought to pose an adverse effect on feeding conditions for gadwall and initiatives have been implemented to clear and treat the Crassula [pygmyweed].

Syon Park Tide Meadow SSSI is the last remaining section of the River Thames within Greater London which is unbanked, meaning the meadows flood twice daily with the tide. The Tide Meadow hosts a variety of significant flora and fauna, most notably the German Hairy Snail. The SSSI is recorded to be in favourable condition.

The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Hounslow's Local Plan and emerging Development Plan Documents identifies Red House Reservoir, also within the Southwest London Waterbodies SPA/Ramsar, as a consideration for likely significant effects. The reservoir, which sits across the boundary in Spelthorne is considered alongside Bedfont Lakes Country Park and Princes Lake (mainly in Spelthorne) as sites which represent important functionally linked habitats. The HRA process will, for example, inform the planning and design of future development through the Great West Corridor and West of Borough DPDs.

Other national and international designations within boroughs adjoining Hounslow includes Richmond Park SAC, SSSI and NNR, which sits 2.4km to the south. These designations principally relate to the park's ancient trees and dead wood habitats which give rise to important assemblages of stag beetles and other invertebrates. At present the SSSI condition is recognised as being 'unfavourable recovering', indicating the park does not meet the standards but has appropriate management in place. Wimbledon Common SAC lies 3.4km south of the borough boundary and is designated for its heathland and stag beetle population.

Bushy Park and Home Park SSSI is recognised for its population of ancient and veteran trees, lowland dry acid grassland and rare invertebrates. The park currently has areas in 'favourable' and 'unfavourable recovering' condition. Knight & Bessborough Reservoirs SSSI and the Staines Moor SSSI are also part of the Southwest London Waterbodies SPA and Ramsar site. These designations recognise the areas' significance in supporting nationally important wildfowl. The Barn Elms Wetland Centre SSSI is designated for its mosaic of wetland habitats which support the nationally important wintering populations of shoveler and other breeding birds.

The Local Designated Network

It is recognised that the local designation network provides an important role, not only in accommodating a thriving network of local habitats and species, but in supporting the upper echelon sites – both in terms of habitat connectivity and in absorbing the recreational need of local residents who are encouraged to enjoy, explore and engage in nature nearby.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are designated for biodiversity and for people's education in and enjoyment of the natural world. There are ten LNR in Hounslow, totalling 163ha, with four further such designations abutting or located just beyond the boundary.

The network of Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) spans the borough but trends toward the habitats associated with the Thames, Crane and Brent corridors, the western boundary (including Bedfont Lakes to Kempton Park), around Osterley Park in the north and Syon Park in the south.

Table 3.1 summarises the number and area of SINC designations across Hounslow's local site network, including those which extend across and beyond the borough boundary. In total there are 47 SINC sites in Hounslow. A further 16 SINC sites have been identified in neighbouring boroughs that have a strategic connection to the Hounslow sites and are part of the London-wide SINC network. A schedule of the SINC designations is provided in Appendix B.

Table 3.1: Summary of SINC designations across Hounslow

SINC status	No. sites in/overlapping Hounslow	Area in/overlapping from Hounslow (ha)
SMI	11	298.96
SBI	18 Grade I 19 Grade II	565.34 310.71
SLI	15	96.45
Total	47 SINCs within Hounslow 16 SINCS in neighbouring boroughs with strategic connections to Hounslow's SINC Network 63 Total	1,271.46

Regarding the condition of the SINC network and so too its ability to support thriving biodiversity; the latest full survey was completed in 2013 and used to inform the second edition of the 2011-2016 BAP. As such, the need to complete a survey to provide a comprehensive and up to date baseline forms one of the most important Strategic Actions of the NRAP. Councils are required to report annually to DEFRA on the proportion of local sites in beneficial management and the most recent figures submitted for Hounslow are provided in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Beneficial management across the local designated site network in Hounslow since publication of the 2011-2016 BAP

Report year	No. sites in/overlapping Hounslow	No. in positive conservation management	Area in/overlapping from Hounslow (ha)
2011/12	47	30	64
2012/13	47	33	70
2013/14	47	35	74
2014/15	47	35	74
2015/16	47	35	74
2016/17	47	No report submitted	No report submitted
2017/18	47	36	77
2018/19	47	34	72

Proposals for release of land from the Green Belt

The emerging Consolidated Local Plan includes proposals for the release of Green Belt land. Where areas of Green Belt are proposed to be de-designated it would be the Council's intention to require development to contribute to appropriate compensatory improvements within the remaining Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). This is in line with the NPPF and relevant emerging local plan policies, including habitat enhancement, expansion, or creation in line with the recommendations of the NRAP and GBI Strategy.

Where any parcels of land to be removed from the Green Belt overlap (partially or in full) land designated as SINC, it is intended that developments will be expected to meet requirements for ecological enhancement (or net gain) as well as the mitigation hierarchy. Individual sites have not been assessed at this stage but, in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, measures are anticipated to include prioritising retention and favourable management of existing designations to protect these from construction or operational/recreation impacts.

Priority and Notable Habitats

Overview of the Collated Datasets

This section describes the nature, extent and distribution of habitats characteristic of Hounslow. Table 3.3 lists the broad correspondences between national, London and Hounslow habitat types to aid cross-reference.
It is recognised that the 2011-2016 BAP provides quantified data for each of the Hounslow BAP habitat types, based on Phase 1 habitat mapping carried out in 2012. It is an NRAP action to update the baseline habitat mapping to inform accurate update of the extent and distribution metrics (see Chapter 5)

Table 3.3: Broad correspondences between national, London and Hounslow habitat priorities

Natural England Priority habitat type[13]	London BAP habitat type[14]	Previous Hounslow Habitat priorities (Action Plans and Statements)[15]	Species prevelant in Hounslow
Wood pasture & parkland	Flagship species	Parkland and veteran trees	Little owl, pipistrelle and noctule bats, stag beetle
Deciduous woodland	Woodland	Woodlands* Wet woodland	Skylark, meadow pipit, common spotted orchid, pepper saxifrage
Traditional orchard	Parks & urban greenspaces Private gardens	Gardens, allotments & orchards	House sparrow, bullfinch, hedgehog, slow worm, common frog, mistletoe
No direct correspondence	No direct correspondence	Hedgerows	Song thrush, house sparrow, pipistrelle bat
Lowland heathland	Heathland Acid grassland	Lowland heath & acid grassland	Stonechat, adder, ling, bell heather, dwarf gorse
Lowland meadows Lowland calcareous grassland Good quality semi- improved grassland	Meadows and pastures	Neutral grassland	Skylark, meadow pipit, common spotted orchid, pepper saxifrage
Lowland fens	Fen, marsh and swamp Reedbeds	Reedbeds	Bitter, reed warbler, wainscot moth

13 Priority Habitat Inventory data. Available: www.magic.gov.uk
14 https://www.gigl.org.uk/london-bap-priority-habitats/
15 https://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s85102/Final%20HBAP%20-%20amended%20october2013.pdf

Table 3.3: Continued

Natural England Priority habitat type[13]	London BAP habitat type[14]	Prior Hounslow habitat priorities (Action Plans and * Statements)[15]	Species prevelant in Hounslow
Mudflats	No direct correspondence	No direct correspondence	None previously targeted
No direct correspondence	Built structures Wastelands	Built environment Wastelands*	House sparrow, peregrine falcon, pipistrelle bat
No direct correspondence	Rivers and streams the tidal Thames Standing water	Rivers and streams	Kingfisher, water vole, banded damselfly, barbel, alder
No direct correspondence		The tidal Thames	Common tern, grey heron, great crested grebe, sand martin, Daubenton's bat, two- lipped door snail, German hairy snail, depressed river mussel, flounder, salmon, purple loosestrife, common reed
No direct correspondence		Standing water	None previously targeted

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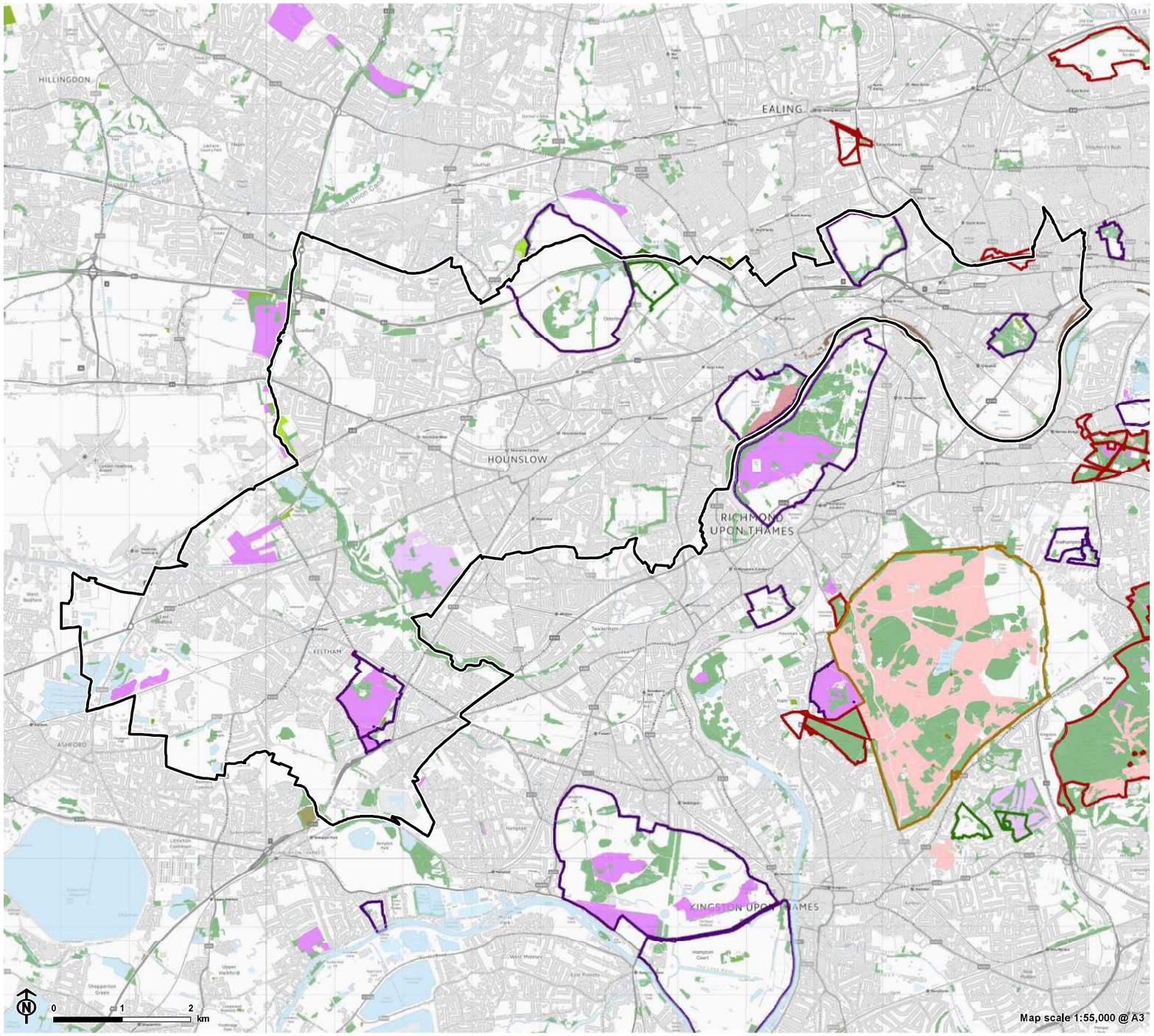
Figure 3.3: Notable and Priority Habitat Types



London Borough of Hounslow
Surface water

Priority habitat

Deciduous woodland
Good quality semi-improved grassland
Lowland calcareous grassland
Lowland dry acid grassland
Lowland fens
Lowland heathland
Lowland meadows
Mudflats
Reedbeds
Traditional orchard

Priority habitat: wood pasture and parkland

Parkland
Wood pasture
Wood pasture in park
Wooded common

CB: EB:llott_J: LUC FIGX_11210_r0_NotablePriorityHabitatTypes_PHI_A3L 19/01/2021
Source: OS, LBH, NE

London Borough of Hounslow

Flagship Species

The below maps, provided by GIGL, show records of several flagship species within the borough.

Figure 3.3.1: Reptiles- Adder records within Hounslow (source: GIGL)

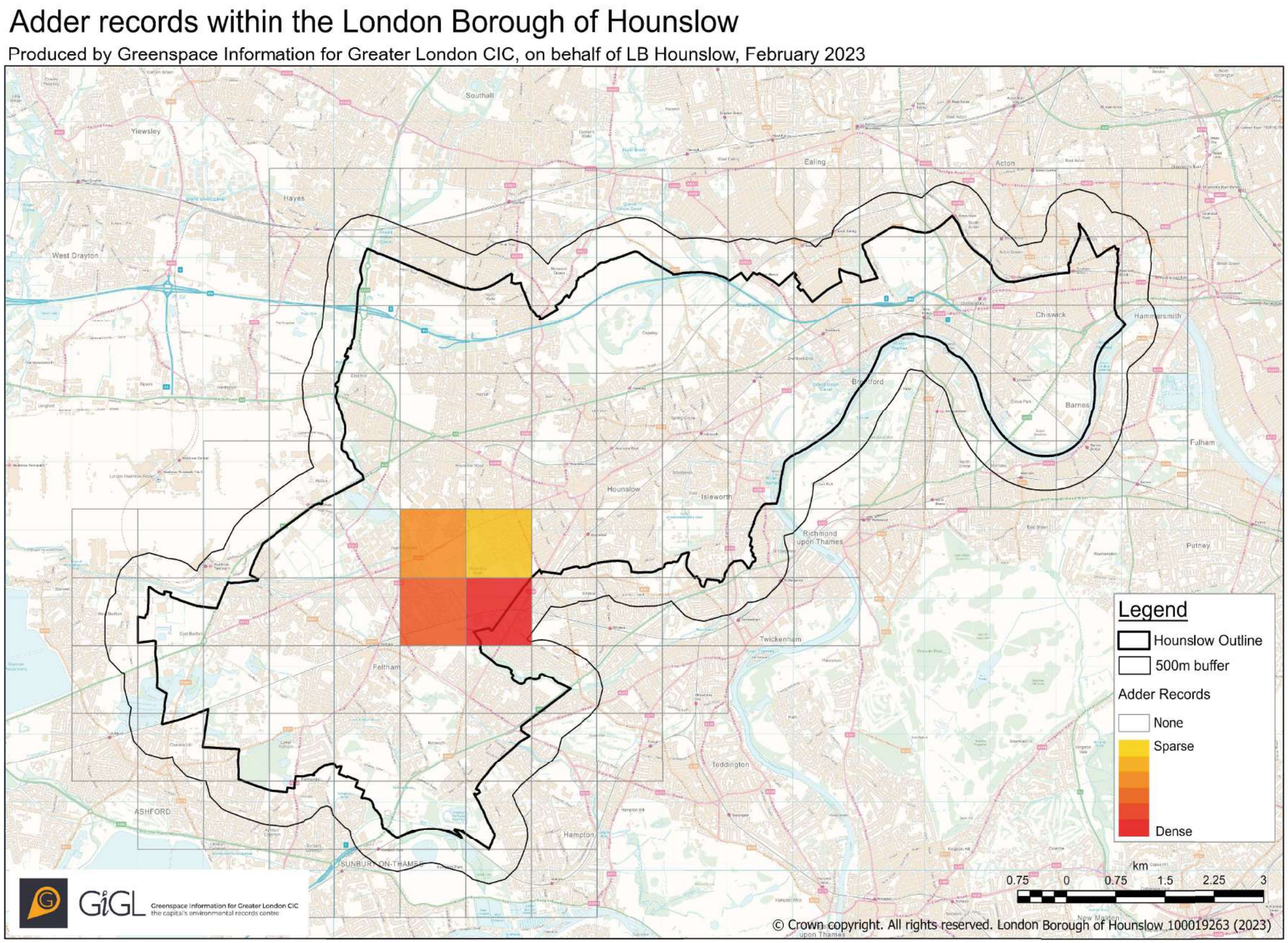


Figure 3.3.2: Flower- Common Spotted Orchid records within Hounslow (source: GIGL)

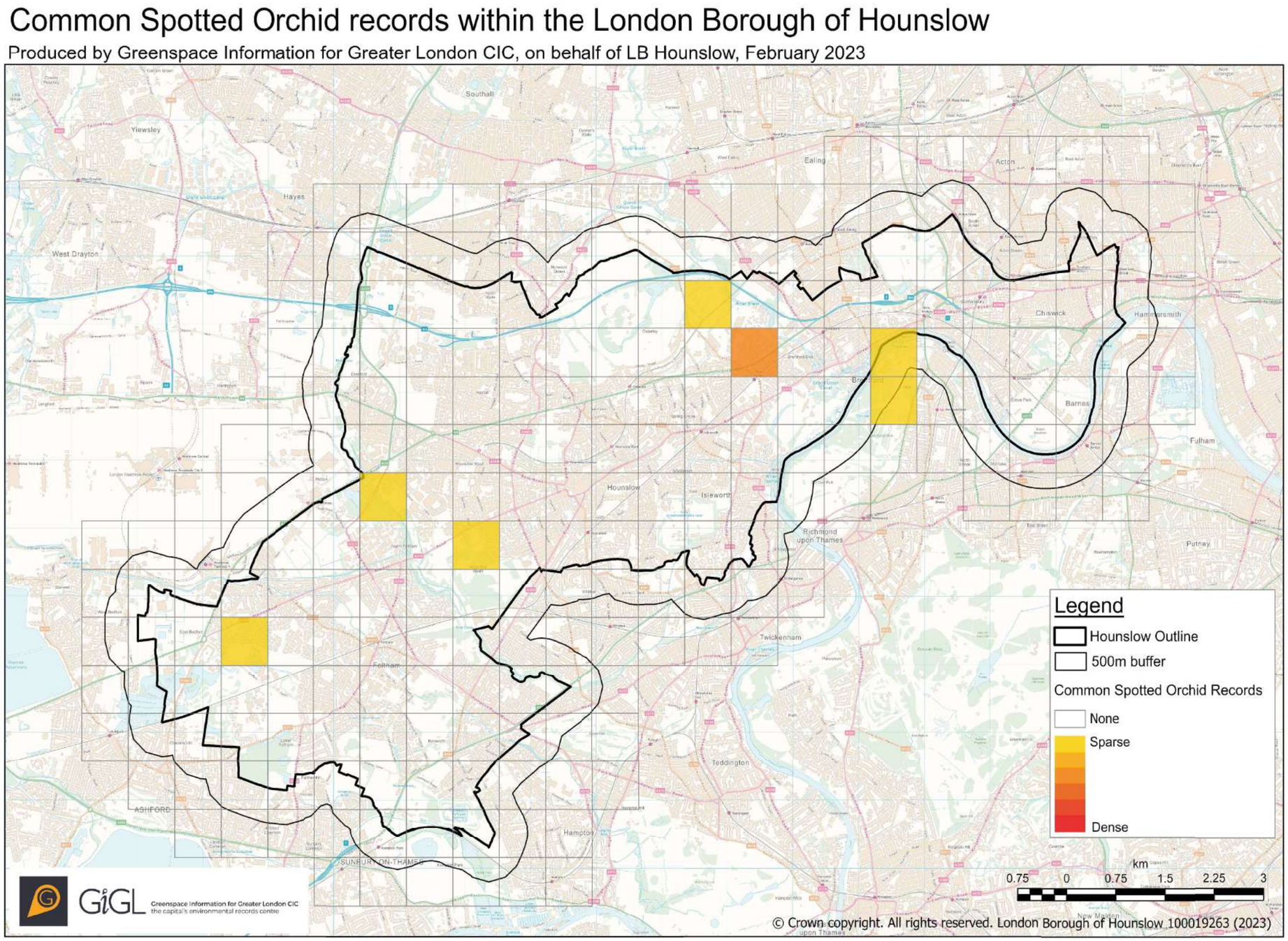


Figure 3.3.3: Birds- Meadow Pipit records within Hounslow (source: GIGL)

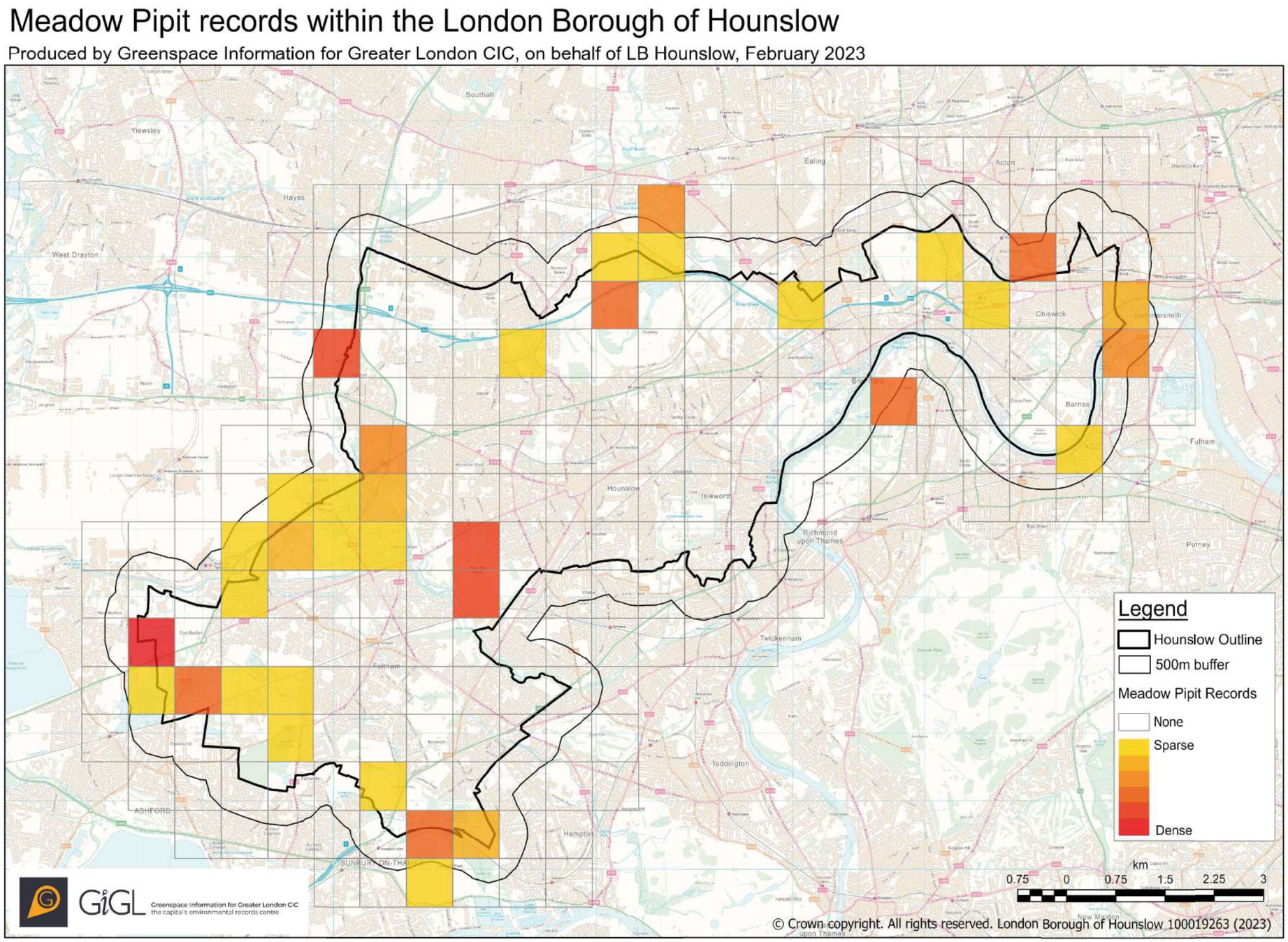


Figure 3.3.4: Bats- Nathusius's Pipistrelle records within Hounslow (source: GIGL)

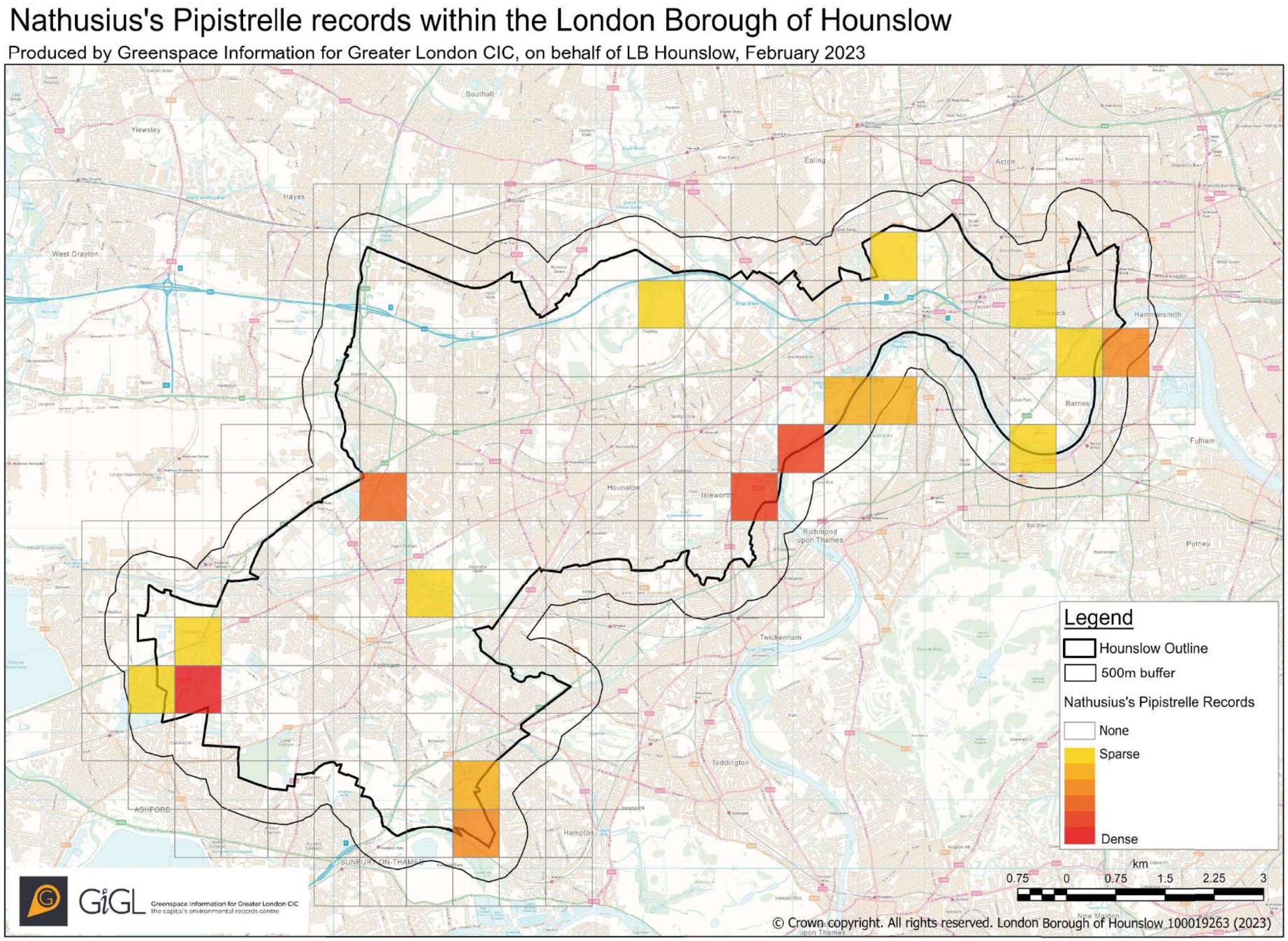


Figure 3.3.5: Birds- Skylark records within Hounslow (source: GIGL)

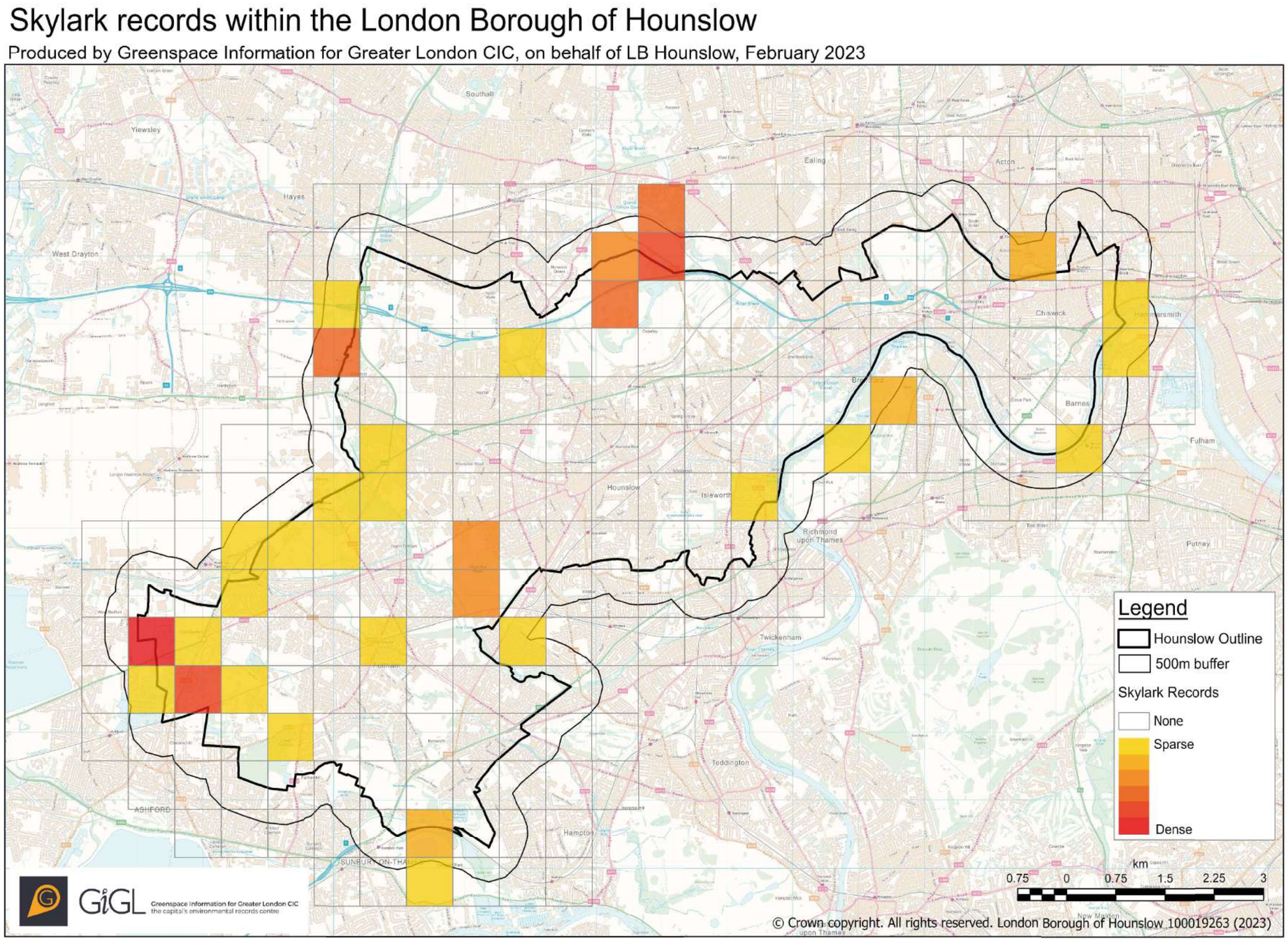
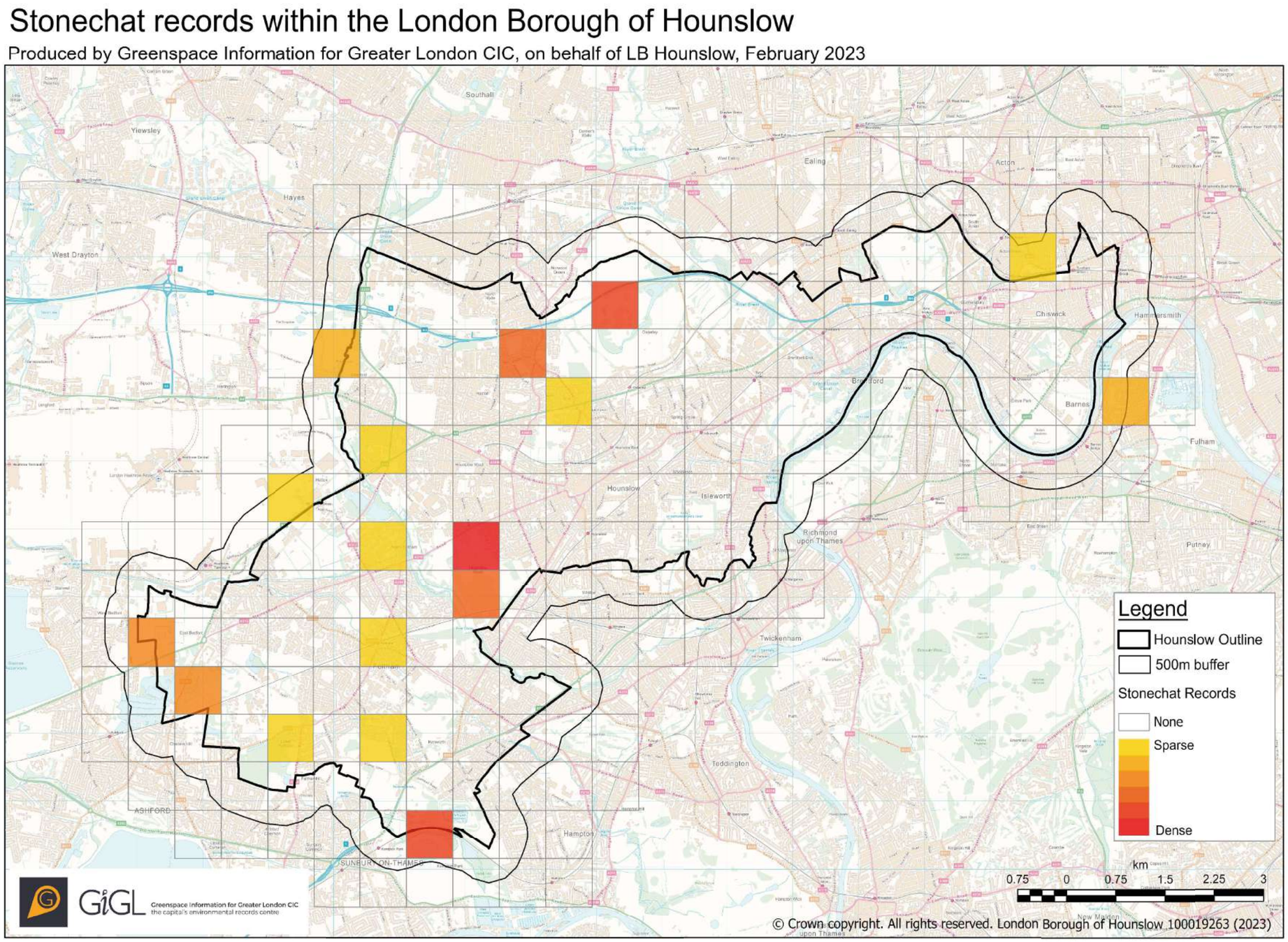


Figure 3.3.6: Birds- Stonechat records within Hounslow (source: GIGL)



From the above maps key sites containing multiple flagship species emerge. These are Hounslow Heath, Bedfont Lakes, Osterley Park, and the River Crane Corridor.

Natural England Priority Habitat Index (PHI) mapping (Table 3.4, Figure 3.3) is available nationally and underpins the Natural England habitat network mapping[16] of strategic areas for habitat creation, enhancement or restoration (Figure 3.4). These data can usefully identify cross-boundary priorities.

Table 3.4: Area of Natural England priority habitats mapped across Hounslow

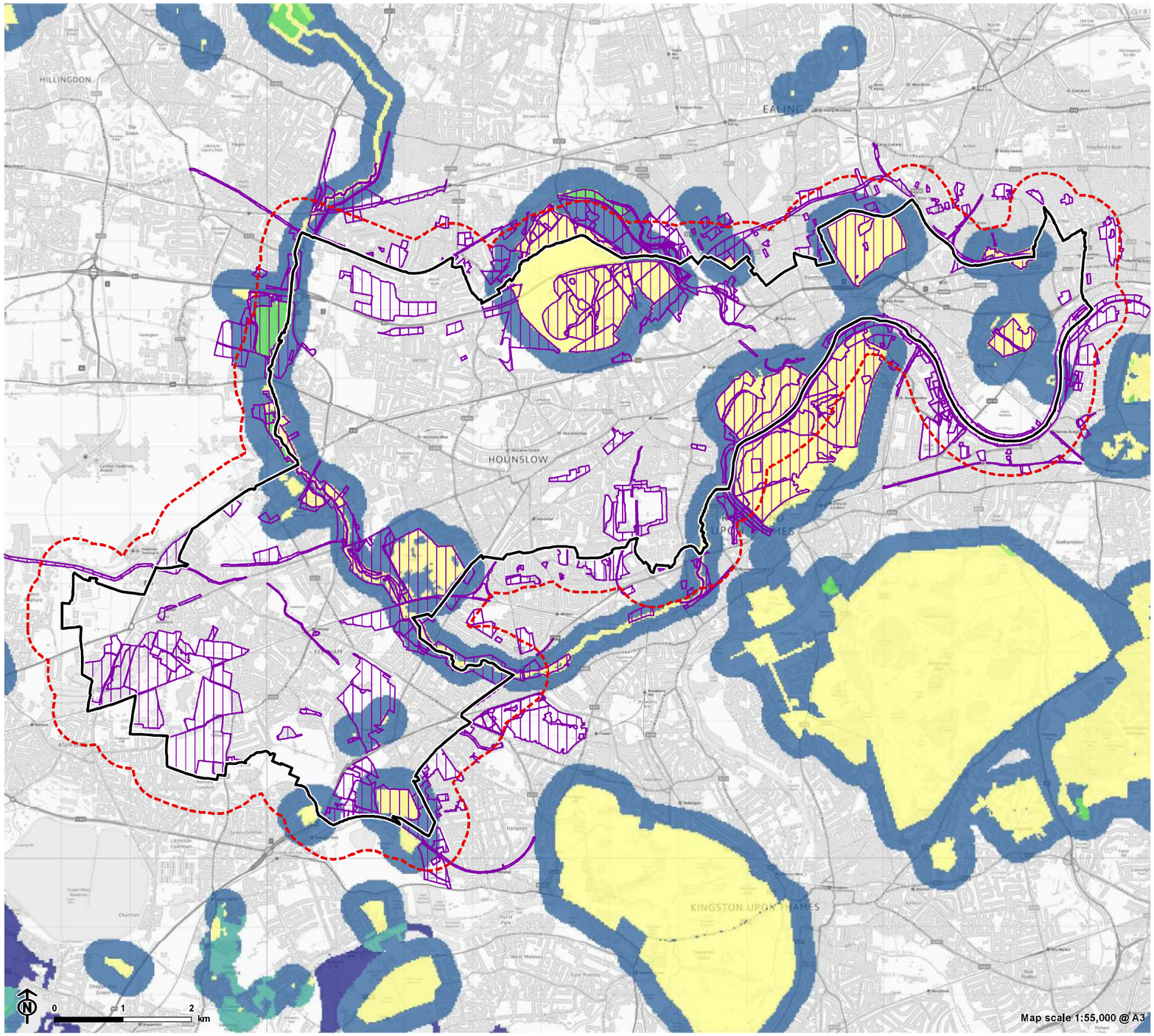
Priority habitat type	Area (ha)
Wood pasture & parkland – parkland subtype	472.77
Wood pasture & parkland – wood pasture subtype	27.05
Wood pasture & parkland – wood common subtype	3.50
Deciduous woodland	296.46
Traditional orchard	3.23
Lowland heath	47.08
Lowland meadows	5.09
Lowland calcareous grassland	0.42
Good quality semi-improved grassland	83.32
Lowland fens	16.59
Mudflats	14.49
No main habitat but additional types of present	10.57
Total	477.27

The GIGL habitat suitability opportunity mapping (also illustrated in Figure 3.4) provides a finer grain of detail to inform land use and nature conservation and land use decision-making. Mapping was completed as part of the Regional Delivery Framework for the city and uses the London BAP habitat types. Table 3.5 summarises the area for each. In the absence of up-to-date habitat mapping, these totals should be considered indicative, providing a preliminary guide the area available to contribute to the target of a greener borough.

Table 3.5: London BAP Habitat suitability opportunity mapping in Hounslow (source: GIGL[17])

London BAP habitat type	Area (ha) suitable for creation / restoration	Area (ha) suitable to expand existing	Existing (ha) w/o potential for expansion
Woodland	191.39	0	0.19
Heathland	431.36	0	0
Lowland meadow	134.91	0	0
Reedbed	96.99	0	6.75
Standing water (ponds)	300.77	2.60	0
Rivers & streams	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed
Indicative total	1,155.42	2.60	6.94

16 https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/Habitat%20Network%20Mapping%20Guidance.pdf
17 https://www.gigl.org.uk/habitat-data/bap-habitat-suitability-data/



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for London Borough of Hounslow

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Figure 3.4: Natural England and GiGL pre-existing Strategic Habitat Opportunity Mapping

- London Borough of Hounslow
- London Borough of Hounslow 500m buffer
- GiGL BAP habitat suitability area

Habitat network

- Habitat
- Fragmentation action zone
- Habitat restoration-creation
- Network enhancement zone 1
- Network enhancement zone 2
- Network expansion zone

Note: Highways soft estate and housing soft estate to be added if council can provide

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC FIGX_11210_r0_Strategic_Habitat_Opportunity_Habitat_Networks_A3L 18/01/2021
Source: OS, NE, GiGL

London Borough of Hounslow

Re-wilding

Natural regeneration and succession of vegetation may be referred to as ‘re-wilding’. The term captures the value of low intervention management, with the aim of creating greater, locally appropriate species-richness and structural diversity. Some habitats of conservation importance are sub-climax and therefore require management to maintain favourable condition. Examples include management of cutting heathland or grazing lowland fen (as at Syon Park) to prevent natural encroachment by scrub, and acid or wildflower grassland to prevent colonisation by rank grasses and ruderal herbs. The term ‘positive management’ or ‘active management’ may be used to refer to areas requiring such intervention, albeit at low intensity.

In similar vein, the concept of ‘wild edges’ is promoted by the Wildlife Trust, capturing the essence of re-wilding within linear habitats and habitat interfaces, ranging from roadsides to sports pitch periphery, from garden lawns to park borders.

Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub

Hounslow have prepared a Tree Plan and Management Strategy – a sibling GBI delivery document – describes the management of Council owned trees ranging from individual specimens to those which stand as woodland. This is expected for adoption in autumn 2023. Specifically relevant to nature recovery, tree management policies address:

- Species and specimen selection to ensure the sustainability of the overall tree stock;
- Ensure that woodlands are managed as a long-term sustainable resource for the public, for education and for nature conservation;
- Promote the lifespan of veteran and potential veteran trees within the borough;
- Retain, where appropriate, fallen trees and wood on site, and dead trees left standing to encourage species diversity;
- Planning obligations to replace trees that are felled as a result of new development, where applicable;
- Encourage tree planting where it is appropriate to do so, with the aim of increasing long- term tree canopy cover and connectivity. Reflects the Greener Borough Framework aims:
- To plant one tree/large hedge specimen for every child born in the borough from 2020 (approximately 5,000 specimens per annum);
- To increase the green coverage across the borough to 50%.
- Include members of the public in designing new planting schemes and when putting the trees in the ground.

The Biodiversity Baseline of Hounslow

Figure 3.5 illustrates the tree canopy cover of Hounslow extract from centralised London- wide mapping. Generated using software, this provides a measure of cover comparable with other boroughs. This reveals a total area of 1,005ha canopy cover across the borough (accounting for approximately 17.78%). The Mayor of London has committed to increasing tree canopy cover by 10 per cent by 2050, to approximately 31% of the capital’s land area.

Additionally, the Council will update the borough-wide tree mapping in 2021, replacing the previous 2015/16 data. The baseline description herein, and associated actions, will be updated accordingly in due course.

Hounslow Nature Recovery Action Plan
for London Borough of Hounslow

Figure 3.5: Canopy Cover

London Borough of Hounslow
Canopy cover

CB:JI EB:Bean_C LUC FIGX_11210_r0_Canopy_Cover_A3L 18/12/2020
Source: GLA

Deciduous Woodland

The principal woodland sites within the borough include Hounslow Heath, the Crane Valley, Bedfont Lakes Country Park, Syon Park, Chiswick House and Gardens, Boston Manor Park, Kempton Nature Reserve, Osterley Park, Isleworth Ait and the Gunnersbury Triangle.

The borough's geology gives rise to a number of broad categorisations of woodland. The southern extents of Hounslow being position on Taplow Terrace Gravels has led to a varied woodland which is dominated by oak and hawthorn. The ground flora of these woods is generally poor, dominated by species such as ivy and lesser celandine.

To the north, the heavier London Clays gave rise to a woodland dominated by English Elm. However, following Dutch elm and ash-die back diseases, these woodlands are now dominated by oak and hazel. The ground flora within these woods is generally more developed with remnants of bluebells, red campion and foxgloves.

There are also some parcels of young woodland which have generally been planted within the past 30 years, including at Lampton Park, Boston Manor Park, Inwood Park, Bedfont Lakes Country Park and Hanworth Park. These schemes are typically dominated by natives such as oak, ash, willow and field maple[19].

In 2017, Forestry Commission England[20] estimated a total of 331ha woodland cover across the borough (accounting for 2.6% of that across London as a whole), of which active management was centrally recorded for little or none, i.e., the majority of the woodland resource may not be achieving its full biodiversity potential. Hounslow's deciduous woodlands face pressure from recreation and as well as climate change, pollution and instances of inappropriate (or lack of) management. The aims of the Hounslow Tree Plan and Management Strategy for new tree planting include specifically the planting of more native broadleaved woodlands to support biodiversity.

Birdlife across the borough's woodlands is rich and diverse, including all three species of woodpecker, nuthatch, tree creeper, warblers, and woodcock, hobby, little and tawny owls.

Wet Woodland

Wet woodland habitat is recorded at two areas within the borough – along river floodplains of the Thames and the Crane and associated with former gravel diggings such as at Bedfont Lakes. Both locations areas are within designated habitats such as Syon Park Flood Meadow SSSI, Donkey Wood SMI and Bedfont Lakes Country Park SMI LNR. Wet woodland habitat is often found alongside other notable habitats, such as reedbeds, fen or open water, forming biodiverse mosaics. The wet woodland habitat establishes on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, and is typically dominated by alder, birch or willow species. Notable associated species include bittern, skylark, meadow pipit, Nathusius' pipistrelle bat and goat moth, and the plants common spotted orchid, pepper saxifrage.

Wetland woodland is relatively scarce in the UK. The habitat remaining within Hounslow is particularly valuable given the urban context. Whilst there is some site connectivity through the river networks, the wet woodland habitats are relatively isolated and opportunity for dispersal of specialist species, restricted.

Constraints to habitat condition include high levels of recreational access, littering, fly tipping, vandalism and damage to trees or other vegetation (as reported in the 2011-2016 BAP). Invasive species including giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam are recorded throughout the wet woodlands of the Crane and are encroaching the floodplains.

Where management of wet woodland is in place within Hounslow, this is recorded to be as part of the river catchment (e.g., River Crane corridor managed by Natural England) or individual management plan (e.g. Syon Park SSSI).

Wet woodland restoration in Donkey Wood[21] was undertaken by London Borough of Hounslow in partnership with the Environment Agency, Friends of the River Crane Environment, The Conservation Volunteers and Green Corridor. The wet woodland is dominated by alder, which thrives in the moist conditions, and is regularly managed through coppicing. The restoration project also saw the introduction of a fish passage which will help to connect the upper and lower reaches of the River Crane for wildlife. A new area of wet woodland was also created at Pevensey Road Nature Reserve along the River Crane in 2019/20. This involved the planting of 50 new trees within help from the local community[22].

The Environment Agency's Working with Natural Processes (WWNP) dataset (Figure 3.6) has identified several locations which would be suitable for floodplain woodland planting within Hounslow. This includes the Crane Valley at Hatton and Cranford, and the Brent Valley at Boston Manor Park and London Playing Fields. Note that WWNP is nationally mapped at a relatively coarse scale. Interpretation therefore requires additional consideration of more finely mapped local conservation priorities.

Parkland & Veteran Trees

Parkland and veteran trees have significant ecological value, and particularly within urban areas. Much of the parkland within the borough is designated as SINC and is managed accordingly. Veteran trees are typically afforded protection under Tree Preservation Orders.

19 Hounslow Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership (2013). Hounslow Biodiversity Action Plan. Weblink: https://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s85102/FinalHBAPamendedoctober2013.pdf
20 Lantern & Forestry Commission England (2017) Making London's Woodlands Work. Available: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/171130-londonwoodlandevidencereport.pdf
21 https://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s109226/A1%20-%20Donkey%20Wood%20Wet%20Woodland%20Restoration%2031.01.14.pdf
22 https://apps.london.gov.uk/greener-city/#13.82/51.44145/-0.39263/0/45

Veteran trees are found throughout the borough within open spaces and occasionally domestic gardens (the baseline dataset principally records those in large historic parks and/or land owned by the National Trust). The value of dead and decaying wood features for a range of specialist flora and fauna to inhabit is increased where veteran trees stand in proximity, providing a network of dispersal and colonisation opportunities. Notable species associated with parkland and veteran trees include little owl, the bat assemblage, stag beetle and open pollarded trees (oak, hornbeam beech, horse chestnut and sweet chestnut).

Whilst typically substantial in size, the isolation and degradation of parkland habitats means they are typically less resilient to further increase in pressure or to the changing climate. It is recognised that large heritage parks across many of the London boroughs may be subject to acute recreational pressure during public events, for which there is a trend of increasing scale and frequency. Adverse effects include soil compaction, nutrient enrichment and litter.

Damage to vegetation can result in a patchy or denuded grass sward or uneven tree age population where young specimens do not survive. Loss of veteran trees is recognised to occur through disease, damage and physiological stress. These factors incur loss of the dependent specialised species.

Wider Tree Canopy Cover

Much of Hounslow's tree population consists of street trees, trees situated within the public realm, and within other open spaces such as housing estate land and cemeteries. These trees play an important role in providing 'stepping stones' or pockets of refuge for wildlife in sometimes intensely urban environs. Where there is limited space for ground vegetation, trees offer habitat at height, as reflected in the high overall area of green cover across Hounslow (see Figure 3.1 and 3.6). Over 10,000 street trees line commercial and residential properties across Hounslow, helping to clean pollutants from the air, provide shade, shelter and food for a range of wildlife.[23]

Urban tree coverage is much more prevalent within the eastern extents of the borough, primarily within the leafy neighbourhoods of Chiswick where tree-lined streets are a common occurrence. Elsewhere in the borough, the incidence of street trees is generally quite low, particularly within the urban centres of Brentford, Hounslow and Hounslow West, Feltham and Isleworth. Their occurrence is particularly poor within areas of industry, including the Great West Road and Heston.

Urban trees require significant resilience, not only to the emerging impacts of climate change but also to the harsh urban environment. Therefore, many of these trees require a certain degree of tolerance to pollution, drought, soil compaction and nutrient deficiency.

The aims of the Hounslow Tree Plan and Management Strategy for new tree planting include specifically the planting of bigger species wherever possible to maximise the long-term benefits of urban tree planting.

Climate Change Resilience

The 2015 Climate Change Adaptation Manual (NE & RSPB, 2015[24]) lists wet woodland as Medium sensitivity to climate change, with deciduous woodland, lowland wood pasture and parkland as Low sensitivity. Mixed woodland is likely to be comparatively less sensitive as species diversity, and so too structural heterogeneity, would be greater and as a result resilience to climate change potentially higher.

As a general rule, woodland and parkland habitats may be more resilient to the arrival of new pests and diseases (an impact associated with climate change) where species diversity is greater; the habitat as a whole being less susceptible to species-specific diseases such as ash die-back. Diversification of the structure and age-class of a woodland may also increase resilience, alongside benefitting biodiversity[25].

Climate change adaptation for woodland habitats which can be achieved through beneficial management include an increase in structural heterogeneity through increase in the age-range as well as species diversity and increase in the proportion and diversity of retained decaying wood (NE & RSPB, 2015). Specifically, in relation to ash-dominated woodlands, buffering smaller sites by extending the woodland edge and taking opportunities for new woodland creation nearby is proposed. For veteran trees, reduction of the crown to root ratio and improved protection for individual specimens is proposed.

The role of locally-appropriate near-native species, such as sycamore and London plane as components of semi-natural woodland beyond their current native range is also recommended where these offer greater tolerance to the fluctuating temperatures, periods of drought and flashier rainfall associated with climate change.
The 2019 TDAG guidance[26] is the principal reference given in the Hounslow Tree Plan and Management Strategy to inform species selection as part of GBI, notably in more urban environs.

23 https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20006/environment/2229/greener_borough
24 NE & RSPB (2015) Climate Change Adaptation Model: Evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5629923804839936?category=10003
25 Woodland Trust (2019) Position Statement: Climate Change – The Woodland Trust's View https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/06/climate-change-position-statement/
26 Trees & Design Action Group (2019) Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure: A Guide for Specifiers. TDAG, London. Available: https://www.tdag.org.uk/species-selection-for-green-infrastructure.html

Hounslow Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree plan and Urban Greening
for London Borough of Hounslow

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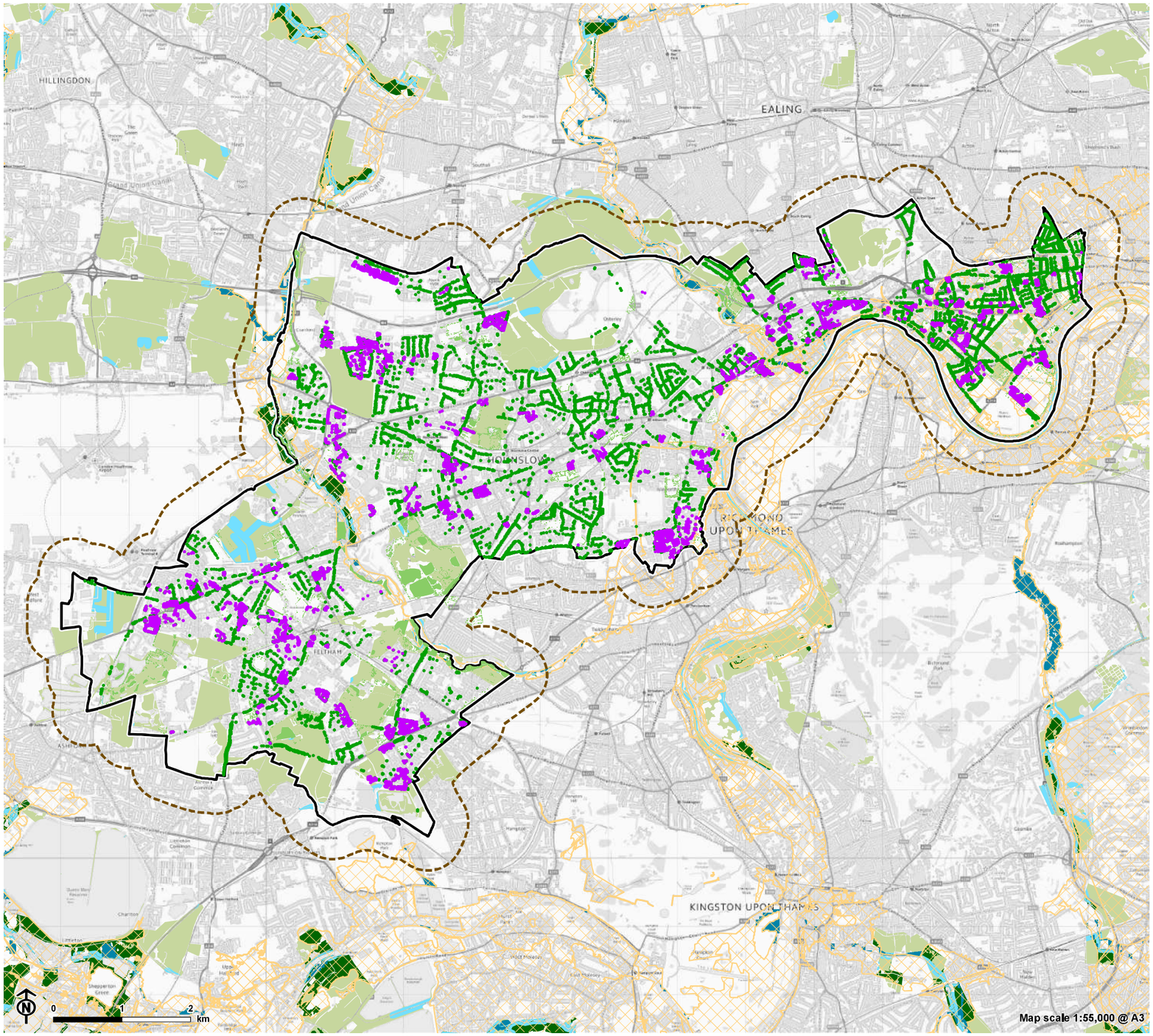
Figure 3.6: Tree cover within Hounslow Highways land, Council housing estates and leisure sites



- London Borough of Hounslow
- London Borough of Hounslow 500m buffer
- WWNP* floodplain reconnection potential
- WWNP riparian woodland potential
- WWNP floodplain woodland potential
- WWNP wider catchment woodland potential
- Flood alert area
- Leisure tree
- Trees housing estate
- Hounslow highway tree

Notes:
1. WWNP mapping is relatively coarse scale and as such must be interpreted alongside information on local conservation priorities at a finer scale.
2. WWNP - Working With Natural Processes
3. 3: 'Flood alert area' may also be referred to as 'Flood zone 2'

CB:RW EB:Chamberlain_K LUC FIG3_6_11210_r0_Strategic_Habitat_Opportunity_WWNP_A3L 04/06/2021
Source: OS, EA

London Borough of Hounslow

Hedgerows

Hedgerows provide structure to the landscape and create important habitat corridors throughout the urban environment. The 2005 Hounslow hedgerow survey of the borough estimated a total of between 62-72km of hedgerows across the borough[29], more frequent through the west of the borough compared to the more urban east. Hawthorne was the dominant hedgerow canopy species. Many hedges had mature trees within them such as elm, and old pollards such as willow or oak. Hedgerows of favourable size and structure provide important habitat to a wide range of birds, mammals and invertebrates. Associated notable species in Hounslow include pipistrelle bat, song thrush and house sparrow.

Hedgerows are affected by poor management, for example, the 2005 survey recorded 40 hedgerows to be defunct due to heavy erosion and gappy hedgerows that had regressed to tree lines. Poor management practices such as crude mechanical flailing, use of pesticides, fertiliser and herbicides are also detrimental.
The majority of the hedgerows within the borough do not meet the criteria for the 1996 Hedgerows Regulations, therefore the local authority does not strictly need to be notified if a hedgerow is to be removed by development (although this should be captured in wider ecological assessment accompanying an application). Countryside stewardship options do however offer funding for hedgerow management and restoration.

Climate Change Resilience

Similar to woodland and parkland habitats, the resilience hedgerows show to climate change is reflected in their species composition, with a greater diversity of vegetation being more resilient to the possible introduction of species-specific diseases and pests. Their linear form means they are vulnerable to edge effects, with droughts and storms more likely to have an effect on hedgerow trees, as opposed to woodland blocks. The management of land adjacent to hedgerows will likely have a significant impact on the success of the habitat, for example through agricultural intensification and pesticide drift.[30]

The 2015 Climate Change Adaptation Manual (NE & RSPB[31]) lists hedgerows as having a low sensitivity to climate change. However, potential impacts include increased growth, and therefore management, due to longer growing seasons, as well as increased die back during drought, flooding and high wind events. Changes in seasonality could also have detrimental impacts on the budding, flowering and fruiting of species, therefore affecting food resources for wildlife.

Climate change adaptation responses for hedgerows include buffering against adjacent land uses through the implementation of low intensity margins, maintaining a diverse range of hedgerow structures through careful cyclical management, and establishing new hedgerows to increase the connectivity of the network and movement of species.

Heathland and Grasslands

Lowland Heathland & Acid Grassland

Within Hounslow there are few remnants left of the once large open commons and heaths that once were dominant on the Thames Terrace gravels. These habitats are often found together as mosaics. Lowland heath is mapped only at Hounslow Heath SINC LNR. Dry acid grassland is mapped principally within three SINC – Hounslow Heath, Hanworth Park and De Brome Playing Fields. Hounslow Heath, Bedfont Lakes Country Park and Hanworth Park are understood to be currently managed under a ten year Environmental Stewardship Scheme funded by Natural England, which aims to increase the areas of lowland heath through substrate recreation and heather reseeding to improve the species diversity and structure of areas of acid grassland.

These open habitats support a range of different species which are associated with the dry and nutrient poor soil. Flagship species for lowland heath and acid grassland include stonechat, adder, dwarf gorse and bell heather. The principal threats to lowland heath and acid grassland are recognised to be human activities such as access, recreation and historic gravel extraction, leaving small and typically isolated areas which are fragile. The 2011-2016 BAP identified five possible sites for lowland dry acid grassland regeneration: Hounslow Heath, Bedfont Lakes, De Brome Fields, Urban Farm and Hanworth Park.

Within Hounslow Heath, Hounslow's Countryside Rangers have been clearing intrusive scrub, including gorse and bramble, within the important lowland heath habitat. By cutting in sections a mosaic of vegetation is created, therefore increasing biodiversity. 'Bee banks' have been created to encourage solitary mining bees to nest in the south facing banks' sandy soil[32]. A continued regime of grazing also exists on Hounslow Heath to control the invasion of scrub and trees into the important acid grassland and heathland habitat.

Lowland Fen

The most highly designated grassland habitat in Hounslow is the lowland fen at Syon Park SSSI – the only area of tall grass washland along the Thames in Greater London.

Mapped as lowland fen priority habitat, the tide meadow consists of a tall wet grassland community of reed-grasses, which grades into a drier semi-improved grassland across the higher ground. Small ditches dissect the site, running from the grassland, through the fringe of damp woodland along the river bank towards the Thames.

The site is grazed by cattle in the summer months to maintain the sward structure and keep scrub encroachment in check. The tall grass washland community and associated ditches contain a considerable variety of marshland plants, and a rich invertebrate community including species of local and national restricted distribution. Dead and decaying wood retained on site compliment the habitat mosaic.

29 Reported in the 2011-2016 BAP.
30 Natural England (2020). Climate Change Adaptation Manual: Hedgerows. Weblink: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5679197848862720
31 NE & RSPB (2015) Climate Change Adaptation Model: Evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5629923804839936?category=10003
32 https://www.facebook.com/279083819685163/videos/883522055753856/?__so__=channel_tab&__rv__=all_videos_card

Calcareous Grassland

A very small portion of calcareous grassland exists within the south west of the borough at Kempton Park Chalk Grassland, also recognised as a SINC of Borough I grade. These habitats are often flower-rich and support a diversity of invertebrates including butterflies. These are important areas for bats who feed on the rich supply of invertebrates and throughout the summer, these habitats can support a succession of orchids[33].

The majority of the patch of grassland falls outside of Hounslow's boundary into the neighbouring Surrey. The area's location being bounded by the A316 and the Staines Reservoirs Aqueduct with no advertised public access means in theory, human activities put little pressures on the habitat. Although there is some evidence of access through the presence of desire lines in the north of the site. Hounslow's portion of the habitat looks to be dominated by trees and scrub which poses a threat to the delicate grassland habitat beneath.

Neutral Grassland

Neutral grassland forms the largest area of open habitat within Hounslow and may be considered to include those that are species-rich (lowland meadow), or are wetter/seasonally flooded. These different areas support a diverse range of species; flagship species include skylark, meadow pipit, common spotted orchid and pepper saxifrage. Pollinating insects as a flagship species group is discussed under 'Orchards and Allotments'.

The principal areas of neutral grassland habitat occur in the following protected areas: Syon Park Tide Meadow SSSI SMI, Bedfont Lakes SMI LNR, Hounslow Heath SMI LNR, Pevensey Road SMI LNR, Cranebank SMI LNR, Causeway SMI, Green Lane Water Meadows SMI, Osterley Park SBI and Chiswick House Grounds SBI.

High recreational use and associated intensive management incurs pressure which can result in limited species or structural diversity within the sward. Soil compaction and nitrification through the addition of fertilisers and road pollution/urban runoff can further exacerbate these effects and allow generalist flora to dominate. Encroachment by invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam is also recognised to pose risk.

Variation in the cutting and grazing management techniques of the more formal parks and open areas of grassland could support an increase in biodiversity and species populations.

Targeted creation of wildflower meadows within in the formal parks as part of cyclic re-seeding can also be managed to improve biodiversity.

Across Hounslow, seeding of over 20 urban wildflower meadows covering 10,000m2 has already been achieved. Each location has an individual identity but shares a recurring theme of native wildflowers including common poppy, cornflower, corncockle, corn marigold, knapweed, catchfly, self-heal and musk mallow, which are recognised to benefit pollinating insects.

Planting of wildflower-rich grasslands to benefit pollinating insects is provided under 'Orchards, Allotments and Gardens', and particularly in association with the transport network, under 'Urban Greening'.

Climate Change Resilience

The 2015 Climate Change Adaptation Manual lists both lowland meadow and lowland dry acid grassland as Low sensitivity to climate change. Lowland grassland has undergone a general decline in species-richness as a result of agricultural intensification, which is reflected in the restricted distribution of the less improved habitat types. The grassland types present in Hounslow are susceptible to changes in the intensity of livestock stocking and of recreational access. There is also risk of loss as natural colonisation causes the sward to become increasingly rank and or encroached by scrub; which was particularly evident for the acid grassland recorded. As climate change brings hotter summers there is risk of drought and, for areas low lying or above less permeable soils, an increase in the intensity or duration of flood periods which influences the plant assemblage.

Climate change adaptation responses include increase in the structural heterogeneity of meadows through varying the type and timing of management interventions; more flexible site management to allow cutting and grazing dates to reflect climate driven changes to flowering, and to allow sites that are seasonally flooded to avoid livestock pressure; and maintenance or restoration of water level management (including ditch management) (NE & RSPB, 2015).

Green Flag Award Parks

In February 2024, Hounslow updated their five-year Green Flag Park Management Plans. There are currently 19 parks in the borough managed by Hounslow with Green Flag accreditation.
The
Green Flag Park Management Plans detail the criteria required, and steps that will be taken at each park over the next five years to gain or maintain Green Flag accreditation. Where possible, these plans were developed in collaboration with the various 'Friends Of' groups that assist in the management of the parks. See figure 3.7.

33 https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/cy/node/905

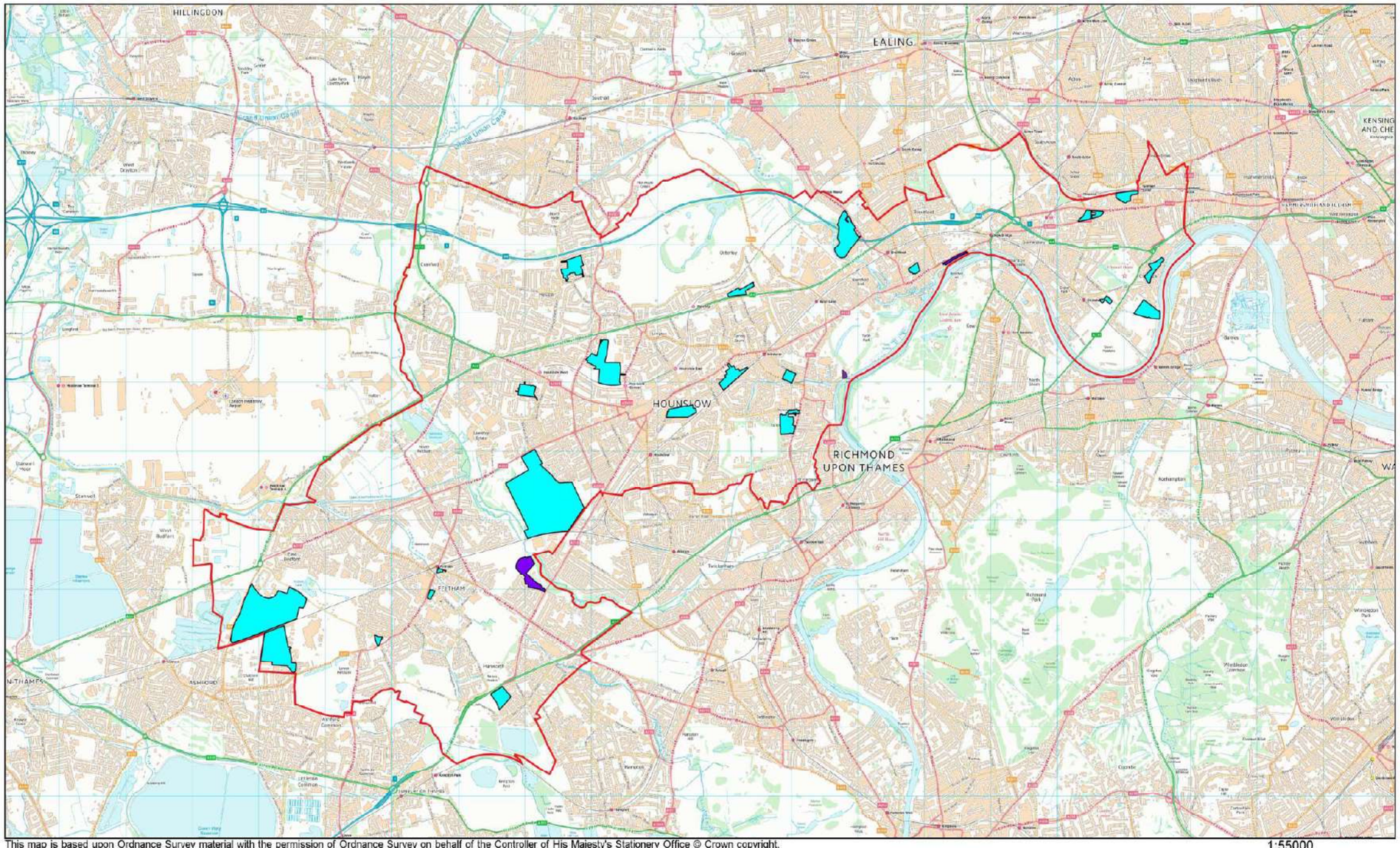


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Figure 3.7: Green Flag Parks 21-22

As of 2023, Blue sites signal spaces that are Green Flag Award accredited. This is updated on an annual basis. www.hounslow.gov.uk/greenflag

No-Mow Policy

'No-mow' policies are gaining traction among local authorities and land managers. This involves a reduced programme of lawn mowing on council-owned or operated land to promote wildlife. Data from Europe and North America has shown strong evidence that reducing the intensity of lawn mowing leads to increased number of pollinators and increased plant diversity. This is in addition to improved soil carbon retention, climate resilience, and the financial savings and capacity improvements within the Parks department through a reduced lawnmowing programme.
Hounslow Council, along with many other London boroughs, currently engage in 'No Mow May'. In 2022, the council paused lawnmowing on owned/operated sites from 9th May to June, with plans to continue in 2023. The council is expanding on this programme to reduce lawnmowing and promote biodiversity at its sites year-round. The selected sites included the majority of the Green Flag Management Parks, as well as other, smaller open spaces.

Orchards, Allotments and Gardens

There are few remnants of traditional orchard left in Hounslow, such as individual fruit trees found in Osterley Park. There are two new orchards in Cranford and at Bedfont Lakes LNR which are made up of a mix of existing mature trees and new plantings.

The Isleworth Orchards initiative arose in 2018, led by the Council in partnership with Trees for Cities to engage community groups in planting fruit and nut trees. The project involved two days of public tree planting within Thornbury Park and Redlees Park which saw traditional orchard species such as pear, apple, medlar, plum, gage, damson, crab apple, almond and quince trees being planted.

Other community orchard projects in Hounslow includes the Fruitful Feltham project which was delivered by The Orchard Project as part of the GLA Green Spaces Programme 2019/20. This involved engaging with the local community to plant and care for fruit trees, plants and shrubs within three schools and one public green space. 2019/20 also saw the planting of 16 new fruit trees within Leitrim Park as part of a new community orchard. 51 fruit trees were also planted at the allotments at Waye Avenue in Cranford in 2018/19, working with the elderly, young families and people with disabilities[34].

In November 2022 Hounslow launched 'Grow for the Future' – a policy to transform brownfield sites into allotments, community gardens and orchards. Currently 18 sites of unused council-owned land have been identified, with a plan to manage these in partnership with local schools at a rate of four a year for three years. The 2011-2016 BAP identified 30 allotment sites within the borough. Figure 3.8 (extract from the GBI Strategy) illustrates the allotments and the suggested accessibility buffer for residents. It can be seen from the figure that there are some significant areas of allotment deficiency, particularly around Brentford, Osterley, Cranford, Hounslow West, Feltham and Bedfont. Allotments provide important areas of refuge for wildlife within areas which are otherwise generally dominated by urban development. The conservation value of these sites is generally determined by their size and the way in which they're cultivated. The 2020 - 2025 Hounslow Allotment Strategy[35] identifies 29 allotment sites for which the Council is responsible.

It is estimated that 20% of Hounslow's land area is occupied by private gardens[36].

Private gardens have an important ecological function of habitat and refuge for wildlife within the urban landscape, that link larger natural green spaces. Gardens that contain a diverse mix of ponds, wood piles, tall grasses, native or wildlife-friendly plants and compost heap will help make more space for nature. Allowing 'Wild edges' and 'messy corners' (promoted as part of the re-wildling agenda), even in relatively discrete area of a garden, can provide marked increase in the diversification of habitat niches. Removal of barriers, such as installation of garden fencing with gap at the base to allow hedgehogs and other small mammals to disperse through a larger range is also key.

A recognised threat to private gardens as a biodiversity asset is the 'paving over' of green space, e.g. to make way for car parking or 'backyard development'. Some influence can be achieved through planning controls but much is dependent on engagement and promotion of positive biodiversity initiatives.

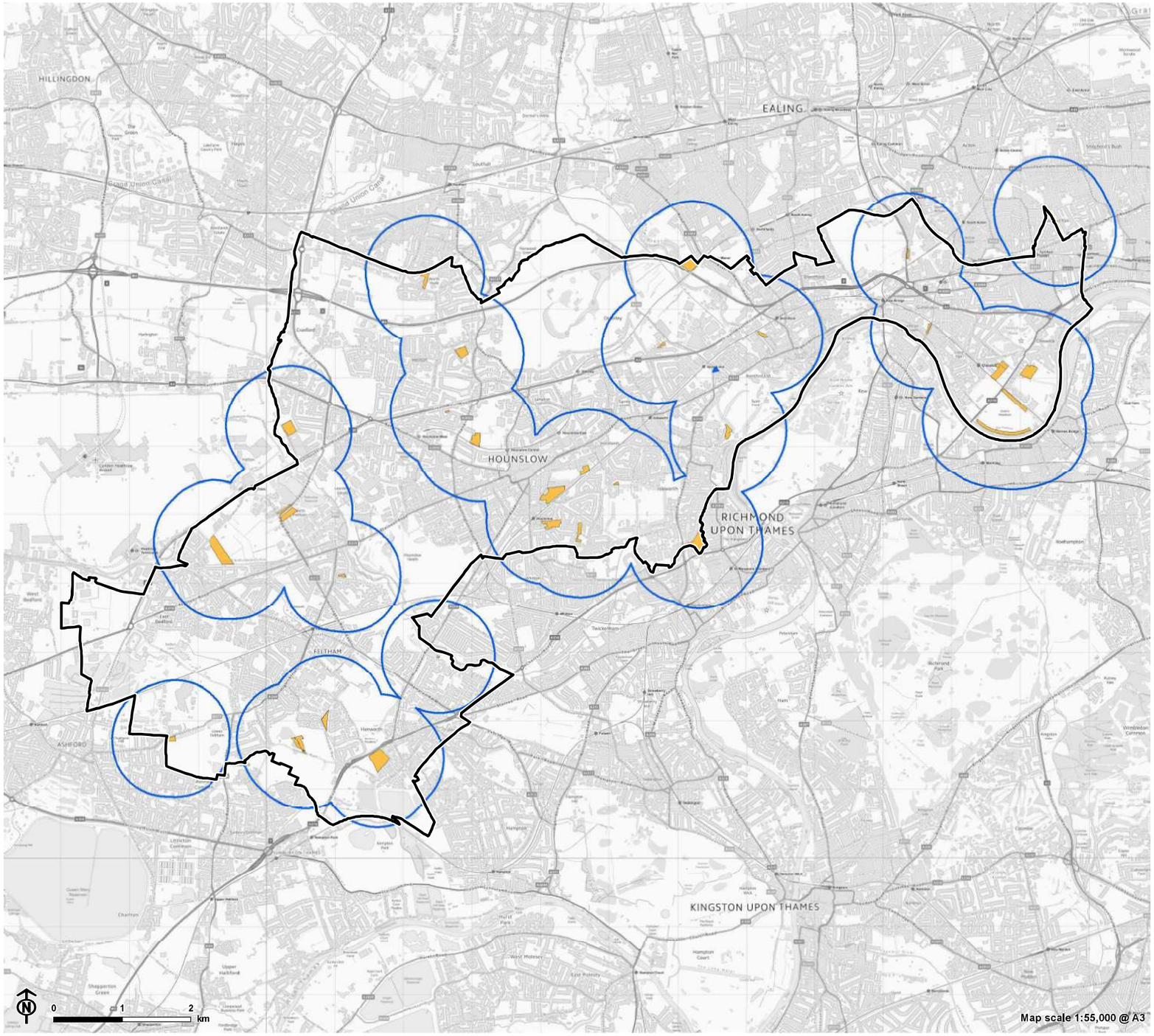
Orchard, allotment and garden habitats are important for a range of common and widespread species, providing habitat for foraging, breeding and dispersal, away from high levels of disturbance. Flagship species associated with gardens, allotments and orchards include bullfinch and house sparrow, hedgehog, slow worm and common frog, and mistletoe.

Climate Change Resilience

The collective area of private residential gardens to benefit biodiversity offers significant contribution to resilience, despite the inevitable localised changes that will inevitably occur as properties change ownership or owners change focus. Key guidance for London residents is provided by the Wildlife Trust[37], including selection of drought resistant plants, creation of ponds to use of mulch and encouragement of wild birds. Seasonal advice for planting and management to support invertebrates and birds is also provided via GIGL[38]. The RHS Plants for Pollinators[39] lists include gardens, wild flowers and 'plants of the world' (horticultural varieties suited to our climate).

Standard recommendations may also usefully be provided as planning conditions to residential development, such as installation of garden fences with minimum 100mm gap at the base to avoid creation of barriers to wildlife movement, planting to include locally-appropriate berry-bearing and nectar-rich species with extended flowering periods, and sunken beds for beds or trellis screen of climbers to minimise watering requirements.

34 https://apps.london.gov.uk/greener-city/#12.57/51.46271/-0.36948/0/45
35 https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3063/allotments_strategy_consultation_final_report.pdf#:~:text=The%20strategy%20sets%20out%20the%20wider%20context%20and,to%20maximise%20use%20and%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20opportunities
36 https://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s85102/FinalHBAPamendedoctober2013.pdf
37 https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/campaigns/garden-living-london
38 http://downloads.gigl.org.uk/website/Wildlife%20Gardening%20Pack.pdf
39 https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators



Hounslow Nature Recovery Action Plan
for London Borough of Hounslow

LUC

Figure 3.8: Allotments

London Borough of Hounslow
Allotments
Allotment 800m buffer

CB:JI EB:Ilott_J LUC FIGX_11210_r0_Allotments_A3L 18/01/2021
Source: OS, LBH

London Borough of Hounslow

Pollinating Insects

Pollinators face pressures ranging from habitat loss and degradation, extreme weather and climate change, competition from invasive species, diseases, and use of some pesticides. They are an inherent important part of our ecosystem but also as an indicator of its health.

Key actions of the 2014 National Pollinator Strategy to support pollinators across towns and cities, which can usefully inform the approaches taken in Hounslow, include:

- Working with large-scale landowners, their advisers, contractors and facility managers, to promote simple changes to land management that provide food, shelter and nest sites;
- Ensuring good practice through initiatives with a range of organisations and professional networks including managers of public and amenity spaces, utility and transport companies, brownfield site managers, local authorities, developers and planners;
- Encouraging the public to take action in their gardens, allotments, window boxes and balconies to make them pollinator-friendly or through community gardening.

Raising awareness of what pollinators need to survive and thrive, through sharing knowledge and evidence from conservation practitioners, can usefully be achieved in-house across Council departments, as well as externally though engagement with local community and education organisations. This could include engaging with local schools and providing promotional material to disperse among the community.

Climate Change Resilience

The 2015 Climate Change Adaptation Manual (NE & RSPB[40]) lists traditional orchards as having a low sensitivity to climate change. They are susceptible to the impacts of drought, warmer winters and storms; however, these can be mitigated through enhanced management and appropriate replacement[41]

Potential climate change adaptation responses include a reversion to traditional methods with no agrochemical input and using grazing instead of machinery to manage the understorey. Like many other habitats, increasing the age structure and diversity of species will help to build resilience and there should be a contingency plan in place to prepare for the outbreak of new pests. Exploring drought-tolerant species and specimens with lower dormancy requirements could also enable the orchard to be more robust against the variability of the future climate.

Within allotments, tenants should be made aware of the role they play in creating a resilient space to climate change. This includes the management of invasive species, sustainable water and waste management, reducing the use of chemicals and transforming patches into wildlife areas. Many of these practices can also be transferred to people's private gardens.

Urban Greening

'Urban Greening' integrates the principles of healthy and resilient biodiverse networks (e.g habitat connectivity) into the urban landscape through interventions that deliver other green infrastructure functions, such as flood alleviation, as well as health, wellbeing and landscape benefits. Urban greening typically contributes to the 'stepping stones' and corridors of a nature network. They may range from green architecture (green roofs, walls and screens) to planted traffic calming measures, kerb side rain gardens or street trees, small pocket parks to the artificial habitat features which 'anecdotally' support wildlife (such as tidal defences that support roosting wildfowl).

Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature

Approximately 90% of the borough sits within 400m of a SINC. Beyond this distance is termed as an 'area of deficiency (AoD) in access to nature'. This is an index of people's access to nature but can also be read as a measure of wildlife's access to designated habitat (and ideally subject to beneficial management). Tackling AoDs, in terms of quality, value, quantity and accessibility, is a key aim of the GBI Strategy.

Although Hounslow performs relatively well in mapped access to SINCs, it is important to remember that many of the larger-scale SINC within the borough are not always accessible or have an entry fee, including Osterley Park, Syon Park, Kempton Nature Reserve and the designated rail corridors. AoD identified in the GBI Strategy include Cranford and Hounslow West as well as areas of Chiswick, Syon Lane, Feltham and Lower Feltham.

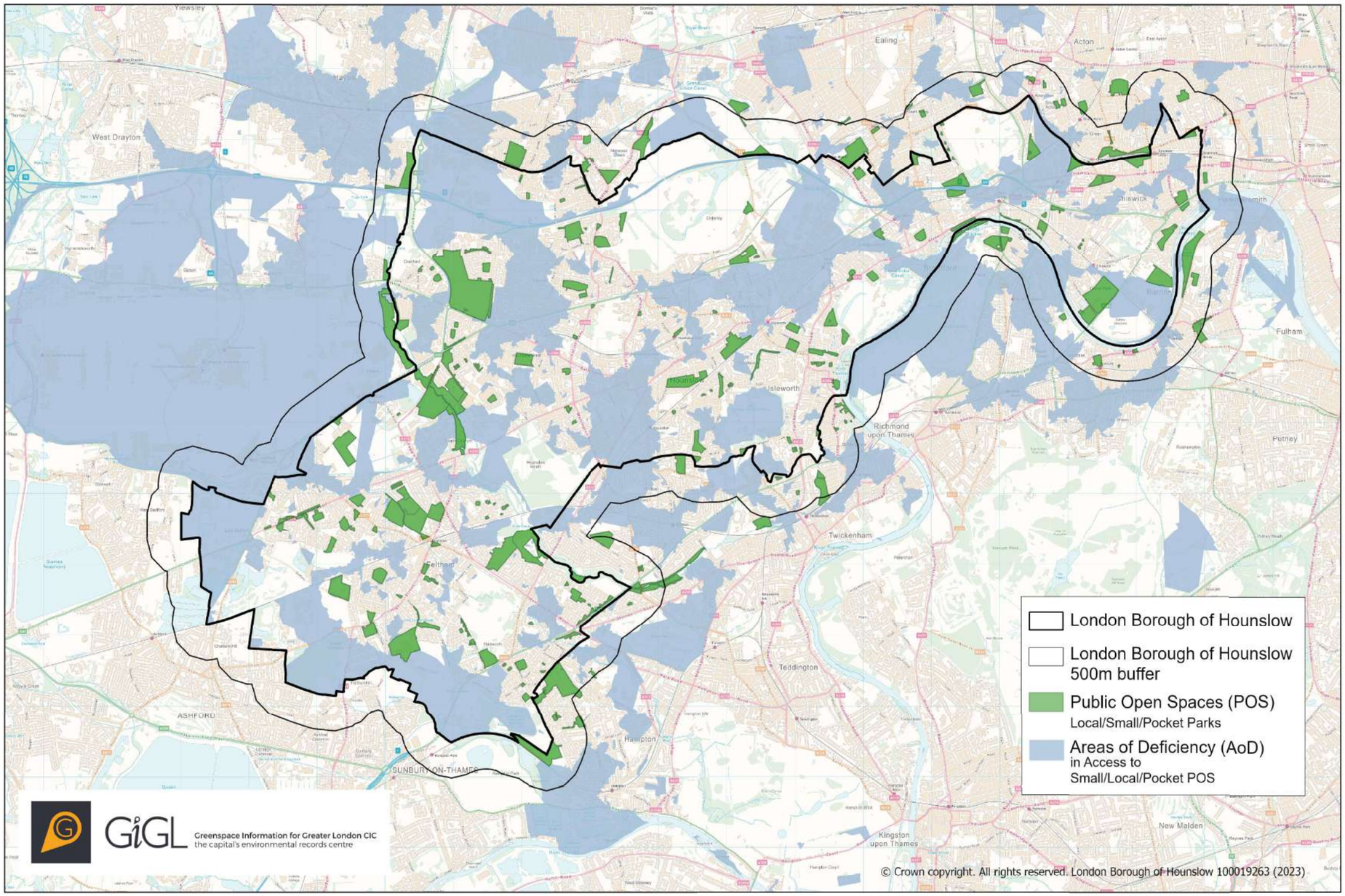
Figure 3.9 shows the AoDs within Hounslow in relation to local parks and open spaces (court games, children's play areas, nature conservation areas), small open spaces (gardens, sitting out areas) and pocket parks (small areas of open space providing natural surfaces and shaded areas) which are accessible to all. While AoDs are spread across the borough, key areas of deficiency to public open spaces include Spring Grove, Hounslow Central and Heston West.

Where there is deficiency in access to nature, opportunities to create additional SINC sites could be provided through habitat creation or enhanced management practices is required. Where space is limited, for example within town centres, urban greening and vertical habitats could be explored through the provision of pocket parks, trees, green walls, green roofs and rain gardens. This will not only create 'stepping stones' for wildlife but also work to increase connectivity and appreciation for nature within Hounslow's population.

New development within the borough, brings both the potential demand for biodiversity benefits by future residents and the opportunities for interventions, such as may be delivered through the UGF. Both the Hounslow growth areas, including any bespoke design codes and bespoke requirement for UGF therein, offer excellent opportunity for biodiversity and GI to sit at the heart of urban renewal and community cohesion. Flagship species associated with the urban built environment include house sparrow, pipistrelle bat and peregrine falcon.

40 NE & RSPB (2015) Climate Change Adaptation Model: Evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5629923804839936?category=10003
41 Natural England (2020). Climate Change Adaptation Manual: Traditional Orchards. Weblink: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5679197848862720

Figure 3.9: Areas of Deficieny in Access to Public Open Space in Hounslow (Source: GIGL)



The Transport Network

Hounslow Highways is a long-term collaborative partnership, therefore offering opportunity to implement land management changes with consistency across the borough. The contract includes soft verges alongside the highways and a requirement for their retention.

Over 700 species of wildflower grow on the UK's road verges – nearly 45% of our total flora[42]. However roadside verges are often managed to be neat and manicured and subsequently low in biodiversity. Plantlife's roadside verges guidance advises to 'cut less, cut to support wildflowers and their pollinators[43].

In 2011, a wildflower meadow sward was created across Hogarth roundabout, which sits between six lanes of traffic on the A4 flyover. In autumn 2019, the Council identified several sites within parks and along highway verges as suitable for wildflower planting. Planting of native species that play an important role in supporting pollinators included common poppy, cornflower, corn marigold, knapweed, self-heal and musk mallow. Successful locations include Twickenham Road in Isleworth, Shelley Crescent, Staines Road in Bedfont and Almorah Road in Heston[44]. The delivery of flower-rich grassland has created additional habitat in areas where close mown grass originally dominated and therefore limited wildlife provisions existed. This will help to provide stepping-stones for invertebrates and other wildlife through Hounslow's urban environment.

Positive management of linear infrastructure to benefit biodiversity serve as connecting corridors and as buffers against disturbance or severance. Collaborative planning with transport delivery bodies can optimise opportunities for connection and reduced edge effects of habitats but also the underlying water balance. Example initiatives include:

- Road - Since 2020 National Highways (Highways England) are following a Low Nutrient Grasslands policy on all major schemes to maximise grassland biodiversity[45]. All grassland areas on improvement schemes will be finished with subsoil or bare substrate such as chalk and left to regenerate naturally or be seeded with wildflowers and grasses.
- Rail - Network Rail has committed to end net loss in biodiversity on its land by 2024 and achieve a net gain by 2035[46].
- London Underground - Significant over-ground sections of the District and Piccadilly lines are found in Hounslow. Nature rich track side areas include Gunnersbury Triangle and Syon Park. In the 2010 London Underground BAP, TfL commit to conserving, enhancing and increasing the quantity of priority BAP habitat on London Underground property.

The Council's Housing Estate

Diversification of habitats across the housing soft estate[47] held by the Council include opportunities at ground level, as vertical walls or trellises, and at roof level. Examples are widespread across other London borough and other major cities, such as Manchester. In Camden, green roofs have been designed with substrates and bug hotels to ensure year-round interest to residential high rise buildings which look down on to neighbouring, lower roofs[48].

Ground level interventions designed to complement natural play features can be particularly relevant in and around shared housing spaces. Review of opportunities should follow review of committed development across the estate for the forthcoming Plan period.

If managed sensitively and with low chemical input, allotments can be an important resource for wildlife in urban environments. The Hounslow Allotment Strategy 2020-2025 sets an objective to initiate a biodiversity programme (as per the Hounslow BAP) including the creation of natural habitats with the aim of preserving and enhance biodiversity.

Streetscape Planting

The Mayor's Transport Strategy promotes the concept of Healthy Streets[49]. One way to achieve this is by introducing more trees and greenery. This creates more attractive public spaces, increases biodiversity and helps to mitigate the impacts of air pollution. Streetscape planting can also contribute to London's resilience to the consequences of climate change, such as extreme weather events like flooding and heatwaves.

Hounslow Highways is responsible for the management and maintenance of approximately 11,400 street trees on behalf of the Council. Surveys of the Borough's street trees are conducted every three years[50]. Tree cover is addressed in more detail under the earlier subheading of 'Woodland Parkland, Trees and Scrub: Wider Tree Canopy Cover'.

Green Architecture

Green roofs and walls are vegetated spaces that provide habitats for a range of species, reduce CO2 emissions, reduce the urban heat island effect and improve water attenuation.

They provide an opportunity for wildlife where conventional landscaping is unattainable, or where a new development needs to merge with a green space. Living roof mapping of London[51] shows that Hounslow has 0.1m2 of green roofs per person, placing the Borough 6th highest out of 19 outer London boroughs and councils. To tackle air pollution and associated health risks due to close proximity to the A4 road, the St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Chiswick created a new living wall along the perimeter of the playground. The wall is divided in three parts: an educational wall; a showcase wall and an ivy wall.

42 https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign/about-the-campaign
43 https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/road-verge-management-guide
44 https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20006/environment/2229/greener_borough/2
45 https://highways-news.com/highways-england-launches-biodiveristy-policy-with-a-focus-on-wildflowers-on-verges-androadsides/#:~:text=Highways%20England%20has%20launched%20a%20new%20biodiversity%20policy,nutrients%2C%20space%20and%20light%2C%20according%20to%20the%20organisation
46 https://www.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Network-Rail-Biodiversity-Action-Plan.pdf
47 Soft estate i.e. land, water and vegetated assets on and around the built estate.
48 https://www.grassroofcompany.co.uk/
49 http://content.tfl.gov.uk/healthy-streets-for-london.pdf
50 https://hounslowhighways.org/environment/street-trees/
51 https://livingroofs.org/london-2019-green-roof-report/
52 https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/news/article/805/mayor_of_london_unveils_the_uk_s_longest_ever_green_wall_at_chiswick_primary_school

Boxes, Houses and Hotels

Artificial features to accommodate wildlife – from bird boxes to hedgehog houses or bug hotels – should reflect the needs of the target species, ensuring appropriate access aperture, aspect, elevation and habitat connectivity to maximise the chance of successful occupation.

Features may be prefabricated, built bespoke within built design or provided as creative 'functional' art as part of placemaking (such as the bat house at Barnes Wetland Centre).

Standard specifications can usefully encourage local community engagement, inform education projects or serve as a reference for planning applications. Relevant specifications – current at the time of use – should be sought from conservation providers such as the Wildlife Trust, RSPB, BTO, Bat Group, Mammal Trust and Buglife.

Wetland SUDS Features

Sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) mimic natural drainage by slowing and filtering rainwater on route to the ultimate river system end point. This is especially important in heavily urbanised, often impermeable environment to help manage water quality and flood risk.
The diverse range of permanent and ephemerally wet Naturalised surface SuDS interventions that can provide biodiverse habitat include ponds, permeable paving, rain gardens, swales and wetlands. Biodiversity benefits are greatest where SuDS are planned as part of wider green landscapes that assist with wildlife connectivity. Figure 3.8 illustrates the principal river systems, waterbodies, flood zone and critical drainage areas of Hounslow.

Although delivery across the entire catchment contributes to the cumulative benefit, the growth areas are illustrated to indicates where strategically planned and interconnecting SuDS interventions may be prioritised. Key references that may usefully inform the development of best practice guidance for both public and private sectors include the 2016 SuDS in London – a guide[53], 2016 London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan5[4] and the London-wide Sustainable Drainage Opportunity Model.

Hounslow adopted a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) in 2022, outlining how the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and other stakeholders will manage local flood risk in the borough for the next 6 years and beyond. Through the Thames Water Strategic Partnership and work with the Environment Agency, Hounslow is developing SuDS schemes across the borough to relieve pressure on the sewer system. An action plan has been developed for the LFRMS including actions around incorporating natural flood management in the borough, SuDS, and collaboration with local environmental groups.

Control of Artificial Lighting

Control of artificial lighting in the urban landscape is an important component of urban greening to maintain habitat connectivity for nocturnal and crepuscular (twilight) species. Dark corridors also serve to reduce the effect of disruption (and so too physiological stress) of diurnal cycles, such as urban passerine birds. Provision of unlit habitat connectivity may focus on dispersal between known or suitable, places of shelter and foraging, such as canopy height for bats or ground level for hedgehogs. Consideration at the early design or Masterplanning stage of new development typically translates to higher likelihood of success and ultimately implementation.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

Mapping and monitoring of INNS is coordinated across the city by the London Invasive Species Initiative[55], in partnership with GIGL. Records across the Borough are associated with the major transport corridors; as well as aiding the dispersal of native species, linear infrastructure can also facilitate the spread and establishment of INNS. INNS are prevalent along the District underground line between Turnham Green and Acton Town, the Piccadilly line between Osterley and Hounslow West and the North Circular Road.

Similarly, distribution shows strong association with the Borough's waterways, namely the Grand Union Canal and River Brent. The seeds and stem fragments of species such as Himalayan balsam and Giant hogweed can quickly colonise new areas along river corridors, largely as a result of their seed dispersal. Successful control or eradication requires catchment- scale, cross-boundary coordination.

Climate Change Resilience

Urban greening features require careful management to ensure healthy establishment following planting/sowing and to maintain resilience to climatic stresses throughout the asset's life. Green architecture features such as green roofs and walls should support species which are both drought and pollution tolerant to minimise the requirement for irrigation. These features will also enhance an area's ability to adapt to a changing climate by regulating building temperatures, urban cooling, pollution removal, providing space for biodiversity and reducing surface water run-off rates.

For SuDS and rain gardens, a species selection should consider tolerance of extended periods of drought as well as inundation, an ability to remove pollutants from the water, and inclusion of species favourable to pollinators. The use of the transport network will be essential in delivering a connected network of habitats across the borough, particularly the highways, railways and blue corridors. Providing opportunities for wildlife to easily migrate is an essential element for climate resilience as it permits species to occupy various microclimates and microhabitats as conditions shift and change. Collaboration with rail and highways providers will be essential to optimise opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement in adjoining parcels of land.

53 http://content.tfl.gov.uk/sustainable-urban-drainage-november-2016.pdf
54 https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/surface-water/london-sustainable-drainage-actionplan
55 http://www.londonisi.org.uk/what-and-where/inns-map/

Open Water Habitats

Naturalised surface level SUDS and raingardens are described earlier under ‘Urban Greening’.

Reedbeds

Reedbed is a marsh habitat dominated by common reed Phragmites australis, where the water table is at or above ground level for most of the year. Reedbeds are an essential habitat for breeding birds and other open water species. They are also extremely efficient in the removal of pollutants from water, which is particularly significant within Hounslow’s urban context. An example of this in action is at the Heathrow Eastern Balancing Reservoirs where reedbeds filter out chemicals and pollutants which are within the run-off from the airport’s runways. This helps to minimise the level of pollutants entering the River Crane at Donkey Woods.

The 2011-2016 BAP estimated reedbed cover of 9.65ha, i.e. around 22% of that within the London area. Large areas of reedbed occur at five sites within Hounslow - Mayfield Farm Water Treatment works, Bedfont Lakes and Princes Lake, Kempton Nature Reserve, the Eastern Balancing Reservoirs (EBR) and Hounslow Heath. Smaller patches are located along the following rivers: Thames, Crane, Duke of Northumberland, Longford, and Brent. All of the large reedbeds within Hounslow occur within designated sites; Kempton SPA RAMSAR SSSI being the highest, and the remainder SINCs, four of which are SMI. Of the remaining smaller reedbeds, the majority occur along river courses which are also a part of the SINC network. Flagship species associated with reedbed include reed warbler, Cetti’s warbler, bittern, kingfisher, water vole, grass snake and the moths - Schoenobius gigantella and wainscot.

The principal constraints on the extent and condition of reedbeds in the borough include development (including channelization of the Crane and the other small rivers which reduces the opportunity for reedbeds to naturally establish), poor water quality, a general trend in falling water levels (i.e. drying out) and lack of management to prevent silt accumulation and succession to scrub or woodland. Whilst the reedbeds help to filter pollutants and create cleaner, more oxygenated water, pollution is understood to restrict the resident species diversity.

The principal invasive species of concern to reedbeds include New Zealand pygmyweed, the dense accumulation of which can cause eutrophication and so too loss of biodiversity. This species has encroached on reedbeds sites in the west of Hounslow. Instability of the river banks as a result of Chinese mitten crab activity is also a recorded constraint on reedbed habitat.

Examples of reedbed restoration within Hounslow include Kempton, Mayfield, and Bedfont Lakes where extensive areas have been established within the last few decades. Further opportunities were identified in the 2011-2016 BAP for Princes Lake and EBR, localised projects along the River Crane, and as part of SUDS at Heathrow airport to help clean surface run-off.

Crane Park Island LNR SMI provides an important mosaic of wetland habitats that have established since the halt of industrial activity in the mid-20th century. The mosaic includes ponds, ditches and reedbeds interspersed with woodland and scrub. Regular management actions include the coppicing of willows, invasive species management and reedbeds which are cut on rotation[56]. An important feature of the site is the role it plays in hosting family learning opportunities through workshops, a nature trail and activities including river dipping, pond dipping and minibeast hunting. Management and education opportunities are run in partnership with the London Wildlife Trust and Richmond Borough Council.

Similarly, Bedfont Lakes Country Park LNR SMI was created from a former gravel extraction and landfill site (late 1980s and early 1990s) and now supports habitats ranging from open lake to wetlands, wildflower meadows and woodland. Recent conservation projects include the clearing of the channel next to the fishing lake which has created a gliding space for bats to hunt. Regular Nathusius’ pipistrelle monitoring has been completed at the site by volunteers over a number of years. Clearing of invasive species and intrusive scrub or bramble comprises other regular conservation activities.

Rivers & Streams

There are five river systems within the Borough – the Thames, Crane, Brent, Duke of Northumberland and Longford (Figure 3.10). Additionally, the King George IV reservoir transfer watercourse runs through a small section of the very southern tip of the borough. The majority of their length, where flanked by semi- natural habitats, is captured within the SINC network. As such, the watercourses of Hounslow are key priorities for the borough’s future nature recovery.

The river and stream network form a critical wildlife resource, supporting a diverse range of species and providing important links between fragmented habitats within the urban environment. Inherently connected to habitats such as reedbed, fen, wet woodlands and flood meadows (Hounslow supports two stretches of the Thames with naturalised bank structure; see ‘Tidal Thames’ below), this mosaic is essential to balance flow rates and water quality.

Flagship species associated with these areas include kingfisher, water vole, barbel, banded damselfly and alder.

The Environment Agency has identified several stretches of river corridor within the borough which would be suitable for re-naturalisation through the Working with Natural Processes programme. This includes the Crane Valley at Hatton and Cranford and the Brent Valley at Boston Manor Park and London Play Fields. Although these areas have primarily been identified as being suitable for floodplain woodland planting, this should be accompanied with a more natural river profile and banks which will allow periodical flooding. This will deliver a greater variety of habitat opportunities along the river corridors as well as deliver other ecosystem services such as enhancing water quality, promoting natural river processes and flood management.

56 https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/nature-reserves/crane-park-island

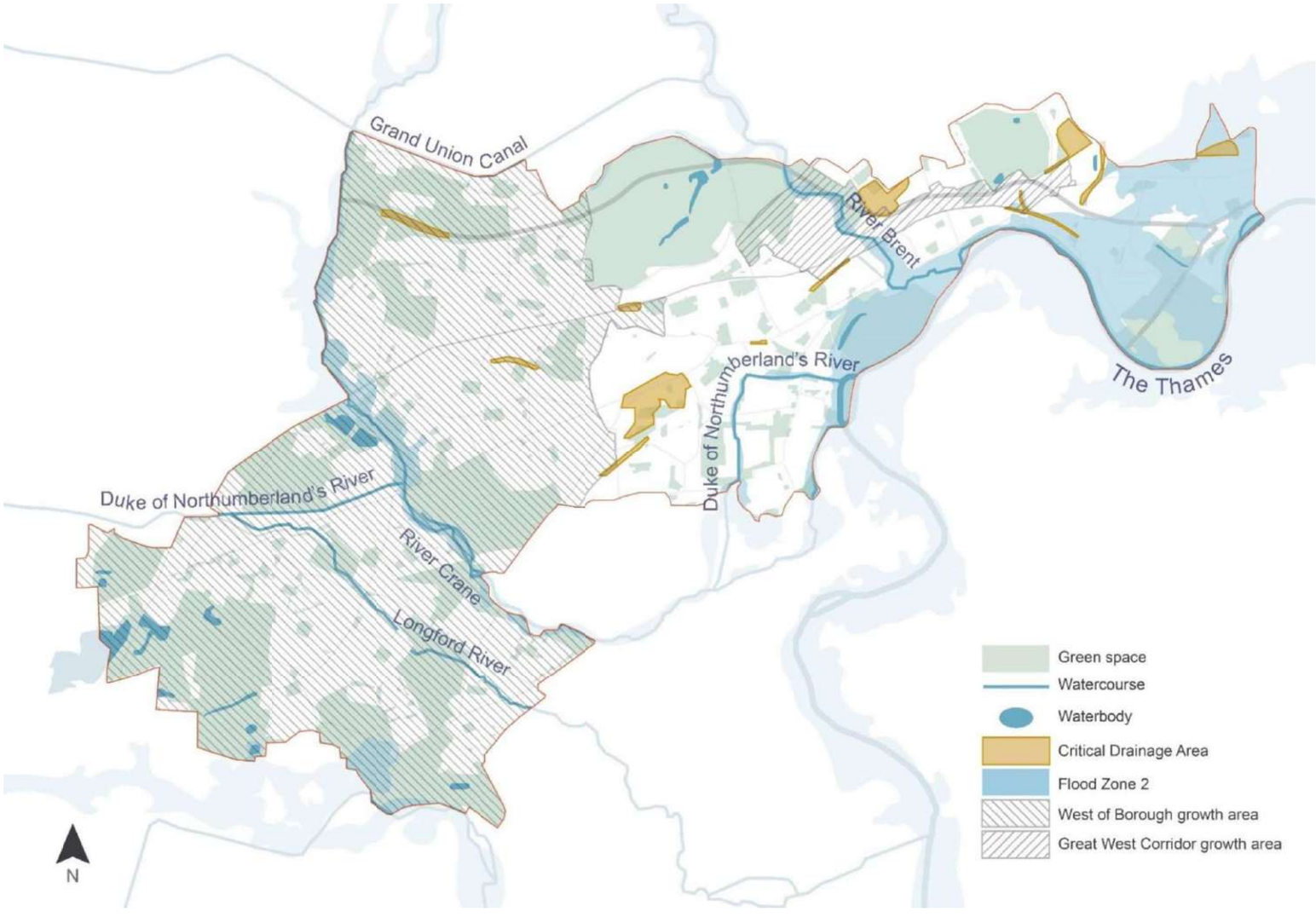


Figure 3.10: The principal river systems, waterbodies, flood zone and critical drainage areas of Hounslow

The potential of the Crane and Brent corridors to deliver natural river processes has been identified through work carried out by the Crane Valley Partnership and the Brent Catchment Partnership. Both of these organisations have expressed the desire for re-naturalisation of these corridors to provide greater connectivity of the network for wildlife as they traverse through west London.[57][58]

Degradation and loss of rivers and streams as a result of urbanisation include developments on floodplains, the installation of weirs and culverts, channelisation, changes in run-off rate and volume as a result of reduced infiltration in the wider catchment, lack of or inappropriate bank management, and pollution. Invasive species of key concern, as with many riparian habitats nationally, include giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed (identified as issues along the Crane) and Himalayan balsam.

Spatial data from the WFD River, Canal and Surface Water Transfer Water Bodies Cycle 2 Classification 2019[59] indicates that all 5 of the river systems have an overall classification of 'Moderate'. All 5 were also ranked 'Moderate' for ecological status. All 5 river systems 'failed' in terms of chemical class. However, it should be noted that the certainty of the chemical class was 'uncertain' for all watercourses in Hounslow. The Crane was the highest performing river system, where information on fish, invertebrates, and macrophytes and Phytobenthos were available.

Table 3.6: WFD River Classification of Watercourses in Hounslow (2019)

Watercourse	Overall Water Body Class	Ecological Class	Ecological Certainty Less than Good	Chemical Class	Fish Class	Inverte-brates Class	Macro-phytes & Phytoben-thos Com-bined Class
Portlane Brook	Moderate	Moderate	Very Certain	Fail	-	Poor	Not as-sessed
Longford River	Moderate	Moderate	No Informa-tion	Fail	-	-	-
Crane	Moderate	Moderate	Very Certain	Fail	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Lower Duke of Northumber-land's River	Moderate	Moderate	No Informa-tion	Fail	-	-	-
Upper Duke of Northumber-land's River	Moderate	Moderate	No Informa-tion	Fail	-	-	-
Lower Brent	Moderate	Moderate	Very Certain	Fail	Poor	Bad	Good

Tidal Thames

The Tidal Thames forms a distinct London and Hounslow BAP habitat owing to its ecological and strategic importance. A recovering ecosystem, the Thames is now recognised as one of the cleanest urban rivers in Europe.[60] The Thames is tidal throughout its length in Hounslow. The borough supports two of the remaining city sites where the Thames has a natural bank structure – at Syon Park and Duke's Hollow – where flood meadows provide a transitional habitat between the river and land. The Syon Park SSSI is designated for its unusual population of flora and fauna, most particularly the German Hairy Snail. The species thrives on the meadows which flood twice daily and is only one of a limited number of sites in the UK.

There are multiple key tidal habitats within Hounslow. The vertical flood walls support a range of plants and invertebrates. The foreshore and sublittoral sand gravels are important habitats for invertebrates and spawning fish and are found in areas where the lowest tides submerge any loose sediment along the river. Together with the intertidal mudflats, these provide extensive foraging habitat for a birds, notably during winter.

Mudflats mapped as priority habitats within Hounslow occur most upstream at Isleworth Ait, at Syon Park as part of the SSSI designation, at Brentford Dock and Kew, and most eastward downstream at Chiswick. Islands in the mid-channel range from 10m to 600m long and provide suitable habitat for roosting birds, as well as less disturbed areas of mature trees suitable for bats.

Tidal creeks provide refuge for breeding fish at the mouths of the Thames tributaries and act as small estuaries. The tributaries themselves, particularly the tidal Crane, provide unique habitats for specialist strandline flora and invertebrates. However, these habitats are not properly understood or protected. Example flagship species include common tern, sand martin, great crested grebe, Daubenton's bat, the fishes flounder and salmon, and the invertebrates two-lipped door snail, German hairy snail, depressed river mussel.

The riverbank of the Thames is susceptible to significant development which can encroach on and degrade priority habitats as well as increase erosion and sedimentation. Development is guided by the London Plan and Local Plan (2015) policy GB5 which set out the local authority's responsibilities and developer requirements with regard to protecting and supporting waterway biodiversity across the Blue Ribbon Network.

Water quality and litter are another major threat. Pollutants and excessive nitrate discharge into the river from overflows, storms and at peak times can affect the oxygen levels and is detrimental to fish and flora species within the river. Litter is carried downstream and deposited at high tide and is lethal to marine and terrestrial animals.

Key INNS include Chinese mitten crab (riverbank erosion), Japanese knotweed (domination over native diversity and structural intrusion), Himalayan Balsam (domination over native diversity and surface erosion at the end of growing season).

57 https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GI-Strategy-AREA-5-Lower-Crane-pages-73-83.pdf
58 http://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Brent_catchment_plan_2014.pdf
59 https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/a2a10b3a-2049-48ba-9ab5-fbc3ae26c9f9/wfd-river-canal-and-surface-water-transfer-water-bodies-cycle-2-classification-2019
60 https://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s85102/FinalHBAPamendedoctober2013.pdf

Climate Change Resilience

The 2015 Climate Change Adaptation Manual lists rivers and streams as High sensitivity to climate change, and both standing water and reedbeds as High sensitivity. Climate change poses a threat to biodiversity, not only as a result of changes in rainfall but as subsequent infiltration/run-off rates are restricted as a result of impermeable development extending into areas of natural flood alleviation.

Climate change adaptation responses for rivers and streams are centred around the reinstatement of natural movement, morphology, hydrology and biological connectivity (where flood risk management permits) which may include removal of weirs, flood banks and hard bank protection, minimising maintenance of the channel (e.g. dredging and removal of woody debris) to assist the natural watercourse recovery, creating a more natural mosaic of characteristic biotopes (e.g. through bed-raising, bank re-profiling, and riparian tree planting), allocation of additional areas of floodplain land to flood naturally to minimise the build-up of peak flows to downstream urban areas, and optimising riparian tree cover to provide patchy light and shade in treeless river reaches (NE & RSPB, 2015).

Climate change adaptation responses for standing water include improving the natural infiltration of catchment soils and percolation to groundwater, creating semi-natural vegetation such as woodland and grassland along critical run-off pathways to slow surface water run-off and aid infiltration, replacing lost habitat and provide stepping stones to allow species to move through the environment where appropriate via the creation of new ponds, restoring hydrological connectivity between sites where it has traditionally existed, optimising shoreline tree cover to provide some areas of shade, managing pollutant loads from effluents and managing recreational access (NE & RSPB, 2015).

For reedbed, responses include management to avoid natural development to rank or scrub habitats, and reinstatement or creation of reedbed as part of floodplain management. For purple moor-grass rush pasture, appropriate management is key to avoid either natural colonisation to rank grassland or scrub, or conversely to avoid over-grazing or erosion. This response should complement the restoration and re-creation of semi-improved pasture targeting the expansion of and connection between existing habitat patches.

Protect

Figure 3.11 illustrates the key nature conservation designations and priority across Hounslow that require protection. It is recognised that in the absence of current baseline data the condition of this network is unclear. It is anticipated that the condition of some SINC may be enhanced through beneficial management but that additional capacity would be required to deliver thriving biodiversity which can meet the need of the local community for multi-functional GI – both now and with future population growth.

To accommodate greater capacity, additional areas are identified in the GBI Strategy Theme 2 as ‘provisional SINC’. Identified through high-level desk-based review, principally taking into account their size and proximity to areas of deficiency (AoD) in access to nature, ‘provisional SINC’ are flagged for consideration or beneficial intervention/s, management and, where then appropriate, designation. Designation could only be achieved through the London Wildlife Sites Board where the requisite SINC criteria[61] are met. Provisional SINCs are illustrated in Figure 3.11 to ensure that sufficient expansion of the designated network is accounted for as part of the actions to ‘protect’.

These include:

Feltham Park and Grosvenor Park, Feltham	Southville Road amenity space, East Bedfont
Heston Park, Heston	Gainsborough Gardens, Whitton
Thornbury Park, Osterley	Beaversfield Park, Hounslow West
Stamford Brook Common, Stamford Brook	Homefield Recreation Ground, Chiswick Common
Turnham Green, Chiswick.	

Similarly, NE habitat network mapping for ‘fragmentation action’ and for ‘restoration-creation’ categories were considered fundamental to the protection of the protected network in thriving health.

Additional data which may be included in future iterations, as these become available include:
- Veteran trees;
- TPO trees.

It is anticipated that the future survey, and consultation as the London-wide approach to LNRS emerges, as required within the NRAP actions, will be used to refine the ‘protect’ map. For example to include additional designations as well as protection of any specific and significant nesting, roosting or feeding sites to ensure protection of key populations.

61 Mayor of London (2017) Appendix 5: SINC Selection. Available: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/appendix_5_sinc_selection.pdf

Figure 3.11: Protect

Figure 3.10: The principal river

Hounslow Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree plan and Urban Greening
for London Borough of Hounslow

LUC

Protect – Hounslow's key designations and priority habitats

- London Borough of Hounslow
- Designated site
- Wider PHI
- Wider PHI wood pasture & parkland subtypes
- NE Habitat network fragmentation zone and restoration-creation zones
- Preliminary SINC

London Borough of Hounslow

CB:JI EB:Chamberlain_K LUC AI_11210_r0_Protect_A3L 04/06/2021
Source: OS, GLA

Connect

Figure 3.12 illustrates the priority locations for strategic connections to strengthen the protected network. Contributing data layers are mapped for transparency, optimising the use of cross-boundary datasets where possible to ensure actions within the borough contribute to a wider, more holistic future nature network. The majority of NE habitat network mapping for Hounslow is captured at this stage, which relates to ‘enhancement zones 1 and 2’. These are considered relevant foci for strategic connectivity, given the habitat features they encapsulate and link between.

Additional data which may be included in future iterations, as these become available include:
- Borough-wide green roofs.

Note that this map is intended to inform prioritisation of interventions to ‘connect’ and that wider opportunities should continue to be explored. It is intended that this supports the delivery of the GI Strategy, such as the recommendations therein for the enhancement of the connectivity between Hounslow Heath, De Brome Playing Fields and Hanworth Park, or the crossing of the railway over the River Crane at the south west corner of Hounslow Heath.

The importance of ‘catchment-scale thinking’ is arguably greatest here as strategic connections to deliver thriving biodiversity come to the fore. It is anticipated that future survey and consultation will be used to augment the ‘connect’ map, including changes in management of existing spaces to benefit biodiversity – the protected network in particular – more effectively.

Figure 3.12: Connect

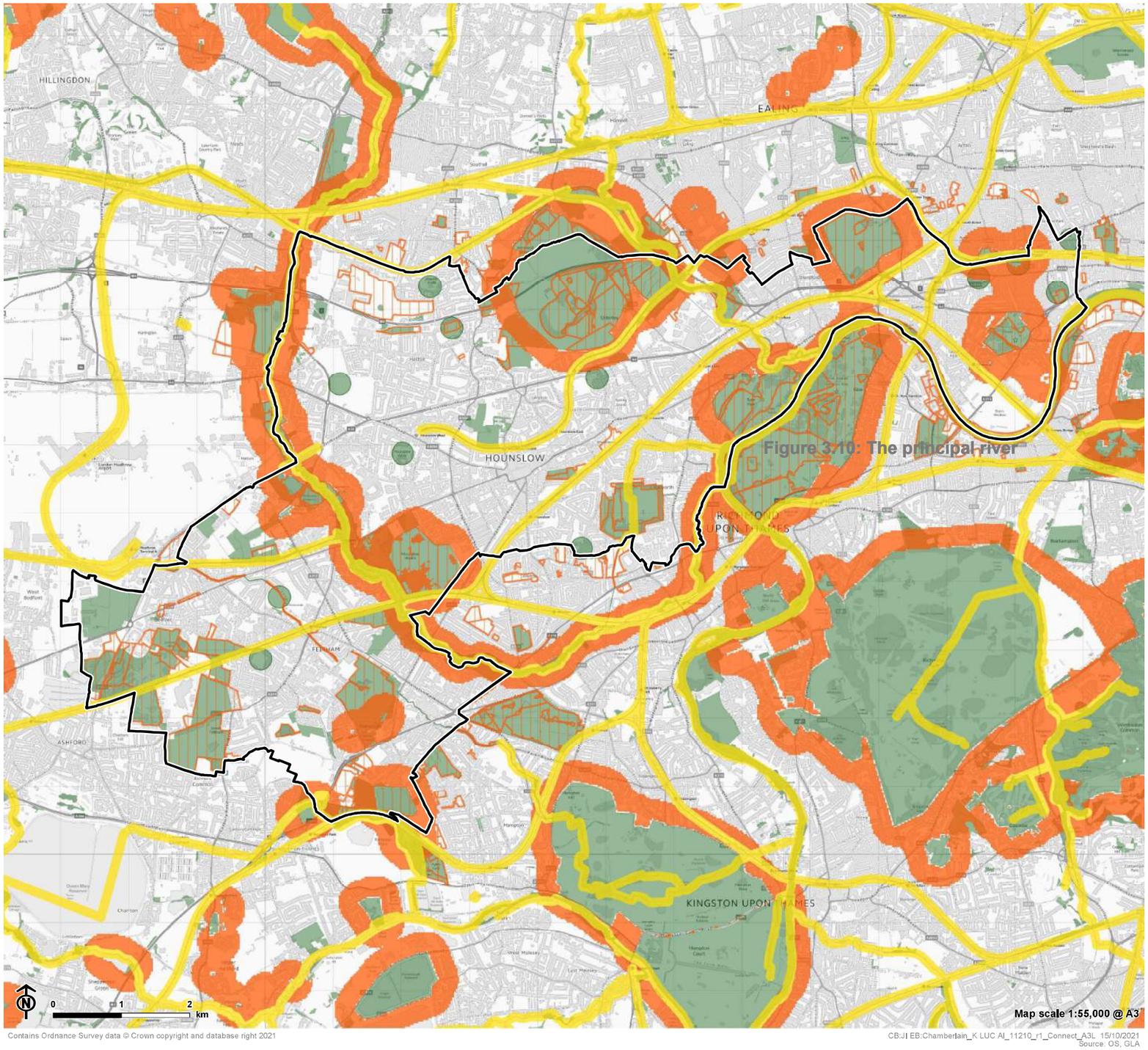


Figure 3.10: The principal river

Hounslow Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree plan and Urban Greening
for London Borough of Hounslow

LUC

Connect - Priority locations for strategic connections to strengthen the protected network

- London Borough of Hounslow
- River and rail green corridors
- GiGL BAP habitat suitability area
- NE Habitat network enhancement zones 1 & 2
- Key designations and priority habitats

Note: Preliminary SINCs are shown with a darker green outline.

CB:JI EB:Chamberlain_K LUC AI_11210_r1_Connect_A3L 15/10/2021
Source: OS, GLA

London Borough of Hounslow

Create and Enhance

Figure 3.13 illustrates the wider opportunities for nature recovery in a permeable landscape. Strategic opportunities associated with the housing and highways soft estates, as well as wider greenspaces aim to build on the strategic connections previously identified, to increase permeability for habitats and species across the as well as overall spatial coverage. Wider green spaces (existing and proposed) are included to inform decision-making for land planning and management by/between stakeholders of the NRAP actions.

Flood zone 2 is included to reflect the foci for potential benefits to flood alleviation, although SuDS are expected to be delivered more widely, slowing infiltration rates through the urban fabric and reducing surface flow across the catchment.

Additional data which may be included in future iterations, as these become available include:
- Residential gardens;
- Existing and proposed allotments (corresponding to final Hounslow Allotment Strategy).

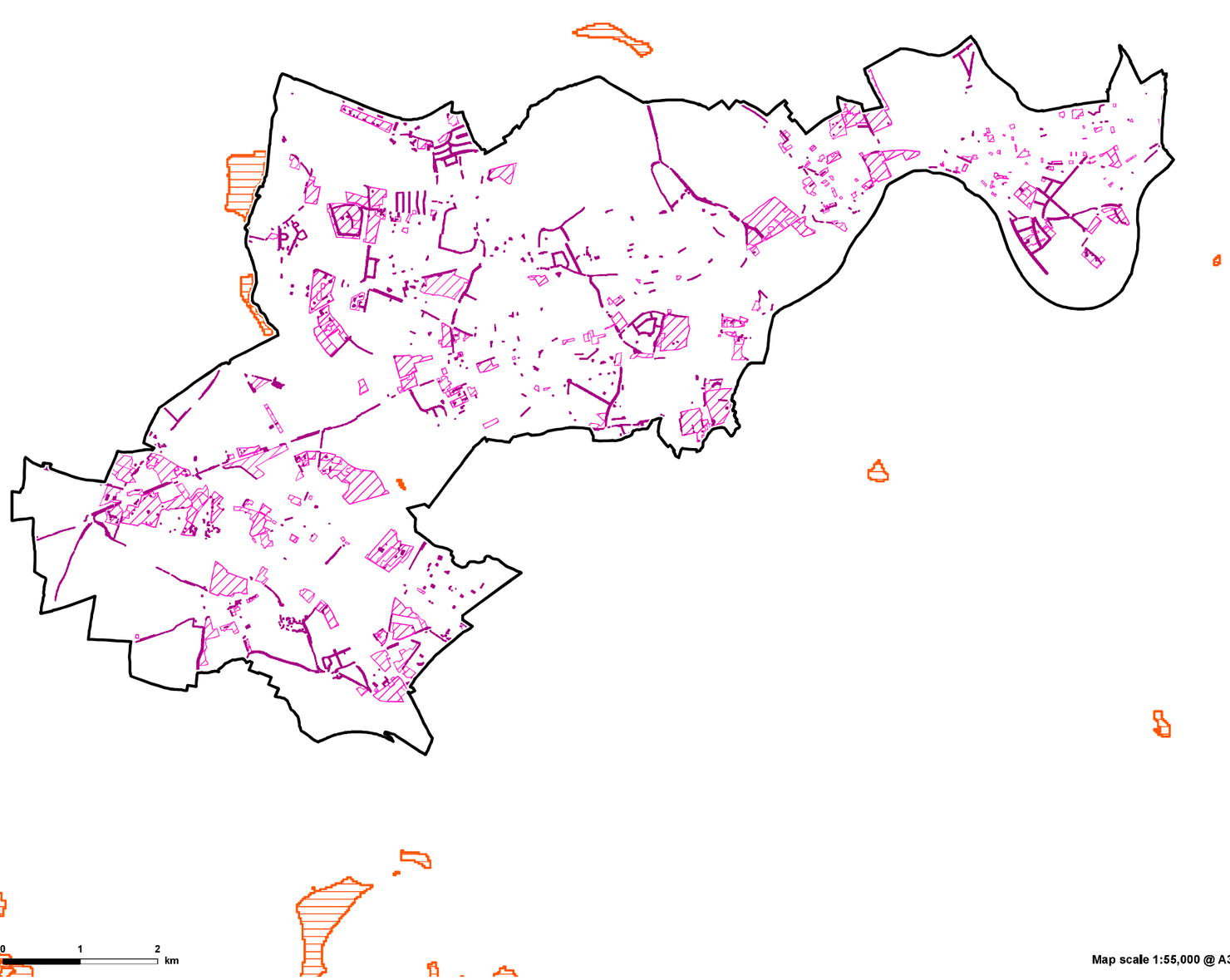
It is anticipated that future survey and consultation will be used to detail the ‘create and enhance’ map at the neighbourhood scale, including biodiverse landscaping in the public realm and any specific actions to strengthen populations of particular species. In turn, neighbourhood mapping may be used to inform Neighbourhood Plans, as a delivery mechanism for the objectives of NRAP and the wider GI Strategy.

Figure 3.13: Create & Enhance

Hounslow Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree plan and Urban Greening
for London Borough of Hounslow

LUC

Create & Enhance – Wider opportunities for nature recovery in a permeable landscape



Map scale 1:55,000 @ A3

CB:JI EB:Chamberlain_K LUC AI_11210_r1_Enhance_A3L 15/10/2021
Source: OS, GLA

London Borough of Hounslow

Chapter 4

Optimising Wider Environmental Priorities

Chapter 4
Optimising Wider Environmental Priorities

Multiple Benefits for Hounslow

Whilst the aim of nature recovery is to bring biodiversity int thriving health, there is also need to optimise benefits to wider environmental services.

Green infrastructure may be defined as ‘A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’[62] . Further definitions are provided in the Glossary.

Hounslow’s GBI Strategy identifies four components of GBI, all of which offer opportunity for, and indeed arguably function better when, including biodiversity:

- Resilient spaces – green architecture, SuDS, street trees, allotments;
- Destination spaces – outdoor sport spaces, heritage parks and gardens, greener high streets, outdoor events;
- Healthy spaces – active travel routes, enhanced air quality through urban greening, access to nature, green prescriptions, sense of place;
- Wilder spaces – wildlife corridors, stepping stones, restored habitats, underpasses.

The multi-functional approach of GBI inherently connects biodiversity with benefits to health and wellbeing, and to recreation. There is however a need for biodiversity to have undisturbed spaces, for example, to allow birds to nest, ground dwelling mammals to burrow and some of our rarer plants to prosper. Therefore, for the purposes of this NRAP, ‘undisturbed spaces’ are also recognised.

Destination spaces (both existing and proposed) are foci for potential promotion at the regional level and can be expected to see an increase in recreational access and active travel.
Additional measures may therefore be required to ensure biodiversity is able to thrive at these sites in the long-term. Destination spaces are illustrated in Figure 4.1.

62 NPPF 2019. Available: www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

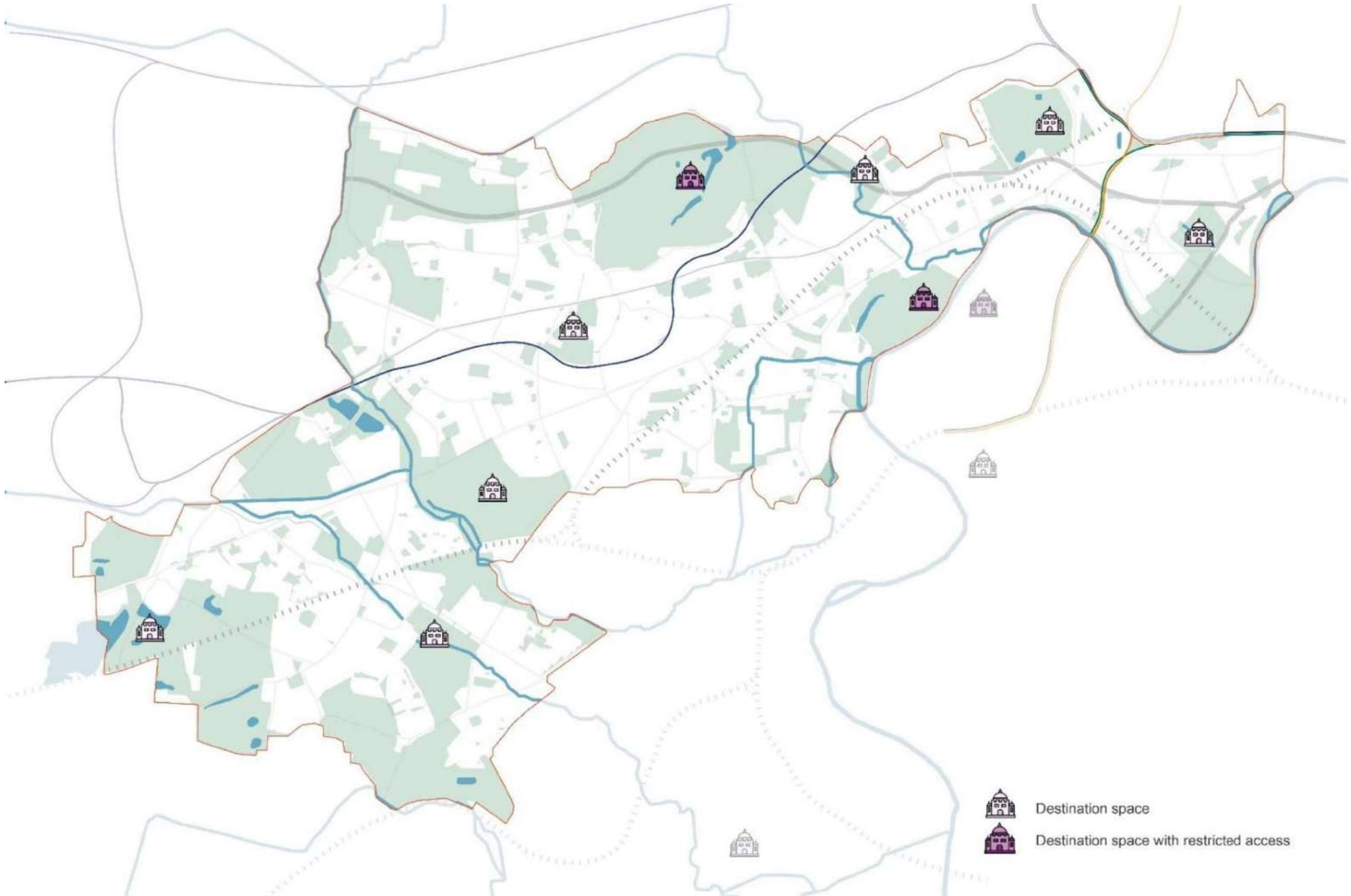


Figure 4.1:
Destination spaces within Hounslow from west to east:

- Bedfont Lakes Country Park
- Hanworth Park
- Hounslow Heath
- Lampton Park
- Osterley Park
- Boston Manor Park
- Syon Park
- Gunnersbury Park
- Chiswick House & Gardens

Local Environmental and Climate Resilience Priorities

Figure 4.2
The role of green and blue infrastructure in achieving climate resilience

Carbon Storage

Trees will play a vital role in Hounslow reaching its carbon reduction targets and to reach net zero carbon by 2030. The Council aims to plant a tree for each child born in the borough each year, which will equate to approximately 5,000 trees per annum. The Hounslow Climate Emergency Action Plan estimates that over 40 years, one tree will sequester approximately one tonne of carbon dioxide. Therefore, to offset the current annual emissions from council fleet and employee transport over ten years, approximately 20,000 trees will need to be planted.

Flood Alleviation and Water Quality

Biodiversity and habitats play an important role in the control of both fluvial and surface water flooding. Naturalised river corridors generally have a higher peak flow capacity, particularly where there are natural floodplains and storage areas. Currently in the borough there are a number of channelised and culverted rivers, including stretches of the Longford River and the Duke of Northumberland's River. Creation of naturalised wetlands and river profiles along these watercourses can help, not only to support greater biodiversity but also, to reduce flood risk and enhance water quality. As a priority, opportunities to reinstate naturalised profiles and/or create wetlands should be reviewed for all watercourses that flow through or adjacent to an existing open space should have their potential for naturalisation and wetland creation explored.

SuDS, green spaces and vegetation also play an integral role in the management of surface water flooding, improving water quality, enhancing the aesthetic value of a place, removing pollutants in the air, cooling the urban environment and providing for biodiversity. It is intended that these features can help to reduce the pressure put on Hounslow's drainage systems, particularly throughout the winter months. Therefore, SuDS and urban greening features should be included within all new development as standard, as part of public or active transport infrastructure, and within highways upgrade wherever possible.

The potential for retrofitting SuDS within the existing urban fabric should also be explored with priorities given to areas which sit within an existing area of surface water flood risk or within a Critical Drainage Area. Hotspots for surface water flooding include Flanders Road (Turnham Green), Boston Manor Road and Manor Vale (Brentford), and Bridge Road and Pears Road (Hounslow).

Urban surface run-off has been a contributing factor to the 'poor' and 'moderate' ecological status of the Brent and Crane catchments. Therefore, the potential for SuDS features, such as linear rain gardens, should also be explored where busy highways cross or travel near to watercourses, therefore increasing the filtration of run-off before it enters the borough's waterways. Additional floating reedbeds within the watercourses could be additional methods to enhance problem areas.

Air Quality Improvement

The entirety of Hounslow sits within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), meaning there are concerns regarding the level of pollutants within the air and the repercussions this could have on people's health. It is estimated that over 100 premature deaths within the borough each year can be attributed to poor air quality63. This extends to 9,400 premature deaths annually across London as a whole64.

In addition to the AQMA, there are eleven Air Quality Focus Areas (AQFAs) which represent areas which regularly exceed EU standards for air quality and therefore experience dangerously high levels of NO2, PM2.5 and PM10.

These areas include:

- Hounslow A4: Great West Road / Vicarage Farm Road junction
- Heston A4: Great West Road / Heston Road / Lampton Road junction
- Chiswick Roundabout: M4 J1 / A4 / A406 / Chiswick High Road / Kew Bridge
- Chiswick High Road: from Heathfield Terrace to Chiswick Lane
- Hogarth Roundabout: Great Chertsey Road / Dorchester Grove
- Chiswick A4: Cedars Road / Ellesmere Road from M4 J1 to Dukes Avenue junction
- Brentford M4: J2 and Boston Manor Road / A4 junction
- Hounslow Grove Road: London Road / High Street junction
- Feltham High Street: Hounslow Road / Harlington Road / Uxbridge Road / Hanworth Road junction
- Clockhouse Roundabout: Great Southwest Road / A30 to Terminal 4
- Heathrow: Colnbrook A4 / M4 J4a / Bath Road / Parkway / Staines Road / Stanwell Moor Road / Park Road

Urban greening, tree planting, vegetation buffers and open spaces can each effectively contribute to enhancement of air quality through collection of particulates on leaves and through managing air flow at the street level.

Temperature Regulation

Vegetation plays a significant role in reducing temperatures in the urban environment through reflecting solar radiation, cooling through evapotranspiration and providing shade. Furthermore, open spaces can enhance air flow within dense urban areas. Hounslow feels the impacts of the Greater London urban heat island effect, although to a lesser extent than central London boroughs. Studies have shown that night-time temperatures in London are roughly 4°C higher than in surrounding rural areas, with discrepancies of up to 10°C in heatwaves65. Green architectural features such as green walls and roofs also play an important role in enhancing the thermal performance of buildings by keeping them cool in summer and warm in winter, thus reducing dependency on energy-intensive building climate systems.

Nature Network Rules of Thumb

To inform the emerging national nature recovery network and supporting LNRS, Natural England's 2020 Nature Network Guidance66 includes concise 'rules of thumb' for the consideration of core sites (designations and priority habitats), their connectivity and context in the wider landscape. The rules of thumb are based on the 2010 Lawton principles of 'bigger, better quality and more joined up'67. The guidance emphasises the need to accommodate and work with natural processes wherever possible.

Alongside the rules of thumb, the guidance also recognises the need for the following principles:

- Identification of 'large nature areas' which prioritise conservation of thriving biodiversity. This may translate to the NRAP aim to 'protect'.
- Optimal structure and function of the 'intervening matrix' to optimise dispersal (including for daily or seasonal cycles, and in response to climate change), minimise fragmentation and edge effects. This may translate to the NRAP aim to 'connect'.
- Clear understanding of the ecology and lifecycle requirements of key species which the network is intended to support;
- To restore natural ecosystem function across core sites, optimising their value and resilience, make these 'big enough' (to accommodate natural process and healthy ecological function), messy (areas or mosaics of habitat of sufficiently diverse structure to accommodate a range of niches), complex (in terms of species-richness and interdependent food webs) and dynamic (accommodating spatial and temporal shift in habitat mosaic, for example to reflect natural colonisation, whilst maintaining the overall resource). This may translate to the NRAP aim to 'create and enhance'.
- Accommodate climate change resilience, for example through provision of climate change refugia, a range of niches and long-distance dispersal routes.

63 London Borough of Hounslow (2018). Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023.
64 King's College London (2015). Understanding the Health Impacts of Air Pollution in London. Available: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/hiainlondon_kingsreport_14072015_final.pdf
65 GLA (2016). London's Urban Heat Island – During A Warm Summer. Available:https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/londons-urban-heat-island
66 Natural England (2020) Research Report 081: Nature Networks Evidence Handbook http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6105140258144256
67 Lawton (2010) Making Space for Nature: A review of England's wildlife sites. Available:
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-space-for-nature-a-review-of-englands-wildlife-sites-published-today

Chapter 5

Nature Recovery Actions

Chapter 5
Nature Recovery Actions

Engage and Promote

Hounslow is a member of several key partnership groups working to improve the natural environment in Hounslow, some of which include the Brent Catchment Partnership, Crane Valley Partnership (CVP), the Heathrow Action Group, or the Thames Water Strategic Partnership.

The 2011-2016 BAP included an action to produce and implement a Communications Strategy. This action has been carried forward. The Strategy will be informed by the actions in Table 5.2 to 5.9 that deliver the network aim to 'engage & promote' (column 6).

Hounslow Council cannot deliver all the Strategic Actions and Delivery Plan without support, due to funding, resource, or land ownership issues. There are a wealth of operators within the borough working towards the same goals, and recognising this, the following key Strategic Actions are proposed:

1. **To hire additional resource to help deliver the NRAP. This includes an Ecologist and an additional Nature Recovery Project Officer.**
   a. **Ecologist: To support in the delivery of the NRAP, BNG implementation, and conduct habitat surveys (This action is already being progressed by the council).**
   b. **Nature Recovery Project Officer: To deliver projects outlined in the NRAP, aid our community groups in project delivery, coordinate a Nature Recovery Stakeholder Board (see below), and assist in the monitoring of the NRAP as well as future biodiversity reports.**
2. **Establish a Nature Recovery Stakeholder Board (NRSB) to assist in the delivery and monitoring of the NRAP.**

The Parks, Development and Green Infrastructure Team holds overall responsibility for ensuring the NRAP is annually monitored, reported and remains up to date.

Nature Recovery Stakeholder Board

The implementation and monitoring of this Plan will be led by a proposed Nature Recovery Stakeholder Board. This Group will operate in a similar capacity to the Biodiversity Action Partnership established to deliver the previous 2011 – 2016 BAP. Terms of this group are to be decided, but details have been drafted below:

The NRSB will meet quarterly. Roles and responsibilities of the group will include:

- **Progressing the Delivery Plan actions listed in the NRAP**
- **Report action on latest NRAP projects in a shared information system**
- **Providing assistance to Hounslow Council on the Strategic Actions listed in the NRAP**
- **Information sharing - data including spatial mapping and surveys, as well as best practice, knowledge, and resource where applicable.**
- **Funding opportunities will be shared and bidding applications will be coordinated on.**
- **Attendees to the groups will include:**
- **Adjacent boroughs (LBRUT, LBE, LBHi, LBH&F, Spelthorne)**
- **Regional bodies (Heathrow; Thames21, Port of London Authority, GIGL)**
- **Utility providers (Thames Water Strategic Partnership)**
- **Local and Regional Charities/Non-profits (Crane Valley Partnership, Brent Catchment Partnership, C&RTrust, TCV)**
- **Local landowners (National Trust, Syon Park, Gunnersbury Park CIC)**
- **Where applicable, local community groups will be invited to the quarterly meetings, e.g. Friends Of groups within a priority area.**

The Group standing agenda will include:

- **Updates from the last quarter / Progress on NRAP Delivery Plan actions**
- **Updates on New/Planned Surveys**
- **Planned projects**
- **New funding opportunities**
- **Priorities for the next quarter**

A list of other potential collaborators to help deliver this NRAP have been established in Appendix C.

The group will publish an annual report detailing progress on the actions set out in this NRAP. The NRSB will assist Hounslow in reporting on the 5-yearly biodiversity reports through crowdsourcing of data.

Funding Opportunities

CIL and S106 funding for projects are listed at the below centralised links, including those that have or will contain ecological improvements to the SINC network and urban greening network:

- Projects funded from CIL and S106- https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20010/planning_and_building/1094/community_infrastructure_levy/4;

Potential additional funding sources to deliver the NRAP are listed in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Potential additional funding sources

Potential funding sources.	Nature of action
Mayor of London / Greater London Authority	Investing in the regeneration of London's high streets and enhancing the environment for Londoners. Various grant schemes exist including 'Crowdfund for London', 'Greener City Fund' and 'Good Growth Fund'.
Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL and s106 provides funding opportunities from developers to improve the infrastructure, environment or community provisions within the locality of a new development. Due to reforms in September of 2019, these two sources of funding can be pooled together to fund larger projects.
Transport for London	Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) streetscape maintenance and improvements could be a source of funding for public realm improvements and roadside verges.
Highways England	For projects which will see enhanced street schemes for active travel which can deliver greening and increased space for public realm alongside it. This could be extended to wildflower meadows on roadside verges.
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	The National Lottery Heritage Fund recognises nature as one of the UK's oldest forms of heritage. Potential projects include creating wildflower meadows, increasing tree planting and restoring native hedgerows.
The National Lottery Community Fund	Reaching Communities – is a programme which offers flexible funding over £10,000 for up to five years to voluntary and community organisations which plan to take action on issues that really matter to people. It can fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. National Lottery Awards for All England – this offers funding to all types of projects which matter to people and their communities.

68 As noted in Chapter 2, it is understood that the Council is seeking to establish a Sustainability Team in 2021, including an officer dedicated to ecology. In due course therefore, the delivery for each action may be revised through the NRAP review process.

Potential funding sources.	Nature of action
Local business partnerships	Private funding from businesses across Hounslow may offer financial resources for certain projects if they align with their business needs and aspirations. This can be pooled through the creation of a Business Improvement District. Enhancing the environment around businesses is an excellent method for enhancing footfall and investment in the area. Additionally, corporate donations and sponsorships for the creation of parks, new habitats or reintroduction of species can be explored.
Groundwork	The Community Spaces programme helps groups in England to create or improve green and open spaces, therefore improving quality of life in their neighbourhood.
Spacehive	Using 'crowdfunding' to help deliver local projects for improving accessible public space. Projects are generally identified and set up by the community.
idverde	The idverde Community Investment Fund aims to empower local people to deliver sought after projects that enhance the local environment, including green space and public realm, boosting the wellbeing of local people.
Heathrow Community Trust	Funding schemes which improve the environment for communities surrounding the airport, such as increasing the provision of green space, improving the sustainability of community buildings and raising awareness of environmental issues.
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	DEFRA release funding for a range of schemes with the goal of improving the natural environment. This includes the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund – funding to create viable nature projects that can attract private investment, or the BNG Grant – funding for local authorities to help define their approach to incoming BNG legislation.
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)	DLUHC offer funding to contribute to the levelling up agenda through infrastructure improvements, which can include regeneration projects and cultural/heritage investment.
Environment Agency (EA)	Schemes typically involve blue infrastructure improvements including the Rivers & Wetland Community fund – funding for local people to improve their rivers and wetlands, or Water Environment Improvement Fund to improve watercourses and waterbodies.
Thames Water Strategic Partnership (TWSP)	Includes the Smarter Water Catchments programme at the River Crane – offering farmers grants to protect water quality. The Crane Valley Grant Programme is a related programme giving funding for either small community-based grants, or high-impact projects that deliver against the 12 Smarter Water Catchment initiatives.
Thriving Communities Fund	Thriving Communities Funding was designed to connect communities to help them cope with the impact of Covid-19, especially those most impacted including ethnically diverse communities. Previously they have offered funding to deliver a green recovery, green connections and social prescribing.
John Ellerman Foundation (JEF)	The JEF offer funding for projects that will improve the natural world, people's wellbeing and society as a whole. They have previously funded projects related to regenerative agriculture, conservation, pesticide reduction and to support resourcing needs.
Garfield Weston	Funding available for landscape conservation projects.
People's Postcode Society Trust	Funding opportunities for the south of England are available to improve biodiversity, greenspaces and increase access to the outdoors.
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (EFF)	In 2020, the EFF funded 58 projects totaling £12.8m for natural world projects that preserve and improve species health and habitats.
Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	Through the Countryside Stewardship programme, the RPA and EA offer funding for projects that, among other benefits, can improve priority habitats and conservation areas.

Strategic Actions

The below sets out the Strategic Actions for nature recovery, assuming a five-year review cycle.

These actions take forward those identified in the GBI Strategy, together with the additional analysis presented in Chapter 3. Also captured are those that remain on-going from the 2011-2016 BAP or that require renewal. Other cross-compatible documents are signposted where appropriate, such as the Tree Plan and Management Strategy. This chapter aims to align objectives, streamline actions and optimise successful funding applications.

Each action is flagged against the network aims to ‘protect’, ‘connect’, ‘create and enhance’, and ‘engage and promote’ (as introduced in Chapter 1).

It is recognised that following update of baseline data (strategic action: ‘Data gathering and management’), the habitat specific actions will require review to ensure target areas and timeframes for delivery are quantified appropriately.

Funding

The 2011-2016 BAP action to produce and implement a Funding Strategy is carried forward. The Strategy will be informed by the funding scale assigned to each action. The funding scale is bracketed as follows:

- £ - bracket of zero to £10,000;
- ££ - bracket of £10,001 to £50,000;
- £££ - bracket of £50,000 - £100,000;
- ££££ - bracket of £100,000+.

Maintenance

The timescale of each action is attributed as follows:

- Short-term – completed within one year;
- Medium-term – delivered and maintained within the duration of the NRAP review cycle i.e. one to five years;
- Long-term / on-going – beyond the duration of the five-year NRAP review cycle.

Monitoring Progress

Continuing the historic/ongoing monitoring of the 2011-2016 BAP actions, it is envisaged that monitoring will be led by the Parks & Green Infrastructure Team using the RAG status tracking. A concise update of progress should be reported each year via the Council website.

It is envisaged that the NRAP be subject to five yearly review to:

- Assess the results achieved and ensure the best ‘lessons learnt’ can be taken forward;
- Ensure actions remain relevant to the nature, extent and condition of habitats and species across the borough;
- Ensure actions reflect best practice and catchment-wide or London-wide strategic aims where possible.

To support SMART monitoring, the timeframe for each action to be delivered is provided, and the maintenance period over which each action applies.

Strategic Actions

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
1	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - Baseline Habitat Surveys	Complete a baseline habitat survey of the green and blue infrastructure network of Hounslow. It is recommended to use GIGL survey data standards and guidance to ensure the data is in a format that can be easily shared and analysed. Priority sites to survey include: - SINC sites - Local Nature Reserves - Local Plan Designations (Green Belt, MOL) - Other Local Open Spaces designated within the Local Plan greater than 1 hectare This information will help to establish: - Areas and condition of priority habitat within designation across the borough; - Condition of SINC network. - BNG requirements	2023	LBH Parks Team London Wildlife Trust GIGL Local specialist groups / recorders	Y	Y	Y	Y	££££			Y
2	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - Baseline Habitat Surveys - Additional Areas	Complete baseline habitat survey (UK Habitat Classification)[68] of additional areas that may be suitable for SINC designation, or for management / positive intervention which brings them to this.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team London Wildlife Trust GIGL Local specialist groups / recorders	Y			Y	££	Y	Y	
3	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - Baseline Habitat Surveys - Priority and BAP habitats	Complete baseline habitat survey (UK Habitat Classification) of priority and BAP habitats, or potential priority and BAP habitats, outside the SINC and LNR network to gain a clear picture of their distribution and condition. Results to be used to inform review of baseline description within NRAP and relevant NRAP actions, setting quantified targets for restoration, creation and enhancement where appropriate.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team London Wildlife Trust GIGL Local specialist groups / recorders		Y	Y	Y	££££	Y	Y	
4	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - Baseline Habitat Surveys - 5 Year Update	Review requirement to update baseline at targeted locations every five years.	2028	LBH Parks Team London Wildlife Trust GIGL Local specialist groups / recorders	Y	Y	Y	Y	£			Y
5	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - Baseline Habitat Surveys - Annual Review	Annually review the Habitat Survey baseline data to update quantified baseline descriptions for each habitat type. Parameters for analysis include but are not restricted to: – Designated area. – Priority and notable habitat area. – Wider habitat connection, creation and enhancement achieved. – Total green cover and canopy cover (GLA data as updated). – Area of Deficiency (AoD) access to nature, AoD access to open space.	Annual	LBH Parks Team London WildlifeTrust GIGL Local specialist groups / recorders	Y	Y	Y	Y	£	Y	Y	
6	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - Baseline Habitat Surveys - Target Setting	Create targets for the creation and restoration of all habitat types to be reviewed upon completion of baseline surveys	Biennial	LBH Parks Team London WildlifeTrust GIGL Local specialist groups / recorders	Y	Y	Y		£		Y	Y

69 UK Habitat Classification https://ukhab.org/ is used as the emerging standard method to inform nature network mapping and BNG. From this, the standard JNCC Phase 1 habitat can be determined if required.

Strategic Actions

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
7	**Data Gathering and Management**	Alignment with Wider Nature Recovery Plans	Work with the relevant teams (Parks, Planning, Lampton Services Greenspace, Green Recovery, Environmental Strategy , Public Health, Transport) to understand what information they require to ensure that they have a robust evidence base which can be easily adapted into future plans and strategies in preparation for future policy changes - e.g. BNG, LNRS or ELMS	2023	All Council Teams				Y	£		Y	Y
8	**Data Gathering and Management**	Citizen Engagement - Citizen Science and Crowdsourcing Data	Through the partnership with GIGL, London Wildlife Trust and the other boroughs, identify the initiatives which may provide (i) informal data or (ii) trusted data (recognising that both have value but must be distinguished and caveated appropriately) to support baseline survey data. Smart phone apps may be promoted, particularly where these can constructively feed data to GIGL.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team GIGL London Wildlife Trust National specialist groups,(RSPB,BCT, etc) Local specialist groups / recorders	na				£	Y	Y	Y
9	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - GIGL	Maintain SLA with GIGL to ensure (i) access by all Council departments and (ii) that LBH is kept abreast of centralised data analysis and monitoring (e.g. canopy cover, biodiversity hotspot mapping, habitat suitability mapping, etc).	Annual	LBH Parks Team GIGL	na				£	Y	Y	Y
10	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - Internal GIS Database	In addition to quarterly submission of data to GIGL, maintain copy using internal GIS database of designated sites (including landownership and presence of an Ecological Management Plan (EMP)), habitats and species. This will ensure all departments have ready access to the data to inform their functions.	Quarterly	LBH Parks Team GIGL	na				£	Y	Y	Y
11	**Data Gathering and Management**	Data Management - SINC database	All preliminary SINCs listed in the NRAP to be recorded within the Council database.	Annual	LBH Parks Team	Y			Y	£	Y		
12	**Data Gathering and Management**	Flagship species – Collating monitoring and conservation information	Identify monitoring programmes for all flagship species (as summarised in the NRAP) already underway. Coordinate data sharing e.g. through GIGL	2023	LBH Parks Team GIGL National/ local specialist groups/recorders	Y			Y	£	Y	Y	Y
13	**Data Gathering and Management**	Flagship species – monitoring and conservation	Identify flagship species or key sites not already monitored to determine current survey requirements as part of London-wide data collection. Liaise with conservation bodies and/or specialist individuals to establish where these currently lack.	2023	LBH Parks Team GIGL National/ local specialist groups/recorders	Y			Y	£	Y		
14	**Data Gathering and Management**	Hedgerows - Review of Baseline Survey Data	Review of hedgerows mapped during baseline surveys completed up to and including Yrs 1-3[70] alongside historic data to identify: – Hedgerows of greatest value; – Gaps or weaknesses within the network; – Prioritised opportunities for planting and management to enhancement to address weaknesses; – Prioritised opportunities for connection and expansion.	2024	LBH Parks Team Hounslow Highways Lampton Services Greenspace	Y	Y	Y		£ - £ £		Y	
15	**Engage and Promote**	Citizen Engagement - Promoting Pollinators	Promote the role of bees and other pollinators, and actions residents can take to support them. This could include: Connecting with NGOs/Charities that offer Bee boxes within community areas e.g. allotments, school playgrounds Education on the reduction of pesticides Planting species that favour pollinators Education on the benefits of reducing lawnmowing	2024	LBH Parks Team LBH (Education Outreach Lead) Friends of Groups				Y	£			

70 Where possible, new baseline survey should seek to include the 'top ten' hedgerows identified in the 2011-2016 BAP, where these do not fall within a SINC – Jersey Road, Wood Lane, and Grand Union Canal in Osterly; Southall Road, Cranford; Heston Park, Heston; Hepple Close and Riverside Walk in Isleworth; Green Lane, Hatton; Ashford Road, Lower Feltham; and Staines Road, Hounslow.

Strategic Actions

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
16	**Engage and Promote**	Communication - Nature Recovery Stakeholder Board	Establish a Nature Recovery Stakeholder Board (NRSB) to assist in the delivery of the NRAP. (see Chapter 5)	2023	LBH Parks Team; Environmental Strategy				Y	£	Y		
17	**Engage and Promote**	Communication - Delivery Partners	Using the delivery partners listed in the NRAP, identify the principal contact within each internal and external organisation / stakeholder.	2023	LBH Parks Team; Environmental Strategy				Y	£	Y		
18	**Engage and Promote**	Communication - Principal target groups	Identify the principal target groups that can assist in the delivery of the NRAP outside of the NRSB e.g.: – Local education institutions; – Hounslow Friends Forum; – Local interest groups and individual specialists; – Local resident groups (including new communities which will be generated through allocated development); – Business community partnerships; - Asset owners and potential future asset owners (i.e. those who may be encouraged to sow wildflower rich grassland, plant a hedgerows or simply allow 10% of their garden to 'go wild').	2023	LBH Parks Team Communications Team				Y	£	Y		
19	**Engage and Promote**	Communication - Engagement Plan	Identify and prioritise the most appropriate engagement initiatives for each target group. Initiatives will be commensurate with the actions each target group is most closely related to, and should utilise a range of modes – web-based, app-based, in- school/place of worship, development / re-development consultation, etc.	2023	LBH Parks Team Communications Team				Y	£ - £ £	Y		
20	**Engage and Promote**	Communication - Organisational Chart	Publish an organisational chart on the Hounslow Council website detailing which internal department deals with each specific issue, to aid residents in reporting issues, suggesting projects, and offering support.	2024	LBH Parks Team Environmental Strategy Communications Team				Y	£	Y		
21	**Engage and Promote**	Communication - Hounslow Matters	Publish 1x article each quarter regarding biodiversity enhancement and associated multi-functional benefits and/or the council's progress on the NRAP. Articles may range from creation of 'wild edges' within public spaces, private gardens and window boxes to collaborative pieces with the public health team and/or local schools to promote the mental and physical health benefits of working with allotments.	Quarterly	LBH Parks Team LBH (Education Outreach Lead) LBH (Public Health) Friends of Groups				Y	£	£	£	Y
22	**Engage and Promote**	Communication - Social Prescribing	Work with Hounslow's ICB and GP group to identify suitable locations at which social prescribing can be delivered, and what these activities may look like (e.g. tree planting, scrub clearance, and wildflower meadow establishment and biodiversity monitoring)	2023	LBH Parks Team Public Health Team				Y	£	Y		
23	**Engage and Promote**	Citizen Engagement - Grow for the Future	Continue developing the Council's 'Grow for the Future', programme to look into unused council-owned land and manage these in partnership with local schools. Sites are continously being identified.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team (Planning Lead)		Y	Y	Y	££££	Y	Y	Y
24	**Engage and Promote**	Citizen Engagement - Schools/College Engagement	From 2024, undertake 5x school/college group visits to managed sites, delivering learning sessions on biodiversity, climate change and ecosystem services, cultural heritage per year. Connect schools with the available charities/providers that can deliver biodiversity improvements on site e.g. https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/	Annual from 2023	LBH Parks Team LBH (Education Outreach Lead)				Y	£	Y	Y	
25	**Engage and Promote**	Citizen Engagement - Wildflower Events	From 2024, deliver 2x wildflower events with the borough's residents each year, covering the importance of pollinators, climate change, and what residents can do in their own homes/local areas to support wildflower growth	Annual from 2023	LBH Parks Team LBH (Education Outreach Lead) Friends of Groups				Y	£	Y	Y	Y

Strategic Actions

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
26	**Engage and Promote**	External Partnership - National Highways	Collaboration with National Highways to ensure new infrastructure forthcoming over the current 5yr NRAP period is designed to ensure optimal contribution to the nature network. Ensure the Low Nutrient Grasslands policy is enforced on major schemes. Communication of future maintenance requirements (both techniques and resourcing) to inform the forward planning of long-term maintenance requirements by the Council and its contactors.	2023	Hounslow Highways (Officer) Highways Agency (Regional Environment Officer)		Y	Y	Y	£	Y		
27	**Engage and Promote**	External Partnership - Network Rail	Review biodiversity initiatives and projects within the borough that Network Rail has (i) underway and (ii) in concept to identify adjacent or nearby opportunities within the borough which can be used to maximise habitat connectivity and expansion for the current 5yr NRAP period and 5yrs beyond.	2023	LBH Parks Team Network Rail (Regional Environment Officer)		Y	Y	Y	£	Y		
28	**Engage and Promote**	Seldom Heard Communities	Identify the seldom heard communities that aren't typically engaged within nature. Work with collaborators across the borough to encourage these groups to access nature in their local area. Possible collaborators could include: - Adult education courses - Resettlement scheme providers - Big businesses within the borough who can promote messaging, Economic Board and Chamber of Commerce - Housing Estate teams - Hounslow EDI Team - External charities and providers, such as Flock Together, that work with BAME communities	2024	LBH Parks Team Environmental Strategy Communications Team				Y	£			Y
29	**Engage and Promote**	Citizen Engagement - Reporting Litter	Promote the various ways residents can report litter to the council/relevant authority within greenspaces - including the council's own reporting mechanisms, or phone apps like Love Clean Streets or ClearWaste	2024	Communications Team				Y	£	Y		
30	**Engage and Promote**	Citizen Engagement - Collaboration Centres	Investigate how best to facilitiate collaboration between stakeholders listed within this NRAP as part of the Communications Strategy. Possible solutions could include shared spaces within natural sites - e.g. visitor centres within Crane Park, council-owned sites, or virtual pop-in sessions.	2024	LBH Parks Team Environmental Strategy				Y	££			Y
31	**Funding**	Produce and implement a Funding Strategy	Review the funding gap to identify where additional funding is required and the prioritisation of projects, using the list of funding sources within the NRAP	2023	LBH Parks Team Environmental Strategy	na				£	Y		
32	**Heathland and Grasslands**	Ground-Nesting Birds - Raise Awareness	To raise awareness of, and minimise, the disturbance of ground-nesting birds, develop standard information for inclusion within all site management plans which can, where appropriate, can be modified to become site specific. Integrate to all SINC management plans at which such is recorded, or perceived to be, an issue. Cross-reference: Strategic Actions 'Management of Designated Sites'.	2023	LBH Parks Team (Site Managers)	Y			Y	£	Y	Y	
33	**Heathland and Grasslands**	Cross-Borough Grazing Programme	Continue to review the collective requirement for grazing across all sites within the borough, recognising species, density and duration of optimal stocking. Ensure that adequate provision is planned and maintained with graziers for the forthcoming 3yrs/standard period of grazing contracts.	2023	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Y		Y		£ - £ £	Y	Y	Y

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
34	**Heathland and Grasslands**	Ensure all existing heath and grassland sites are brought into, and maintained in, favourable condition using appropriate management techniques	Review all environmental stewardship managed sites following completion of the SINC and priority habitat surveys and baseline. Implement remedial action/s where appropriate. Identify opportunities for extension of stewardship and by what quantification e.g. grazing of acidic grassland at Hounslow Heath. All data to be recorded within the Council database.	2023	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace Landowners		Y	Y		£ - £ £		Y	Y
35	**Heathland and Grasslands**	Housing Estates & Highways- Wildflower Planting	Identify an appropriate approach for the establishment and maintenance of species-rich and structurally diverse wildflower sward based on available areas as identified in the review of Council housing land. This may include areas of currently low value improved grassland within a nature conservation designation. Use Highway corridor opportunity maps which provides space for roadside wildflower verges and are managed by Hounslow Highways. Larger roadside amenity patches which hold a high potential have also been highlighted. This may include replicating National Highways Low Nutrient Grasslands policy on major highways and housing schemes.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team (Site Managers) Lampton Services Greenspace Established/ acclaimed local grazing manager Housing Team Hounslow Highways (Officer) TfL Highways England London Wildlife Trust Friends of Groups TCV		Y	Y	Y	£ - £ £	Y	Y	Y
36	**Hedgerows**	Hedgerows - SINC & Habitat Management Plans	Ensure SINC and parkland management plans include appropriate opportunities to protect and enhance the hedgerow network.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace Landowners	Y				£ - £ £	Y	Y	Y
37	**Highways & Transport**	Cycle Network - Green Infrastructure Opportunities	Work alongside the Highways and Transport teams to identify opportunities for green infrastructure along new and improved cycle pathways.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team Transport Team			Y	Y	£££	Y	Y	Y
38	**Highways & Transport**	Highway Maintenance and Procurement	Highways – Review the procurement process, including existing highway maintenance and upgrade contracts, for opportunities to include appropriate measures of measures to benefit biodiversity including: – Protect existing features of value; – Expand highways soft estate through interventions such as rain gardens, green roofs, green walls and ground-level planting, where upgrade is planned or retrofit permits; – Optimise ecological value of highways soft estate e.g. through locally-appropriate species and structural diversity.	2023-2028	Hounslow Highways (Officer) LBH Parks Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	£ - £ £	Y	Y	Y
39	**Highways & Transport**	Highways Network - SuDS - 1	In conjunction with Hounslow highways, identify locations where roads cross or pass close to rivers and where surface run-off may pass directly into adjacent watercourses. Data to be overlaid with most up to date water quality data available at that time, from the Environment Agency and from GIGL.	2023	LBH Parks Team Hounslow Highways (Officer)	Y		Y		£	Y		

Strategic Actions

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
40	**Highways & Transport**	Highways Network - SuDS - 2	Review road design and SuDS intervention options at each identified location.	2023	LBH Parks Team Hounslow Highways (Officer)	Y		Y		£		Y	
41	**Housing**	Housing and Procurement	Housing – Review the procurement process within new council-led housing regeneration and development projects, for opportunities to include appropriate measures of measures to benefit biodiversity including: – Protect existing features of value; – Provision of ecological features such as wildflower meadows, SuDS, soft landscaping such as rain gardens, green roofs, or green walls	2023-2028	LBH Housing Team LBH Parks Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	£ - £ £	Y	Y	Y
42	**Housing**	Housing - Habitat Creation	Housing – Review the spaces identified for habitat creation during the Local Plan period to identify (i) appropriate interventions and (ii) priorities for delivery in the current NRAP period.	2023	LBH Parks Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	£	Y	Y	Y
43	**Housing**	Housing - Review of Council Estate for Nature Opportunities	Housing – Review the Council estate to identify potential spaces for habitat creation during the current Local Plan period, both within the soft estate and across the built estate.	2023	LBH Housing Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	£	Y	Y	Y
44	**Management of Designated Sites**	Data Management - Collaboration with Natural England	Ensure condition reports for national and European designations (i.e. at Kempton Park Reservoir and Syon Park Tide Meadow) are communicated with Natural England. All arising recommendations for changes in management affecting these sites to be recorded within the council database and communicated to relevant Council department/s.	Annual	LBH Parks Team	Y				£	Y	Y	Y
45	**Management of Designated Sites**	SINC Network - Annual Reports	Submit annual reports of positive conservation management across the SINC network to DEFRA.	Annual	LBH Parks Team	Y				£	Y	Y	
46	**Management of Designated Sites**	SINC Network - Management	Ensure all SINC sites continue to undergo beneficial management under the prescriptions of an EMP.	2024	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Y			Y	££££	Y	Y	
47	**Management of Designated Sites**	SINC Network - Preliminary Sites	Following baseline habitat surveys, identify sites that can be designated preliminary SINCs.	Annual	LBH Parks Team SINC Designation Board Planning Team	Y			Y	£	Y	Y	
48	**Management of Designated Sites**	The entire SINC network brought to, and maintained in, favourable condition for biodiversity	To inform the planning and promotion of Destination Spaces across the borough, complete feasibility study to identify: – Qualifying features and wider ecological features that may be at risk from increased and commercialised recreational use; – Options for the protection of such features, creation of alternative and expanded visitor capacity[71] It is important that the study be used to inform any emerging strategy for Destination Spaces from the outset, and as such must be shared between relevant Council departments. Cross-reference: GBI Strategy	2024	LBH Parks Team London Wildlife Trust Crane Valley Partnership Friends of Groups	Y		Y	Y	££	Y		
49	**Open Water Habitats**	Collaboration - Environment Agency	Continue ongoing collaboration with the Environment Agency to: - Implement the Water Framework Directive actions identified by the Environment Agency - Tackle INNS within Hounslow - Seek expert knowledge on rivers and river catchments within Hounslow - Explore funding opportunities where Hounslow and Environment Agency goals are aligned	2023	LBH Parks Team LLFA				Y	£	Y	Y	Y

71 Examples include creation of a a new nature trail, interpretation features and outdoor classroom / forest school at Hounslow Heath, as identified in the GI Strategy.

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50	**Open Water Habitats**	Blue Infrastructure - Review of additional features	Assess the requirement for additional river features such as fish ladders is required in Hounslow's waterways, as a framework against which detailed design and costings can be developed.	2028	LBH Parks Team Thames21 Environment Agency ThamesWater Crane Valley Partnership			Y		££		Y	Y
51	**Open Water Habitats**	Blue Infrastructure - Tidal River Reaches	Establish a monitoring programme of tidal river reaches through the borough to determine the importance of these habitats for breeding fish.	2028	LBH Parks Team LBH (Water Environment Lead) Thames21 Environment Agency Thames Water Crane Valley Partnership			Y		££		Y	Y
52	**Open Water Habitats**	Department for Education (DfE) - Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Working with the DfE, and using DfE funding where available, to deliver SuDS in 8 schools in the borough over this plan period.	2023-2028	LLFA (Hounslow)			Y	Y	££££		Y	
53	**Open Water Habitats**	Reedbeds - Information Board	Install a reedbed / wetland information board at one additional SINC or priority habitat sites each year to variously explain ecological cycles, relevance to climate change, management practices and local flagship species.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace				Y	£		Y	
54	**Open Water Habitats**	Reedbeds - Management	Install a reedbed / wetland information board at one additional SINC or priority habitat sites each year to variously explain ecological cycles, relevance to climate change, management practices and local flagship species.	Annual	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Y		Y		£££	Y	Y	Y
55	**Open Water Habitats**	Reedbeds - Mapping	Map all reedbeds within the borough (i) owned by the Council and (ii) under external ownership. Survey to prioritise all reedbeds over 0.1ha and linear reedbeds of similar area. Recorded parameters to include condition and appropriate management options.	2023	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace GIGL	Y		Y		£		Y	
56	**Open Water Habitats**	Reinstatement ('re- wildling') of natural watercourse features	Review opportunities for delineated access (such as footpaths and boardwalks) along or in the vicinity of proposed natural channel stretch and wetland creation to allow biodiverse planting to establish and to avoid risk of erosion.	2024	LBH Parks Team (PROW Officer)	Y		Y		£		Y	
57	**Open Water Habitats**	Scrub Recolonisation - Watercourses	Detail opportunities for scrub recolonisation and supporting tree planting through watercourse corridors, prioritising those in parks and other public open spaces.	2023	LBH Parks Team LBH (Flood Management Lead) Lampton Services Greenspace River Valley Partnerships Friends of Groups		Y	Y		££		Y	

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
58	**Open Water Habitats**	SuDS and flood alleviation - Environment Agency Collaboration	Continue to work with the EA to identify and implement areas where SuDS and wetland habitats are appropriate, to relieve pressure on the wider water network. Priority to be given to those in parks and other public open spaces.	2023	LLFA (Hounslow) Environment Agency		Y	Y		£££		Y	
59	**Open Water Habitats**	Smarter Water Catchments	Connect with Thames Water Crane Valley Partnership and the Thames Water Strategic Partnership to support the River Crane action plan, to realise objectives that overlap with this NRAP	2023	Environmental Strategy				Y	£			
60	**Orchards and Allotments**	Creation of a new Community Orchard	Deliver at least one new community orchard during the 5yr NRAP period.	2028	LBH Parks Team			Y	Y	££££		Y	Y
61	**Orchards and Allotments**	Local Plan - Allotments	Ensure the next full Local Plan Review contains policies that provide greater protection for identified allotment sites provided there is sufficient evidence to support this approach.	2028	LBH Parks Team Planning Team	Y				£	£		
62	**Policy and Recognition**	Additional Resource - Ecologist	Hire an internal Ecologist to support in the delivery of the Nature Recover Action Plan, BNG implementation, and habitat surveying. The broad responsibilities of this role will include: - Conducting habitat surveys on key sites within Hounslow - Work with the spatial planning team to define the Council's approach to BNG legislation - Reviewing ecological information provided as part of planning applications	2023	LBH Parks Team				Y	£££	Y		
63	**Policy and Recognition**	Additional Resource - Project Officer	Hire an additional Project Officer to liaise with and support stakeholders in the delivery of the Nature Recover Action Plan. The broad responsibilities of this role will include: - Acting as the main point of contact between Hounslow Council and stakeholders within the wider Nature Recovery forum - Working with the Parks team,Lampton Services Greenspace and Nature Recovery stakeholders to combine outcomes and realise opportunities - Coordinating with community groups to progress projects with minimal council input - Sharing updates on projects with stakeholders/community groups - Coordinating between stakeholders on bidding for funding	2023	LBH Parks Team				Y	£££			
64	**Policy and Recognition**	Biodiversity Net Gain legislation - Officer Training	Deliver an internal workshop for LBH Planning Team to ensure understanding, ownership and deliverability of the guidance, as well as to provide supporting training of biodiversity imperatives and duties more generally. Any concerns of enforcement should be resolved in advance of publication. Training to include assessment of planning applications that require biodiversity net gain (BNG) and Urban Greening Factor (UGF)	2023	LBH Parks Team Planning Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	£ - £ £	Y		
65	**Policy and Recognition**	Create and Publish a Biodiversity Technical Guidance Note for developers	Produce a Biodiversity Technical Guidance Note that sets out the Council's approach to Urban Greening Factor and Biodiversity Net Gain. Including guidance for developing wildlife boxes, wildflower planting, and BNG and UGF more generally.	2026	LBH Parks Team LBH (Planning Lead) GLA	Y		Y		£		Y	
66	**Policy and Recognition**	Legal and Policy Consideration of the NRAP	Accurate reflection of legal and policy requirements (including forthcoming legislation or national policy amendments) to be reflected in future update/s of the NRAP.	Annual	LBH Parks Team Planning Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	£	Y		
67	**Policy and Recognition**	Local Plan Consideration of the NRAP	Appropriate reference to the NRAP to be included within each iteration of the Local Plan and considered within fellow evidence base documents.	Annual	LBH Parks Team Planning Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	£	Y	Y	Y

Strategic Actions

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68	**Policy and Recognition**	Reduction of Harmful Chemical Use Pesticides	Continue programme of reducing use of chemicals (herbicide, fertilizer, etc) in all council-led management. Specific formulas should permitted only where there is non-chemical alternative e.g. in the spot treatment of Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed.	Annual	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace Hounslow Highways			Y		£	Y	Y	Y
69	**Policy and Recognition**	Urban Greening Factor Targets	Review the feasibility of a local UGF requirement for the wider borough, which goes beyond the minimum set in London Plan Policy G5, including requiring UGF for minor developments if evidence supports this approach. This would need to be adopted through a Local Plan policy.	2024	LBH Parks Team (Planning Lead) GLA			Y	Y	££		Y	
70	**Policy and Recognition**	Local Plan Review - Minimising hard-standing in residential developments	Review the available policy mechanisms to the council that will reduce the prevalance of astro-turfing of gardens through the planning system	2027	LBH Planning Team	Y				£	Y		
71	**Urban Greening**	Green Streets - Green Bus Shelter	Establish a green bus shelter programme, seeded at major hubs across the borough. To include retrofit, such as sedum or wildflower mat roofs, where existing shelters are deemed suitable for supporting the structural load. All new shelters to include consideration of green roof option/s at the initial design stage. The green bus shelter programme should complement any wider programme of planted cycle / public transport lane delineation.	2026	LBH Parks Team Traffic and Transport Hounslow Highways			Y	Y	££££		Y	Y
72	**Urban Greening**	Invasive Species Guidance	Collate available information on INNS within the borough, and the current best practice guidance regarding the identification of the most frequently encountered and problematic INNS, including Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed, which is accessible to land managers, new home buyers and the wider general public. Publish with clear reference to the established LISI/GIGL INNS mapping initiatives.	2023	LBH Parks Team			Y	Y	£		Y	Y
73	**Urban Greening**	Transport Strategy Collaboration	Review NRAP actions against any future Transport Strategies for opportunities to consolidate and collaborate on actions related to Nature e.g. Parklets, walking infrastructure	Annual	LBH Parks Team Traffic and Transport Hounslow Highways			Y	Y	£		Y	Y
74	**Urban Greening**	Reduce Areas of Deficiency	Reduce the AoD to Nature across the borough by a minimum of 10% overall, each year, to be achieved through the collective delivery of all targets relating to habitat creation.	Annual	LBH Parks Team		Y	Y	Y	n/a	Y	Y	Y
75	**Urban Greening**	Urban Greening - Schools	Identify key locations where urban greening interventions adjacent to or nearby schools can provide space for wildlife and education about nature. Design and species-selection to focus on alleviation of poor air quality	2023	LBH Parks Team LBH (Education Outreach Lead) GLA			Y	Y	£		Y	
76	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	No Mow Policy	Continue to employ a ‘no-mow’ policy on selected council-operated meadow sites as a minimum. This should be a phased-in approach over a number of seasons to properly assess the outcomes of such policy. Review the impact of ‘No Mow May’, which the council currently undertakes, to understand the ecological and financial implications of extending this policy further.	2028	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Y		Y		££	Y	Y	Y
77	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	No Mow Policy - Communications Strategy	Create a borough-wide information campaign to explain why the council is employing the no-mow policy, with additional signage at key locations.	2028	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace Communications				Y	££	Y		

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
78	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	One Tree for every Child	Ensure one tree is planted for every child born in the borough (approximately 5000 trees per annum, as a minimum). Planting will take place across the boroughs parks and open spaces, nature conservation sites, woodland areas, street scene etc. Please refer to the Tree Management Policy for more information.	Annual	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace		Y	Y	Y	££££	Y	Y	Y
79	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Protect and expand dead and decaying wood habitats across the borough	Include the retention and management of standing and fallen deadwood where appropriate in all SINC and parkland management plans to encourage species diversity. Target to complete 20% of all sites in each year of the NRAP.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Y		Y		£ - £ £	Y	Y	Y
80	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Protect and expand dead and decaying wood habitats across the borough	Woodland – The delivery of riparian and wet woodland planting through the Brent and Crane valleys should be developed in partnership with the Catchment Partnerships to optimise ecosystem service benefits (such as flood alleviation) as well as ensuring the 'right tree, right place' is adhered to. Site selection may be informed by EA WWNP mapping (recognising that this is relatively coarse-scale national mapping and smaller features of local conservation importance would additionally need to be taken into account) e.g. London Playing Fields, Boston Manor Park, Donkey Wood and Brazil Mill Wood.	2023	LBH Parks Team Catchment Partnerships Lampton Services Greenspace	Y		Y	Y	£££		Y	Y
81	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Woodland, Parkland and Trees - Capital Asset Valuation	Determine the extent of Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT)[72] already completed on trees mapped across the borough (as held on the Council database) to inform their overarching management as an urban forest. Ascertain the requirement for, and time frame to achieve, complete coverage survey of the borough tree stock in accordance with emerging London-wide best practice.	2023	LBH Parks Team	Y		Y		£		Y	
82	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Woodland, Parkland and Trees - Forestry Commission	Identify all woodlands not currently subject to a Forestry Commission (FC) approved management plan (or in progress), as recorded in the Council database.	2023	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Y				£	Y		
83	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Woodland, Parkland and Trees - Mapping	Further to the mapping of priority habitats, map all woodlands, parkland and trees within the borough (i) owned by the Council and (ii) under external ownership. Survey of veteran trees should make optimal use of the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory.	2023	LBH Parks Team Woodland Trust GIGL Lampton Services Greenspace	Y				£	Y		
84	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Woodland, Parkland and Trees - Riparian Trees	Maintain flood levels on all riverine wet woodland sites by maintenance of floodplain throughout the River Crane Catchment. This requires shared, common monitoring between Flood Management and Environmental Strategy teams using the Council database.	2023	LBH Parks Team LBH (Flood Management Lead) Environment Agency Neighbouring LPA within catchment	Y		Y	Y	£ - £ £	Y	Y	Y
85	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Woodland, Parkland and Trees - Veteran Tree Management	Include the identification and appropriate management of veteran trees in all SINC and parkland management plans, and across the wider estate.	2023-2028	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Y		Y		££	Y	Y	Y

72 https://ltoa.org.uk/resources/cavat

No.	Category	Strategic Action	Action Description	Timeframe	Delivery body (role)	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Funding	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term / on-going
86	**Woodland, Parkland, Trees and Scrub**	Woodland, Parkland and Trees - Wet Woodland	Review management practices on all existing wet woodland sites in line with best practice by: 1. For willow wet woodland – review management and assess suitability of rotational coppice management; 2. For ancient alder dominated wet woodland sites – institute appropriate coppice management into all SINC and parkland management plans.	2023	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace Landowners	Y		Y		£		Y	Y

Delivery Plan

This chapter sets out the Delivery Plan for the NRAP. This includes all the projects the council has planned (Planned), as well as those that the council aspires to complete over the next five years (Aspirational). Projects are given a title and description. A lead team has been identified within the council for each project, as well as the location. As with the Strategic Actions, each project is flagged against the network aims to ‘protect’, ‘connect’, ‘create and enhance’, and ‘engage and promote’ (as introduced in Chapter 1). Start and end dates are given, and the estimated finances. If funding has been allocated, this information is also shared.

The Delivery Plan is designed to be an evolving document, with progress on actions updated annually.

Chapter 5

Delivery Plan

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
1	Strategic Connections	A4 Green Corridor	Initial concept study into an integrated scheme along the A4 that includes active travel infrastructure, green infrastructure and SUDs. The aim is to increase active travel and deliver modal shift away from cars. This will result in possible air quality improvements depending on results of baseline assessment. A strategy is being developed based on 4 character areas and 8 pilot locations.	Planned	Transport Team	Hounslow Air Quality Focus Areas	Cross-Borough		Y			2023	2024	£50,000	Y	£50,000 for initial feasibility studies/ concept designs
2	Parks & Gardens	All Saints Churchyard Habitat Enhancement	A Concept Design created for Habitat and Public Realm Enhancement at All Saints Churchyard including: - Managing area for wildlife - Creating access pathways - Habitat enhancement and creation.	Planned	LBH Parks Team	All Saints Churchyard	Isleworth	Y		Y		2022	2025	£200,000	Y	40k funded
3	Management Plan	All Saints Churchyard Management Plan	Deliver the All Saints Churchyard Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	All Saints Churchyard	Isleworth	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
5	Woodland Creation	Avenue Park - Native broadleaf woodland planting	Review of opportunities for woodland planting or to encourage scrub natural colonisation at Avenue Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Avenue Park	Cranford			Y		2024	2024	N/A as final option not decided	N	
6	Habitat Creation	Avenue Park - Habitat Creation and Access Improvements	Creation of a new 1500 metre compacted gravel dual pedestrian/cycling perimeter path around the open space, including: - creation of wildflower meadow areas - wetland areas (Swales) - tree planting adjacent to the new path	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Avenue Park	Cranford		Y	Y		2024	2024	£185,000	N	
7	Management Plan	Beaversfield Park Management Plan	Deliver the Beaversfield Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Beaversfield Park	Cranford	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
8	Parks & Gardens	Beaversfield Park Masterplan	Delivery of the Beaversfield Park Masterplan. Current proposals include: - Tree planting - Urban greening - Habitat creation and improvement - Low ornamental planting - Community orchard	Planned	LBH Parks Team	Beaversfield Park	Cranford	Y	Y	Y	Y	2023	2026	£2,000,000	Y	Funding secured through CIL & S106

Delivery Plan

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
9	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Beaversfield Park - Thames Water Strategic Partnership Flood Alleviation	Thames Water Strategic Partnership funded project to create an attenuation basin in the north-east of Beaversfield Park to disconnect surface water runoff from the sewers. In addition to flood alleviation, this will have the co-benefit of habitat creation.	Planned	LLFA (Hounslow)	Beaversfield Park	Cranford		Y			2024	2028	£475,000	Y	Yes. Through TWSP
10	Management Plan	Bedfont Lakes Management Plan	Deliver the Bedfont Lakes Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Bedfont Lakes	Bedfont	Y		Y		2020	2025	£7,500,000	P	
11	Parks & Gardens	Bedfont Lakes Masterplan	Bedfont Lakes Masterplan including but not limited to: - Undertaking Habitat surveys - Enhancing wildlife and promoting the observation of wildlife through public realm improvements - Restoration and improvement of public realm, access paths and key infrastructure in and around the park. - Creation of a New Habitat Management plan - Conducting a new grazing programme at Bedfont Lakes, including fencing repair around grazing fields. - Detailed survey work on green/blue infrastructure - Installation of bat surveying equipment in collaboration with Wildlife Trust - Monitoring of invertabrate species within wet woodland habitats - Refurbishment of education area including the creation of a new indoor classroom in collaboration with Friends of Bedfont Lakes - Management of reedbeds management on a 5 year rotation. - Review of opportunities for woodland planting or to encourage scrub natural colonisation	Planned	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace Wildlife Trust FoBF	Bedfont Lakes	Bedfont	Y	Y	Y		2023	2026	£7,500,000	P	
12	Blue Infrastructure	Bollo Brook, Dukes Meadows - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Dukes Meadows	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Dukes Meadows	Chiswick		Y	Y		2024	2024	£100,000	N	
13	Blue Infrastructure	Bollo Brook, Turnham Green - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Turnham Green	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Turnham Green	Chiswick		Y	Y		2024	2024	£100,000	N	

Delivery Plan

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
14	Parks & Gardens	Boston Manor Park Improvements	Improvements at Boston Manor Park including but not limited to: - Public Realm Improvements including construction of a boardwalk along the Brent River, lake viewing platform, access improvements, planting for wet species. - Delivery of Boston Manor Park Activity Plan - includes funding Natural Park Manager and Learning and Volunteer Coordinator posts for 3 years each and 2 year apprentice post; habitat creation and improvements across the siteto improve biodiversity, hibernacula, dead hedge building; environmental education for all ages and backgrounds - producing resources, activities, small and large events and training/ CPD for public, volunteers and staff; community gardening and food growing. - Exploring options to create a fish pass between watercourses - Investigate opportunities for Clitheroe Island to transform into a Nature Reserve - Identifying watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created	Planned	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace	Boston Manor Park	Brentford		Y	Y		2021	2026	£419,861	Y	
15	Management Plan	Boston Manor Park Management Plan	Deliver the Boston Manor Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Boston Manor Park	Brentford	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
16	Habitat Creation	Brabazon Open Space - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Brabazon open space	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Brabazon open space	Cranford			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
17	Blue Infrastructure	Brazil Mill Woods - Public Realm Improvements -	Public Realm and Habitat Improvements at Brazil Mill Woods including: - Creation of additional bat glades at Brazil mill - Restoration of 2.5km of existing path - Tree planting	Planned	LBH Parks Team	Brazil Mill	Feltham		Y	Y		2024	2026	£350,000	N	
18	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Brentford & Isleworth - Environment Agency Flood Alleviation	EA funded project to relieve pressure on natural water systems, manmade systems, and reduce the risk of flooding to properties and road networks through the use of SuDS in Brentford & Isleworth. Interventions could include large-scale storage features such as ponds, detention basins, bunds or raingardens, which have the co-benefit of habitat creation.	Planned	LLFA (Hounslow)	TBC	Isleworth			Y		2024	2028	N/A as final option not decided	N	In the running for EA funding

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
19	Management Plan	Bridge House Pond Management	Ongoing works with Friends Of group and the wider community to manage the Bridge House Pond site, possibly by introducing a Green Gym. This follows the recently completed habitat enhancement exercise and improved access to pond at Bridge House Pond.	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace Friends of Bridge House Pond	Bridge House Pond	Feltham				Y	2023	2025	£20,000	P	
20	Management Plan	Bridge House Pond Management Plan	Deliver the Bridge House Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Bridge House Pond	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
21	Blue Infrastructure	Carville Hall South - Restoring Ponds	Restoring the function and ecological value of ponds at Carville Hall South pond	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Carville Hall South pond	Gunnersbury			Y		2024	2025	£50,000	N	
22	Habitat Creation	Carville Hall South - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Carville Hall South	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Carville Hall South	Gunnersbury			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
23	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Chiswick - Environment Agency Flood Alleviation	EA funded project to relieve pressure on natural water systems, manmade systems, and reduce the risk of flooding to properties and road networks through the use of SuDS in Chiswick. Interventions could include large-scale storage features such as ponds, detention basins, bunds or raingardens, which have the co-benefit of habitat creation.	Planned	LLFA (Hounslow)	TBC	Chiswick			Y		2024	2028	N/A as final option not decided	N	In the running for EA funding
24	Management Plan	Chiswick Back Common Management Plan	Deliver the Chiswick Back Common Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Chiswick Back Common	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
25	Blue Infrastructure	Chiswick Eyot	Engage with the Chiswick Eyot Old Protection Society on the protection of the Eyot soft riverbank.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Chiswick Eyot	Chiswick	Y				2023	2028	N/A	N/A	
26	Strategic Connections	Chiswick Flyover - Greening Opportunities	Review options for greening the M4 Chiswick Flyover as part of the wider multi-modal travel aspirations. Interventions to increase permeability of the urban fabric for wildlife include through freestanding vertical green pillars and hanging shade-tolerant species such as ivy. This will provide a framework for detailed design and costing.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team Transport	Chiswick Flyover	Chiswick		Y	Y		2022	2025	£50,000	N	£50,000 for initial feasibility studies/ concept designs
27	Partnership Work	Chiswick House and Gardens - Opportunities for Collaboration	Engage with Chiswick House and Gardens to understand the opportunities for collaboration. This could include wetland habitats/SuDS creation in particular.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Chiswick House	Chiswick				Y	2024	2024	N/A	N/A	

Delivery Plan

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
28	Management Plan	Chiswick Old Cemetery Management Plan	Deliver the Chiswick Old Cemetery Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Chiswick Old Cemetery	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
29	Management Plan	Church Road Allotments Management Plan	Deliver the Church Road Allotments Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Church Road Allotments	Hanworth	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
30	Strategic Connections	Clarke Way Wildlife Corridor	Wildlife corridor using Thames Water land between Clarke Way and Heston School	Planned	LBH Parks Team	Clarke Way	Heston		Y			2023	2026	N/A	Y	Through GBI Delivery Plan
31	Blue Infrastructure	Crane Park - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Crane Park.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Crane Park	Feltham		Y	Y		2024	2027	£100,000	N	
32	Habitat Creation	Crane Park Habitat Management Plan	Develop a new Habitat Management Plan for Crane Park, in partnership with London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace LBRUT	Crane Park	Hanworth	Y		Y		2023	2025	£250,000	N	
33	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Cranebank Meadows - Floodplain improvements	Conserve and enhancing the functioning floodplain near Cranebank Meadows with the intention to improve hydrological connectivity along the Duke of Northumberlands River and the River Crane. Exact details of floodplain restoration still TBC.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Cranebank Meadows	Cranford		Y	Y		2024	2027	£300,000	N	
34	Blue Infrastructure	Cranebank Nature Reserve - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Church Road Allotments.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Cranebank Nature Reserve	Hanworth		Y	Y		2024	2027	£100,000	N	
35	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Cranford -Environment Agency Flood Alleviation	EA funded project to relieve pressure on natural water systems, manmade systems, and reduce the risk of flooding to properties and road networks through the use of SuDS in Cranford. Interventions could include large-scale storage features such as ponds, detention basins, bunds or raingardens, which have the co-benefit of habitat creation.	Planned	LLFA (Hounslow)	TBC	Cranford			Y		2024	2028	N/A as final option not decided	N	In the running for EA funding

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
36	Strategic Connections	Creation of green links	Follow through on the recommendations of the Colne and Crane Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy, which includes: Creation of green links and an improved walking and cycling route along the Crane, which could be deliniated by creating banks of dense scrub and/ or speciesrich hedgerow with trees running north -south in parallel with the Crane River.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Transport, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups (CVP)	Crane corridor and eastern bank near Hounslow Heath	Hounslow		Y			2024	2027	N/A as final option not decided	N	
37	Habitat Creation	Creation of mosaic of meadow and scrub habitat at Hounslow Urban Farm	Habitat enhancement at the boundary of Hounslow's Urban Farm boundary which could include: - Enhancing the existing hedgerows and ditches to provide greater dispersal corridors for birds, bats, invertebrates, small mammals and amphibians. - Establishing meadow and scrub habitat	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Hounslow Urban Farm	Feltham			Y		2024	2027	£200,000	N	
38	Blue Infrastructure	Donkey Woods and Brazil Mill Wood - SINC enhancement	Conserve and enhance Donkey Wood and Brazil Mill Wood within the Crane Corridor SINC including enhanced wet woodland and riverside habitats. This could include: - Alternative habitat enhancements of wet woodland and riparian margins Access improvements between the River Crane, Donkey Woods and Brazil Mill.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Donkey Woods and Brazil Mill Wood	Cranford	Y		Y		2024	2027	£300,000	N	
39	Species Protection	Donkey Woods Restoration	Species Protection and Public Realm Improvements at Donkey Woods including: - Conducting surveys at the 17 ponds Donkey Woods. - Creationg of additional bat glades - Monitoring program of Glow Worms to establish a baseline, leading to habitat improvement - Restoration of 300m Boardwalk	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Donkey Woods	Hatton	Y		Y		2023	2028	£475,000	N	
40	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Duke of Northumberland's River, Silverhall Park - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Silverhall Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Silverhall Park	Isleworth		Y	Y		2024	2024	£100,000	N	

Delivery Plan

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41	Blue Infrastructure	Duke of Northumberland's River - River corridor enhancement	Opportunity to enhance the river corridor in the SINC boundary which extends north from the main river bank onto the adjacent floodplain where there may be opportunity for additional wetland creation. There may also be opportunity for further enhancement of the riparian corridor which flows south of Heathrow Airport in order to expand the extent of habitat of the same condition as the adjoining SINC.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Duke of N'land's River	Bedfont		Y			2024	2027	£200,000	N	
42	Parks & Gardens	Dukes Meadows Improvements	Improvements to Dukes Meadows including: - Creation of a new park on the eastern landing of new footbridge - Promenade approach relandscaping - Restoration and relandscaping of area around bandstand	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Dukes Meadows	Chiswick				Y	2022	2023	£350,000	N	
43	Management Plan	Dukes Meadows Management Plan	Deliver the Dukes Meadows Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Greenspace	Dukes Meadows	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
44	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Feltham - Environment Agency Flood Alleviation	EA funded project to relieve pressure on natural water systems, manmade systems, and reduce the risk of flooding to properties and road networks through the use of SuDS in Feltham. Interventions could include large-scale storage features such as ponds, detention basins, bunds or raingardens, which has the co-benefit of habitat creation.	Planned	LLFA (Hounslow)	TBC	Feltham			Y		2024	2028	N/A as final option not decided	N	In the running for EA funding
45	Blue Infrastructure	Feltham Green - Restoring Ponds	Restoring the function and ecological value of ponds at Feltham Green pond	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Feltham Green Pond	Feltham			Y		2024	2025	£50,000	N	

Delivery Plan

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
46	Habitat Creation	Blenheim Park adjacent to Longford Rivers	Review further opportunities for Blenheim Park outside of the Feltham Arenas Masterplan. Blenheim Park lies immediately adjacent to the Longford Rivers SINC, with an open grassland habitat of 4.8ha surrounded by a line of trees which form the perimeter. Investigate opportunities to: - Enhance species richness and wildlife friendly planting for pollinators. - Enhancement to the woodland boundary and for providing wetland habitats along the river bank or extending the riparian margin. - Review whether the site could be designated a SINC.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Blenheim Park adjacent to Longford Rivers	Hanworth			Y		2024	2027	£500,000	N	
47	Management Plan	Feltham Green Management Plan	Deliver the Feltham Green Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Greenspace	Feltham Green	Feltham	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
48	Parks & Gardens	Feltham Green Masterplan	Delivery of the agreed Feltham Green masterplan including: - trees, pond and habitat enhancements - redesign of entrances and war memorial area - family area, new surfaces, - Community eco hut - Freddie Mercury Memorial Garden (not confirmed)	Planned	LBH Parks Team	Feltham Green	Feltham			Y	Y	2023	2023	£210,000	Y	
49	Strategic Connections	Feltham Mashalling Yards	Engaging with Network Rail to investigate opportunities at Feltham Marshalling Yards, which could include: - Baseline surveys - Access improvements - Adjacent nature reserve creation next to path for public - Renaturalisation of watercourse, riparian margins and/or SuDS created - Reedbed creation - Habitat management to enhance acidic grassland species - Hedgrow planting Project is being developed by Network Rail, currently awaiting masterplan.	Planned	LBH Parks Team LBH (Site Managers) Greenspace Transport Network Rail	Feltham Marshalling Yards	Feltham		Y	Y	Y	2023	2026	N/A	N/A	
50	Blue Infrastructure	Feltham Park - Restoring Ponds	Restoring the function and ecological value of ponds at Feltham Park pond	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Feltham Park pond	Feltham			Y		2024	2025	£50,000	N	

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
51	Parks & Gardens	Feltham Parks Masterplan														
52	Species Protection	Flagship species monitoring and conservation - Common spotted orchid & pepper saxifrage														
53	Species Protection	Flagship species monitoring and conservation - Invertebrate														
54	Species Protection	Flagship species monitoring and conservation - Meadow pipit & skylark														
55	Species Protection	Flagship species monitoring and conservation - Nathusius' pipistrelle														
56	Species Protection	Flagship species monitoring and conservation - Stonechat														
57	Blue Infrastructure	Glebelands Playing Fields - Re-naturalisation of watercourses														
58	Partnership Work	Green Lane Wetlands														
59	Partnership Work	Green Skills Bootcamp - Youth Land Management Pilot														

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60	Strategic Connections	Gunnersbury Park – Southern Access Improvements	Improvements to southern access to Gunnersbury Park including: - Opening up the site, both access-wise and visually - Exploration of flood alleviation opportunities - Promotion of active travel connecting communities to cultural assets including museums, leisure centres and sporting grounds.	Planned	Transport Team	Gunnersbury Park	Gunnersbury			Y	Y	2023	2025	£650,000	N	
61	Parks & Gardens	Gunnersbury Triangle Improvements	Creation of a Visitor Centre at Gunnersbury Triangle	Planned	LBH Parks Team London Wildlife Trust	Gunnersbury Triangle	Gunnersbury				Y	2024	2024	£110,000	Y	
62	Habitat Creation	Hanworth Park - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Hanworth park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Hanworth park	Hanworth			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
63	Parks & Gardens	Hanworth Park Masterplan	Hanworth Park Masterplan, including the restoration of Hanworth Air Park achieve through the implementation of improvements to the public realm by restoring the SINC site, access paths, signage, gates etc. Hounslow have recently consulted on a Community Woodland within Hanworth Park, with a view to publish concept design plans in Spring/ Summer 2023. Current Proposals include: - provision of pedestrian and cycle routes throughout the woodland - Creation of quieter wildlife areas in the north area -Creation of a pond, connected with swales, to manage run-off while creating a new habitat -new native wildflower, shrub and tree planting - Restoration of traditional orchard priority habitat The long term aspiration for Hanworth Park is to become a country park with blue infrastructure provision.	Planned	LBH Parks Team Royal Parks	Hanworth Park	Hanworth			Y	Y	2021	2026	£3,000,000	P	
64	Partnership Work	Heathrow Airport - Balancing Ponds	Engage with Heathrow Airport to determine the options for sensitive management of the Heathrow Balancing Ponds; in particular, the creation of additional reedbed habitat to help manage water quality of run-off before passing into the River Crane.	Planned	LBH Parks Team	Heathrow Balancing Ponds	Cranford			Y	Y	2022	2027	N/A	N/A	

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
65	Species Protection	Hedgehog Monitoring	Hedgehog monitoring programme at Silverhall Park between April 2023 and October 2023, which includes ink tunnels, camera trails, footprint monitoring and community engagement.	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Silverhall Park	Isleworth	Y				2023	2023	£5,000	N	
66	Management Plan	Heston Park Management Plan	Deliver the Heston Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Heston Park	Heston	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
67	Habitat Creation	Homefields South - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Homefields South	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Homefields South	Chiswick			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
68	Management Plan	Hounslow Heath Management Plan	Deliver the Hounslow Heath Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Hounslow Heath	Hounslow	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
69	Habitat Creation	Hounslow Heath Masterplan	Hounslow Heath Masterplan including but not limited to: - Ecological surveys including fungus, bat, and 6 month reptile transit surveys - Expansion of priority habitats, eradication of invasive species and monitoring of important species including Adders - Public realm improvements which include the restoration of the public realm, access paths, signage, gates, facilities and key infrastructure etc. - Reduce scrub content on acid grassland/ heathland areas of Hounslow Heath to levels prescribed under Higher Level Stewardship. - Restore neutral meadow - Reduce goreosme broom by 30% this year. - Increase the prevalence of heather on site. - Conducting a new grazing programme at Hounslow Heath, including fencing repair around grazing fields. The long term aspiration is to elevate this site to one of regional or national significance.	Planned	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Hounslow Heath	Hounslow	Y	Y	Y		2021	2028	£5,500,000	P	
70	Blue Infrastructure	Huckerby's Meadows Nature Reserve - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Huckerby's Meadows	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Huckerby's Meadows Nature Reserve	Feltham		Y	Y		2024	2027	£100,000	N	

Delivery Plan

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71	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Introducing SuDS to Hounslow West	Reviewing options to introduce a large-scale SuDS feature, such as a swale or basin around the Hounslow West Area to disconnect surface water runoff from the sewers, in line with the TWSP.	Planned	LLFA (Hounslow)	Wellington Road	Hounslow			Y		2024	2028	£250,000	Y	Yes. Under Thames Water Strategic Partnership
72	Species Protection	Invasive and Non-Native Species - Blue Infrastructure	Active management of invasive and non-native species along all waterfronts	Planned	LBH Parks Team	-	Cross-Borough	Y				2023	2028	N/A	Y	Through GBI Delivery Plan
73	Habitat Creation	Inwood Park - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Inwood park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Inwood park	Isleworth			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
74	Management Plan	Inwood Park Management Plan	Deliver the Inwood Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Inwood Park	Isleworth	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
75	Parks & Gardens	Jersey Gardens Green Gym	Continue the Green Gym at Jersey Gardens. - Currently funded for 1 year, with the aspiration to continue past this year.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Jersey Gardens	Osterley & Spring Grove				Y	2023	2028	£10,000	N	
76	Management Plan	Jersey Gardens Management Plan	Deliver the Jersey Gardens Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Jersey Gardens	Osterley & Spring Grove	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
77	Habitat Creation	Lampton Park - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Lampton park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Lampton park	Hounslow			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
78	Management Plan	Lampton Park Management Plan	Deliver the Lampton Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Lampton Park	Hounslow	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
79	Woodland Creation	Land to the west of Osterley Park - Native broadleaf woodland planting	Review of opportunities for woodland planting or to encourage scrub natural colonisation west of Osterley Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Land to the west of Osterley Park	Osterley & Spring Grove			Y		2024	2024	N/A as final option not decided	N	
80	Woodland Creation	Leitrim Park - Native broadleaf woodland planting	Review of opportunities for woodland planting or to encourage scrub natural colonisation at Leitrim Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Leitrim Park	Feltham			Y		2024	2024	N/A as final option not decided	N	

No.	Type	Project Title	Project Description	Status	Delivery body (role)	Location	Area	Protect	Connect	Create & Enhance	Engage & Promote	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Financial Requirement	Funding secured? Y - Yes N - No P - Partially	Funding information
81	Strategic Connections	Leitrim Park/ Pevensey Road	Review opportunities to enhance the connection between Leitrim Park and Pevensey Road/ Hanworth Park. The area has a clearly defined wooded or hedged boundary along most of its edges, and forms a strategc conection between the Crane and Hanworth Park. - There may be opportunity for enhancing the species richness in order to create distinctive acidic grassland through changes in habitat management. - Improve signage at the south of Leitrim Park / north of Hanworth Park to create a more cohesive access network.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team Transport, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Leitrim Park/ Pevensey Road	Hanworth			Y		2024	2027	£40,000	N	
82	Blue Infrastructure	Longford River and Hanworth Park	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created, thereby informing strategic planning and analysis of discrete design features along the Longford River and the Hanworth Park.The creation of reedbeds, extention of riparian margins through setting back the river bank and through naturalising the channel, removing culverts and creating ponds and SuDS	Aspirational	LLFA, LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Longford River and Hanworth Park	Hanworth		Y	Y		2024	2027	N/A as final option not decided	N	
83	Partnership Work	Longford River Corridor - Deculverting	Working alongside Royal Parks to realise opportunities along the Longford River Corridor, including investigation into deculverting the Longford River at Hanworth Park	Planned	LBH Parks Team Royal Parks	Longford River Corridor	Hanworth				Y	2021	2025	£400,000	P	
84	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Longford River, Blenheim Park - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Blenheim Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Longford River, Blenheim Park	Hanworth		Y	Y		2024	2024	£100,000	N	
85	Flood Alleviation / SuDS	Lower Feltham Brook, Poplar Way - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Poplar Way	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Lower Feltham Brook, Poplar Way	Feltham		Y	Y		2024	2024	£100,000	N	
86	Habitat Creation	Ludlow Open Space - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Ludlow open space	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Ludlow open space	Feltham			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	

Delivery Plan

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87	Strategic Connections	Ludlow Road Open Space improvements	Improvements to Ludlow Park including: - Installation of a new perimeter path around the green space and through the woodland. - Creation of swales and boardwalk section in the wetter area of the park. - New paths to be tree lined. - Benches to be installed. - Collaboration with Friends Of Group	Planned	LBH Parks Team Friends of Ludlow Road Open Space	Ludlow open space	Feltham		Y		Y	2022	2023	£127,000	Y	
88	Partnership Work	Modgen Sewage Works - Opportunities for Collaboration	Engage with Mogden Sewage Works to understand the opportunities for collaboration. This could include wetland habitats or tree planting in particular.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Mogden Water Treatment Works	Isleworth				Y	2024	2024	N/A	N/A	
89	Woodland Creation	Mogden Water Treatment Works - Native broadleaf woodland planting	Review of opportunities for woodland planting or to encourage scrub natural colonisation at Mogden Water Treatment Works	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Mogden Water Treatment Works	Isleworth			Y		2024	2024	N/A as final option not decided	N	
90	Blue Infrastructure	Northcote Nature Reserve	Blue Infrastructure and habitat works at Northcote Nature Reserve including: - Tidal inlet into the park - Kingfisher and bee habitats - River terrace (supported by ZSL) - Wildflower planting - Picnic area	Planned	LBH Parks Team ZSL	Northcote Nature Reserve	Isleworth	Y	Y		Y	2022	2023	£170,000	P	
91	Partnership Work	Osterley Park Engagement	Engage with the National Trust, tenant farmers and landowners to understand the opportunities for collaboration at Osterley Park.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team Lampton Services Greenspace National Trust Landowners and tenant farmers	Osterley Park	Osterley & Spring Grove				Y	2022	2027	N/A	N/A	
92	Parks & Gardens	Pevensey Nature Reserve & Litle Park - access improvements	Cross borough partner working with Richmond Upon Thames (LBRUT) along Pevensey Nature Reserve & Little Park including: - Felling wet woodland trees to create natural deflectors - Establish a footpath to Calvery Tunnel, connecting Pevensey Road Nature Reserve to Brazil Mill Woods	Planned	LBH Parks Team Transport LBRUT Network Rail	Pevensey Road	Feltham		Y		Y	2023	2028	£50,000	N	
93	Management Plan	Pevensey Road LNR Management Plan	Deliver the Pevensey Road Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Pevensey Road LNR	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	

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94	Habitat Creation	Pevensey Road Open Space - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Pevensey road open space	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Pevensey road open space	Hanworth			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
95	Blue Infrastructure	Portlane Brook at Felthambrook Way - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Felthambrook Way	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Portlane Brook at Felthambrook Way	Feltham		Y	Y		2024	2027	£100,000	N	
96	Habitat Creation	Primrose Park - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Primrose Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Primrose Park	Isleworth			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
97	Partnership Work	Rectory Farm	Engage with landowners at Rectory Farm to understand long-term aspirations of the site, and what opportunities exist for the site in regards to nature. This could include: - Preliminary designation as a SINC - Habitat creation, including a mosaic of Priority Habitats including lowland meadow, broadleaved woodland, dense scrub, speciesrich hedgerows and wetland features including ponds and ditches. - Meadow and woodland planting	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Rectory Farm	Cranford				Y	2024	2027	N/A	N/A	
98	Parks & Gardens	Redlees Park Improvement	Redlees Park improvements to access, paths and the wider public realm at Redlees Park. Further greening to be investigated.	Planned	LBH Parks Team	Redlees Park	Isleworth		Y			2023	2024	£500,000	N	
99	Management Plan	Redlees Park Management Plan	Deliver the Redlees Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Redlees Park	Isleworth	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
100	Woodland Creation	Runnymede's Runway to Net Zero	Exploring net zero options in and around Heathrow, including local nature-based offsetting. Led by Runnymede with support from Hounslow.	Planned	Runnymede Council	Heathrow Airport	Bedfont			Y		2023	2023	£100,000	Y	
101	Woodland Creation	Snakey Lane - Native broadleaf woodland planting	Review of opportunities for woodland planting or to encourage scrub natural colonisation at Snakey Lane	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Green Belt south of Snakey Lane;	Hanworth			Y		2024	2024	N/A as final option not decided	N	
102	Blue Infrastructure	South of Brentford Railway Bridge - Re-naturalisation of watercourses	Identify watercourse stretches where culverts and artificial channels could be removed and wetland habitats and/or SuDS created at Brentford Railway Bridge	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Brentford Railyway Bridge	Brentford		Y	Y		2024	2027	£100,000	N	
103	Woodland Creation	St Dunstan's Meadow -native broadleaf woodland planting	Review of opportunities for woodland planting or to encourage scrub natural colonisation at St Dunstan's Meadow	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	St Dunstan’s Meadow;	Bedfont			Y		2024	2024	N/A as final option not decided	N	

Delivery Plan

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104	Management Plan	St Dunstan's Park Management Plan	Deliver the St Dunstan's Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	St Dunstan's Park	Feltham	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
105	Management Plan	St John's Gardens Management Plan	Deliver the St John's Garden Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	St John's Gardens	Isleworth	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
106	Management Plan	St Pauls Recreation Ground Management Plan	Deliver the St Paul's Recreation Ground Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	St Pauls Recreation Ground	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
107	Management Plan	Staveley Road Allotments Management Plan	Deliver the Staveley Road Allotments Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Staveley Road Allotments	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
108	Blue Infrastructure	Staverley Allotments - Restoring Ponds	Restoring the function and ecological value of ponds at Staveley Allotments pond	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Staverley Allotments pond	Chiswick			Y		2024	2025	£50,000	N	
109	Habitat Creation	Strand on the Green - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Strand on the Green Recreation Ground	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Strand on the Green	Chiswick			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
110	Parks & Gardens	Sutton Playing Fields Community Garden	Creation of a community garden (Heston Community Garden) & installation of a water meter.	Planned	LBH Parks Team	Sutton Playing Fields	Heston			Y	Y	2022	2023	£50,000	Y	
111	Partnership Work	Syon Park - Opportunities for Collaboration	Engage with Gunnersbury Park CIC to understand the opportunities for collaboration at the park.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Gunnersbury Park	Gunnersbury				Y	2024	2024	N/A	N/A	
112	Partnership Work	Syon Park - Opportunities for Collaboration	Engage with Syon Park to understand the opportunities for collaboration at Syon Park. This could include grazing programmes in particular.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Syon Park	Isleworth				Y	2024	2024	N/A	N/A	
113	Parks & Gardens	Thornbury Park Green Gym	Continue the Green Gym at Thornbury Park. Currently funded for 1 year, aspiration to continue past this year.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Thornbury Park	Isleworth				Y	2023	2028	£10,000	N	
114	Management Plan	Thornbury Park Management Plan	Deliver the Thornbury Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Thornbury Park	Isleworth	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
115	Management Plan	Turnham Green Management Plan	Deliver the Turnham Green Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Turnham Green	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	

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116	Species Protection	Water Voles - Crane Valley	Identifying a site along the River Crane for release of Water Voles, with monitoring conducted post-release by ZSL. Hounslow council will undertake monitoring past the first year. This project is funded by LBRUT, Wildlife Trust & Crane Valley Partnership.	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace LBRUT Wildlife Trust Crane Valley Partnership ZSL	Crane Park	Hanworth	Y				2023	2023	£10,000	N	
117	Habitat Creation	Watermans Park - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at St Pauls Recreation Ground	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	St Pauls Recreation Ground	Brentford			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
118	Habitat Creation	Watermans Park - Wildflower Areas	Creation of wildflower areas at Watermans Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Watermans Park	Brentford			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
119	Management Plan	Watermans Park Management Plan	Deliver the Watermans Park Management Plan to 2025	Planned	Lampton Services Greenspace	Watermans Park	Chiswick	Y		Y		2020	2025	N/A	N/A	
120	Strategic Connections	Waye Avenue Masterplan	Delivery of the Waye Avenue Open Space Masterplan. Preliminary designs have been produced which include but are not limited to: - Improved access to nature by connecting green and blue instrastructure, including a new path connecting the site to the A road. - Habitat improvement - Water Vole introduction to the area	Planned	LBH Parks Team Transport ZSL	Waye Avenue Open Space	Cranford	Y		Y		2023	2026	£700,000	Y	
121	Habitat Creation	Wildflower Areas - Chester Road	Creation of wildflower areas at Chester road	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Chester road	Bedfont			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
122	Habitat Creation	Wildflower Areas - Raleigh park	Creation of wildflower areas at Raleigh Park	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team	Raleigh park	Bedfont			Y		2024	2025	£15,000	N	
123	Strategic Connections	Woodland creation in Crane Corridor	Retain strong tree-lined boundary to retain separation for the woodland Crane's river corridor from the industrial development adjacent.The project area is largely intersected by Crane Corridor SINC. However, outside of the SINC boundary to the north of the Causway Road along the perimeter of the industrial area there is an area of semi-natural habitat of approximately 0.8ha with opportunity for additional landscaping to provide an improved habitat buffer between the industrial area and the Crane Corridor. This should include tree planting and species-rich hedgerow creation, in addition to wildlife friendly and pollinator friendly planting.	Aspirational	LBH Parks Team, Land owners, Developers, Community Groups	Crane Corridor (between Causeway and Great South West Road)	Hatton		Y	Y		2024	2027	£200,000	N	

Glossary

Glossary

Term	Description
Adaptive management	Modification of activities in light of experience form rigorous monitoring" (CIEEM, 2018[74]).
Agri-environment schemes	Voluntary agreements that provide annual payments to farmers and land managers to ensure they manage their land in an environmentally sensitive way that goes beyond the minimum required of them by regulation. Under the Agricultural Bill, ELMS (see below) is proposed to provide a resultsbased payment scheme, anticipated to be in place in 2024.
ANGSt (Accessible Natural Green Space Standards)	Published by Natural England in 2010, ANGSt recognises the value of greenspaces, principally in relation to the 'cultural' ecosystem services of health, wellbeing, etc. ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have access to natural greenspace as follows: □ Of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (5min walk) from home; □ At least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of home; □ One accessible 100ha site within 5km of home; □ One accessible 500ha site within 10km of home; plus □ A minimum of 1ha of statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR) per 1,000 population.

74 CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessments in the UK & Northern Ireland, 3rd Ed. CIEEM Winchester, UK

Glossary

Term	Description
Biodiversity	The variability among all living organisms - terrestrial and aquatic - and the ecosystems that they are part of. Biodiversity includes the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	The UK BAP was drawn up to reflect the UKs commitment to the Rio Convention 1992. Habitat and species to be prioritised for conservation were described, with actions and typically delivery partners identified. Local BAPs reflect local priorities. The UKs commitment is now embedded in legislation through the NERC Act 2006. Section 41 (s42 in Wales) lists the habitats and species of Principal Importance. However, local BAPs remain of value in the identification of actions and delivery partners, and to enable monitoring of progress.
Biodiversity metric	A proxy measure or index of biodiversity to allow comparison over time or space. Metrics are used in recognition that it is not possible to finitely inventory the state of all biodiversity present. Metrics forms part of, rather than a replacement of, detailed biodiversity assessment or monitoring. In relation to development, the metric is used as a measure of predicted impact/s on habitats and a measure of the nature and extent of new or restored habitat required to deliver sufficient net gain. The DEFRA biodiversity metric forms the national standard.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Increase in the quality and/or quantity of habitats in comparison to the original condition or baseline i.e. enhancement over and above the level required to mitigate or compensate for detrimental impact, or which is otherwise prescribed or committed to happen (e.g. as part of pre-existing planning consent). Measured using the 'biodiversity metric'.
Biodiversity off-set	Compensation for the unavoidable and immitigable loss, fragmentation or other detrimental effect on an ecological receptor. Off-setting seeks to ensure that no net loss in ecological value is achieved.
Biodiversity unit	A unit as measured by the biodiversity metric which represents a combined measure of habitat distinctiveness, area and condition. The production of a biodiversity unit in the habitat market refers to an increase in the biodiversity value of land by one unit.
Blue infrastructure	Green infrastructure relating to aquatic habitats such as rivers and canals.

Term	Description
Compensation	The protection of biodiversity assets should be achieved through avoidance and mitigation wherever possible. Compensation, the next step in the hierarchy, should only be used in exceptional circumstances and as a last resort, after all options for avoidance and mitigation have been fully considered. Compensatory measures should, therefore, only be used to address any residual impact that cannot be avoided or mitigated.
Conservation covenants	Voluntary but legally binding agreements under the Environment Bill between a landowner and a designated "responsible body" such as a conservation charity, public body or for-profit body to conserve the natural or heritage features of the land.
Ecological network	"*An ecological network can be understood as a number of core, well connected, high quality areas of well-functioning ecosystems, together with those parts of the intervening landscape that are 'wildlife-friendly' and which, collectively, allow wildlife to thrive*" (NERR082, 2020[75]). An ecological network typically includes core biodiversity areas, buffer zones, corridors, stepping stones and opportunity areas. "*Local ecological networks can make a significant contribution to developing the* [national] *Nature Recovery Network. Local ecological networks can be identified and mapped as a part of the plan-making process, with policies identifying appropriate levels of protection and opportunities to create, restore or enhance habitats or improve connectivity*" (MHCLG, 2019[76]). NB: Contrast the term 'nature network' which serves both nature and people as interdependent functions.
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities, and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (CIEEM, 2018).
Ecosystem services	Benefits provided to people by natural capital (ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain). Services broadly comprise: ■ Provisioning services e.g. food, fibre, fuel and clean water; ■ Regulating services e.g. climate control, flood regulation, carbon storage, pest control and pollination;

[75] NE (2020) Natural England Research Report NERR082: Nature Networks: A Summary for Practitioners http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5144804831002624

[76] MHCLG (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment – How do local ecological networks relate to the Nature Recovery Network? www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance

Glossary

Term	Description
	■ Cultural services e.g. recreation, spiritual, educational, intrinsic and aesthetic value. Supporting services (e.g. soil formation, photosynthesis, biodiversity) originally distinguished are now typically seen as functions or processes associated with natural capital 'stocks'. Ecosystem services may be described as 'flow'.
Effect	The effect (e.g. population decline) of a given impact (e.g. habitat loss) on an ecological receptor. Effects may be beneficial or detrimental.
Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS)	Founded on the principle of "public money for public goods", ELMS will be the cornerstone of agricultural policy now the UK has left the EU. The Agriculture Bill will provide the underpinning legislative framework for the ELMS. ELMS will provide farmers, foresters and other land managers with an opportunity to secure financial reward in return for delivering environmental benefits. ELMS is currently undergoing testing but is anticipated to be in place in 2024.
Favourable conservation status (of a species)	When "*Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced in the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its population on a long-term basis*" (Habitats Directive, Article 1(i)).
Fragility	One of the Ratcliffe criteria (Ratcliffe, 1977[77]) used to describe nature conservation value. *"Some habitats and geological features are more sensitive to change and are at greater risk of being lost or damaged due to the direct or indirect impacts of climate change, human activities or other influences"* (MHCLG, 2019[78]).
Geodiversity	The variability of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, geomorphological processes and soils which collectively underpin the habitats and species which develop thereon. Protection of geodiversity and biodiversity typically sit together, for example, protection of SSSI under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 or protection of non-designated assets in the NPPF.
Green infrastructure	*"London's green infrastructure is the network of parks, green spaces, gardens, woodlands, rivers and wetlands (as well as features such as street trees and green roofs) that is planned, designed and managed to:* ■ *promote healthier living* ■ *lessen the impacts of climate change* ■ *improve air quality and water quality* ■ *encourage walking and cycling* ■ *store carbon* ■ *improve biodiversity and ecological resilience"* (London Environment Strategy, 2018[79]) "*Green infrastructure is the ecological framework for environmental, social, and economic health – in short, our natural life support system*" (Benedict & McMahon, 2006[80]). "*A network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities*" (NPPF, 2019[81]). "*A strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. Designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality-of-life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types*" (NE, 2010[82]).

[77] Ratcliffe, D.A. (1977) A Nature Conservation Review. Cambridge University Press
[78] MHCLG (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment – Standard Criteria for LWS https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment
[79] GLA (2018) London Environment Strategy. https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_environment_strategy_0.pdf
[80] Benedict, M.A. & McMahon, E. (2006) Green Infrastructure: Linking landscapes & communities. Island Press, Washington DC.
[81] MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, London, UK https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
[82] NE (2010) Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance

Glossary

Term	Description
	Different types of GI will contrast in the functions they serve, such as the distinction between urban green space and wider GI. Some types will score very poorly or not at all, for select functions and this can be entirely acceptable. It is the range of functions that is important to capture in any analysis. Note that green infrastructure may include artificial features such as green roofs, green bridges, wildlife under/overpasses or fish ladders. Green infrastructure is the tool by which ecosystem services can be planned and delivered through policy.
Habitat potential map	Identifies "*the potential for an area to support specific habitat creation. Shows areas of lost habitat that need to be restored*" (NERR082, 2020).
Impact	The impact (e.g. habitat loss) which causes an effect (e.g. population decline) on an ecological receptor. Impacts may be beneficial or detrimental.
Integrity	In relation to a designated site, 'integrity' refers to the "*…coherence of ecological structure and function…that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or levels of populations of species for which it was classified*" (ODPM Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation[83]). In relation to species or habitats, 'integrity' refers to the maintenance of the conservation status of a habitat or species population at a specific location or geographical scale.
Landscape character area	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse[84]. Identified through a Landscape Character Assessment - the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive.
Local Nature Partnerships (LNP)	LNP bring together local organisations, businesses and people who want to improve their local natural environment. Established in the vision of the Government's 2011 'Natural Environment White Paper', there are 47 LNP across England.

Term	Description
Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)	LNRS are a new system of spatial strategies for nature under the Environment Bill, covering the whole of England. Locally led by an appropriate "responsible authority", these will identify the opportunities and priorities for enhancing biodiversity and supporting wider objectives such as mitigating or adapting to climate change in an area.
Mitigation	Adverse effects that cannot be avoided should be adequately mitigated. Mitigation measures negate the adverse impact of a plan or project, during or after its completion. In respect to development, mitigation should form part of the development proposal, but additional measures can be imposed by the decision-maker. All mitigation measures should be secured through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations[85].
Mitigation hierarchy	The mitigation hierarchy underpins planning policy and decision making. It requires that potential adverse impacts be avoided or, where this is not possible, mitigated and, as a final resort, compensated (off-set).
Natural capital	"*The elements* [assets or 'stocks'] *of nature that directly and indirectly produce value or benefit to people* [i.e. ecosystem services. Natural capital may include] *…ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and fluctuations*" (NCC, 2016[86]).
Naturalness	One of the Ratcliffe criteria (Ratcliffe, 1977) used to describe nature conservation value. "*The degree to which a site supports natural features, including rock exposures revealing underlying geology, or demonstrates active or past natural processes*" (MHCLG, 2019[87]).
Nature network	A nature network may be distinguished from an 'ecological network' as, in addition to the primary role to support thriving wildlife, "*a nature network should also enhance natural beauty and conserve geodiversity and opportunities should be taken to deliver benefits for people, such as flood alleviation, recreational opportunities and climate change adaptation and mitigation. These joint aims… are at the heart of nature networks and they are inter-dependent:*

[83] ODPM (2005) Government Circular: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations & Their Impact within the Planning System. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, London, UK www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-and-geological-conservation-circular-06-2005
[84] Natural England (2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. Defra
[85] BS 42020:2013: Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development
[86] NCC (2016) Natural Capital Protocol. Natural Capital Coalition, London, UK www.naturalcapitalcoalition.og/protocol
[87] MHCLG (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment – Standard Criteria for LWS https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment

Glossary

Term	Description
	networks for wildlife that also deliver benefits to people also tend to be more valued by people" (NERR082, 2020).
Nature Recovery Network (NRN)	The NRN, as identified in the 25 Year Plan (2018), is an expanded, enhanced and increasingly connected network of places that are richer in wildlife and more resilient to climate change, that is key to delivering the Government's Nature Strategy outside of designated sites. "*It comprises a core network of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and adjoining areas that function as stepping stones or wildlife corridors, areas identified for new habitat creation and up to 25 nature recovery areas* [at landscape or catchment scale] *for targeted action"* (MHCLG, 2019[88]). Benefitting wildlife and people, the NRN will provide an integrated approach to nature recovery. The NRN national delivery partnership will be led by NE (launch late 2020), supported by local partnerships. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) will be piloted in 2020/21.
Nature Strategy	Introduced under the 25 Year Plan (2018), the Nature Strategy sets out the Government's approach to deliver our commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The strategy will set the overall ambition and specific goals for habitat and species recovery over ten years: • Restoration of 75% protected sites to favourable condition by 2042, • Create or restore 500,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites as part of a Nature Recovery Network, • Take action to recover threatened, iconic or ecologically important species, • Increase woodland cover, • Improve soil health and restore peatlands.
Offsetting	Biodiversity offsets are distinguished from other forms of ecological compensation by the formal requirements for measurable outcomes: the losses due to impact, and gains achievable through the offset, are measured in the same way, even if the habitats concerned are different[89].
Planning conditions	The Town and Country Planning Act enables the local planning authority to grant planning permission to impose "*such conditions as they think fit*" to ensure

Term	Description
	delivery as agreed. This power should be interpreted in light of material considerations such as the National Planning Policy Framework.
Planning obligations	Planning obligations are legal obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act entered into to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal by a person with an interest in the land and the local planning authority.
Position in the ecological mosaic	One of the Ratcliffe criteria (Ratcliffe, 1977) used to describe nature conservation value. The relationship or connectivity of a site or habitat parcel to adjacent areas of nature conservation value. This reflects not only contribution to a functional ecological resource but recognises the ecological character of the locality, county or region.
Potential value	Sites or habitat parcels which could, through appropriate management or natural progression, develop greater nature conservation value.
Priority habitats &/or species	These are of Principal Importance in England and are listed in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Section 41. The list includes UK BAP habitats and species (identified in response to the 1992 Rio Convention during the interim period until legislation came into place). Of the s41 species, many are also protected under UK legislation.
Rarity	One of the Ratcliffe criteria (Ratcliffe, 1977) used to describe nature conservation value. Rarity relates to the frequency of occurrence, or abundance, of a habitat, species or community. Rarity may be considered at a range of scales – local, county or national, for example.
Recombinant ecology	Flora and fauna not directly representative of an 'original' assemblage at a given locale but are nevertheless locally-appropriate in the current context, or indeed as future target for management objectives.
Replacement	Creation of an acceptable substitute habitat for that which has or would be lost, fragmented or otherwise detrimentally affected.
Restoration	The process of assisting the recovery of an area or ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed. The aim of ecological restoration is to re-

[88] MHCLG (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment – How do local ecological networks relate to the Nature Recovery Network? www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance

[89] DEFRA (2012) Biodiversity Offsetting Pilots. Technical Paper: the metric for the biodiversity offsetting pilot in England

Term	Description
	establish the composition, structure and function to a close approximation of its pre-degraded state.
Sub-climax vegetation	Vegetation which does not, or is yet to, reach climax; scrub for example may be considered a sub-climax of woodland types. This may result from environmental constraints (e.g. soil or hydrology), external pressures (e.g. excess nutrient input or recreational use), or by intentional management. Where sub-climax vegetation supports flora and fauna of particular conservation value, management may be required to maintain it in favourable condition, such as the natural colonisation of scrub across grasslands of importance.
Typicalness	One of the Ratcliffe criteria (Ratcliffe, 1977) used to describe nature conservation value. "*Areas that exemplify a type of habitat, geological feature, or a population of a species, that is characteristic of the natural components of the landscape in which they are found*" (MHCLG, 2019[90]).
Zone of influence	Area over which ecological features may be impacted by a given project or project activity.

[90] MHCLG (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment – Standard Criteria for LWS https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment

Appendix A

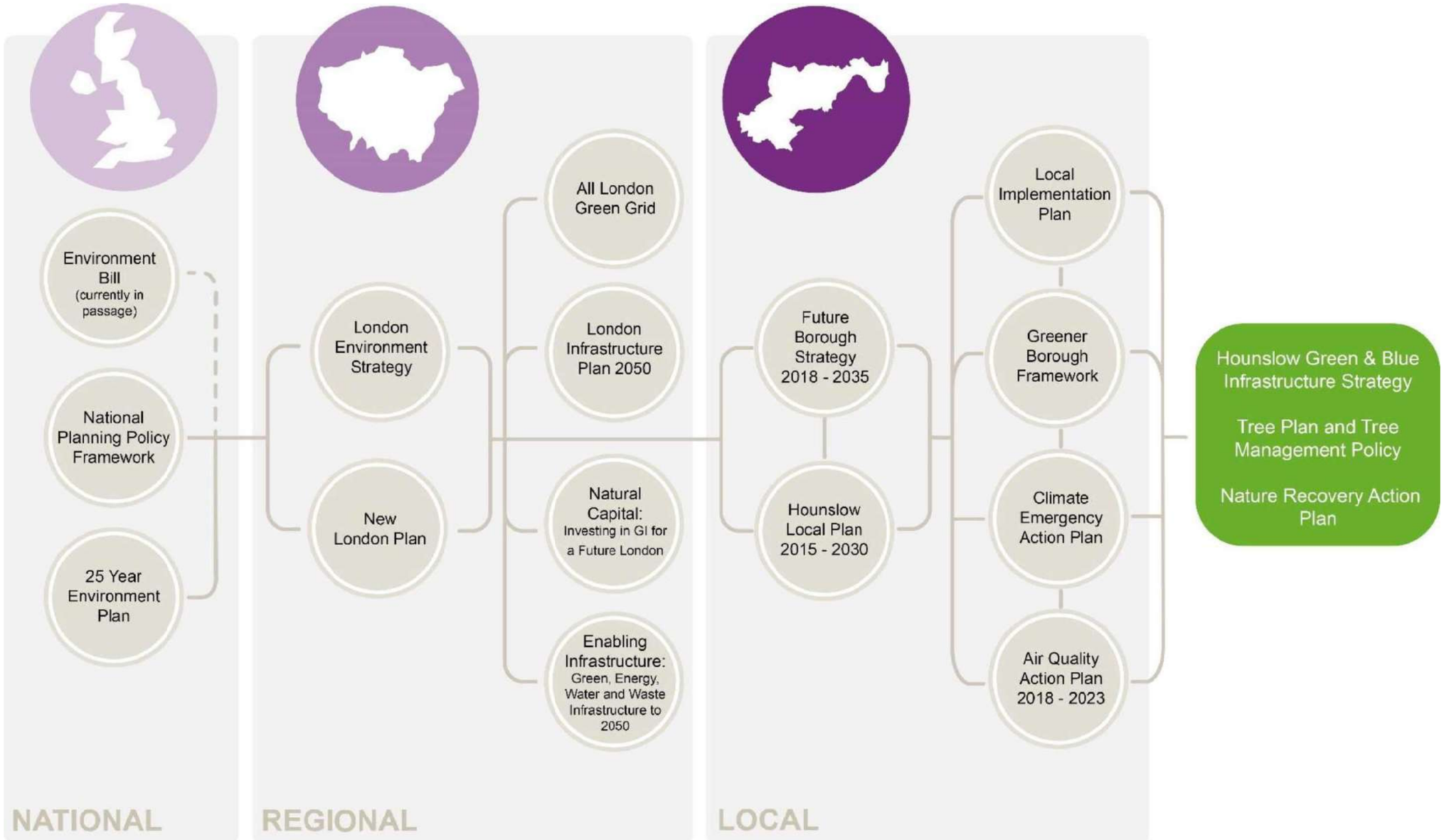
Legal and Policy Context for Nature Recovery

Appendix A
Legal and Policy Context for Nature Recovery

The national legal and policy context is driven by our international commitments through conventions and directives. This section provides an overview as to how these are implemented at the UK, London-wide and Hounslow borough level. Focus is given to the current legal and policy requirements which have come into force since the 2011-2016 BAP and which set the tone for nature recovery ahead.

Figure A.1 illustrates the policy context of the NRAP. The relationship of the NRAP to the BAP and UGAP is set out in Chapter 1: ‘Need for a NRAP’.

Figure A.1: Policy context for the NRAP, sitting alongside sibling documents of the GBI Strategy



National Context

2021 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF promotes a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Paragraph 174 states that the role of the planning system should:
• Protect and enhance valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils;
• Recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services; and
• Minimise impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity.

Paragraph 175 requires that plans should take a strategic approach to maintain and enhance networks of green infrastructure, and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Paragraph 179 states that plans should:
•Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks;[91]
• Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and
• Identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

2018 DEFRA 25 Year Environment Plan 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'

The timeframe of DEFRA's ambitious 25-year plan (25YEP) sits comfortably alongside Hounslow's Local Plan period. The 25YEP proposes a national Nature Strategy and the Natural England-led NRN, which will set the trajectory for nature conservation and recovery actions over the next ten years. Goals of the Nature Strategy include:
• Restore of 75% protected sites to favourable condition by 2042;
• Create or restore 500,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites as part of a Nature Recovery Network;
• Take action to recover threatened, iconic or ecologically important species;
• Increase woodland cover; and
• Improve soil health and restore peatlands.

Whilst the primary role of an 'ecological network' is to support thriving wildlife, the term 'nature network' serves both nature and people through ecosystem service provision. An important aspect of LNRS is to deliver interventions that optimise benefits to biodiversity, alongside those of the wider environment, such as air and water quality, flood alleviation and carbon sequestration. "Networks for wildlife that also deliver benefits to people also tend to be more valued by people" (NERR082, 2020[92]).

2021 Environment Act

A.8 The Environment Act 2021 forms one of the principal vehicles for the ambitious 25YEP. It is broken down into seven key areas:
• Parts 1 and 2: Environmental governance, principles, targets and improvement plans
• Part 3: Waste and resource efficiency
• Part 4: Air quality and environmental recall
• Part 5: Water
• Part 6: Nature and biodiversity
• Part 7: Conservation covenants

This includes:

• strengthened legal duty for public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity,
• new biodiversity reporting requirements for local authorities, and
• mandatory spatial strategies for nature: Local Nature Recovery Strategies or 'LNRS'
Key elements of the Act for local authorities to consider are set out below.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023. BNG will be measured using Defra's biodiversity metric and habitats will need to be secured for at least 30 years[93].

BNG aims to deliver locally appropriate benefit of high ecological value. It should reflect habitat types which are locally representative and compliment the nature and spatial spread of existing habitat features, such as the extension of the pocket park network and biodiverse active transport corridors through more dense urban areas.

BNG follows the mitigation hierarchy i.e., is delivered on site or, where this is not possible, in adjacent land or, as a final option, offsite.

As BNG is geared toward delivery of naturalised habitats, recognition of urban greening features is, in London, valued through the urban greening factor (see 'London-wide Policy' below).
Setting Environmental Targets

Environmental targets related to biodiversity, trees and woodland, water quality, waste, and air quality are set out in the Act. These legally binding targets include:
• Halt the decline in species populations by 2030, and then increase populations by at least 10% to exceed current levels by 2042
• Restore precious water bodies to their natural state by cracking down on harmful pollution from sewers and abandoned mines and improving water usage in households
• Deliver our net zero ambitions and boost nature recovery by increasing tree and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050
• Halve the waste per person that is sent to residual treatment by 2042
• Cut exposure to the most harmful air pollutant to human health – PM2.5

91 'Ecological networks are stated to include the hierarchy of sites designated for biodiversity, the wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them, and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.
92 Natural England (2020) NERR082 Nature Networks – A summary for practitioners. Available: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5955403202691072
93 "Government will require net gain outcomes, through habitat creation or enhancement as part of delivering mandatory biodiversity net gain, to be maintained for a minimum of 30 years, and will encourage longer term protection where this is acceptable to the landowner" (DEFRA (2019) Net Gain: Summary of Responses and Government Response).

- Restore 70% of designated features in our Marine Protected Areas to a favourable condition by 2042, with the rest in a recovering condition.

Nature Recovery Networks (NRN) and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)

The Nature Recovery Network is a major commitment in the 25YEP, enacted by the Environment Act 2021. The vision of the Network is to:

- enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places - newly created and restored wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones will help wildlife populations to grow and move
- improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems such as improved soil, clean water and clean air
- reinforce the natural, geological and cultural diversity of our landscapes, and protect our historic natural environment
- enable us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play - benefiting our health and wellbeing

The objectives are to:

- restore 75% of protected sites on land (including freshwaters) to favourable condition so nature can thrive
- create or restore 500,000 hectares of additional wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites
- recover threatened and iconic animal and plant species by providing more, diverse and better-connected habitats
- support work to increase woodland cover
- achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation

This will be achieved through mapping and data, especially in Local Nature Recovery Strategies, new funding, policy and statutory duties, and collaboration through new partnerships.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are strategies that sets out:

- The agreed priorities for nature's recovery
- A map of the most valuable existing areas for nature
- A map of the specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals

LNRS's are produced by the 'responsible authority' – an authority appointed by the Secretary of State that could be one of the following:

a) a local authority whose area is, or is within, the strategy area;
b) the Mayor of London;
c) the mayor for the area of a combined authority established under section 103 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009;
d) a National Park authority in England;
e) the Broads Authority;
f) Natural England.

The Secretary of State will determine the boundaries of the LNRS. The area of a local authority, other than a county council, may not be split between more than one LNRS. The LNRS must include a statement of biodiversity priorities for the strategy area, and a local habitat map for the strategy area.

The statement of biodiversity priorities details the strategy area and the biodiversity within it, the opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity within the strategy area, and the priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity.

The local habitat map identifies national conservation sites in the strategy area, any nature reserves in the area, other areas of particular importance for biodiversity in the area.

Biodiversity Reporting

The Environment Act 2021 also requires local authorities to report on progress towards nature recovery and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity every 5 years (known as 'the general biodiversity objective'), as part of their responsibilities under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

This report must contain:

- A summary of the action that the authority has taken over the 5-year period to further the general biodiversity objective.
- A summary of the authority's plans for the next 5 years must also be included.
- How Biodiversity Net Gain is being delivered in the authority and information about any biodiversity gains.
- Any quantitative data relating to biodiversity the authority holds.

Details of these reports have not been defined yet, however they are expected to come forward in secondary legislation. As part of this reporting requirement, baseline surveying is necessary to understand Hounslow's current position at the start of the reporting period.

2017 The Conservation of Species & Habitats Regulations

A.14 New development within Hounslow has the potential to adversely affect the integrity of European designated sites due to the increased recreational pressures and air pollution caused. European designations in and around Hounslow include:

- Southwest Waterbodies Ramsar & SPA (including Kempton Nature Reserve in the south of the borough, the Staines Reservoirs c1.2km west and Beesborough Reservoir c2km south);
- Richmond Park SAC (c2.2km southeast).

To ensure integrity of the network of European designated sites, it is a legal requirement for plans and projects that may cause significant adverse effect to be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). HRA focuses on the qualifying features of the network and its component designated sites.

The nature and scale of any appropriate mitigation of potential significant effect/s is determined by the location of development (within the zone of influence for each designated site), scale of development, ease of access to the designated site and availability of other available greenspace. Provision of a cohesive nature network has an important role in accommodating potential recreational pressure away from the European designations, as well as providing supporting or buffering habitat to the resident flora and fauna.

2006 Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act (as amended)

The NERC Act places a duty on pubic and local authorities to have 'regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions', including the provision of local polices and strategies, in planning and development control, and in managing their estates. Section 41 of the NERC Act lists the habitats and species of principal importance.

1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended)

Since publication of the Hounslow BAP, water vole is now fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

London-Wide Policy

2021 London Plan

The 2021 Plan sets the context for a cohesive approach to nature conservation across all boroughs. It prescribes the criteria and process for designation of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SINC) within London. Table A.1 summarises the three grades of SINC recognised in London.

SINC grade	Description
Sites of Metropolitan Importance (SMI)	The best example of wildlife habitats in London. They often contain rare plants and animals and are selected as the most important sites for biodiversity by the Mayor of London and his officers at the GLA. Currently 11 in Hounslow, including those which cross the borough boundary.
Sites of Borough Importance (SBI)	Important wildlife habitats for the borough. Currently 18 Grade I and 19 Grade II in / extending from Hounslow.
Sites of Local Importance (SLI)	Sites that ensure that everyone has easy access to nature close to home. Currently 15 in / extending beyond Hounslow.

The 2021 London Plan states that SINC and ecological corridors should be identified to contribute to coherent ecological networks. Further, the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats that sit outside of the SINC network should be supported through plans, and opportunities to create other habitats in an urban context should be identified.

The 2021 Plan defines areas of deficiency (AoD) in access to nature as those more than 1km walking distance from an accessible metropolitan or borough SINC. Note that this differs from the concept of a '15-minute neighbourhood' progressed by London Borough of Hounslow through the GBI Strategy (see Hounslow Borough Policy' below).

Urban Greening Factor (UGF)

Urban greening refers to the raft of habitat features created in otherwise built landscape; from street trees to green walls and roofs, from pocket parks to raingardens and planted traffic calming measures. Urban greening can also deliver against other policy objectives such as increasing canopy cover, implementing sustainable urban drainage and delivering BNG.

London Plan Policy G5 requires all major developments to include urban greening as a fundamental element of site and building design. The policy introduces the use of an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to monitor and evaluate the quantity and quality of urban greening provided by a development proposal, with an associated UGF calculator to help applicants calculate the UGF score of a scheme and present the relevant information as part of their planning application. The principle of securing net gain is embedded in the 2023 Plan and the preceding Environment Strategy[95]. The Plan encourages developments to achieve net biodiversity gain, irrespective of whether the development is having a harmful impact. It sets out a commitment to develop a BNG approach for London as well as promoting wildlife-friendly landscaping in new developments and regeneration projects.

In February 2023, The Mayor of London released updated guidance to support boroughs and applicants in meeting the requirements of Policy G5 and evaluate their Urban Greening Factor. The 2023 Plan for UGF is designed to provide flexibility to enable an appropriate response to meeting local green infrastructure priorities and site-specific constraints; and to respond to different uses within a development.

The guidance sets out 5 points for boroughs to consider when setting UGF targets:

a) Retain the targets set out in the London Plan
b) Set new targets that apply to the whole borough
c) Set different targets for different locations within a borough
d) Introduce different targets for one or more different use classes
e) Introduce a UGF policy for minor development applications

Hounslow currently does not have an adopted UGF target score within the Local Plan. In cases where boroughs do not have a UGF target, the London Plan states that a UGF score of 0.4 for predominately residential developments and 0.3 for predominately commercial developments should be applied.

A Strategic Action to consider setting higher targets than those required in the London Plan, and to consider

95 Mayor of London (2018) London Environment Strategy

introducing a UGF policy for minor development applications in the next iteration of Hounslow's Local Plan has been added as an action as a result.

Biodiversity Net Gain

The principle of securing net gain is embedded in the 2021 Plan and the preceding Environment Strategy95. The Plan encourages developments to achieve net biodiversity gain, irrespective of whether the development is having a harmful impact. It sets out a commitment to develop a BNG approach for London as well as promoting wildlife-friendly landscaping in new developments and regeneration projects.

2018 London Environment Strategy: National Park City National Park City

In July 2019, London was declared the world's first "national park city". The concept behind the national park city movement is to encourage individuals and public bodies to contribute towards making London 'greener, healthier and wilder' as set out in the London National Park City Charter. The vision is one where more than half of the city's area is green, and where new growth helps to improve the quality and function of London's GI.
London BAP Habitat Targets

Targets set for the expansion of London BAP habitats are summarised as follows:
- Species-rich woodland – 20ha by 2025, 200ha by 2050;
- Flower-rich grassland – 50ha by 2020, 250ha by 2050;
- Rivers and stream enhancement – 10km by 2025, 4km by 2050; Reedbeds – 5ha by 2025, 30ha by 2050

Mayors Biodiversity Strategy for London: 'Connecting with London's Nature'

The 2002 Strategy (and subsequent updates) included specific references to support for both London-wide and local BAP partnerships and encourages the production and implementation of borough BAPs as an integrated element of their Community Strategies. Amongst the aims of the 2002 Strategy, is to deliver by 2050 a 'London where more than half of London is "green" and London is the world's first National Park City'.

The ambitions of the2002 Strategy are expected to be delivered through tree planting, enabling green infrastructure and green architecture (walls and roofs), especially in new developments, supporting local communities to manage and value London's parks and biodiversity better, and planning new flood defences and new water resources.

All London Green Grid (ALGG)

ALGG policy framework[96] promotes the design and delivery of green infrastructure across London. It is comprised of three elements: the range of policies from the London Plan on green infrastructure, urban greening, open spaces, trees and woodland, river corridors and biodiversity.
London BAP

The London BAP[97] habitat targets have been incorporated within the London Plan and several of the HAPs which have been incorporated within this document are being delivered so that the London targets can be met.

Hounslow Borough Policy

2020-2030 Climate Emergency Action Plan

The Hounslow Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) sets out the Council's response to the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. The CEAP sets the target to reduce the Council's direct carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 whilst simultaneously influencing a wider borough emissions reduction through work with strategic partners, businesses and the community.

The CEAP is supported by a number of delivery documents, several of which relate to nature recovery more widely. Those most relevant include:
- 2018-2033 Air Quality Action Plan – specific actions include the provision of green space and infrastructure in new developments and enhancing green infrastructure for walking and cycling routes.
- 2020 Greener Borough Framework – aims to deliver a high-quality environment through urban greening, expansion of green infrastructure (specifically targeting 50% GI cover), planting more trees and carbon capturing plant life, expanding the number and size of wildflower sites and nature resources and other interventions.
- 2019 Creating a Greener Borough – establishes a plan to increase recycling, reduce fly tipping and improve the street scene (including maintenance of green spaces) across Hounslow to create a cleaner Borough.
- 2020 Great West Corridor Local Plan Review – the Council's vision and plan for how the area will grow and develop over the next 15 years. This plan includes an environmental quality and open space component that aims to improve the 'overall greenness of the area'.
- 2020 West of the Borough Plan Review – intended to shape the location and scale of development through the period to 2033. The Plan aims to protect and enhance the existing GI network, including the grid identified in the All London Green Grid SPG.

Access to Nature

Hounslow is progressing the concept of a '15-minute neighbourhood', which includes access to greenspace within 15 minutes or 1.2km98 across the borough. Note that this contrasts the AoD in access to nature (as defined in the Replacement Plan) of over 1km walking distance from an accessible metropolitan or borough SINC.

Urban Greening Factor (UGF)

A.35 A UGF score of at least 0.4 for predominantly residential development and UGF 0.3 for predominantly commercial are proposed for Hounslow, although higher scores may be determined for appropriate applications on a case-by-case basis. UGF scores are calculated alongside, not in addition to BNG.
2015 Hounslow Local Plan.

Chapter 7 of the adopted plan addresses green and blue infrastructure. Specifically, Policies GB4 and GB5 commit to the protection and enhancement of the green and blue networks respectively throughout the borough. "The network will be improved to maximise the diverse benefits and multiple functions, and improved public access to, and links between open spaces will be encouraged" (Policy GB4).

96 Available: https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/all-london-green-grid
97 Available: https://www.gigl.org.uk/londons-biodiversity-action-plan/

Policy GB7 (Biodiversity) commits to “protect and enhance the London Borough of Hounslow’s natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the borough’s biodiversity”. Within this overarching commitment, the policy recognises that “other policies, including those in Chapter 7 covering open space and the Blue Ribbon Network, and Chapter 10, covering sustainable design and construction, also have regard to biodiversity”.
Policy G8 (Allotments, agriculture and local food growing) encourages the continued, new and innovative use of green spaces for local food growing. It recognises that this “can also help improve the biodiversity value of urban fringe areas and the Green Belt”.

Consolidated Local Plan

The emerging consolidated Local Plan includes policies relating specifically to Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, Open Space and Biodiversity matters.

The Council considers that exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify some alterations to the Green Belt boundary. The council will protect and enhance Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), priority habitats and other ecological features outside of the SINCs network, ensuring a net gain in biodiversity. The council will expect development proposals to achieve at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity in line with industry good practice principles.

Additionally, the council will safeguard and improving watercourses, ground water quality and Principal Aquifers in line with Water Framework Directive and Thames River Basin Management Plan, and work to improve access connectivity along the existing riverside corridors and green spaces and creating a continuous corridor along the River Crane, Longford River and Lower Duke of Northumberland’s River for people and wildlife.”

2022 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)

In line with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Hounslow has the role of Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The LLFA are responsible for managing surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and are required to produce and maintain a LFRMS. The overall purpose of a LFRMS is to outline how the LLFA and other stakeholders will manage flood risk in the borough.

A key aim for the Hounslow LFRMS is to establish a series of objectives which can be taken forward to deliver effective local flood risk management through measures and actions. The local strategic objectives have been developed in line with those of the NFCERMS, the objectives of the Thames River Basin District FRMP and with consideration for the local flood issues affecting Hounslow. These include proactively encouraging holistic and sustainable, nature-based solutions that manage flooding and deliver wider environmental, social and economic benefits. Replacing hard engineered flood defences with more nature-based solutions is an important strategy for sustainable flood risk management. In Hounslow, many of the flood defences / assets are coming to the end of their life and therefore present an opportunity to remove and replace with more nature-based solutions. An action plan has been produced for the LFRMS, with relevant actions listed below:

A9 - Work with RMAs and catchment partnerships to identify opportunities to incorporate Natural Flood Management in the borough.

A10 - Develop and maintain contact with representative for catchment partnerships to contribute to matters relating to flood risk schemes and the Thames Water Strategic Partnership in order to maximise the environmental and social benefits gained both locally and for the catchments as a whole.
A16 - Collaborate with the Hounslow Green Recovery Team to introduce SuDS/FRM infrastructure along the A4 as part of the A4 Green Corridor Project; to join MCR2030 and to provide SuDS information for the purpose of the Future Neighbourhood 2030 Strategy, which is focused in an area at risk of surface water flooding.
B3 - Identify and implement methods to maintain SuDS schemes including maintenance guidance and whole life cost plans.
B4 - Use schemes to reconnect people to the natural environment and improve riverbank access through the setting back of flood defences in line with the Thames Landscape Strategy.
B5 - Work together with local environmental groups, including Friends groups to utilise best practice for the improvement of the natural environment.

Strategic Delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain

The requirement for BNG as part of the development planning process is set out in the Environment Act (see earlier subheading). Key principles of BNG, which usefully inform the strategic delivery of BNG across the borough, are summarised as follows:

- BNG follows the mitigation hierarchy i.e., is delivered on site or, where this is not possible, in adjacent land or, as a final option, offsite.
- BNG should compensate unavoidable habitat loss as close as possible to the place of loss.
- BNG should reflect the habitat type’s lost, for example, loss of open grasslands or hedgerow network may not be appropriately compensated for by woodland planting.
- BNG aims to deliver locally appropriate benefit of high ecological value. It should reflect habitat types which are locally representative and complement the nature and spatial spread of existing habitat features.
- BNG is not applicable to statutory designated sites (where favourable status inherently forms a requirement) or to irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland.

As BNG is geared toward delivery of naturalised habitats, recognition of, and support for, urban greening interventions may usefully be reflected in local planning policy.

DEFRA guidance for LPA on the mechanisms for delivery of BNG include s106, CIL and planning conditions[98]. There is also opportunity for independent landowners to serve as offset providers. Effective delivery of BNG requires accurate recording and coordination of consented BNG schemes, as well as clear reporting to DEFRA and Natural England to ensure habitats are maintained in the long-term.

98 Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69529/pb13744-biolocal-authority-info-note.pdf

Appendix B

Schedule of SINC Designations

Table B.1: Schedule of SINC designations in Hounslow

Site name	Site reference	Grade	Borough	Last modified date	Access	Area (ha)
Syon Park	HoBI13	BI	Hounslow	1990	Public access (entry fee)	56.78
Wyncote Farm	EaBI20	BI	Ealing	2005	Free public access (all/most of site)	2.99
Boundary Stream and the Aviary	EaBI09	BI	Ealing	2004	No public access	5.18
St Mary's Wood and the Boundary Stream	HoBI11	BI	Hounslow	1990	No public access	6.20
Duke of Northumberland's River north of Kneller Road	RiBI04	BI	Richmond upon Thames	2000	Free public access (all/most of site)	0.74
Long Wood Local Nature Reserve and meadows	EaBI12	BI	Ealing	2004	Free public access (all/most of site)	21.83
Kempton Park Chalk Grassland	HoBI14	BI	Hounslow	2002	No public access	0.40
Chiswick House Grounds	HoBI03	BI	Hounslow	1990	Free public access (all/most of site)	25.45
Duke of Northumberland's River at Woodlands	HoBI15	BI	Hounslow	1990	Free public access (all/most of site)	1.48
Osterley Park	HoBI08	BI	Hounslow	2015	Free public access (part of site)	156.51
Mogden Sewage Works	HoBI06	BI	Hounslow	2002	Access on public footpaths only	60.29
Duke of Northumberland's River at Isleworth	HoBI07	BI	Hounslow	1990	Free public access (part of site)	1.78
Bedfont Pits	HoBI04	BI	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	31.95
Hanworth Park and the Longford River	HoBI16	BI	Hounslow	1990	Free public access (all/most of site)	71.25
Mayfield Farm and the Water Treatment Works	HoBI19	BI	Hounslow	2016	No public access	43.74

Appendix B
Schedule of SINC Designations

Site name	Site reference	Grade	Borough	Last modified date	Access	Area (ha)
Lower Feltham Rough	HoBI05	BI	Hounslow	1990	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	52.16
Hatton Meadows	HoBI18	BI	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	18.73
Longford River at Feltham	HoBI17	BI	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (part of site)	7.89
Gunnersbury Park	HoBII15	BII	Hounslow	2015	Free public access (all/most of site)	77.21
Wyke Green Golf Course	HoBII08	BII	Hounslow	2002	No public access	37.02
Trumpers Triangle	HoBII11	BII	Hounslow	2002	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	1.76
Hounslow Loop Railsides	HoBII13	BII	Hounslow	2002	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	30.26
River Crane at St Margaret's (Richmond side)	RiBII18	BII	Richmond upon Thames	2002	Free public access (part of site)	1.18
Boston Manor Park	HoBII10	BII	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	12.26
Longford River in Richmond	RiBII02	BII	Richmond upon Thames	2005	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	5.780
Norwood Fields	HoBII01	BII	Hounslow	1990	Free public access (all/most of site)	10.98
Field and wood between Osterley Lane & St Mary's Avenue South	EaBII06	BII	Ealing	2005	Free public access (part of site)	1.55
Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve	RiBII14	BII	Richmond upon Thames	2000	Free public access (all/most of site)	1.81
Hatherop Park	RiBII15	BII	Richmond upon Thames	2000	Free public access (part of site)	4.18
South Ealing Cemetery	EaBII12	BII	Ealing	2005	Free public access (all/most of site)	9.48
Piccadilly and District Lines in Ealing	EaBII19	BII	Ealing	2005	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	36.45

Appendix B
Schedule of SINC Designations

Site name	Site reference	Grade	Borough	Last modified date	Access	Area (ha)
Osterley Fields	HoBII02	BII	Hounslow	2015	Free public access (all/most of site)	33.49
Piccadilly Line Railsides in Hounslow	HoBII12	BII	Hounslow	2002	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	16.59
River Crane at St Margarets	HoBII07	BII	Hounslow	2002	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	4.62
Hounslow, Feltham and Whitton junctions	RiBII16	BII	Richmond upon Thames	2000	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	4.65
Feltham Hill Carr and Croft Farm	HoBII05	BII	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (part of site)	9.60
Feltham Railsides	HoBII14	BII	Hounslow	2002	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	11.83
Jersey Gardens	HoL04	L	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	2.233
Inwood Park	HoL11	L	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	5.80
Blondin Park Nature Area	EaL29	L	Ealing	2005	Free public access (part of site)	4.13
Hampton Common	RiL23	L	Richmond upon Thames	2000	Free public access (all/most of site)	13.19
Lampton Park	HoL12	L	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	19.85
London Diocesan Lands	HoL13	L	Hounslow	2006	Free public access (all/most of site)	26.64
Castle Way Ponds	HoL10	L	Hounslow	2002	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	0.53
Lower Feltham Brook	HoL06	L	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	1.56
Thorncliffe Rough	HoL01	L	Hounslow	1990	No public access	4.27
Hartlands Wood and Lower Park Farm	HoL03	L	Hounslow	2003	Free public access (all/most of site)	4.43
Airlinks Ponds	HoL09	L	Hounslow	2015	Public access (entry fee)	0.65

Appendix B
Schedule of SINC Designations

Site name	Site reference	Grade	Borough	Last modified date	Access	Area (ha)
Raleigh Park	HoL07	L	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	6.52
Cains Lane	HoL05	L	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	6.69
River Thames and tidal tributaries	M031	M	Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, City of London, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Havering, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Westminster	2018	Free public access (part of site)	2312.91
Tide Meadow at Syon Park	M080	M	Hounslow	1990	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only	22.52
Gunnersbury Triangle	M115	M	Ealing, Hounslow	1991	Free public access (all/most of site)	2.72
Duke's Hollow	M112	M	Hounslow	1990	Free public access (part of site)	0.27
Kempton Waterworks	M078	M	Hounslow	2001	Access at limited times	48.027
London's Canals	M006	M	Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Tower Hamlets, Westminster	2013	Free public access (all/most of site)	187.21
Crane Corridor	M076	M	Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond upon Thames	2005	Free public access (part of site)	179.81
Bedfont Lakes Country Park	M077	M	Hounslow	2002	Free public access (all/most of site)	89.12
Duke of Northumberland's River at Bedfont	M149	M	Hillingdon, Hounslow	2005	Free public access (part of site)	7.18
Hounslow Heath	M081	M	Hounslow, Richmond upon Thames	2001	Free public access (all/most of site)	113.24
Feltham Marshalling Yards	M007	M	Hounslow	2001	No public access	19.95

Appendix C
List of Potential Collaborators

Following an engagement workshop in March 2023, and previous discussions with Council Teams, a list of the stakeholders with an interest in the nature recovery of Hounslow has been established in this section. Please note: this list is not exhaustive.

Stakeholders have been grouped into the following categories:

- Blue Infrastructure
- Charities/Community Groups
- National/Regional Bodies
- Parks & Gardens
- Transport Bodies

Appendix C

List of Potential Collaborators

Scope	Name
Charities/Community Groups	Abundance London
Charities/Community Groups	Air Quality Brentford
Charities/Community Groups	Allotment societies
Charities/Community Groups	Bat Conservation Trust
Charities/Community Groups	Bedfont Lakes Conservation Volunteers
Charities/Community Groups	Bedford Park Society
Blue Infrastructure	Brent Catchment Partnership
Charities/Community Groups	Brentford Youth Voice Network
Blue Infrastructure	Canal and River trust
Charities/Community Groups	C-Change West London/ Heston West Big Local
Charities/Community Groups	Chiswick Flower Market
Charities/Community Groups	Chiswick Horticultural & Allotments Society
Parks & Gardens	Chiswick House
Charities/Community Groups	Clean Up Hounslow
Charities/Community Groups	Cole Park Allotment Association
Blue Infrastructure	Crane Valley CIC / Crane Valley Partnership
Charities/Community Groups	Cranford Action Group
Charities/Community Groups	Cranford Community College
Charities/Community Groups	Cultivate London
Charities/Community Groups	Dukes Meadows Trust
National/Regional Bodies	Environment Agency
Charities/Community Groups	Faggs Road Allotments
Charities/Community Groups	Feltham in Bloom
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Beaversfield Park
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Bedfont Lakes
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Bridge House Pond
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Chiswick Common
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Feltham Park
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Feltham Green
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Gainsborough Green
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Hanworth Park House
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Harvard Hill Park
Charities/Community Groups	Friends Of Hatton Fields
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Hounslow Heath
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Hounslow Heath CV
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Hounslow Heath Green Gym
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Inwood Park
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Murray Park
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Northcote Nature Reserve
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Pevensey Road Green Gym Rangers
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Silverhall Park
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of St Pauls's Recreation Ground
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of the Earth
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of the Earth (Hounslow and Brentford)
Charities/Community Groups	Friends Of the River Crane Environment
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Turnham Green
Charities/Community Groups	Friends of Watermans Park
National/Regional Bodies	GIGL
National/Regional Bodies	GLA
Charities/Community Groups	Green Corridor
Parks & Gardens	Green Flag
Parks & Gardens	Greenspace 360
Charities/Community Groups	Groundwork Trust
Charities/Community Groups	Grove Park Group
Parks & Gardens	Gunnersbury Park (CIC)
Charities/Community Groups	Habitats & Heritage
Charities/Community Groups	Health is Wealth
Transport Bodies	Heathrow
Charities/Community Groups	Heston Action Group
National/Regional Bodies	Historic England
Parks & Gardens	Hogarth House (part of LBH)

[1]Chapter 1

Appendix C

List of Potential Collaborators

Scope	Name
Charities/Community Groups	Hounslow and Brentford Friends of the Earth Local Group
Charities/Community Groups	Hounslow Community Farming Association
Transport Bodies	Hounslow Cycling Campaign/Network
Charities/Community Groups	Hounslow East Green Gym
Charities/Community Groups	Hounslow Green Gym
Transport Bodies	Hounslow Highways
Charities/Community Groups	Isleworth Appreciation Society
Charities/Community Groups	Isleworth Green Gym
Parks & Gardens	Keep Britain Tidy
Charities/Community Groups	Let's Go Outside and Learn
Charities/Community Groups	Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC
Charities/Community Groups	London Biodiversity Partnership
National/Regional Bodies	London Borough of Ealing
National/Regional Bodies	London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
National/Regional Bodies	London Borough of Hillingdon
National/Regional Bodies	London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames
Parks & Gardens	London Playing Fields Association
Charities/Community Groups	London Sustainability Exchange (borough wide)
Charities/Community Groups	London Sustainability
Charities/Community Groups	London Wildlife Trust
Transport Bodies	National Highways
National/Regional Bodies	National Lottery
Parks & Gardens	National Trust
National/Regional Bodies	Natural England
Transport Bodies	Network Rail
Charities/Community Groups	Number One Allotments
Charities/Community Groups	Old Chiswick Protection Society
Charities/Community Groups	Parks for London
Charities/Community Groups	Pevensey Road Nature Reserve
Blue Infrastructure	Port of London Authority
Parks & Gardens	Royal Parks
Charities/Community Groups	Southwark Council - London Biodiversity Forum
Charities/Community Groups	Southwest London Environment Network
Parks & Gardens	Sports England
Charities/Community Groups	Spring Grove Residents Association
Charities/Community Groups	St Paul's 'Eco Church'
Transport Bodies	Sustrans
Parks & Gardens	Syon Park
Charities/Community Groups	TCV Isleworth, Osterley and Spring Grove
Transport Bodies	TfL
Charities/Community Groups	Thames Anglers' Conservancy
Charities/Community Groups	Thames Explorer Trust
Blue Infrastructure	Thames Landscape Strategy
Blue Infrastructure	Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea
Blue Infrastructure	Thames Water
Blue Infrastructure	Thames21
Charities/Community Groups	The Conservation Volunteers
Charities/Community Groups	Trees for Cities
Charities/Community Groups	West London River Group and Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea
Charities/Community Groups	Windsor Lines Passengers Association
Blue Infrastructure	Zoological Society of London

[1]Chapter 1