

Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015



Contents

1) Introduction	4
2) Habitat Action Plans (HAP)	
i) Urban Greenspaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries HAP	6
(1) Action Plan: Urban Greenspaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries	11
ii) Built Structures HAP	13
(1) Action Plan: Built Structures	17
iii) Tidal Thames HAP	18
(1) Action Plan: Tidal Thames	23
3) Flagship Species	24
i) House Sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i>	24
ii) Peregrine Falcon, <i>Falcon peregrinus</i>	25
iii) Black Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	26
iv) Bats, e.g. <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	26
v) Stag Beetle, <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	27
4) Appendix	
A1: Members of the City Biodiversity Partnership	29
A2: Policy Framework	29
A2.1 National Policy and Strategy	29
A2.2 Regional Policy and Strategy	31
A2.3 Local Policy and Strategy	33

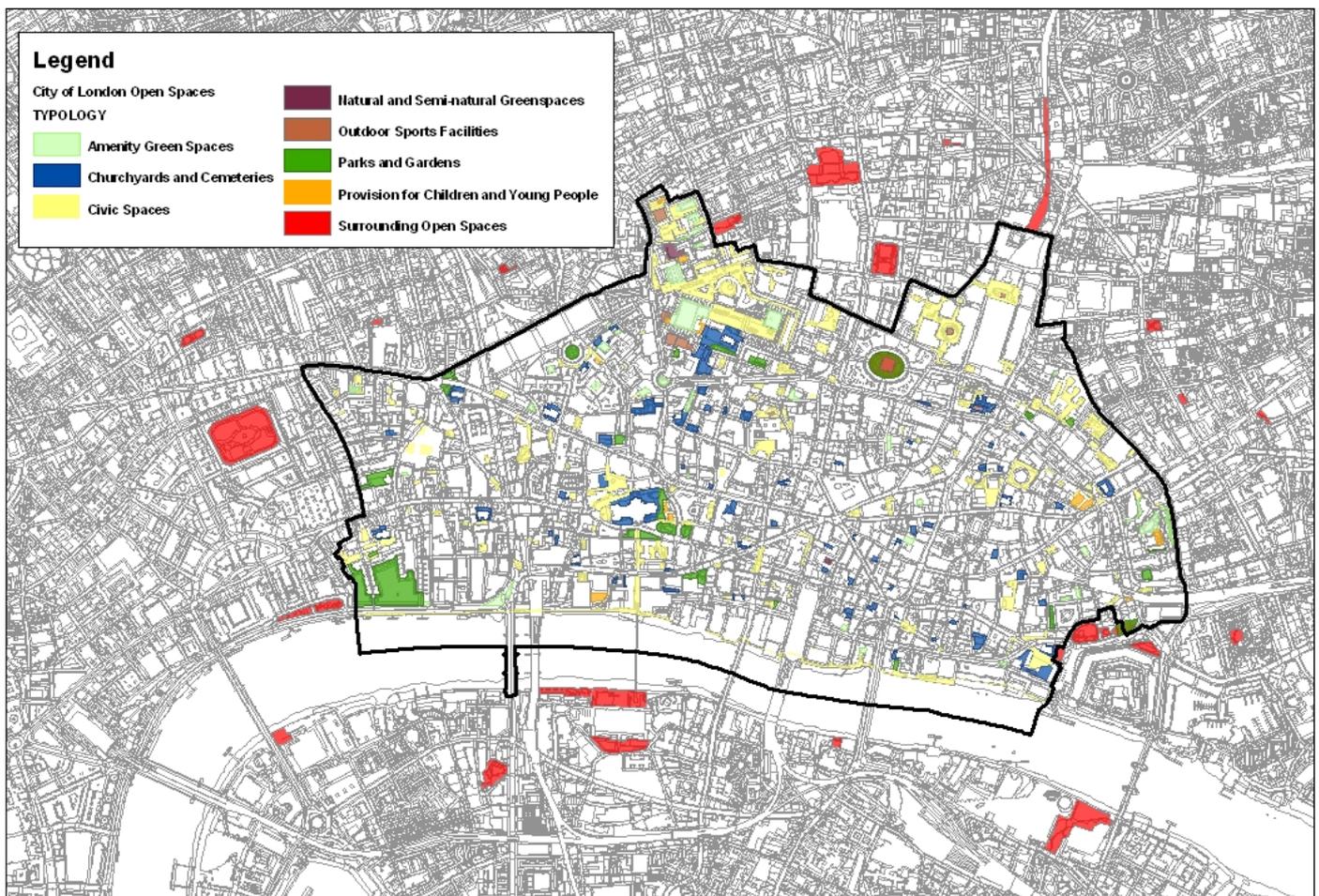
Introduction

The first City of London Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was launched in 2003. The BAP identified 3 different habitat types in the City; Vertical Habitats, City Gardens and the Thames Foreshore. This document re-visits those areas, explains what progress has been made since 2003 and explores the constraints and opportunities that they hold today and in the future for biodiversity.

Biodiversity in the Square Mile

Biodiversity is a term used to describe the numbers of plant, insect and animal habitats in a given location. In the City, parks and open spaces (see Figure 1) provide a haven for birds, butterflies and other wildlife as well as providing space for rest and recreation to help us stay relaxed and more in contact with our natural world

Figure 1: Existing Open Space (By Type) within and close to the City



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Improving biodiversity in urban environments such as the City of London is not about focusing on rare and endangered species; it is about ensuring that the natural world which supports us remains healthy. Plants and trees have always formed an integral part of the urban environment. They work very hard for us by cleaning the air, water and soil from toxins, pollutants and waste products. They also help to retain moisture in the air and to reduce the urban heat island effect.

What is the Biodiversity Action Plan

The City BAP was first put together in 2003. Its main aim is to protect and enhance the biodiversity resources that exist in the City. This is done through the creation of Habitat Action Plans – these look at the different types of habitat that exist in the City and the opportunities that these hold for wildlife. The tables at the end of each section detail what actions will be carried out in order for us to protect, enhance and promote biodiversity in the Square Mile.

Who is involved

This Action Plan has been produced by the City of London Biodiversity Partnership which is made up of the City of London Corporation, City residents, workers, children, conservation groups and ecologists (a full list of all partners can be found in the Appendix 1). This partnership approach to nature conservation is echoed throughout other London Boroughs which, with the help of regional, national and international legislation aims to protect the delicate balance of biodiversity in the UK.

City of London Habitat Action Plans

Three different types of habitat have been identified that provide opportunities for biodiversity in the Square Mile. These are:

1. Urban Greenspaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries
2. Built Structures
3. Tidal Thames

City of London Flagship Species

The 2003 BAP identified House Sparrows, Peregrine Falcons and Black Redstarts as local indicators of biodiversity. Their numbers have been monitored to provide an indication of how successful the action plan has been. For the 2010 – 2015 City Biodiversity Action Plan we are adding Bats and Stag Beetle's to our Flagship species list to allow us to build up a broader picture of wildlife in the City and to educate people about these important species and their place in the City environment.



i) Urban Greenspaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries Habitat Action Plan

1. Introduction

This habitat action plan covers two main elements of Open Space in the City of London which are seen as having similar opportunities and management options for wildlife:

Urban Greenspaces: this includes the small Open Spaces within the City that are publicly accessible and are maintained and managed by the City primarily for recreation. It includes land specifically set aside as public Open Space such as The Cleary Garden, and squares such as Finsbury Circus. In addition to this, there are areas under private ownership that have been designated City Walkway and are again maintained by the authority for public use, e.g. Beech Street Gardens on the Barbican Estate.

Churchyards and Cemeteries: these can be defined as a burial ground enclosed within the walled boundary of a church which, since active burials ceased, has been maintained by the local authority as Open Space. These may still contain headstones as seen in the City at Postman's Park and St. Mary's Staining Lane. The church still owns these sites and the local authority must defer to them in matters of management.

These Open Spaces are immensely important. The City houses around 9,000 residents, but this population swells to 370,000 during the working day. They offer an opportunity for City residents and workers to appreciate the plants and animals that live among us in the City and escape the hustle and bustle of City life.

2. Current Status

Within the City we have several Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, these were designated using the criteria and procedures set out in the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy. They are listed as below;

Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMINC)

- River Thames and its tidal tributaries

Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SBINC)

- Temple Gardens (Grade II)
- The Barbican and St Alphage's Gardens (Grade II)
- Bunhill Fields Burial Ground (Grade II) - this site is outside of the City's boundary, but is owned by the City and managed by the City Gardens Section and therefore appears on this list.

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC)

- Pepys Garden, Seething lane and St Olave’s churchyard
- St Paul’s Cathedral Garden
- Cleary Garden
- St Botolph without Bishopsgate churchyard
- Aldermanbury Gardens
- Roman Wall Noble Street
- Finsbury Circus

These sites are important ecologically and are invaluable in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the City.

One of the key actions of the 2003 BAP was to consult with users to determine their attitudes towards less formal management. Two face to face user surveys have been carried out since 2003, one in 2004 and a second in 2009, to find out what users and non-users think of the City Gardens, including their attitudes on biodiversity. In 2009 respondents felt more strongly about biodiversity and natural planting than they did in 2004, with 89% agreeing that there should be more areas for wildlife throughout the City Gardens, a 28% increase on the 2004 score.

Identifying City Gardens in which less formal management and areas for wildlife could be created was also an action of the 2003 BAP. Finsbury Circus, Fann Street Wildlife Garden and West Smithfield have all had log piles created added to the rear of shrub beds. The decaying wood provides an important habitat for insects including Stag Beetles. Cleary Garden had also been enhanced for wildlife due to sponsorship money received in 2007 from Loire Valley wines and the Parks and Gardens Trust. Scented flowers, shrubs and climbers were added to the garden, these have high nectar contents, e.g. lavender and jasmine which are beneficial to bees and butterflies. A wildlife hedge was added to increase cover and nesting areas for birds. Bird feeders and boxes have also been added to the garden and resulted in an increased amount and diversity of birds seen on site. Bird feeders and bird boxes have also been added to all other SLINC sites throughout the City.

3. Factors Affecting Habitats

3.1. Planning Policy

All gardens and public Open Spaces within the City are protected from development by the Open Spaces Act. In the City land is of a premium, therefore we are unlikely to gain any large additional Open Spaces. Our main action must be to protect and enhance the ones that we do have.

Existing streets are improved through the City Gardens work with the City’s Street Scene Department. Raised planters have been added to pedestrianised areas, e.g. St Bride Street (Figure 2 pictured right) creating additional areas of planting and green corridors in areas where there previously were none.



Figure 3.1.1: St Bride Street raised

3.2. Climate Change

Warmer, drier summers and milder, wetter winters will have their impact on the City gardens and the animals that inhabit them. The urban heat island effect created by the tall buildings in the City means that temperatures always remain higher than in surrounding areas. Planting should therefore be chosen to be tolerant of drought and heat but also to provide food sources for City wildlife, e.g. pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies along with berries for birds. The UK Climate Predictions 2009 also suggest that heavy down pours of rain and flash flooding may increase in the future, therefore the City will continue to use a variety of planting that is tolerant to a wide range of conditions. Good drainage systems in planting schemes and flexible watering regimes will ensure the survival of planting in the City whatever the weather.

3.3. Intensive level of use

The City is Britain's leading financial and insurance centre. Certain sites undergo such high levels of noise, soil compaction and disturbance - especially throughout the summer when there is often not a square metre of space unoccupied, Finsbury Circus accommodated over 2 million visitors in 2008.

3.4. Design, Management and Maintenance

There is a potential conflict between historic management and the desire for biodiversity. Shrubberies can still have a neat appearance whilst continuing to provide cover for nesting birds, and fruiting species can provide autumn berries for food. Formal floral displays need to be balanced by allowing for more naturalistic areas in order to maximise ecological potential. Species chosen for the formal areas should be considered on the merits of their nectar-rich flowers rather than opting for their showy but sterile cultivars.

3.5. Financial constraints

Efficiency and effectiveness have always been important, but even more so in the current financial climate. This has the potential to conflict with environmentally friendly practice as exemplified in the pesticides versus horticultural practice debate. The need to rid the public sites of undesirable weed and pest species (such as the Brown Tail moth caterpillar) in the quickest and most effective way conflicts with the City's Environmental Statement.

4. Current Action

4.1. Legal and Planning status

The City Open Spaces are maintained under 3 main Acts of Parliament: Open Spaces Act 1906, The Burial Act 1855 and the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1952 – see Appendix for full details. We work closely with our planning department to ensure that Open Spaces within the City are valued and protected.

As far back as 2002 the City thought to protect biodiversity through the Unitary Development Plan, that has as one of its main aims to "Protect and improve the provision, attractiveness and accessibility of Open Space and have regard to nature conservation". This sentiment is echoed in the City's Community Strategy called "The City Together Strategy: The Heart of a World Class City 2008 – 2014" which leads all other strategy's and plans within the City, including Open Spaces and biodiversity. Its biodiversity objective is to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The City of London Preferred Options Report (2007), which outlines the direction of the emerging Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework, continues this approach by highlighting:

- The importance of linking up existing Open Spaces
- Requiring development proposals to include landscaping and other ecological features to enhance local biodiversity.

This BAP provides the detail for how this will happen within the City Gardens from 2010 to 2015.

4.2. Strategic Initiatives

The City Corporation's Sustainability Policy (2006) and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2007) provide guidance for existing and proposed Open Spaces to ensure that the design, construction and management of all Open Spaces is done in an environmentally sustainable way. Sustainability Audits are undertaken for all major projects and take into account many factors including biodiversity through:

- Ensuring the careful choice of planting suitable to a wide range of conditions to maximise water efficiency, but balancing this with the requirement for native species in order to encourage diversity of wildlife.

4.3. Management

The City of London Open Space Strategy was produced in 2008 to guide future management plans for all sites within the City. It concluded that the City should prioritise the provision of green publicly accessible Open Space and protect and promote the provision of green private open space where practicable.

In terms of biodiversity, the priority is to enhance the value of existing City managed sites. This will be achieved by increasing the number of bird and bat boxes and appropriate wildlife feeders in these gardens, increasing the amount of native and wildlife-enhancing planting and habitats such as natural water features, continuing good maintenance practice to avoid disturbing wildlife at key times of the year and constructing log piles for Stag Beetles and other insects. Not restricted to SLINC areas named above, these good practice measures (additional bird and bat boxes, water features for bathing birds, bird feeding stations and even small apiaries where feasible) will be implemented at other City Open Spaces sites. Biodiversity actions have also been added to the performance and development reviews of the City Gardens ground staff, e.g. monitoring wildlife, responsibility of maintaining bird feeders and boxes. It is also important to enhance and create linkages i.e. 'green corridors', between Open Spaces in the City and neighbouring boroughs. These linkages facilitate the movement of plants and animals, allowing them to migrate as the climate changes.

Around 28% of existing Open Space is private or has restricted use and individual residents and businesses can make a big contribution to enhancing the biodiversity value of the City by improving the way they manage their gardens and roof spaces.

In terms of trees, wherever possible the City Corporation will favour the use of species which help to sustain wildlife. All trees support insect life which provides food for birds and some species of bat. Native tree species are of most value as they will have evolved together with animals which depend on them, but some non-native species are also successful in attracting insects. For birds, trees provide places to nest and staging posts for migrant species.

Key to the delivery and monitoring of these objectives will be the use and support of volunteers and expert organisations, in order to advise on and implement regular survey work.

4.4. Survey and Monitoring

In 2007 an Audit of its Open Spaces was carried out in accordance with PPG17: "Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation". The purpose of the City of London

Audit was to establish the existing supply of Open Space in the Square Mile by identifying the different types of spaces (using the typologies as set out in '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17*').

The audit found that many of the City's gardens and parks support a variety of wildlife; bird species found in the City include peregrine falcons, blue tits, dunnocks, grey wagtails, black redstarts, spotted flycatchers, moorhens and mallards. Waterfowl including coots are found frequently around the lake at the Barbican complex and there is also evidence of urban foxes in the City. During the survey, 137 of the 197 unrestricted publicly-accessible sites analysed (69.5%) were found to have some potential for supporting wildlife in the context that trees on site provide potential homes for birds, rodents and insects, while ponds and lakes can support fish and waterfowl.

The Open Spaces Audit is due to be repeated in 2012 in order to feed into a full review of the Open Space Strategy. In the mean time local surveys and monitoring are also carried out by the City's gardening team, volunteers and residents as part of annual ongoing programmes, e.g. RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch which is carried out every January.

5. Flagship Species

The following species of conservation importance have a relationship with this type of habitat. Their numbers will be monitored and used to provide an indication of how successful this action plan has been.

- House Sparrow
- Bats
- Stag Beetle

6. Vision Statement: Urban Greenspaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries Habitat Action Plan 2010-2015

The City Corporation aims to protect and enhance urban greenspaces, churchyards and cemeteries in the Square Mile. The City of London Biodiversity Partnership is working to increase the value of these spaces by improving them as homes for wildlife and by promoting good land management. The BAP aims to increase knowledge of the City's biodiversity through improved wildlife monitoring and to promote the public's understanding, awareness and enjoyment of biodiversity in City Gardens.

1) Action Plan: Urban Greenspaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries

Target GCS1	Improve the condition of wildlife habitats at 10 City sites by 2015				
Action no	Action	Lead partner	Contributing partner	Start Date	End Date
GCS 1.1	Undertake biodiversity improvement work at all SLINCs by 2015. To include the installation of stag beetle loggeries, bird boxes, bird baths and achievement of 30% shrub cover. Improvements in 2 sites per year.	CoL OS		Apr 2010	Apr 2015
GCS 1.2	Enhance biodiversity by promoting good land management - write a Conservation Management Plan for all City SLINCs to ensure that important features are protected and enhanced (in line with NI197): 4 by 2010, 8 by 2011, 10 by 2012	CoL OS		Apr 2010	Apr 2012
GCS 1.3	Increase number of SLINC's in the City from 7 to 10 by 2010 as detailed in the City's Local Area Agreement.	CoL OS	CoL PI	Apr 2008	Apr 2010
GCS 1.4	To produce management guidance note for lakes and ponds within the Square Mile.	CoL OS	BEO	Apr 2010	2012
GCS 1.5	Audit and monitor biodiversity: Distribute GiGL monitoring forms to City Gardens Team Leaders and volunteer groups. Set up monitoring for key species groups - achieve 10% increase per annum on number of records submitted to GiGL for recording	CoL OS	GiGL	Apr 2010	Apr 2012
GCS 1.6	Work with GIGL to produce a "Biodiversity Map" of all green spaces within the City (pubic and privately owned) and assess where there are deficient areas/corridors of green space	CoL OS	GiGL, CoS PI	Apr 2010	Sept 2010

1) Action Plan: Urban Greenspaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries

Target GCS1 Improve the condition of wildlife habitats at 10 City sites by 2015 (continued)					
GCS 1.7	Strengthen biodiversity policies in the Core Strategy by highlighting the deficient areas found in 1.6 and ensuring that planning proposals in these areas take account of biodiversity and the potential to add green space to their developments	Col Pl	Cos OS	Sept 2009	2011
GCS1.8	Investigate the potential for wildlife ponds in the City using opportunity maps from GiGL	GiGL/LBP/ CoL OS		Sept 2009	Apr2010

Target GSC2 Promote understanding, awareness and enjoyment of biodiversity in City Gardens					
Action no	Action	Lead partner	Contributing partner	Start Date	End Date
GSC 2.1	Update City of London Website with relevant biodiversity information. Link web pages with relevant planning documents regarding biodiversity, e.g. Sustainability, Planning etc	CoL		Apr 2009	Apr 2010
GSC 2.2	Erect interpretation information about priority species and habitats at 5 key sites by 2014 (1 per year)	CoL	CoL Pl & Sust.	Apr 2009	Apr 2014
GSC 2.3	Create a Nature trail leaflet for City to include Bunhill Fields and highlight the significance of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation within/close to the City	CoL		Apr 2010	Apr 2011
GSC 2.4	Hold wildlife event in City Gardens to launch BAP in 2010. Continue with 1 event per year to promote progress and good practice.	CoL	Volunteers, Schools, Businesses	Apr 2010	Ongoing



ii) Built Structures Habitat Action Plan

1. Introduction

The highly built environment of the City can and does provide opportunities for biodiversity. Over the past few years we have seen peregrine falcons choose City roof tops as their nesting home, while balconies and green roofs provide havens for insects, birds and butterflies. This habitat action plan seeks to identify ways in which roofs, walls and balconies that make up the build landscape of the City can be utilised and maximised to benefit wildlife. Consideration of biodiversity in the planning of new buildings is key to ensuring that biodiversity e.g. bird and bat roosting boxes, is designed into buildings. In instances where green roofs are difficult to achieve, living walls should be considered as an alternative.

2. Current Status

There are a number of existing vertical habitats in the City of London. They include self-established green walls, intentionally planted green walls and green roofs, balcony gardens and window boxes. Our vertical habitats may vary in their value to biodiversity but all contribute positively to the overall environmental quality in the City of London.

2.1 Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Some of our vertical habitats are found in the City's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation as designated and described in the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy. These include:

- St Mary Aldermanbury Garden
The old stone walls around the northern section of the garden have been colonised by ferns, including a large population of maidenhair spleenwort, black spleenwort, hart's tongue and male fern.



Figure 2.1.1
Maidenhair spleenwort

- The Roman wall, Noble Street
This site comprises a section of Roman wall alongside Noble Street plus the remains of a brick building- all that remains of a World War II bombsite. Species found include Oxford ragwort, eastern rocket, thale cress, wavy bittercress, pellitory-of-the-wall, hart's tongue and male fern. Some of the brickwork is also thickly clad in ivy offering cover for birds.

- The Barbican and St Alphage's Gardens
The site includes a mix of Roman wall and medieval wall which have been colonised by species such as maidenhair spleenwort, hart's tongue, black spleenwort and pellitory-of-the-wall.

2.2 Green Walls

There are a number of green walls in the City of London. They vary in type and can be found on old stonework in churchyards as well as on contemporary office buildings, the former being mostly self-established (some of these are described above) and the latter deliberately incorporated into the design of the development.

- All Hallows – London Wall
The Roman wall at All Hallows on London Wall provides an opportunity for nature conservation as it remains relatively undisturbed. During the 2001 City of London ecological survey, a single rustyback fern (*Ceterach officinarum* – locally uncommon species) was found on the wall at All Hallows. Since 2001, the rustyback has multiplied and there are now more than 20 plants to be seen. It is possible this increase is due to improvements in air quality in this area of the City of London.
- Broadgate Development
The Broadgate development was completed in 1991 and occupies 29 acres over and around Liverpool Street Station. The development includes a sequence of public Open Spaces and also includes a number of green walls. These are found at the Broadgate Arena where trellises with plants are supported by the wall; at 1 Finsbury Avenue facing onto Wilson Street and also at 1 – 2 Broadgate.

For green walls to thrive and to exist in harmony with the built structure it is important they are designed with care. A south-facing wall is, for instance, unlikely to be appropriate for a green wall as the vegetation is likely to dry out very quickly during the summer months.

Green (or 'living') walls provide habitat for invertebrates on which birds feed. They can also provide nesting habitat for invertebrates and birds – namely the House Sparrow (LBAP priority species). Animal breeding boxes such as bird and bat boxes can be added to buildings or incorporated during the design stage.

2.3 Balcony Gardens and Window Boxes

Many City residents and office occupiers take advantage of the numerous opportunities to improve the visual outlook of their building by developing attractive balcony gardens, providing window boxes or simply attaching containers to their walls. Even the smallest container of plants can attract insects and provide visual amenity to passers by. The biodiversity value of these will increase the more plentiful these are and will be reliant upon the extent of the wildlife corridor created.



Figure 2.3.1:
Window Boxes at the Barbican Estate

The Barbican Estate won the London in Bloom Community Garden award for its display of window boxes in 2008 and 2009. The individual efforts of each resident combine to create a mass of colourful planting throughout the spring and summer months.

2.4 Green Roofs

Green roofs enhance biodiversity, reduce flooding risk by absorbing rainfall, improve the thermal performance of buildings, therefore reducing energy costs and help to counter the Urban Heat Island Effect. There are a number of existing green roofs in the City of London. These include:

- Roof Garden, No. 1 Poultry
- Cannon Bridge Roof Garden
- 41 Tower Hill Roof Garden
- Sir John Cass School Educational Roof Garden
- Barbican estate walkways

These can provide a valuable space for habitats in deficient areas, create links between habitats enabling the movement of wildlife through the City and they can provide additional habitat for rare protected or important species e.g. Black redstart.

3. Factors Affecting Habitats

Incorporating green walls and roofs into the design of a building may present the architect with a difficult challenge. Developers may also be put off by the false assertion that climbing plants will cause damage to the building when in fact, in the majority of cases, the opposite is true. Different forms of green roofs are beneficial for different species – generic green roofs provided habitat for more common species, however uncommon flagship species such as the Black Redstart and Peregrine Falcon can be attracted if the roof is constructed to meet their specific requirements and this should be considered in the design and planning stage.

4. Current Action

The Open Spaces Strategy produced in 2008 recognises the importance of living roofs and walls for biodiversity in the City and lists as one of its actions to maximise the provision of private and communal residential amenity space (balconies and roof terraces) and communal amenity space for office workers (including gardens and ‘sky gardens’) in appropriate locations.

The City's climate change adaptation strategy 'Rising to the Challenge: Adapting to climate change' (2007) also mentions green roofs and notes their importance in managing air pollution as well as flood and heat risks and states that

- Developers should be encouraged to install sustainable drainage systems and green roofs in targeted flash flood 'hotspots' for new developments, redevelopments or major refurbishments.
- The City of London should consider ensuring that enhancements to biodiversity which also provide cooling (including increased planting for shade in Open Spaces, as well as green roofs and vertical habitats) are made a requirement in the Local Development Framework.

5. Flagship species

The following species of conservation importance have a relationship with this type of habitat. Their numbers will be monitored and used to provide an indication for how successful this action plan has been.

- House Sparrow
- Peregrine falcon
- Black Redstart
- Bats

6. Vision Statement: Built Structures Habitat Action Plan

The City of London Built Structures Habitat Action Plan aims to enhance biodiversity in the Square Mile by promoting the opportunities for living roofs and walls in new and existing developments and buildings. Important City sites for our flagship species need to be identified, protected and where possible increased.

1) Action Plan: Built Structures

Target BS1 Survey and monitor flagship species in order to identify opportunities for habitat enhancements in built structures					
Action no	Action	Lead partner	Contributing partner	Start Date	End Date
BS1.1	Collect baseline data for current populations of Bats and Black Redstarts in the City. Report data to GiGL and add to Biodiversity Map (As mentioned in Action GCS1.6 of the Urban green-spaces, churchyards and cemeteries HAP)	CoL OS	GiGL	2010	2015
BS1.2	Install Bat boxes in relevant locations around the City along known bat routes. 1 area/site to be focused on each year	CoL OS	GiGL	2011	2015
BS1.3	Continue Roof top bird survey with RSPB (to be repeated every 5 years)	CoL	RSPB	2010	Ongoing
BS1.4	Monitor changes and developments of naturally colonised walls in the City of London (survey to be carried out every 3 years)	CoL		2010	Ongoing

Target BS2 Promote the importance of living walls and roofs for biodiversity					
Action no	Action	Lead partner	Contributing partner	Start Date	End Date
BS2.1	Develop biodiversity guidance for planning officers, building managers, designers and developers to champion good practice. Include links to external companies who can provide further advice.	CoL OS/Sust		Apr 2010	2012
BS2.2	Arrange for 'best practice guide' to be included in presentations at the Liveable City Forum (min 1 per annum)	CoL Sust		Apr 2009	Ongoing
BS2.3	Include information about Living Roofs and Walls at the City Wildlife Event. 1 event per annum.	CoL		Aug 2010	Ongoing
BS2.4	Create living buildings trail in City Walks Leaflet	CoL OS	CoL PI	Apr 2010	Apr 2011



iii) Tidal Thames Habitat Action Plan

1. Introduction

The City of London Biodiversity Action Plan identifies the stretch of the Thames that runs through the City as being important to biodiversity and strives to protect and enhance the wildlife habitats, species diversity and local distinctiveness of the Tidal Thames. The purpose of this plan is to set out a strategy as to how this can be achieved.

The composition of the river water itself changes along its course, up-stream in the west the river supports a fresh water ecosystem fed by its numerous rivers and tributaries. At its eastern end its waters are saline and mix with the North Sea. The River Thames is now cleaner and sustains a greater diversity of wildlife than it has for 200 years, supporting 119 different species of fish.

12 million people live around the River Thames. For many the River is a source for recreation, a transport route, a view, a site for redevelopment as well as a wildlife corridor and a place to teach.

2. Current Status

Today the Thames supports a diverse flora and a rich population of invertebrates, fish and aquatic birds. Increasing numbers of fish have been recorded in the Thames since 1957. Recently at Wandsworth smelt have spawned and European Sea Bass have migrated as far upstream as Chelsea (LBP, 2005).

Plant species such as the Sea Aster *Aster tripolium*, which prefer the saline conditions of the estuary, have been found as far upriver as Battersea and therefore may have a population in the City, however they are only be found in any abundance downstream of Tower Bridge.

Birds are more affected by the nature of the foreshore rather than the salinity of the river. Birds which feed on invertebrates living in the inter-tidal mud are found in their greatest numbers downstream of the Thames barrier where flood defences are situated at a greater distance away from the river channel. However fish eating bird species such as Cormorants and Grey Herons are less confined to the foreshore and are commonly seen in the City.

The Key Habitats that make up the City foreshore are

- **Artificial Structures** in the channel, e.g. old pier structure in front of Customs House. These structures can provide roosting and nesting sites for birds. Bird

species which have been recorded in the City stretch of the Thames are; Cormorant, Mallard, Herring and Lesser Black-backed gulls.

- **Flood Walls:** Vertical walls of concrete, in some areas, clad with timber, which can support a variety of plants and invertebrates
- Stretches of **Littoral Foreshore**, exposed at low tides. This environment helps to support over 350 invertebrate species. Fish species such as flounder, bass and smelt fry depend on the shingle foreshore as their feeding ground and as a refuge from the ebbing tide.

Around 2300 m of the River bank in the City are made up of vertical, flood defence walls which restrict the natural extent of the river channel. The City of London does however encourage the use of timber in conjunction with the building of new structures, as timber walls are easier for natural flora and fauna to colonise. It also seeks to retain wherever possible, old timbers currently in use or redundant from past structures.

3. Factors Affecting Habitats

3.1. Planning Policy

Building in the past has caused the City stretch of the Thames to become very narrow thus increasing the speed of the water as it flows through this section. While it is unrealistic to think that the width of the river could ever return to its original extent, the banks must be protected at their current width. Planning policy is in place to ensure that this happens.

3.2. Climate Change

Global warming means that we must expect a rise in the levels of our seas and rivers. A rise of the river Thames would decrease the amount of mud exposed at low tide and thus the inter-tidal habitat. Increased sea levels may also result in more sea defences along the river, and therefore a more hostile environment less able to support flora and fauna.

3.3. Intensive level of use

The width of the Thames in the City stretch has been narrowed throughout the decades with increasing development. The majority of the City section of the Thames has vertical concrete walls. The walls protect the busy roads and large buildings which border the Thames. Whilst there is not the opportunity to recreate natural banks along this section of the river, it is possible to stop further encroachment and enhance the areas, e.g. Queenshithe Dock, where a small gravel beach is visible at both high and low tides.

3.4. Water Quality

Thames Water and the Environment Agency monitor and manage the water quality of the Thames. The most damaging pollutant to the river is caused during intense rainfall when the Victorian sewage network in London disposes of excess water through the storm drains. These discharge sewage and organic matter directly into the river resulting in plummeting oxygen levels and the death of fish and invertebrates in the river.

Thames Water has found a temporary solution to this problem with the 'Thames Bubbler' vessels. There are 2 ships which are deployed onto the Thames after storms to pump oxygen into the river increasing oxygen levels in the water and therefore decreasing the number of fish and invertebrate deaths (Thames website).

A permanent solution would involve the refurbishment of the Victorian sewage network and sewage treatment works in London. Thames Water has committed to invest £400 million to improve the treatment works at Beckton and Crossness. The upgrades will mean that both sewage treatment centres will be able to treat a greater volume of sewage associated with higher rainfall. Thames Water have also introduced new 'skimmer' boats which remove litter on the surface of the river after storms.

Pollution can also be caused by the industry and shipping that is conducted on and around the Thames. The use of the Thames as a shipping channel has decreased over the last few decades (LBP 2005), however spillage of even small amounts of oil and chemicals can be highly damaging to birds and invertebrates that use the river, if their feathers become fouled or if they ingest any pollution. The Port of London Authority and the Environment Agency have contingency plans to deal with pollution incidents if they occur.

The City of London collects refuse in the City and takes it to a transfer station at Walbrook Wharf. Here Cory Environmental load the waste into containers, which are then transferred onto barges and sailed downstream to Mucking Landfill site at Thurrock in Essex. It is important that the City of London ensures that shipping of refuse waste from the City does not cause any adverse effects to the river and its biodiversity.

3.5. Design and Management

Developing the gardens and planters alongside the River so that they provide a wildlife-friendly but attractive garden for visitors to the area is challenging, but possible. There is a potential conflict between historic management and the desire for biodiversity. Shrubberies can still have a neat appearance whilst continuing to provide cover for nesting birds, and fruiting species can provide autumn berries for food. Formal floral displays need to be balanced by allowing for more naturalistic areas in order to maximise ecological potential. Species chosen for the formal areas should be considered on the merits of their nectar-rich flowers rather than opting for their showy but sterile cultivars, e.g planting scheme used at Dark House Walk provides an attractive display for passers by but contains many nectar-rich species for insects and berry-bearing plants for birds.



Figure 5: Dark House Walk

4. Current Action

The Thames Estuary has been identified as the largest green corridor in London and is protected by Legal status. Green corridors are essential in linking Open Spaces throughout London to ensure free movement of species leading to increased biodiversity. Throughout the City as a whole there is a lack of green corridors, meaning that it is difficult for wildlife to migrate from the Thames Northward through the City. Improvements in green roofs and the encouragement of greening the City on any scale from gardens to window boxes will help to improve links between the pockets of green space within City.

4.1. Strategic Initiatives

In 2004 the City adopted the Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy. The Riverside Walk extends from Victoria Embankment to Tower Pier on the north side of the River Thames and is part of the Thames Path. The strategy offers the opportunity to create a high quality Riverside Walk dealing with both public and private space in a coherent manner. One of the main aims of the strategy is to encourage the biodiversity of the City riverside.

The sunny south facing aspect of the Riverside Walk makes it particularly suitable for planting nectar rich species that attract insects, birds and bats. There are a number of opportunities for planting on the Riverside Walk including new planted areas and garden spaces, the incorporation of planters into the riverside wall, the use of trellis and climbing plants on large blank areas of wall and the inclusion of native riverside plants to attract insects and birds.

4.2. Management

As well as creating new spaces through the Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy, we must also make the most of the Open Spaces that already exist. The Open Space Strategy has been produced to guide the management of open spaces throughout the City and highlights the importance of biodiversity. By improving the habitat in the gardens and urban green space adjacent to the River Thames a wider range of species will be supported which will add to the biodiversity of the riverfront.

5. Flagship Species and habitats

The following species of conservation importance have a relationship with this type of habitat. Their numbers will be monitored and used to provide an indication for how successful this action plan has been.

- Common Tern - *Sterna hirundo*
- Oystercatcher - *Haematopus ostralegus*
- Bats

6. Vision Statement: Tidal Thames Habitat Action Plan

The City of London Tidal Thames HAP aims to ensure that strategic plans and initiatives recognise the biodiversity importance of the River Thames, whilst promoting public awareness and appreciation of it. It also strives to protect and enhance the wildlife habitats, species diversity and local distinctiveness of the Tidal Thames.

1) Action Plan: Tidal Thames

Target TT1 Protect and enhance the wildlife habitats, species diversity and local distinctiveness of the Tidal Thames					
Action no	Action	Lead partner	Contributing partner	Start Date	End Date
TT1.1	Include reference to the Thames Foreshore HAP and its importance in the Core Strategy	CoL PI	CoL OS	2008	2011
TT1.2	Investigate possibility for reed bed creation at Wallbrook wharf and Barbican lakes	CoL OS	Thames 21, LBP, GiGL	20010	2011

Target TT2 Promote understanding, awareness and enjoyment of biodiversity along the Thames					
Action no	Action	Lead partner	Contributing partner	Start Date	End Date
TT2.1	Update City of London Website with relevant biodiversity information. Link with relevant planning documents regarding biodiversity along the Thames.	CoL		Apr 2010	Apr 2011
TT2.2	Create a City Walks Leaflet for the River Thames Walkway to highlight its importance for biodiversity and its opportunities for planting biodiversity enhancing species.	CoL OS	CoL PI/Sust	Apr 2010	Apr 2011
TT2.3	Include information about the importance of the Thames for biodiversity during the City Wildlife Event/BAP launch in 2009. Continue with 1 event per year to promote progress and good practice.	CoL OS	Thames 21, PLA	Aug 2009	Ongoing

Target TT2 Promote understanding, awareness and enjoyment of biodiversity along the Thames (continued)					
TT2.4	Include information about the biodiversity value of the River Thames in City publications e.g. City Resident, What's New in the City Gardens – at least 1 per year	CoL OS	Thames 21, PLA	Apr 2009	Annually
TT2.5	Actively promote the river by targeting audiences for example schools, local groups, businesses etc to take part in clean up days along the Thames (min 1 per year)	Thames 21	CoL OS	Apr 2008	Annually
TT2.6	Organise City of London Clean Up Day along the City stretch of the Thames to increase understanding of the river and its significance amongst staff. 1 per year.	CoL OS	Thames 21	2010	Annually

Flagship Species

Introduction

The following species of conservation importance have a relationship with the City. Their numbers will be monitored and used to provide an indication for how successful the Biodiversity Action Plan has been in the Square Mile.

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*

The House Sparrow is a small brown and grey bird approximately 14 – 16cm in size. The male bird has a distinctive black face and bib, grey crown and chestnut brown neck. Nesting in cracks or eaves of buildings, they can often be heard as they noisily chirrup and chatter.

Why are they important?

Once among the most common birds in Britain, their numbers peaked at 12 million in the early 1970's, but the population in the UK has seen a massive decline by 62% over the past 25 years. Because of this rapid decrease in numbers the house sparrow is now on the red list as a species of high conservation concern. Populations are thought to have suffered due to reduced plant food in winter, reduced insect availability for chicks and a reduction in available nest sites.

What are we doing?

Since 2003 the City has carried out a roof top bird survey to establish how birds were using the roof-scapes of the City and in what numbers. The roof top bird survey found House Sparrows around Middlesex Estate. Volunteers have also helped to record the bird populations in conjunction with the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch. In January of 2008 and 2009 sparrows were found at Seething Lane Garden and a healthy population was found at the Barbican Estate.



Figure A: Lord Mayors Scout group helping with the summer bird count in the City.

In line with our species action plan from 2003, pesticide use has been assessed and is now only used as a last resort in the City. We have also put up numerous bird boxes in the City gardens and have bird feeder stations situated in sheltered garden spots to ensure that House Sparrows and other bird species have a constant supply of food throughout the year.

We will continue to improve habitats in the City and monitor the populations of sparrow colonies throughout the Square Mile as an indication of the how successful our efforts of habitat improvement have been.

Peregrine falcon, *Falcon peregrinus*

They are the fastest animals in the world - believed to achieve speeds approaching 200 mph when diving for prey. They hunt other birds at great speeds, often rising above their prey and stooping down for a kill.



Figure B: Peregrine Falcon chick in the City (2008)

Why are they important?

In the UK the peregrine is afforded full protection as a Schedule 1 breeding species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and as a species requiring special conservation measures in Annex I of the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. This kind of protection for the Peregrine is a result of its numbers falling dramatically during the middle of the 20th century, mainly due to poisoning from organochlorine pesticides such as DDT. Numbers have since recovered to around 2000 pairs in the UK.

Despite this, the Peregrine is subject to continued illegal persecution due to egg collecting, falconry or to prevent perceived losses of game birds or racing pigeons. Although the risk of persecution is lower in urban areas, it is still an important factor when dealing with potential nest sites. Recently, Peregrines have started to colonise urban areas, roosting and nesting in a variety of man-made structures.

In London, Battersea Power Station was home to a successful breeding pair in 2000, with at least one young fledged and there is currently one pair roosting on the Tate Modern tower. The Peregrine is no longer an endangered species, with this magnificent bird of prey moving into our cities we are given a golden opportunity to show this bird to a wider audience.

What are we doing?

Since the 2003 BAP the City has become home to a pair of Peregrines who have successfully raised broods of chick in the City, 2009 saw 4 chicks fledge from their rooftop nest. The birds can often be heard overhead during the summer months.

The City have been promoting the good news story through our newsletters, annual report and City resident publications. We have been working with the RSPB to carry out

bird counts in the City, drawing attention to the good news story of the Peregrines and even being able to point them out to volunteers and residents as we are walking around the City.

We will continue to work with buildings managers to ensure that the Peregrine nest site is kept safe in the City to encourage the birds to continue to breed in the Square Mile.

Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros*

This attractive robin-sized bird of the Thrush family, with a characteristic red-brown coloured tail is one of the rarest British breeding birds. London represents the British stronghold for this species, which became more common after World War Two, when it occupied bomb sites. Now occupying "brownfield" sites such as derelict land, old factories and rooftops, Black Redstarts need nesting cavities and insect-rich habitat. The loss of this type of habitat, which is by its very nature always temporary, is a major factor in the decline of this species.

Why are they important?

The Black Redstart is a rarer British breeding bird than the Osprey or Golden Eagle. With fewer than 100 pairs nesting in Britain, the species has been added to the amber list of Birds of Conservation Concern. London is the most important locality for this species in Britain. Their population in the capital makes up between 10% and 30% of the national breeding population.

What are we doing?

The City of London has had breeding pairs of Black Redstarts recorded in the City since the 1990's, in fact the recent development of one of the City's own buildings was halted due to the presence of a breeding pair of the birds. As one of our flagship species we will be monitoring their numbers closely in the future and working with other organisations to map sightings of the species in the City and identify areas of opportunity for black redstart habitats on the roofs of buildings as detailed in the built structures habitat action plan.

Bats, e.g. *Pipistrellus nathusii*

There are 17 species of bat in the UK, London is home to at least eight species, with the pipistrelle being common in the inner London boroughs. All British bats are relatively small - the pipistrelle is just five centimetres long, with a wing span of 20 centimetres and a weight of four grams. One of the largest and most widespread is the noctule, which can reach a length of eight centimetres, and is often mistaken for a swift

as it flies high soon after sunset. All European bats feed on insects, from tiny gnats to large beetles. During winter there are few active insects so bats cope with this seasonal lack of food by hibernating.

Why are they important?

A couple of generations ago, people talked of 'clouds of bats' rising across the Thames - but not today. Bat numbers are in decline. This is linked to a loss of roost sites, chemical treatment of roof timbers which are toxic to bats, pesticide use depleting their food source, and a dramatic loss of feeding sites. For these reasons all bats are protected by law under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to harm bats or disturb their roost sites.

What are we doing?

Bats have been reported flying over the Barbican lakes at night and are known to use the Thames as a route through London. Our first aim is to monitor and record what bat species we have in the City as part of the built structures habitat action plan as bats in the City are increasingly relying on small crevices in buildings to roost.

Once we have information as to where bats are found in the City we will add roosting boxes to relevant areas to try and increase bat numbers in the Square Mile. The records will also help us to identify and advise building owners of bat corridors within the City and encourage them to install bat roosting boxes also.

Stag Beetle, *Lucanus cervus*

The Stag Beetle is the UK's largest ground-living beetle. London is a stag beetle hotspot, with thirty percent of the UK's recorded population in London's woods, parks and gardens.

Why are they important?

The distribution of stag beetle populations has contracted in the last 40 years. It is believed that the destruction of its key habitat - dead wood - through the 'tidying-up' of woodlands, parks and gardens is the prime reason for its decline, although in urban areas the impacts of traffic, feet, cats and other predators will also be significant.

What are we doing?

The stag beetle has been recorded all over London, but it appears to be significantly more common in the south and west of London, in areas such as Lewisham, Beckenham, Dulwich, Wandsworth, and Richmond. We have not yet seen any stag beetles in the City, but we have been creating habitat for them and other invertebrates with the help of volunteers and the local community. We have been retaining dead wood from trees

prunings to create log piles at the back of the flower beds in gardens around the City, e.g. Smithfield Rotunda garden and Finsbury Circus.



Figure C: Volunteers creating stag beetle log pile at Smithfield Rotunda Garden.

Appendix

A1: Members of the City Biodiversity Partnership

- Butterfly Conservation
- City of London Corporation
- Fann Street Wildlife Group
- Greater London Authority
- Greenspace Information for Greater London
- Living Roofs.org
- London Bat Group
- London Biodiversity Partnership
- London Borough of Islington
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- London Borough of Westminster
- London Wildlife Trust
- Natural England
- Port of London Authority
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Thames 21
- Volunteers working in association with partner organisations.

A2: Policy Framework

This section establishes the relevant policy framework which provides the context for the Biodiversity and Habitat Action Plans and helps inform its content. This section is split into national, regional and local policy.

A2.1 National Policy and Strategies

A2.1.1 Urban Green Spaces Task Force (UGSTF). Government concern over the decline of urban parks over the past 20 years or so led to the establishment of the Urban Green Spaces Task Force in 2001. The Task Force published *Green Spaces, Better Places* in 2002; this document acknowledges that:

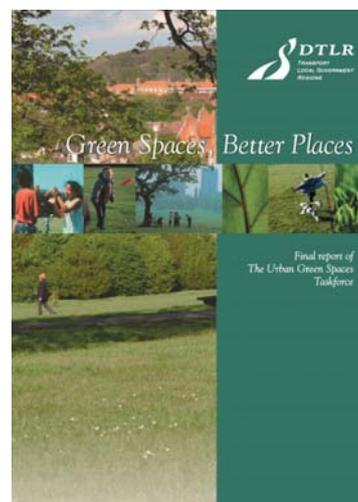
“As well as being popular, good-quality parks and green spaces make important contributions to improving the quality of our towns and cities and the urban renaissance by delivering wider and longer-term social, economic and environmental benefits through a range of public policy priorities.

The provision of good quality green spaces can make an important contribution to regeneration and renewal projects and enhance the image of a neighbourhood. Parks are an essential element in creating a sense of place, which is vital to community spirit as well as being attractive to visitors. The economic benefits go even further: they help to

raise property values, create quality townscapes and, therefore, build business and community confidence.”

A2.1.2 Green Spaces, Better Places recognised the serious challenges facing open spaces. Generally there has been a decline in quality, due to a lack of funding, loss of political support and status and a failure to meet the needs and expectations of communities.

- The Report looked at ways of reversing the decline through methods such as establishing a strategic policy framework for open spaces, increasing funding (securing funding external to local authorities), establishing partnerships, and greater community involvement in parks and green spaces.
- The UGSTF recommended that a typology of green space be adopted by the Government and its use promoted amongst local authorities; this forms the basis for the typologies in the PPG17 companion guide.



A2.1.3 Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005).

This sets out the key principles for the planning system and the delivery of sustainable development. Paragraph 18 states that: “Planning should seek to maintain and improve the local environment and help to mitigate the effects of declining environmental quality through positive policies on issues such as design, conservation and the provision of public space.” Paragraph 27(v) call for improved access for all to leisure and community facilities, open space, sport and recreation and paragraph 27 (ix) call for the enhancement as well as protection of biodiversity, natural habitats, the historic environment and landscape and townscape character.

A2.1.4 Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005).

This makes clear that plan policies and planning decisions should aim to maintain, and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. It also makes clear that policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development.

A2.1.5 Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002). This makes clear that open space can underpin people’s quality of life, and assists in delivering broader Government objectives. It calls on local authorities to carry out needs assessments and audits of open space and recreational facilities in accordance with guidance in the PPG itself and the Companion Guide.

A2.1.6 Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17. The Guide provides one way in which local assessments of need and audits of provision can be

undertaken, it recognises that other approaches may be possible. It identifies 5 key attributes of open space these are:

1. Accessibility (if a particular open space is inaccessible it will be of limited value to those who may want to use it);
2. Quality (depends on the needs and expectations of users, and design management and maintenance);
3. Multi-functionality (many open spaces are used for a variety of purposes);
4. Primary Purpose (by identifying the open space's primary purpose it is possible to take account of the variety of uses a site might have and brings clarity and consistency to planning, design and management policies);
5. Quantity (open space is often measured by amount of provision, but this doesn't take account of other key factors).

A2.2 Regional Policies and Strategies

A2.2..1 The London Plan: The Mayor of London published his Spatial Development Strategy for London (known as "The London Plan") in February 2004. Following the approval of Early and Further Alterations, the Mayor published a consolidated Plan in February 2008. The London Plan seeks to protect and promote open spaces and recognises that the value of these spaces will increase as London becomes more compact and intensive in its built form. The following policies are particularly relevant:

A2.2..2 Policy 3D.8 (Realising the value of open space & green infrastructure)

This policy states that the Mayor will work with strategic partners to protect and promote London's network of open spaces, to realise the current and potential value of open space to communities, *and* to protect the many benefits of open space, including those associated with health, sport and recreation, children's play, regeneration, the economy, culture, biodiversity and the environment. The policy stresses the need to improve access to open space.

A2.2..3 Policy 3D.11 (Open space provision in DPDs)

This policy requires boroughs to:

- identify broad areas of public open space deficiency and priorities for addressing them on the basis of audits carried out as part of an open space strategy, and using the open space hierarchy set out in Table 3D.1 as a starting point
- ensure that future open space needs are considered in planning policies for Opportunity Areas and other areas of growth and change in their area
- encourage functional and physical linkages within the network of open spaces and to the wider public realm, improve accessibility for all throughout the network and create new links based on local and strategic need

- identify, promote and protect Green Corridors and Green Chains and include appropriate designations and policies for the protection of local open spaces that are of value, or have the potential to be of value, to local communities.

A2.2.4 Policy 3D.13 (Children and Young People’s Play and informal recreation strategies)

This proposed policy makes clear that the Mayor will, and boroughs and other partners should ensure that all children have safe access to good quality, well-designed, secure and stimulating play and informal recreation provision. Boroughs should produce strategies on play and informal recreation to improve access and opportunity for all children and young people in their area.

A2.2.5 Policy 3D.14 (Biodiversity and nature conservation)

The Mayor will work with partners to ensure a proactive approach to the protection, promotion and management of biodiversity in support of the Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy. The proposed alterations make clear that DPDs should identify these deficiency areas and the opportunities for addressing them. The London Plan sets out an Open Space Hierarchy (see below), to ensure that a range of open spaces of different size, type and function are accessible to all.

Table A2: London Plan: Table 3D.1 London’s Public Open Space Hierarchy

Open Space Categorisation	Size Guidelines	Distance from homes to open spaces
Regional Parks	400 hectares	3.2 to 8 km
Metropolitan Parks	60 hectares	3.2 km
District Parks	20 hectares	1.2 km
Local Parks and Open Spaces	2 hectares	400 m
Small Open Spaces	Under 2 hectares	Less than 400 m
Pocket Parks	Under 0.4 hectares	Less than 400 m
Linear Open Spaces	variable	Wherever feasible

A2.2.5 Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy

The Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy sets out how London’s biodiversity can be protected and looked after. It also aims to make sure everyone can enjoy and learn about the natural world. The Strategy relies heavily on partnership working between many organisations to help carry out the proposals, including borough councils, community groups, businesses and conservation organisations, as well as the support of individual Londoners

A2.2.6 Other Mayoral Strategies and Guidance

The London Plan sits alongside and is informed by a number of other relevant strategies, Sub Regional Development Frameworks (SRDFs) (including the SRDF for East London,

dated May 2006) and various relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance and Best Practice Guidance notes.

A2.2.7 East London Green Grid Framework (Supplementary Planning Guidance, February 2008)

This provides guidance on implementing London Plan policies and focuses on identifying strategic open space opportunities. However, it does identify the whole of the City as being in the indicative deficiency areas in relation to District Parks, Local Parks and access to nature. The central part of the City is also identified as being within the indicative deficiency area in relation to Metropolitan Parks.

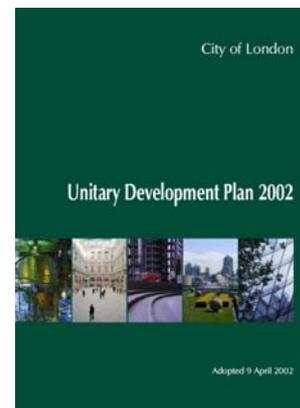
A2.2.8 Improving Londoners' Access to Nature (Implementation Report, February 2008)

This demonstrates how the aim of improving access to nature can be achieved by identifying opportunities. It identifies a number of priority sites for reducing and alleviating areas of deficiency. None of these are in the City, but a number are near by.

A2.3 Local Policies and Strategies

A2.3.1 City of London Unitary Development Plan (2002)

The City of London UDP was adopted in April 2002. In September 2007, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government issued a Direction¹ requiring that 141 of the 170 policies in the Plan be 'extended' until they are superseded upon the adoption of relevant City Corporation Development Plan Documents (DPDs). These include the following relevant policies:



- POLICY REC 3 (Nature Conservation)
To have regard to nature conservation in the design and management of open spaces and throughout the City
- Policy ENV5 (Open Spaces)
To resist the loss of public and private open spaces which contribute positively to the character and amenities of their surroundings and normally to require that any new open space created by development shall be appropriate to the character of the locality.
- Policy ENV 9 (Trees and Landscaping)
To safeguard trees that are subject to Tree Preservation Orders and to protect other trees that make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of conservation areas and townscape.
- Policy ENV 19 (Gardens of Special Historic Interest)
To resist development which would have an adverse effect on these spaces and to protect their setting and enjoyment and maintain their historic character.
- Policy RIV 6 (Riverside Walk):

¹ under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

To ensure completion of the riverside walk; to protect, and to enhance where appropriate, those sections which have been completed.

A2.3.2 City of London Biodiversity Action Plan (July 2003)

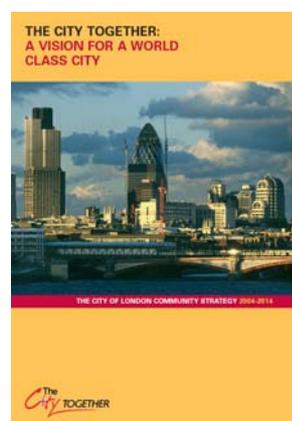
The Plan identifies three different habitat types in the City; Vertical Habitats, City Gardens and Churchyards and the Thames Foreshore. Each area has been explored to identify the constraints and opportunities that they hold for biodiversity and Habitat Action Plans have been written for each.

A2.3.3 Open Spaces in the City of London Supplementary Planning Guidance (May 2004)

This SPG provides a definition of 'open space' adopted for the Strategy (see para 1.10.2). It also sets out a description of the different open spaces in the City and other related issues under the following headings: Historic Open Spaces, Street Scene Enhancement, Trees, Biodiversity and Sports and Play Facilities. The information in this SPG formed the basis of the City Open Space Survey.

A2.3.4 The City Together: A Vision for a World Class City (the City of London's Community Strategy 2004-2014)

The overall vision is: "The City of London will build on its success as the world's leading international financial and business centre, and will maintain high quality, accessible and responsible services benefiting its communities, its neighbours, London and the nation."



The vision is based on eight themes, one of which is "A Clean, Pleasant and Attractive City - providing a sustainable environment for present and future generations". One of the objectives in this theme is:

- Protecting, maintaining and enhancing the built environment, the streetscene, open spaces and biodiversity

A2.3.5 Local Area Agreement (2007-2010)

Under the 'Clean, Pleasant and Attractive City' theme, the LAA has a target of increasing the number of City Gardens that are identified by the Greater London Authority (GLA) as Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation from seven (in 2006) to 10 (by 2010).

A2.3.6 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (January 2007)

The Strategy aims to identify the priority risks associated with climate change and proposes adaptation measures which are designed to ensure that the City's infrastructure and services cope under a changing climate. The key relevant recommendations for the City Corporation are to:

- Examine a range of incentives to encourage sustainable drainage systems, vertical habitats and green roofs.

Open Spaces Department

The City of London Corporation owns and manages a number of Open Spaces, Parks and Gardens in and around London as part of its commitment to sustaining a world class city. Each Open Space is a unique resource managed for the use and enjoyment of the public and for the conservation of wildlife and historic landscape.



In addition to the Biodiversity Action Plan, a number of other publications are available, including many free leaflets. A full list of Sites and visitor information can be found on our website, as detailed below.

If you would like to receive this publication in your language, or in an alternative format such as large print, Braille or audio tape, please contact the:

Open Spaces Department
City of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall
London, EC2P 2EJ
Phone 020 7332 3505
Fax 020 7332 3522
Email openspaces.directorate@cityoflondon.gov.uk



A full list of sites and visitor information can be found on our website at:
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces