Protecting Biodiversity and Making Nature Accessible for All
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1. Introduction:

This is the third Biodiversity Action Plan for Southwark. This plan builds on the successes of the two previous Biodiversity Action Plans started in 2005, and sets out a vision for the continued protection, conservation and enhancement of nature in the borough.

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

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

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

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

The Key themes are:

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

The habitat action plans are:

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

The Species Action Plans are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.1 What is biodiversity?

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

In Southwark we refer to biodiversity as ‘wildlife’: this includes mammals, plants, invertebrates, amphibians, birds, lichens, and fungi. The places where wildlife lives, such as woods, rivers, lakes, parks and buildings, are what we refer to as ‘habitats’. The quantity of biodiversity is referred to as ‘Biomass’.
1.2 Why a Biodiversity Action Plan for Southwark?

This Biodiversity Action Plan is a tool kit providing guidance on the protection, enhancement and promotion of the natural environment. Biodiversity Action Plans are material documents in development management for determining planning applications. This plan underpins policies in the Core Strategy and Council Plan. Southwark’s green realm contributes to and supports the wider green realm of London, particularly inner London. Southwark has a number of sites important to birds of passage, and provides corridors and connectivity to neighbouring boroughs and across London. The Southwark BAP will inform regional and national bodies of our aims and objectives in protecting biodiversity and making nature accessible to all.

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

1.3 BAP Format

The Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership document that identifies the priorities for biodiversity in Southwark and sets out a programme of actions to conserve, promote and increase biodiversity across the borough. The plan covers three key crosscutting themes which provide the foundation of our work. The plan draws together a series of actions under the headings of Habitat and Species Action plans that can be delivered by the Council, Third Sector, Businesses and resident alike.

1.4 Biodiversity Policy and Legislation

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Biodiversity Duty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Box 1, the biodiversity duty
1.5 Relevant plans programmes and strategies
The table below sets out the legislation and policy base which binds the council in exercising its functions with regards to biodiversity and the environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biodiversity legislation, strategies and policies relevant to Southwark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>European legislation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Legislation, Strategies and policies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Pollinator Strategy 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The London Plan and other regional Policies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1 Green infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G9 Geodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5 Urban greening factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI13 Sustainable drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G4 Local green and open space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G6 Biodiversity and access to nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G7 Trees and woodlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G8 Food growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI 14 Waterways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The All London Green Grid, Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London Environment Strategy 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southwark Strategies, plans and policies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Southwark Plan Strategic policy SP8: Cleaner, greener, safer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Biodiversity legislation, strategies and policies relevant to Southwark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Southwark Plan policies; P57 Open Space, P58 Open Water Space, P59 Green infrastructure, P60 Biodiversity, P61 Trees, P62 Environmental Standards, P64 Avoiding Waste, P67 improving air quality, P70 reducing flood risk.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Community Strategy 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Council Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Community Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change Strategy 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks Light Pollution Policy 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark Open Spaces Strategy 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Strategy 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Strategy 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Outcomes Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2014-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Great Estates Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Table 1, Biodiversity legislation and policies relevant to Southwark Council |

### 1.5 Relationship of this BAP with national, regional and local BAP’s and strategies

#### National

An overarching environmental strategy for the UK ‘A green future’ 25 Year Environmental Plan (DEFRA 2018) has been adopted and contains key targets for biodiversity including creating a Nature Recovery Network.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan has been superseded by a national biodiversity strategy for England, Wales and Scotland. ‘Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’ (DEFRA 2011). This plan has shifted focus from the habitat - and species-based approach with the clearly-defined targets of a biodiversity action plan. It focuses instead on landscape-scale conservation, with an overall target of halting biodiversity loss by 2020. Guidance on national priority habitats and species now comes from the list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England, identified under Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006.

#### London

The London Environment Strategy sets targets for the areas of priority habitats to be created in London by 2025 and 2050.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>By 2025</th>
<th>By 2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Species-rich woodland</td>
<td>20 ha</td>
<td>200 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Habitat creation targets for London

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat Type</th>
<th>Target Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flower-rich grassland</td>
<td>50 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers and streams</td>
<td>10 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reedbeds</td>
<td>5 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The London Plan contains a number of policies to increase biodiversity, is relevant to development and should be applied to all major developments at the earliest stage of the development process.

Policy G5 the Urban Greening Factor

The Major development proposals should contribute to the greening of London by including urban greening as a fundamental element of site and building design, and by incorporating measures such as high-quality landscaping (including trees), green roofs, green walls and nature-based sustainable drainage.

Boroughs should develop an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to identify the appropriate amount of urban greening required in new developments. The UGF should be based on the factors set out in the London Plan, but tailored to local circumstances. In the interim, the Mayor recommends a target score of 0.4 for developments that are predominately residential, and a target score of 0.3 for predominately commercial development.

Box 2, the Urban Greening Factor

Policy G6 Biodiversity and Access to Nature; calls for protection of SINC sites and for boroughs to develop policies and plans to increase habitats and the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats and opportunities for increasing species populations.

The National Park City

In July 2019 London became the first National Park City. National Park City is a place, a vision and a city-wide community that is acting together to make life better for people, wildlife and nature. A defining feature is the widespread commitment to act so people, culture and nature work together to provide a better foundation for life.

1.6 What this plan contributes to in Southwark

This BAP will deliver a number of outputs that benefit Southwark’s residents and visitors and the environment. The BAP will contribute too:

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

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

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

1.7 The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership

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

Partners in the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership are:

- The Conservation Volunteers, formally the Trust for Urban Ecology
- The London Wildlife Trust
- The Bankside Open Spaces Trust
- Surrey Docks Farm
- Business Improvement Districts (Better Bankside, London Bridge & the Blue)
- Walworth Garden
- Quadron Idverde

Southwark Council Departments:

- Planning Policy
- Planning Development Management
- Environment & Leisure
- Education
- Highways
- Housing
- Regeneration
- Trees service
• Flood management team

The Southwark Biodiversity Partnership has been working to protect, enhance, and promote biodiversity. The partnership has successfully raised the profile of biodiversity in Southwark and has delivered many conservation projects, all the while engaging with the residents and businesses of Southwark. There have been numerous contributions by volunteers, societies, residents and businesses and friends groups. This highlights the regard with which the Council and community views biodiversity in Southwark.

1.8 Implementation and monitoring

Implementation and monitoring of the BAP is overseen by the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership.

1.9 BAP review plan

The BAP will undergo a policy review in its third year and a full review after 5 years. The BAP will be refreshed following these reviews as required. The reviews will address changed to policies and priorities at a national, regional and local level. We expect to retain the current Habitat and species actions plans.

1.10 Wildlife reporting

Southwark Council has a Service Level Agreement wit the London Records Centre Green Space information for Greater London (GIGL). Southwark has an interactive mapping tool allowing residents, and visitors to record wildlife sightings. See link below.


1.11 Biodiversity in Southwark

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

Southwark has a history of urban nature conservation. In 1976 The William Curtis Ecological Park, Britain’s first urban ecological park was created in Southwark by the Thames near Tower Bridge. To replace the original site that was lost to development, Stave Hill Ecological Park was created in the 80’s. The Trust for Urban Ecology was formed to manage this site. They are now known as The Conservation Volunteers and manage 2 other Local Nature Reserves in Southwark. The London Wildlife Trust manages a very important LNR, Sydenham Hill Wood. This is our largest area of ancient woodland and the unique Centre for Wildlife Gardening in Peckham. Bankside Open Spaces Trust manages Red Cross Gardens and is actively engaging with Bankside residents to promote community engagement through gardening and greening the environment.
Southwark is home to important populations of nationally and internationally scarce flora and fauna. Bats, Reptiles Stag beetles, birds, butterflies and flora such as orchids and Corky fruited water dropwort are all found in Southwark. Habitats include; ancient woodland, secondary woodland, reedbed, and meadows. All of these coexist within the urban inner city densely populated environment.

1.12 SINC review and ecological Survey for Southwark 2015

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

In all 112 sites were surveyed with 65 being existing SINC sites. These sites were surveyed for habitats present and notable flora. From this review we established that we had not lost any SINC sites since 1994. The report identified 17 new sites which were recommended for designation as Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Further more 4 sites of local importance have been recommended to be upgraded to borough importance. The New Southwark Plan has set this out in Appendix 5 preferred options 'New and Amended Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)’.

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

The report also proposed a strategic overview of the ecological networks in Southwark shown below. This has identified our core areas and local restoration area in line with the Lawton Report Making Space for Nature. The Old Kent Road AAP has identified a ‘greener belt’ which follows the line of the strategic Wildlife Corridor; Herne Hill to Canada Water. See Image 1.

Image 2 is an Infographic which shows that there have been positive habitat increases since the 1994 survey.
Image 1, strategic overview of the habitat conservation in Southwark
Image 2, Southwark infographic highlighting changes to habitats and species in 2016.
1.13 Local Nature Reserves

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

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

1.14 Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark

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

Within the context of a changing climate and urbanisation, SINC’s represent some of the best opportunities to conserve habitats and species as well providing opportunities for monitoring change. Local Sites play an important part in the natural processes that maintain air, soil and water quality and that reduce the effects of flooding and pollution. They also represent an important mechanism in providing places for education and community engagement. They represent local character and distinctiveness, and contribute to the quality of life and well-being of local communities. The Southwark Plan identifies and protects these sites. The New Southwark Plan has identified 17 new sites for designation as SINC’s.

The London Plan policy G6 requires boroughs to protect sites of nature conservation value including those of Metropolitan, Borough or Local importance. There are 66 SINC sites in Southwark, 5 are of Metropolitan Importance, 17 are of Borough Grade 1 importance, 22 are of Borough Grade II importance and 28 are of Local Importance. Saved Southwark Plan policy 3.28 protects SINC sites from inappropriate development and seeks enhancements for these sites. The New Southwark Plan proposes to revise the SINC designations of Borough Grade I and Borough Grade II to just Borough Importance.

1.15 Key Habitats:

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

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

1.16 Key Species:

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

Notable species in Southwark:

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

1.17 Bat species in Southwark

There are 17 species of bat in the UK, of these 9 are recorded in Southwark. 3 of the species have been added to our records since 2004. Bats are a national priority species and protected under the European Habitats Directive. Bats make up a quarter of the mammal species found in the UK.
Bats are considered a good indicator of the health of the natural environment because they are sensitive to environmental change and because of their relationship with flora and fauna.

Several of the species found in Southwark are known to roost in Buildings.

Bat species recorded in Southwark are:

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

**1.18 Birds of conservation concern recorded in Southwark**

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

The Red List species are birds that have suffered severe decline in breeding population or are globally threatened.

The Amber List species are birds that have suffered moderate decline or are of European concern.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red List</th>
<th>Bird Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tufted duck</td>
<td>Greylag goose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullfinch UKBAP</td>
<td>Green woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herring gull UKBAP</td>
<td>Nightingale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Sparrow UKBAP</td>
<td>Reed bunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser spotted woodpecker UKBAP</td>
<td>Whitethroat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linnet UKBAP</td>
<td>Stock dove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldfare</td>
<td>Peregrine falcon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted flycatcher UKBAP</td>
<td>Kingfisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starling UKBAP</td>
<td>Little grebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song thrush UKBAP</td>
<td>Black headed gull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mistle thrush</td>
<td>Common Tern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pochard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Woodcock | Goldcrest  
--- | ---  
Black redstart | Mallard  
Nightingale | Mistle Thrush  
Redwing | Swift  
Grasshopper warbler | Kestrel  
Ring ouzel UK BAP | Tawney owl  
Yellowhammer | Short eared owl  
Spotted flycatcher | House martin  
Lesser redpoll UKBAP | Lesser black backed gull  
Cuckoo UK BAP | Firecrest  
**Amber List** | Teal  
Shoveler | Mute swan  
Stonechat | Grey wagtail  
Swallow | Dunnock UKBAP  
Redwing | Willow Warbler  

Table 2, important bird species recorded in Southwark.

*Species with suffix UKBAP are UK BAP priority species.

1.19 Tree Pests and Diseases

Britain’s trees are facing unprecedented threats to the nation’s tree stock and Southwark will be affected in some way. Pests and diseases can enter the country through the importing of contaminated nursery stock and can also be wind blown from Europe or Africa. Recent research from the Forestry Commission also indicates that climate change will create the conditions for increased pest and disease activity.

Where there is a known threat to the tree stock of Southwark, the Tree Section will implement targeted inspections of the species or tree affected to identify trees containing the disease. Southwark will mitigate for the affects of the pest or disease as soon as possible in line with Forestry Commission recommendations, in addition to targeted inspections for pests and diseases.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) is considered to be a pest species and a potential health hazard in Southwark. Large populations are reported to be able to defoliate trees and repeated defoliation is said to leave these trees vulnerable to attack by other pests and diseases, potentially leading to the death of the tree. Additionally, the larvae have tiny urticating hairs which they shed as a defence mechanism, and can cause itchy skin rashes,
and occasionally sore throats, breathing difficulties and eye problems. These hairs can also be carried in the air and can persist in the environment for several years.

2. Key Themes:

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

The key crosscutting themes are:

1. **Making Nature Accessible for all**

2. **Biodiversity Net Gain**

3. **Nature Recovery Network**

2.1 Making Nature accessible for all delivery plan

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

The Ecology services provided by London Wildlife Trust, The Conservation Volunteers and Bankside Open Spaces Trust will deliver a range of community engagement and educational actions in Southwark.

Other organisations and partners complement this work in Southwark.

Southwark works in partnership with The Centre for Wildlife Gardening, Surrey Docks Farm, Walworth Garden Business Improvement Districts (Better Bankside, London Bridge & the Blue) and Idverde who are our Parks grounds maintenance contractor.

Southwark Council will

- Create a young BAP following adoption of this plan;
- Create a Cultural BAP following adoption of this plan.

Southwark Council residents and the partners can:

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

Partners will be encouraged to use the ‘Southwark Presents’ resource to do this. The link to Southwark Presents is below. Southwark Presents has added a new category for nature events.
2.2 Raise the profile of the importance of nature and partners ecology work

I. Share information via social media to promote partnership work and good news;
II. Seek stakeholder attendance at Southwark’s big events such as Bermondsey Carnival;
III. Seek attendance of Partners at Friend’s events such as Nunhead Open Day and Peckham Fair;
IV. Run events & regular activities;
V. Provide interpretation and education;
VI. Promote nature at Health Centres Libraries & Heritage Centres and schools;
VII. Seek new venues to reach new audiences;
VIII. Signpost nature sites.

2.3 Engage with residents, visitors and community groups

I. Hold and promote events;
II. Engage with Friends of Parks Groups;
III. Provide interpretation and education for all;
IV. Promote volunteering opportunities and social prescribing;
V. Support landscape scale projects such as Great North Wood, The Lowline and Big City Butterflies;
VI. Engage with Southwark Everyone Active Programme – Walking, volunteering etc;
VII. Use Community Southwark Resources; https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations
VIII. Develop cultural opportunities to promote nature such as delivering a festival of nature and art installations.

2.4 Engagement through delivery

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

2.5 Biodiversity Net Gain

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

Biodiversity Net Gain is a mechanism to obtain ecological enhancement, either on developments or in the borough.
The Council will develop how this policy is delivered in Southwark following publication of guidance from DEFRA.

The National Planning Policy Planning Framework (NPPF), 2019 sets out the policy on protecting habitats and biodiversity by:

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

2.6 Nature Recovery Network

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

The 25 year Environmental Plan sets out key targets for the UK;

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

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

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

- Integrated environmental delivery – primary aim to recover nature but assist in the delivery of a wider range of environmental benefits;
- For nature and people – ecologically driven but supporting benefits for people such as health and wellbeing, recreation and securing greater environmental equity across communities;
- A shared endeavour – Developed in partnership from the outset and aiming to become the primary framework for planning and delivering Nature Recovery.
The network should be driven by strategic goals for nature. Act as a strategic spatial planning and prioritisation framework for the borough. The Lawton Principles covered in the report making space for nature are key to the recovery plan as is measured success.

Southwark Council will;

Develop a nature recovery plan once we have received guidance on this by DEFRA.

This will include:

- The Great Estates programme;
- Linking with local or regional projects such as the Great North Wood or Big City Butterflies project;
- Developing a Pollinator Strategy - We will develop a Bee Line for Southwark and work with neighbouring boroughs to link this across South London;
- Supporting the Low line project.

2.7 National Park City

WHAT IS A NATIONAL PARK CITY?

It’s a place, a vision and a city-wide community that is acting together to make life better for people, wildlife and nature. A defining feature is the widespread commitment to act so people, culture and nature work together to provide a better foundation for life.

It is a timely cultural choice, a commitment to a sense of place and way of life that sustains people and nature in London and beyond.

Let’s make a National Park City that is rich with nature and where everyone benefits from exploring, playing and learning outdoors. A city where we all enjoy high quality public and green spaces, where the air is clean to breathe and it’s a pleasure to swim in its waters. Together we can make London a greener, healthier, wilder, fairer and more harmonious place to live. Why not?

The London National Park City is a shared vision and journey for a better life. Everyone can benefit and contribute every day.

It is a large-scale and long-term vision that is achievable through many actions. Lots of these things are already happening in London, but by working, learning, sharing and acting together, we can achieve even more.

WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER:

- LIVES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- WILDLIFE, TREES AND FLOWERS
- PLACES, HABITATS, AIR, WATER, SEA & LAND
• TIME OUTDOORS, CULTURE, ART, PLAYING, WALKING, CYCLING AND EATING
• LOCALLY GROWN FOOD AND RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
• DECISIONS, SHARING, LEARNING AND WORKING TOGETHER
• RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATURE & WITH EACH OTHER

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

3.0 The Habitat and Species Action Plans

3.1 Built Environment Habitat Action Plan

Southwark is a densely built-up Inner London borough; over 3/4trs of its area occupied by buildings, streets and car parks. However, the built environment can support a number of iconic species and be surprisingly rich in wildlife.

Buildings provide roosts for bats, and nest sites for birds, these include the Peregrine Falcon, and Kestrels. Swifts and House Sparrows and the Black Redstart all nest in or on buildings and Starling have been found nesting in the air vents of housing blocks.

We can all enhance the built environment for wildlife and help conserve these species. Green roofs offer a good alternative to brownfield (open mosaic) habitats which are declining. Nesting and roosting sites can be installed in to buildings to enhance them for bats and birds, either built into the fabric of new buildings or retrofitted to existing ones. Climbers and other forms of green walls can provide nectar for bees and nesting sites for House Sparrows, and other birds. Streets can be greened with trees, hedges and planters full of nectar-rich flowers and be incorporated into flood alleviation and traffic calming schemes.

Priority habitats:

Open mosaic habitats
Biodiverse roofs and green roofs
Sustainable Urban Drainage
Green and living walls

Priority species:

Bats
Black Redstart
House Martin
House Sparrow
Peregrine falcon
Swift
Kestrel
Hedgehog
Brimstone butterfly
Common Blue butterfly
Bumblebees including Brown-banded Carder Bee
Corky fruited water dropwort

Southwark Council will:

- Ensure that potential harm to these species and habitats is given due consideration in the assessment of planning applications;
- Through the planning process, seek biodiversity enhancements which contribute to the borough;
- Create sustainable urban drainage schemes in streets and include planting which contributes to these targets;
- Work with partners to review core and local restoration areas to deliver partnership based BAP actions and enhancements.

Southwark Council Homes, other social housing providers and Schools can:

- Include biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats in all new build and estate regeneration schemes;
- Retrofit biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats on existing buildings;
- Grow ivy and other nectar-rich climbers up suitable walls;
- Plant native Hedges along boundaries;
- Tree planting initiatives;
- Relax mowing frequency to create daisy lawns and long grass areas;
- Install planters with nectar-rich flowers and/or plant nectar-rich flowers in existing neglected planters;
- Install bat boxes, bumblebee boxes and nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House Sparrows, House Martins and other birds in appropriate places on buildings;
- Maintain populations of Corky fruited water dropwort through appropriate management on housing sites;
- Avoid removing old House Martin, Starling or swift nests from buildings.

Developers and Businesses are encouraged to:

- Include biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats on all new development;
- Include living walls with nectar-rich climbers in new development;
- Include Sustainable Urban Drainage in new developments;
- Provide planters with nectar-rich flowers in new development;
- Incorporate roost sites for bats within the design of new buildings;
- Install internal and external nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House Sparrows, House Martins and Black Redstarts in appropriate places on new buildings;
- Use native plants in landscaping schemes;
- Engage with appropriate stakeholders;
- Survey for fauna before undertaking maintenance or development.

Residents can:
- Grow nectar-rich flowers in window boxes;
- Avoid disturbing bird nests in buildings;
- Install bat boxes, bumblebee boxes and nest boxes for House Sparrows and other birds in appropriate places on buildings;
- Grow nectar-rich climbers such as ivy, honeysuckle and jasmine up walls;
- Seek estate greening via the Cleaner Greener Safer scheme and invest in green infrastructure;
- Form friends groups;
- Volunteer;
- Submit wildlife sightings.

3.2 Gardens & Grounds Habitat Action Plan

In Southwark 21% of the area is occupied by open space. This includes gardens and the landscaped areas around housing estates, schools, road verges, businesses and other premises. The majority of this land is housing amenity land. In the last few years, social housing providers and residents in Southwark have created good quality wildlife habitats, such as ponds, meadows, copses, hedges, orchards and nectar-rich community gardens, around housing estates. This has been supported by the Cleaner Greener Safer fund. Many schools contain wildlife gardens or greening, which are wonderful educational resources. Private gardens are important supporting a wealth of birds, insects, as well as amphibians and small mammals. Private gardens may also be the last refuge for our disappearing population of Hedgehogs. The Centre for Wildlife Gardening is a unique resource run by the London Wildlife Trust in Peckham, which promotes wildlife gardening and community engagement.

**Priority habitats:**

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

**Priority species:**

Bats  
Hedgehog  
House Sparrow  
Amphibians  
Brimstone butterfly  
Common Blue butterfly  
White Letter Hairstreak butterfly  
Bumblebees including Brown-banded Carder Bee  
Stag Beetle  
Black Poplar  
Holly blue butterfly  
Damselflies and Dragonflies
3.3 How we will promote, conserve and enhance these habitats and species:

Southwark Council will:

- Seek biodiversity enhancements which contribute to these targets in the landscaping of all new developments;
- Ensure that community gardens created or enhanced through its Community Volunteering scheme include features which contribute to the objectives in the BAP;
- Work with Southwark Council Homes and social housing providers to advise on managing their land for biodiversity, identify enhancement projects and help to find funding sources to implement these;
- Support the work of the Centre for Wildlife Gardening.

Schools can:

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

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

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

- Create wildlife habitats such as meadows, small areas of woodland, orchards, and hedges within the landscaping around estates, and enhance any existing habitats;
- Install bat boxes, nest boxes for birds, bumblebee boxes and hedgehog homes in suitable places on estates;
- Create loggeries and insect hotels;
- Create Sustainable Urban Drainage on suitable land;
- Review mowing regimes to benefit spring flowers and wildlife;
- Plant buckthorns, Birdsfoot Trefoil and other food plants for butterfly caterpillars;
- Plant nectar-rich flowers to provide food for bumblebees and other insects;
- Plant Black Poplars in suitable sites away from buildings and paths.

Developers and businesses can:

- Create wildlife habitats such as meadows, small areas of woodland, orchards and mixed native hedges within the landscaping around developments;
• Create open mosaic habitat within the landscaping around industrial developments;
• Install bat boxes, nest boxes for birds, bumblebee boxes and hedgehog homes in suitable places within the landscaping around developments;
• Ensure that lighting of new development (during construction and operation) does not adversely impact on foraging bats;
• Create loggeries and insect hotels within the landscaping around developments;
• Plant Alder buckthorn, Birdsfoot Trefoil and other food plants for butterfly caterpillars within the landscaping around developments;
• Plant nectar-rich flowers to provide food for bumblebees and other insects, within the landscaping around developments;
• Partner and provide financial support for local charities delivering conservation projects;
• Create and manage native Hedgerows;

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

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

Residents can:

• Create wildlife ponds and small meadows in their gardens and grounds;
• Plant mixed native hedges;
• Plant flowering shrubs, annuals and perennials in gardens to provide a year-round nectar source for bees and other insects;
• Install bird and bat boxes, hedgehog homes, bumblebee boxes, insect hotels, loggeries and other habitat features in gardens;
• Provide bird feeders, bird baths and make small container ponds;
• Ensure garden fences have gaps or holes which allow hedgehogs to pass between gardens;
• Fundraise;
3.4 How we will raise awareness of biodiversity in gardens?

Southwark Council will:

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

Southwark Council Homes and other social housing providers can:

- Encourage residents to get involved in improving their estates for wildlife with events such as community planting days;
- Provide information about local wildlife and events in newsletters and on noticeboards.

Cleaner Greener Safer can:

- Provide grants to schools and community groups for enhancements to school grounds and community gardens which contribute towards objectives and targets in the LBAP.

3.5 Parks and Open Spaces Habitat Action Plan

Southwark contains over 130 parks and open spaces. These include 4 major parks Dulwich Park, Peckham Rye Park and common, Burgess park and Southwark Park, a Victorian Cemetery and a woodland created on brownfield land which is quite unique. Of the 105 parks in Southwark’s management 33 are designated as SINC sites. Nunhead Cemetery and Sydenham Hill Wood are Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

All our parks and open spaces contain habitats that support wildlife. See Bar charts.

There are opportunities for further habitat creation and enhancement. Many parks could accommodate new meadows, ponds and hedges, as well as increasing the amount of nectar-rich flowers. Suitable locations for new woodland, orchards, open mosaic habitats and ponds are more limited, but opportunities may be found to create these habitats.
Bar Chart showing widespread and abundant habitats in Southwark

Legend

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<th>Habitat type</th>
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Bar Chart showing other habitats in Southwark

Legend

Habitat type
Number of Open Spaces where habitat type was recorded

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Priority habitats:

- Parkland with scattered trees
- Neutral grassland
- Open mosaic habitats
- Native broadleaved woodland
- Orchards
- Flower rich meadows
- Mixed native hedgerows
- Ponds and lakes
- Reedbed
- Veteran trees

Priority species:

- Bats
- Hedgehog
- House Sparrow
- Amphibians: frogs, toads and newts
- Black Poplar
- Brimstone butterfly
- Common Blue butterfly
- Bumblebees including Brown-banded Carder Bee
- Stag Beetle
- White Letter Hairstreak butterfly
- Green woodpecker

Southwark Council will:

- Manage existing wildlife habitats in parks to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance their biodiversity value;
- Produce and maintain up to date management plans for SINC sites in its ownership;
- Identify appropriate locations to create and enhance priority habitats in its parks and open spaces;
- Seek funding from a variety of sources to implement the enhancements identified;
- Collaborate on fund-raising with third sector groups managing public open spaces;
- Ensure biodiversity is considered in all capital schemes in parks, and biodiversity enhancements which contribute to these targets are included where possible;
- Support third sector groups managing key ecological sites in the borough.

The Third sector partners will:

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

Residents can:

• Monitor wildlife in their local park and report sightings to the Biodiversity Officer via the wildlife reporting tool on the website;  
  https://geo.southwark.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Wildlife%20sighting%20s%20and%20reporting

• Volunteer for conservation work at Southwark’s parks and open spaces.

3.6 Woodland Habitat Action Plan

Southwark contains several wonderful woodlands that are spaced from Rotherhithe to Crystal Palace. It is the natural habitat of much of London and woodland and scrub make a vital contribution to the biodiversity of the borough. Almost all have public access, affording Southwark’s residents a retreat from the urban environment. Southwark’s woods also have interesting historical connections. The Great North Wood for example. This Action Plan covers plant communities dominated by trees and/or shrubs; it includes woodland regardless of origin or species, but excludes street trees. Woodland is a rare habitat in Inner London. Southwark has 4% of its area covered by woodland; this compares favourably with London overall where woodland accounts for only 2% of land cover. No lower limit has been put on how small a ‘wood’ can be.

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

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

Because of their longevity veteran trees within parks are of major ecological importance, providing a largely untouched habitat many feet above the ground. These require special protection and management to ensure their continued contribution to biodiversity.
Priority Habitats:
Ancient woodland
Secondary Woodland
Deadwood Inc. tree stumps
Veteran Trees
Pocket woodland
Scrubland with trees
Hedgerows
Railway linesides

Priority Species:
Stag beetle
Greater Spotted Woodpecker
White letter hairstreak butterfly
Purple Hair Streak butterfly
English Oak
Hornbeam
Elms
English Bluebell
Cowslip
Brown Long Eared bat
Bats
Hedgehog

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

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

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

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

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Table 3, SBP species action plans
3.8 Bats Species Action Plan:

Introduction

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

Objectives for Bats

To provide roost sites for bats, such as bat boxes or bat bricks, in new developments, housing estates, parks and schools in parts of the borough where bats are likely to use them. [Target: 30 sites]
- To encourage nocturnal insects by planting night-scented plants in landscaping schemes in parts of the borough where bats are likely to forage. [No specific target]

Southwark Council will:

- Ensure bats are a material consideration in development management;
- Seek bat friendly lighting in new developments;
- Review lighting in parks and open spaces;
- Install bat boxes and tubes in parks and open spaces and on new developments;
- Protect linear features for bat commuting and foraging;
- Create forage areas in parks and open spaces;
- Develop the disused railway tunnels as bat roosts.

Private landowners, developers and residents can:

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

Third sector partners can/will:

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

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Private landowners, developers and residents can:
- Create access for small mammals to neighbours gardens;
- Create hibernation areas in gardens/sites;
- Undertake surveys for hedgehogs
- Avoid using slug pellets.

The Third sector partners can/will:
- Undertake hedgehog surveys;
- Promote hedgehog conservation;
- Promote sustainable gardening;
- Hold events;
- Provide Hedgehog nest boxes in SHW and Dulwich Wood;
- Promotion of hedgehog friendly gardening;
- Engage children with slugs, snails and other invertebrates;
- Improve access and habitats for Hedgehogs.
3.10 Stag beetles Species Action Plan:

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

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

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

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

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

**Objectives for Stag Beetle**

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

**Southwark Council will:**

- Build loggeries in parks and open spaces;
- Host wildlife reporting tool;
- Retain dead wood and tree stumps where applicable.

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

- Report sighting of the beetle;
- Retain dead wood and tree stumps where applicable;
- Build loggeries.

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

- Create demonstration loggeries;
- Promote to Schools and families;
- Raise profile of beetles in Southwark;
- Host reporting tool;
- Monitor beetle populations.
3.11 Amphibians and Dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata Inc. sub - order Zygoptera) Species Action Plan:

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

Introduction

The State of Nature Report 2016 recorded declines in species associated with wetland and fresh water. The report found the over the long term, 53% of freshwater and wetland species had declined and 47% had increased. Over the short term, 51% of species declined and 49% increased.

The index of change in the abundance and occupancy of freshwater and wetland species has declined by 21% over the long term, and by 4% over the short term. 13% of freshwater and wetland species are threatened with extinction from Great Britain.

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

The Common Frog

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

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

The Common Toad,

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

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

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

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

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

**Dragonflies and Damselflies**

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

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

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

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

**Objectives for amphibians**

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

**Southwark Council will:**

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

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

- Create and maintain ponds;
- Check long grass for amphibians before cutting.

**The Third sector partners can/will:**
Create and maintain ponds;
Survey ponds Inc. Freshwater invertebrate surveying;
Promotion of damselfly and dragonfly friendly gardening
Engage children and adults with damselflies, dragonflies and their prey;
Water for Wildlife project increasing dragonfly knowledge;
Hold events to promote pond life;
Provide advice to residents and businesses on pond creation and maintenance.

3.12 Birds Inc. House Sparrow, Swift and Raptors Species Action Plan:

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

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

The following birds are priority species for Southwark.

House Sparrow

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

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

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

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

Objectives for House Sparrow

• To increase the availability of nest sites for House Sparrows by installing sparrow terrace nest boxes or growing dense climbers on walls. [Target: 20 sites]

Black Redstart

The Black restart is a recent arrival from Europe where is nests on cliffs and mountains. In Britain it has colonised urban areas often found on brownfield or industrial sites. They are found nesting and foraging on Power stations, gasworks, railsides, industrial units and dilapidated wharves are their preferred habitat. For this reason the species’ conservation requirements are unique for a British bird.
In London, the black redstart is concentrated on both industrial sites and post-industrial brownfield land along the River Thames East of the River Wandle and along the River Lee. Isolated pairs are still found in central London, which was the bird’s stronghold after the second-world war and they breed on at least one mainline station in central London.

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

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

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

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

**Objectives for Black Redstart**
- To ensure that the possible presence of Black Redstarts is considered in the assessment of planning applications.
- To provide suitable nest sites for Black Redstarts in areas where open mosaic habitats are created or retained. [Target: 5 sites]

**Common Tern**

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

**Objectives for Common Tern**
- To ensure that, where new developments reduce the value of an existing breeding site for Common Terns, this is compensated for by the provision of rafts in suitable places nearby.
- To increase the available nesting habitat for Common Terns through the provision of additional rafts on suitable water bodies. [Target: 10 additional rafts]

**Peregrine Falcon**

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

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

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

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

**Swift**

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

**Objectives for Swift**
- To increase the availability of nest sites for Swifts by providing nest boxes on suitable buildings, including in new developments. [Target: 20 sites]

**Southwark Council will:**
- Install nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House Sparrows, House Martins and Black Redstarts in appropriate places on new buildings;
- Include biodiverse green roofs which meet the definition of open mosaic habitats in all new build and estate regeneration schemes;
- Install tern rafts in our docks and lakes;
- Seek to retrofit nesting features onto existing buildings;
- Ensure contactors take the nesting season into account when planning and undertaking vegetation clearance and works.
- Seek evidence of appropriate surveys for nesting birds where applicable;
- Install nesting features in parks and open spaces.

**Private landowners, developers and residents can:**
- Install nest boxes for Peregrines, Swifts, House Sparrows, House Martins and Black Redstarts in appropriate places on new buildings;
- Seek to retrofit nesting features onto existing buildings;

**The Third sector partners can/will:**
- Hold events such as dawn chorus walks;
- Undertake surveys;
- Promote raptors such as the Peregrine falcon and Tawny Owl;
- Promote ethical bird feeding;
- Work with Friends of Groups and engage with residents on housing estates;
- Provide Interpretation on sites.

### 3.13 Native trees and woodland flora Species Action Plan

#### Introduction

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

Woodland flora has developed to flourish in the woodland environment. Woodland flora often flowers early. Many plants are considered indicators of spring. Lesser celandine, bluebells, cow parsley, wild garlic and cowslips are found in our woodlands and often seen in our parks and gardens.

**Southwark Council will:**

- Review estate management in areas that were once wooded;
- Manage mowing to allow native woodland flora to bloom and seed;
- Promote planting native trees where applicable;
- Provide volunteer opportunities to help manage specimen native trees and flora;
- Survey and report and manage pests and diseases.

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

- Plant native trees where suitable;
- Manage mowing to allow native woodland flora to bloom and seed;

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

- Protect woodland flora;
- Survey for ancient woodland indicators;
- Promote planting native trees in gardens;
- Lead wildflower walks.

### 3.14 Pollinators Inc. bees and butterflies Species Action Plan:

#### Introduction

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

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

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

Buglife have identified the following national trends for pollinators;
- Half of our 27 bumblebee species are in decline.
- Three of these bumblebee species have already gone extinct.
- Across Europe 38% of bee and hoverfly species are in decline.
- Two-thirds of our moths are in long term decline.
- 71% of our butterflies are also in decline.

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

**Southwark Council will:**

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

Private landowners, developers and residents can:

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

The Third sector partners can/will:

• Undertake bee, butterfly and pollinator surveying;
• Create and maintain glades in woodlands;
• Hold events to promote pollinators and bee keeping;
• Provide advice and demonstrations for pollinators’
• Provide insect hotels.

3.15 Finance and Funding

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

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

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