

## Development plan policies for biodiversity

Best Practice Guidance of The London Plan  
(Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London)



November 2005

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(Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London)

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**Greater London Authority  
November 2005**

**Published by**  
Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA  
**www.london.gov.uk**  
enquiries **020 7983 4100**  
minicom **020 7983 4458**

ISBN **1 85261 784 5**

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The cover photograph shows the completion of restoration of Ravensbourne River in Brookmill Park, Lewisham. The restoration was funded as part of the planning conditions for the Docklands Light Railway as the route of the river in its former concrete channel was the most direct route (see 'before' photograph below). The river was therefore moved to make way for the railway, but re-structured within the park, as a more natural river bed, with increased flood storage capacity.



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## Mayor's foreword

Londoners live in one of the world's greenest cities. A long history of open space provision and protection has left us with many beautiful and internationally renowned parks, while the River Thames is now the cleanest metropolitan river in Europe, supporting over 100 different types of fish.

Natural open spaces are home to wild animals such as birds and butterflies, as these places offer food, shelter and places to breed. These open spaces are also places to escape the noise and bustle associated with living in London.

We have a responsibility to protect and conserve London's parks and open spaces, and to improve them for future generations of Londoners. Improving and enhancing our parks and open spaces is an integral part of planning for London's economic and population growth. I have two main targets in this: first, that there should be no overall loss of wildlife habitats in London; and second, that existing open spaces are improved, new ones created, and all made more accessible, so that all Londoners are within walking distance of a quality natural space.

The potential to improve or provide new natural habitats should be considered at an early stage in the development process. Innovative building techniques, such as green roofs or walls and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, not only provide good quality design solutions for energy conservation or water management, but have the added benefit of providing wildlife habitat. To achieve these aspirations it is essential that local development plans contain the right planning policies.

Policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and open spaces, reflecting the urban context, are set out in my London Plan and Biodiversity Strategy. This guidance document will assist the development of London borough level policies, highlighting policy areas that need to be considered in local development documents. Over time the local adoption of the model policies in this Best Practice Guide will not only benefit London's wildlife but also bring Londoners greater access to nature and open spaces.



**Ken Livingstone**

Mayor of London







# 1 introduction

- 1.1 This Best Practice Guidance is intended to assist boroughs with the preparation of planning policy for biodiversity in Local Development Documents (LDDs) which replace Unitary Development Plans (UDPs) under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Biodiversity should be considered at the very start of the process when developing a vision and objectives for the borough in plans and policies, including the Community Strategy. LDDs must be in general conformity with the London Plan. The model policies in this guide are designed to assist boroughs in ensuring that development plans meet this requirement in respect of biodiversity. However, it must be stressed that there is absolutely no requirement for boroughs to use the policies as worded here. The model policy wording is intended to guide the development of the policy by each borough.
- 1.2 This is one of a series of best practice guides that will be issued by the Mayor to accompany and amplify the policies in the London Plan, dealing with issues in more detail than is possible in a strategic document. It does not set out new policy.
- 1.3 This guidance has been prepared under paragraph 3.258 of the London Plan, which states *The Mayor expects the biodiversity and natural heritage of London to be conserved and enhanced for the benefit of this and future generations. He will assist boroughs in doing this with advice on UDP policies for biodiversity.* The publication of this guidance also fulfils proposal 10 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, which states that *In consultation with other expert groups, the Mayor will produce model policies for biodiversity conservation to assist London borough councils with this aspect of their Unitary Development Plans.*
- 1.4 The guidance updates previous policy advice on nature conservation in development plans. In 1991 the London Ecology Unit worked with the London Offices of English Nature, the Countryside Commission and the London Wildlife Trust to produce advice on policies for UDPs for London. Since that time there have been advances in policies, advice and guidance. The London Ecology Committee was abolished on 1st April 2000 and the London Ecology Unit staff absorbed into the Greater London Authority. The London Ecology Unit's model policies of March 2000 were the starting point for this guidance and most of the changes are to link with the policies of the London Plan, the policies and proposals of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, and the changes to local plans under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.



- 1.5 The term “nature conservation”, as widely applied in the United Kingdom, applies to the conservation of geological and physiographical interest, as well as biodiversity. However, the requirement in the Greater London Authority Act 1999 is for the Mayor to produce a strategy for biodiversity. This Best Practice Guidance, therefore, addresses policies for biodiversity, and does not cover geological conservation. Planning authorities should, nevertheless, be aware of the requirement in Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9), Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, to take account of geological interest in Local Development Schemes (LDSs).
- 1.6 The appendices included in this best practice guidance illustrate the relationship between biodiversity designations that are appropriate in London, and lists those species which require special consideration in planning in London.

## 2 Background: policy and guidance

- 2.1 The London Plan sets the strategic framework for planning in London. It addresses biodiversity issues in Policy 3D.12, which is repeated in full in the box below. Model policies are included in this Best Practice Guidance to cover each area within Policy 3D.12.

### **Policy 3D.12 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 planning of new development and regeneration should have regard to nature conservation and biodiversity, and opportunities should be taken to achieve positive gains for conservation through the form and design of development. Where appropriate, measures may include creating, enhancing and managing wildlife habitat and natural landscape. Priority for habitat creation should be given to sites which assist in achieving targets in Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and sites within or near to areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites.

Boroughs, in reviewing UDPs and in considering proposals for development should accord the highest protection to internationally designated and proposed sites (SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites), and to nationally designated sites (SSSIs) in accordance with government guidance and the Habitat Regulations, 1994.

The Mayor will identify Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMIs), which, in addition to internationally and nationally designated sites, includes land of strategic importance for nature conservation and biodiversity across London. Boroughs should give strong protection to these sites in their UDPs. Boroughs should use the procedures adopted by the Mayor in his Biodiversity Strategy to identify sites of Borough or Local Importance for nature conservation and should accord them a level of protection commensurate with their borough or local significance.

The Mayor will and boroughs should resist development that would have a significant adverse impact on the population or conservation status of protected species or priority species identified in the London Biodiversity Action Plan and borough BAPs. Appropriate policies for their protection and enhancement and to achieve the targets set out in BAPs, should be included in UDPs.

Where development is proposed which would affect a site of importance for nature conservation, the approach should be to avoid adverse impact

on the nature conservation value of the site, and if that is not possible, to minimise such impact and seek mitigation of any residual impacts. Where, exceptionally, development is to be permitted because the reasons for it are judged to outweigh significant harm to nature conservation, appropriate compensation should be sought.

- 2.2 Other policy areas of the London Plan are also relevant to biodiversity conservation, and form the basis for several of these model policies as follows:
- Policy 3D.10 addresses Green Corridors
  - Policy 4B.6 on sustainable design and construction is an important consideration for urban design policies
  - policies in section 4C on the Blue Ribbon Network contain a number of references to the importance of the network for biodiversity, including Policy 4C.3
  - the supporting text to Policy 2A.6 on London's suburbs highlights the need to have regard to biodiversity issues in the residential heartlands.
- 2.3 The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, the first statutory biodiversity strategy for a UK region, provides more detailed strategic background. Policy 1 of the Strategy states that *The Mayor will work with partners to protect, manage and enhance London's biodiversity*, and Proposals 1-8, 10-13, 19, 25, 26, 34 and 70 provide detail of how this will be done through the planning process. Appendix 1 of the Strategy provides details of the policy, criteria and procedures for identifying nature conservation sites in London. These procedures are referred to in Policy 3D.12 of the London Plan, and are the key to the identification of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Green Corridors and Countryside Conservation Areas.
- 2.4 Government policy guidance on biodiversity is set out in PPS9 (August 2005). This guidance maintains the broad framework provided by previous government guidance on this subject and gives a clear focus on the need to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity.

- 2.5 Substantial progress has been made with Biodiversity Action Planning, leading to the identification of priority habitats and species, both nationally and in London, through voluntary partnerships. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been produced for many of these priority species and habitats, and targets set at national, regional and (in many cases) borough levels. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a list of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Much of this work builds upon pre-existing planning policy for biodiversity, but it nevertheless needs to be reflected in the wording of these model policies. This has been done by incorporation into each topic as appropriate, rather than by the addition of separate model policies for action planning priorities, as action planning is relevant across most policy areas.



### 3 Biodiversity strategic policy

- 3.1 There is a need for a strategic biodiversity consideration within the core LDD of the LDS, as this is an integrated element of the environmental factors that contribute to sustainable development objectives. The level of detail required in this strategic policy depends on whether a borough is also publishing a LDD giving detailed development control policies. If no detailed development control LDD is to be produced, the policy in the core LDD needs to cover all the policy areas listed in Policy 3D.12 of the London Plan and discussed in section 4A of this guidance.

Where detailed policies are to be included in a separate LDD, a model policy would include references to the following:

- **to protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, including important sites and species**
- **to seek biodiversity enhancements in new developments**
- **to promote public access and appreciation of nature.**

*Justification:*

Development proposals should take every opportunity to protect, conserve and enhance the natural features of the borough both for their own sake and to provide opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of nature. This includes the protection of important sites and species, Green Corridors and the provision of habitat within new developments, including meeting BAP objectives, through landscaping and design for biodiversity.

Where biodiversity issues are material to the determination of a planning application, an assessment study of the existing situation, opportunities, and impacts, both direct and indirect, at the time of lodging a planning application will be expected.

Where no detailed LDD covering development control policies is to be produced, a model policy would include references to the following:

- **to protect, manage and enhance biodiversity**
- **to take account of biodiversity in all planning decisions**
- **to protect Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Green Corridors**
- **to resist development which would harm the population or conservation status of protected and priority species**
- **to seek biodiversity enhancements in new developments**
- **to promote public access and appreciation of nature**
- **to seek mitigation and compensation where development will cause harm to biodiversity.**

*Justification:*

It is essential that development proposals take every opportunity to protect, conserve and enhance the natural features of the borough both for their own sake and to provide opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of nature. This includes the protection of important sites and species, and the provision of habitat within new developments, including meeting BAP objectives, through landscaping and design for biodiversity.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Green Corridors are identified following procedures and criteria published in Appendix 1 of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy, and are shown on the Proposals Map.

Protected species include badgers and those species listed in Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Priority species are identified in the UK, London and borough Biodiversity Action Plans.

Where biodiversity issues are material to the determination of a planning application, an assessment study of the existing situation, opportunities, and impacts, both direct and indirect, at the time of lodging a planning application will be expected.

Where, exceptionally, the economic or social benefits of a proposal outweighs harm to an important site or species, the approach will be first to avoid or minimise the harm, then to seek mitigation of the impacts, and finally to secure appropriate compensation for any residual impacts, to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. Planning conditions and obligations will be used as appropriate to secure this.

**Background**

- 3.2 This model policy helps to deliver policies 1, 3 and 5 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, which are reflected in the wording of policy 3D.12 of the London Plan. Biodiversity Strategy policy 1 is that *The Mayor will work with partners to protect, manage and enhance London's biodiversity* and policy 3 is that *The Mayor will encourage and promote the management, enhancement and creation of green space for biodiversity, and promote public access and appreciation of nature.*
- 3.3 The assessment of impacts on biodiversity is covered on pages 50 and 51 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. Planning applications that may affect biodiversity should be lodged with adequate details of the likely impact.



- 3.4 Paragraph 1(ii) of PPS9 covers the importance of local planning authorities balancing the need to protect habitat and species diversity with adequate provision for development.
- 3.5 Paragraph 11 of PPG17, Planning for open space and recreation (2002) states that open spaces that are of high quality or of particular value to a local community, including land that particularly benefits wildlife and biodiversity, should be recognised and given protection.
- 3.6 The UK Action Plan sets out Government's strategy for Biodiversity. Paragraphs 6.49 to 6.55 of the Action Plan deal with the conservation of biodiversity in urban areas. These stress the importance of protecting and enhancing open land for this purpose. Among Government's targets for biodiversity in paragraph 10.36 of the Action Plan are:
  - 5. *Ensure that development control conforms to Government policies for the conservation of biodiversity.*
  - 16. *Encourage local planning authorities to make reasonable provision for Local Nature Reserves and natural green space in local plans and environmental charters.*



## 4 Biodiversity policies for development control

- 4.1 The following model policies are intended for a LDD setting out development control policies within the new LDS. They expand on the general policy, and there are several policy areas which should be covered. These are presented below as individual policies, but individual boroughs may decide to combine several or all into a single policy.
- 4.2 The policies below are divided into those that deal with policy areas covered in the London Plan, and additional policy areas which are recommended in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.

### A: Essential biodiversity policy topic areas covered in the London Plan

- Protection, creation, management and enhancement of wildlife habitat
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Species Protection
- Green Corridors
- Mitigation and compensation

### Protection, creation, management and enhancement of wildlife habitat

A model policy would include references to the following:

- **to use the development control process to:**
  - **secure the protection, management and enhancement of natural landscape, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and the creation of new wildlife habitats**
  - **the provision of public access to natural greenspace, particularly in areas of deficiency**
  - **incorporate appropriate new wildlife habitat into landscaping and buildings.**

#### *Justification:*

The development control process provides many opportunities to conserve existing features which do not of themselves justify indication on the proposals map. There will also be some places where wildlife habitat has developed since the last habitat survey was completed, or where existing interest was missed. Such habitat will be protected under this policy.

There are also opportunities within many development proposals to create, manage and enhance wildlife habitat and natural landscape. Planning applications that capitalise on these opportunities will be encouraged. There is a particular priority for such initiatives within or near to areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and in areas of regeneration, where the need for increased access to nature is greatest. The creation

and enhancement of habitats adjacent to existing wildlife sites, where the new habitat can complement and provide a buffer for existing habitat, will be sought. Habitat creation and enhancement towards the achievement of targets in the London and borough Biodiversity Action Plans will also be sought. There is also considerable scope for the use of green building methods, appropriate to the local situation, within the landscaping of new developments or on the buildings themselves, with the provision of such features as nest and roost sites, climbing plants on walls and green roofs.

The target set by the Mayor of London that the Areas of Deficiency in accessible wildlife sites are reduced (Biodiversity Strategy proposal 70) is supported. These areas are identified and mapped in the LDD. Access can be improved by making places more attractive and safer, enhancing, or creating new, accessible wildlife habitats and opening up access to existing habitats. In the few cases where there are habitats or species that are particularly sensitive to trampling or disturbance this sensitivity needs to be taken into account.

### Background

- 4.3 This policy will assist in delivering proposals 5, 6, 33 and 55 of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy as reflected in policy 3D.12 of the London Plan. Further background is to be found on pages 47 to 50, 68 to 70 and 80 of the strategy, which includes advice on the treatment of brownfield biodiversity and assisting with the delivery of exemplary developments. The policy assists the provision of accessible natural green space in places without such special value as to be included under policies to protect particular sites. English Nature guidance suggests that no-one should live further than 300 metres from some such access.
- 4.4 PPS9 encourages the provision of new nature conservation features beyond the requirements for mitigation or compensation. Paragraphs 1(ii) and 5(ii) state that policies should aim to restore or add to biodiversity interests. Paragraph 14 states that the opportunities for building-in biodiversity features should be maximised. Such improvements can provide valuable enhancement to the living and working environment of the Borough.
- 4.5 The EU Habitats Directive encourages the management of stepping stones or corridors as components of the network necessary to ensure the maintenance of the current range and diversity of our flora, fauna, geological and landform features and the survival of important species (PPS9, paragraph 12). This network is protected by other policies, whilst this policy can be used to provide for its management.

- 4.6 The protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat, and access to it by local people, is particularly important in or near to Areas of Deficiency (see also paragraph 4.15 below). The Areas of Deficiency are identified using the adopted procedures in Appendix 1 of the Biodiversity Strategy and have been mapped by the GLA. An insert map that takes into account the provision and deficiencies across the borough boundary should be included within the development plan to indicate the extent of the deficiency areas.
- 4.7 Ecological landscaping schemes are not restricted to large areas of open space distant from built development, but are desirable close to, or even on, built structures. The London Ecology Unit handbook Building Green provides advice on such landscaping and to some of its environmental benefits. While such habitat can have benefits off site, it is often appropriate to provide for public access and enable direct contact with nature.

### Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

A model policy would include references to the following:

- **planning permission will not normally be given for proposals that may have an adverse effect on a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.**

#### *Justification:*

The Mayor of London has identified sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation as the key strategic framework for biodiversity. These include all of London's sites of international and national importance for biodiversity (Ramsar Sites, Special Areas for Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Nature Reserves, and biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest) as well as other sites identified as the best in London. The Council will give strong protection to Sites of Metropolitan Importance. Internationally and nationally important sites will be given the highest protection.

This policy also protects sites of Borough and Local Importance for Nature Conservation, which have been identified following the procedures of Appendix 1 of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy. Together with Green Corridors [and Countryside Conservation Areas in some boroughs] these protect the remaining land of special importance for biodiversity.

This policy reflects the protection given to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, consistent with the strategic framework of the Mayor's London Plan and Biodiversity Strategy. The target set by the Mayor of London that there be no net loss of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Biodiversity Strategy proposal 70) is supported.

These sites are indicated on the proposals map. They provide the most important spatial element in this Council's work for biodiversity conservation through its [Local Agenda 21, Community Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Sustainable Development Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan]. The policy applies to both direct and indirect effects; development outside an important site can still have a damaging impact on it. Indirect effects can include increased use and disturbance, hydrological changes (for example due to increased hard surfaces or underground development), level of noise, pollution, shading and lighting disturbance. Adverse effects on a site include effects on the species that it supports. This policy also applies to effects on people's opportunity to enjoy and experience nature on a site; development on or adjacent to an important site can have adverse impacts on people's enjoyment of the site's wildlife and landscape, for example through intrusive visual features, restrictions on access or a significant increase in noise. Paragraph 1(vi) of PPS9 sets out a sequential approach to avoid or reduce harm, stating that planning permission should be refused if significant harm cannot be prevented, mitigated against or compensated for. Given the acknowledged value of the Metropolitan sites, any such material factors would need to be shown to be of the highest strategic importance to London. For borough and local sites the importance will be judged in the context of the borough or locality respectively.

PPS9 (paragraph, 10) states that planning authorities should identify and protect all ancient woodland. All woodland in the borough believed to be ancient is included within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

### **Background**

- 4.8 The protection of these sites delivers the requirements of the third and fourth paragraphs of policy 3D.12 of the London Plan, and will help to deliver proposals 1, 2 and 19 of the Biodiversity Strategy. The identification of the sites is undertaken under proposals 16 and 17 of the Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.9 The Mayor of London uses the procedures given in Appendix 1 of the Biodiversity Strategy to decide which areas he will adopt as Sites of Metropolitan Importance and he urges boroughs (in the fourth paragraph of 3D.12) to use the same procedures when adopting borough and local sites. The procedures include detailed criteria for the identification of sites.
- 4.10 Following the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Government has signed the Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21. Protection of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation is essential to meet these

commitments, as the key to the conservation of wildlife is the protection of the habitat on which it depends.

- 4.11 This policy protects the important [statutory and] non-statutory nature conservation sites in the borough (see Appendix 1 of this best practice guidance). The sites meet the requirement of PPS9, paragraphs 5(i) and 9, for local designations to be applied only to sites of substantive nature conservation value.
- 4.12 PPS9, paragraphs 4 and 5, require the application of planning policies to nature conservation sites.
- 4.13 The protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (and thus the Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas for Conservation and National Nature Reserves) is covered in paragraphs 6 to 8 of PPS9. Policy 3D.12 of the London Plan states that the highest protection should be afforded to internationally and nationally designated sites in accordance with government guidance and the Habitat Regulations 1994.
- 4.14 The sites protected by this policy may serve as stepping stones or corridors and as components of the network necessary to ensure the maintenance of the current range and diversity of our flora, fauna, geological and landform features and the survival of important species (PPS9, paragraphs 12 and 16, see also model policy on species protection).
- 4.15 Some of the Sites of Local Importance for nature conservation are chosen to help redress 'Areas of Deficiency' in terms of access to accessible sites of higher grade. The Areas of Deficiency are identified using the adopted procedures (above), which employ a one kilometre actual walking distance as a cut-off.



## Species protection

A model policy would include references to the following:

- **planning permission will not normally be granted for development which would have a significant adverse impact on the population or conservation status of a protected or priority species.**

### *Justification:*

The conservation of species is important for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development, Local Agenda 21 and Biodiversity Action (see also the justification to the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation policy).

‘Protected species’ are those species of plants and animals that are afforded legal protection, for example under the European Union Birds Directive and Habitats Directive (these “European Protected Species” are the highest priority for protection), or under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. ‘Priority species’ are identified in a Biodiversity Action Plan, such as the UK or London Action Plans, or that for this borough. This policy is complementary to species protection legislation and to action plan priorities, and ensures that any harm to a species or its habitat is balanced against the benefit of a development proposal. The judgement will be made on the basis of the expected effect on the species, the local, national or international significance of the population of the species, and its abundance, rate of decline or degree of threat.

Where there are good grounds to suspect that the grant of permission may affect a protected or priority species applicants will be expected to provide details of an adequate assessment to establish whether or not this is the case.

The protection and enhancement of the borough’s wildlife habitat is the main way in which the populations of such important species can be maintained. However, it is not possible to conserve all species through habitat protection alone, and it is sometimes necessary to protect the species themselves from the adverse effects of planning proposals.

As is detailed in the Mayor of London’s Biodiversity Strategy, in developing such proposals it is important to afford first priority to maintaining, restoring, recovering or enhancing the existing habitats of the species. The salvage and translocation of species will be used only as a measure of last resort. The measures should facilitate the survival of the species’ population, reduce disturbance to a minimum and provide

adequate habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population.

As for Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, species can be affected by both direct and indirect effects of development.

### **Background**

- 4.16 Background to the need for species protection through planning is found on page 46 of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.17 PPS9, paragraphs 15 and 16, deal specifically with the protection of species of conservation concern. Paragraph 16 states that the habitats of these species should be protected from further decline through policies in LDDs and that appropriate planning conditions or obligations be used to ensure the protection of species from adverse impacts. This policy meets those requirements and takes account of the selection of biodiversity priority species and the fact that some of the species included within the relevant national, regional and local Biodiversity Action Plans may not be given statutory protection. This policy extends to these species, as they have been chosen to fulfil the requirements of paragraphs 1(i), 1(ii) and 4 of PPS9.
- 4.18 Given that the grant of planning permission may provide a legal justification for undertaking operations that would harm a protected species, it is not usually appropriate to grant permission conditional on a survey to determine the presence or status of a species.
- 4.19 The London Biodiversity Partnership has identified a provisional list of priority species for London. This includes all UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species which occur in London. This list, and a list of protected species known to occur in London, can be found in Appendix 2. Some of these species are widespread in London, while others occur only in a few boroughs. However, the fact that a species has not been recorded in a given borough or locality does not imply that it does not occur there. Most boroughs have a local biodiversity action plan at some stage of development, and many of these have identified further species as priorities for the borough.

## Green Corridors

A model policy would include references to the following:

- **proposals will be expected to enhance the nature conservation value of the identified network of green corridors.**

### *Justification:*

Conservation of a borough's biodiversity cannot be achieved solely by the protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation policy [and Countryside Conservation Areas policy], but should also take account of the open land in between. This network leads from the countryside around London, and from some of the larger open spaces within London, through the developed parts of the borough. The green space that adjoins Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, or links them, permits the movement of some animals and plants. This allows some animals to undertake movements between the different habitats that they require for survival and maintains the presence of animals and plants in places where they would not otherwise be found. Green Corridors are shown on the Proposals Map.

### **Background**

- 4.20 Policy 3D.10 of the London Plan requires boroughs in their UDP policies to *identify, promote and protect Green Corridors*. Green Corridors are defined in paragraph 3.257 of the London Plan as *relatively continuous areas of open space that run through built-up areas and provide an extension to the habitats of the sites they join. They may be the verges alongside road and rail routes or waterways or a series of linked open spaces*. It further states that Green Corridors (unlike Green Chains which have primarily a recreational and amenity function) need not be accessible to the public, but may contribute to landscape quality as well as biodiversity.
- 4.21 The identification of Green Corridors is undertaken as described in Appendix 1 of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy, and more fully in an advice note of the London Ecology Unit, which also summarises their value. Corridors can lead wildlife into the built environment of London even where there is no Site of Nature Conservation Importance at the end. They need not be of any particular shape or orientation, but they should provide a near-continuous open space or water.
- 4.22 The protection of these corridors delivers the requirements of proposals 2 and 19 of the Biodiversity Strategy, as referred to in paragraph 3.256 of the London Plan. The identification of the corridors is undertaken under proposals 16 and 17 of the Biodiversity Strategy.

- 4.23 PPS9, paragraph 12, recognises the value of networks of natural habitats and states that policies should maintain or repair them by avoiding fragmentation and isolation of habitats through protection from development and where possible networks should be strengthened.
- 4.24 Whilst much of the network to meet these requirements consists of the protected Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, this policy serves to protect and enhance the remaining areas needed to fulfil the requirements of paragraphs 1(iii) and 1(iv) of PPS9.

### Mitigation and compensation

A model policy would include references to the following:

- **where, exceptionally, development that is harmful to a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation or an important species is permitted, appropriate planning conditions or obligations will be required to compensate for the harm.**

#### *Justification:*

The policies protecting wildlife habitat (through protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) and species aim to prevent any loss of important biodiversity from the statutory planning process. Avoidance of adverse impact, or preferably an enhancement, will always be the preferred approach to biodiversity conservation. In exceptional circumstances, where the benefits of a proposal are demonstrated to clearly outweigh the importance of biodiversity conservation, conditions will be imposed and obligations negotiated with the aim of preventing any net loss. Appropriate conditions and obligations will also be used to mitigate or compensate for significant loss of biodiversity through developments not affecting important sites or species.

The compensation sought will preferably replace like with like but, where this is impossible, compensation will be sought that replaces the loss of value with provision of equivalent value, which could include such measures as securing the future of a site, providing long-term beneficial management of a site, or providing public access to it.

As is detailed in the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy, in developing such proposals it is important first to have regard to the priority given by Government to the conservation of the best existing habitats. First priority will be given to maintaining, restoring, recovering or enhancing existing habitats, especially where this helps to meet targets in the UK, London or borough Biodiversity Action Plans. The salvage and translocation of wildlife habitats will be used only as a measure of last resort.

Where development is permitted that may affect species protected by policy, the measures should facilitate the survival of the species' population, reduce disturbance to a minimum and provide adequate habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population.

### Background

- 4.25 This policy is consistent with the final paragraph of policy 3D.12 of the London Plan and delivers proposal 4 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. Background to this policy is given in paragraph 3.258 of the London Plan and on pages 46 and 47 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.26 Paragraph 1(vi) of PPS9 states that planning decisions should prevent harm to nature conservation interests. Where significant harm would be caused, the local authority should be satisfied that there are no alternative sites. Where no alternative sites exist, measures to mitigate the impact should be required. Where adverse impact cannot be prevented or mitigated against then appropriate compensation measures should be sought.
- 4.27 Further information on the application of the sequential approach to avoidance of harm, mitigating impacts and seeking compensation and conditions can be found in the RTPI's Planning for Biodiversity, TCPA's Biodiversity by Design, CIRIA's Working with Wildlife and the Association of Local Government Ecologists' publication Developing Naturally.

## B: Additional policies recommended in the Biodiversity Strategy

- Countryside Conservation Areas
- Local Nature Reserves

### Countryside Conservation Areas

For boroughs which have Countryside Conservation Areas, a model policy would include references to the following:

- **to protect the individual quality and character of, and promote access to, each Countryside Conservation Area.**

#### *Justification:*

This borough is fortunate in having countryside areas where more traditional landscape predominates, and these broad tracts of land are of high wildlife interest. The wildlife value is diffused throughout the whole area in features such as hedges, ditches, ponds, meadows, permanent pasture, copses and woods. They are effectively diffuse Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. These areas lie wholly within the Green Belt, to which specific policies apply. The areas should be

appropriately managed, to maintain the wildlife resource.

Countryside Conservation Areas have been identified following the procedures in Appendix 1 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy and are shown on the Proposals Map. Apart from their value as habitat for wildlife, access to these areas provides people with an experience of a high quality countryside landscape close to home. This enables more frequent visits, involving less difficult journeys than do more remote areas of countryside. These areas also assist in taking pressure off more urban open spaces.

### **Background**

- 4.28 The protection of these sites delivers the requirements of proposals 2 and 19 of the Biodiversity Strategy. The identification of the sites is undertaken under proposals 16 and 17 of the Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.29 These areas are described in Appendix 1 of the Biodiversity Strategy. They are reserved for the best tracts of London's countryside, and are presently confined to six boroughs (Barnet, Bexley, Ealing, Harrow, Havering and Hillingdon).
- 4.30 The wildlife habitat value is not usually concentrated in one part of a Countryside Conservation Area, and where it is a Site of Importance is identified.
- 4.31 Following the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Government has signed the Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21. Protection of wildlife habitat is essential to meet these commitments, as the key to the conservation of wildlife is the protection of the habitat on which it depends
- 4.32 PPS9, paragraphs 4 and 5, require the application of planning policies to nature conservation. The areas protected by this policy may serve as stepping stones and as components of the network of natural habitats (PPS9, paragraph 12, see also the Green Corridor model policy).

## Local Nature Reserves

A model policy would include references to the following:

- **to maintain the designated Local Nature Reserves for public use and seek to declare further reserves.**

### *Justification:*

The best sites for biodiversity/nature conservation in the borough, in which the Council has a legal interest, have been or will be declared as Local Nature Reserves. These are the places where the Council is able to celebrate the quality of the local natural environment and encourage people to enjoy the benefits of quiet enjoyment of nature. Where a legal interest can be negotiated, or habitat enhancements made to a site in Council ownership, the Council will seek to declare further Local Nature Reserves.

### **Background**

- 4.33 This policy delivers proposal 22 of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.34 Councils are empowered to declare Local Nature Reserves under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- 4.35 Designation of a Local Nature Reserve marks the Council's commitment to protecting, managing, enhancing and making accessible the best sites under its control.



## 5 Biodiversity considerations in other development control policies

- 5.1 In addition to the specific biodiversity policies in section 4, there are several other policy areas which have significant links to biodiversity. The following are not expected to be stand-alone biodiversity policies, but are suggested for inclusion in wider policies. As with the stand-alone policies in section 4, the model policy wording and justification is included to guide policy development by boroughs, and there is no requirement for boroughs to use the model wording. Apart from the sustainable development policy, all are intended for inclusion in a LDD containing development control policies.

### Sustainable development

A model policy listing what the Council will do under its commitment to the promotion of sustainable development would include:

- **conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the borough for the benefit of this and future generations**

#### *Justification:*

The preservation and enhancement of the borough's natural endowment are among the prime aims of the Council's work for a sustainable development strategy. In this context the Council has worked on Local Agenda 21, a Community Strategy and a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

### Background

- 5.2 This model policy is intended for the core LDD.
- 5.3 Policies 1 and 2 of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy are particularly relevant to this model policy. The London Plan refers to the importance of biodiversity to the sustainable accommodation of growth in London (paragraph 1.49 and Policy 2A.1).
- 5.4 Following the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Government signed the Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21.
- 5.5 The introduction to PPS9 refers to Government's commitment to sustainable development and to biodiversity conservation.
- 5.6 Paragraphs 6 to 8 of PPS9 and the accompanying Circular 06/2005 set out the national statutes and international obligations and interests that should be taken into account in the conservation of biodiversity.

## Blue Ribbon Network

A model policy on development on or adjacent to the Blue Ribbon Network would include:

- **the value of waterways for wildlife and wildlife habitat will be protected and enhanced**

*Justification:*

The Mayor of London's objectives to protect and enhance the Blue Ribbon Network are supported and this policy provides the local mechanism to do this for biodiversity.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing public access, subject to the provision of landscaping and design to prevent undue disturbance to sensitive species of birds or waterside plants. Some parts of the network are presently subject to regular disturbance, but others that are less disturbed support species sensitive to the view of people. In these places it is important that the route of the paths and landscaping of the water's edge and other structures incorporates features to obscure or break up the view of the human form from the water. In this way people can enjoy the network without destroying part of its special value. There are also places where valuable water's edge vegetation survives, where it is susceptible to overuse by people.

Much of the Thames is enclosed in steep, or even vertical, embankments. This allows only limited places for wetland vegetation to establish and for fish nursery areas. Works to the water's edge will be expected to promote the establishment of wetland vegetation and fish nursery areas.

Development should be set back from the water's edge to prevent shading and to allow room for riparian habitats. Opportunities will be sought to open up culverts and to restore rivers to naturalistic channels.

### Background

- 5.7 Section 4C of the London Plan addresses the Blue Ribbon Network. Policy 4C.3 stresses its importance for biodiversity. Policy 2 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy is concerned with the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats along the Blue Ribbon Network.
- 5.8 The Environment Agency has published a river restoration strategy for south London. This sets a framework for river enhancement and restoration projects, identifying priority areas, discussing techniques and funding sources and providing examples of best practice. The Agency is currently working on a similar strategy for north London.

## Urban design

A model policy listing the Council's expectations for design of new developments would include:

- **to protect and enhance existing habitats and features of value to biodiversity**
- **to incorporate appropriate new wildlife habitats into landscaping and buildings**

*Justification:*

Design for biodiversity is a key delivery mechanism for policies on the protection, creation, management and enhancement of wildlife habitat, and an essential element of sustainable design and construction. The provision of new habitat within developments should be appropriate for the local circumstances, including meeting BAP objectives.

### Background

- 5.9 Policy 4B.6 of the London Plan seeks the highest standards of sustainable design and construction, and includes conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a key element of this. The Mayor's forthcoming Supplementary Planning Guidance on Sustainable Design and Construction and Urban Design will provide more detail on the Mayor's expectations in this field. Paragraph 3.260 of the London Plan states that *wherever appropriate, new developments should include ... design (such as green roofs) and landscaping that promotes biodiversity*.
- 5.10 Paragraph 52 of PPG3 Housing, highlights the importance of greening initiatives as part of residential areas in order to enhance the quality of the environment, the permeability of land for storm drainage and the contribution to biodiversity.
- 5.11 Paragraphs 1(iv) and 14 of PPS9 state that new development provides the opportunity to incorporate biodiversity features as part of good design and that such opportunities should be maximised, using planning obligations where appropriate.
- 5.12 The London Development Agency's guide to Design for Biodiversity is a useful source of information for developers. Further documents are listed in the resources section of this BPG.
- 5.13 Wildlife habitat can be provided not only within soft landscaping, but also within the built environment, including green roofs and climbers on walls. Useful references include the London Ecology Unit's Building Green and two websites: [www.blackredstarts.org.uk](http://www.blackredstarts.org.uk) and [www.livingroofs.org](http://www.livingroofs.org)

## Backland and back garden development

A model policy setting out the criteria under which the Council will judge proposals for back garden and other backland development would include:

- **the value of the land for biodiversity**

### *Justification:*

The protection of species and their habitat is an important part of sustainable development, Local Agenda 21, and Biodiversity Action. Much of this is achieved through other plan policies. However, much of the open space in the borough is in suburban domestic gardens and in other small open spaces within the developed areas of the borough and these support much of the borough's biodiversity. It is here, too, that many people enjoy nature. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development of these areas takes proper account of their biodiversity and natural character.

Research by the London Ecology Unit has established the importance of the wildlife habitats in these areas for the maintenance of their biodiversity. Areas with long gardens, large blocks of gardens and backlands, and areas with a good range of habitat support a great variety of wildlife. Large or long gardens are less disturbed by people and by their gardening and other activity. Small gardens, however well landscaped, support a more limited range of wildlife. Certain back garden blocks and backlands provide the best habitat within the nearby area, and it is particularly important that these high points are conserved and improved. In evaluating the biodiversity value of these habitats the following will be taken into account:

- Large blocks of land are better. Size is measured by the area of the block, or the length of the individual gardens constituting the block, and with little previous incursion. Large blocks of back gardens and backland enable species requiring a large area of habitat to use an area and are also less disturbed by human activity.
- A good range of habitats, provided by such features as woodland, trees, shrubs, dead wood, borders, hedgerows, climbers, long and short grassland and water features supports a better range of species. These provide food, shelter and breeding areas for wildlife. Additionally, some species require more than one habitat element, so that the juxtaposition of different habitats retains extra species.
- Gardens with scarcer habitats have special value.

Blocks are better where other nearby open spaces link them into a network of open areas. See the Green Corridors policy for the advantages of connectivity.

**Background**

- 5.14 The London Plan (paragraph 2.23) identifies the need to have regard to biodiversity considerations in London's residential heartlands, whilst identifying areas closer to town centres and other services as priorities for the intensification of development. The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy on page 7 gives statistics on the amount of garden land in London and, in proposal 7, expects biodiversity and wildlife habitat to be taken into account in proposals for redevelopment. That proposal also undertakes to develop guidelines for the evaluation of such proposals. This model policy meets that need.
- 5.15 Gardens are a priority habitat in the London Biodiversity Action Plan and in many borough BAPs. Paragraph 4 of PPS9 states that policies in LDDs should reflect and be consistent with biodiversity priorities and objectives including those agreed by local biodiversity partnerships.
- 5.16 Some backlands and blocks of gardens form important Green Corridors. Where appropriate, these should be identified and mapped, recognising their value as part of a wider network within the Green Corridors policy.

**Section 106 priorities**

A model policy setting out the Council's priorities for seeking planning obligations under Section 106 Agreements would include:

- **the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and people's access to nature**

*Justification:*

Planning obligations are an important tool in securing mitigation and compensation for losses of biodiversity through development and also in seeking biodiversity enhancements. In seeking biodiversity gains under this policy, priority will be given to actions which assist these other policies and help to achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets. In particular, enhancements in access to nature in areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites will be sought. Planning obligations relating to the creation of new wildlife habitats must make adequate provision for ongoing management of the new habitats.

**Background**

- 5.17 Policy 6A.4 of the London Plan states that boroughs should reflect the policies in the plan in setting priorities for planning obligations. Policy 3D.12 states that the opportunities to achieve positive gains for conservation through the form and design of development should be taken.
- 5.18 Paragraphs 8, 14 and 16 of PPS9 state that planning obligations can be used to secure biodiversity benefits to habitats and species and to ensure that they are protected from adverse effects of development.

## 6 Biodiversity in other documents

- 6.1 Several other documents have implications for biodiversity. While it is not possible to give detailed guidance here on all of these, it is appropriate to give a brief overview of how biodiversity should be addressed in some of the most important.

### Proposals Map

- 6.2 The Proposals Map should clearly identify the following:
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Metropolitan, Borough, Local)
  - Green Corridors
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (if any)
  - Countryside Conservation Areas (if any)
- Consideration should also be given to showing Local Nature Reserves.

### Supplementary Planning Documents/ Area Action Plans/ Site-specific documents

- 6.3 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) should incorporate measures to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity where appropriate. Plans for major development areas, masterplans and site development briefs should contain detailed consideration of all relevant biodiversity issues, including the following:
- details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation within or adjacent to the area
  - any other relevant designations in or close to the area, such as Green Corridors or Areas of Deficiency
  - information on protected or priority species known or likely to occur in the area
  - consideration of BAP targets for species or habitats which could be assisted in the area
  - the Council's expectations regarding landscaping and design for biodiversity.

### Open Space Strategy

- 6.4 Policy 3D.11 of the London Plan requires boroughs to produce Open Space Strategies. Boroughs may be able to adopt their Open Space Strategy as a LDD.
- 6.5 Open space and biodiversity are inextricably linked, and proposals for protecting and enhancing open spaces for biodiversity are a key element of Open Space Strategies. The Mayor has published good practice guidance on Preparing Open Space Strategies, which includes detailed recommendations for incorporating biodiversity. This is reflected in proposal 25 of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. For example, this could



include the development of management plans for sites as part of the Action Plan.

### **Biodiversity Action Plans**

- 6.6 Boroughs have the option of producing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that cross refers to the aims and objectives set out in national, regional and local Biodiversity Action Plans. Borough BAPs, produced by partnerships of local stakeholders, are key to the delivery targets for biodiversity set at each of the levels. The boroughs should lead in these partnerships so that London-wide coverage is achieved at the local level.

## Resources

Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM):  
Habitats Guide Volume 1, 2004

Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA):  
Working with Wildlife, 2004

Countryside Commission: Green Capital. Planning for London's  
greenspace, Countryside Commission Publications, CCP 344, 1991.

Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions: A better quality  
of life, a strategy for sustainable development in the UK, Cm 4345,  
May 1999.

Environment Agency: River Restoration, a stepping stone to urban  
regeneration highlighting the opportunities in South London, 2002.

European Union: Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds,  
79/409/EEC, 1979.

European Union: Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats  
and of wild fauna and flora, 92/43/EEC, 1992.

European Union: Directive on the Assessment of Environmental  
Effects, 1997.

Greater London Authority: Connecting with London's Nature.  
The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, July 2002.

Greater London Authority: Living Roofs - promoting green roofs, roof  
terraces and roof gardens across London, 2005. (available to view  
/download from: [www.london.gov.uk/mayor/auu/livingroofs.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/auu/livingroofs.jsp) )

Greater London Authority: The London Plan. Spatial Development  
Strategy for Greater London, February 2004.

HM Government: Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000.

London Biodiversity Partnership: The London Biodiversity Audit: Volume 1  
of the London Biodiversity Action Plan, 2000.

London Biodiversity Partnership: The Action: Volume 2 of the London  
Biodiversity Action Plan, 2001 and 2002.

London Ecology Unit: The effect of suburban residential density  
on birds, 1990.

London Ecology Unit: Advisory Note 6: Green Corridors in London, 1991.

London Ecology Unit: Building Green, a guide to using plants on roofs, walls and pavements, 1992. (available to view/download from: [www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/environment.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/environment.jsp) )

London Development Agency: Design for Biodiversity: a guidance document for development in London, 2003. (available to view/download from: [www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/environment.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/environment.jsp) )

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, August, 2005

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system, August 2005

Oxford, M.: Developing Naturally: A handbook for incorporating the natural environment into planning and development, Association of Local Government Ecologists, 2000.

Royal Town Planning Institute: Planning for Biodiversity, 1999.

Town and Country Planning Association: Biodiversity by Design, 2004.

UK Biodiversity Steering Group: Biodiversity, the UK Steering Group Report, Volume 2: Action Plans, 1995.

UK Biodiversity Steering Group: Tranche 2 Action Plans, Volumes I-II, 1998.

UK Biodiversity Steering Group: Tranche 2 Action Plans, Volumes III-VI, 1999.

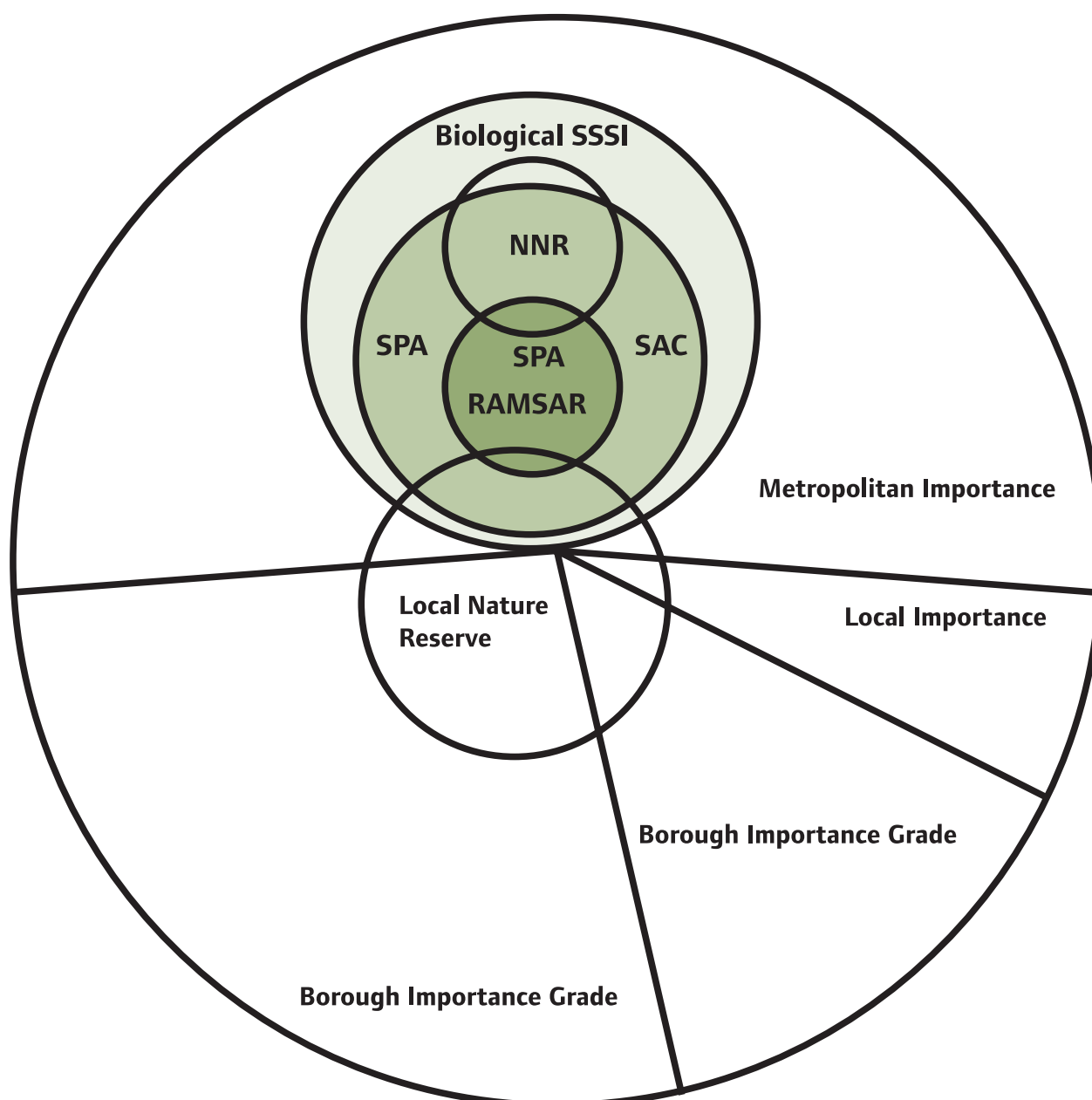
[www.blackredstarts.org.uk](http://www.blackredstarts.org.uk)

[www.lbp.org.uk](http://www.lbp.org.uk)

[www.livingroofs.org](http://www.livingroofs.org)

## Appendix 1

### Relationship between different biodiversity designations in London



The chart shows the relationship between the biodiversity designations which apply in London and are explained on the next page.

**International (dark green):** Ramsar Sites are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. There are presently two in London – Walthamstow and Kempton Park Reservoirs. Ramsar Sites may also be SPAs or SACs and all are also SSSIs (see below).

**European (mid green):** Special Protection Areas ('SPAs') are classified under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. In London at present these include the two Ramsar Sites, which are parts of the Lea Valley and South West London Waterbodies SPAs, most of which lie outside of London. Special Areas for Conservation ('SACs') are designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive). In London at present there are three SACs, Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park and Epping Forest. All European sites are also SSSIs (see below).

**National (light green):** Sites of Special Scientific Interest are notified by English Nature under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Whilst these include sites notified purely for their geological interest, in this context we are concerned only with those of biological interest. All international and national sites are notified as SSSIs, together with other sites chosen to complete the national coverage. There are presently some 33 biological SSSIs in London. National Nature Reserves ('NNRs') are declared by English Nature under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as amended by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. NNRs are always SSSIs and they may include Ramsar Sites, SPAs and SACs. As with SSSIs we are concerned here only with those of biological interest, not those declared purely for their geological interest. There are two NNRs in London, Ruislip Woods and Richmond Park.

**London:** The hierarchy of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in London (or 'wildlife sites') is identified under the procedures of Appendix I of the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy, and so these sites do not provide for geological conservation. Sites of Metropolitan Importance are important on a London wide perspective, and are identified by the Mayor of London. They include all international, European and national biological sites, and further sites have been identified to complete the London coverage. There are currently some 150 Metropolitan Sites in London, totalling about 16,000 ha. Sites of Borough Importance (divided into two grades) are important at the scale of an individual London Borough. There are some 900 Borough sites in London, totalling some 1,300 ha. Sites of Local Importance are important to a locality smaller than a London Borough, sometimes to help to provide access to nature in areas where this is otherwise lacking. There are some 560 Local sites in

London, totalling some 1,900 ha. Sites of Borough and Local Importance are identified by the London borough councils.

Not shown on the chart are the Green Corridors and Countryside Conservation Areas, which are also identified under the Mayor's procedures. These complement the wildlife sites by helping to link them into a network, providing buffer habitat and protecting those smaller traditional countryside features that are not readily identified as sites.

**Local Nature Reserves:** These nature reserves are declared by Local Authorities under the same legislation as the NNRs (see above). As they do not have to be SSSIs they can overlap with any of the other categories of biological site, although most of the London LNRs are at least of Borough importance. As of March 2005 there are 112 LNRs declared in London.

**The Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) database holds information on all of the sites in the hierarchy.**



## Appendix 2

### Protected and priority species in London

This is a list of species which should be considered under the species protection policy. Note that many of these occur in only a few boroughs. Most boroughs have biodiversity action plans listing local priority species, which should also be considered under the policy. The protected species appear on the relevant Schedules, which are reviewed periodically by the Government with advice from the Joint Nature Conservation Council. Species which are protected only in relation to sale, or to certain methods of capture, are omitted, as this protection is not relevant to planning. The list of London priority species was agreed by the London Biodiversity Partnership in March 2005, and will be reviewed periodically. For further information see the London Biodiversity Partnership website [www.lbp.org.uk/07library.html#to\\_keydocs](http://www.lbp.org.uk/07library.html#to_keydocs)

### Protected species known to occur in London

#### Plants and fungi

(Schedule 8 of Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))

Creeping marshwort	<i>Apium repens</i>
Cut-grass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>
Early gentian	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>
Greater yellow-rattle	<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>
Hedgehog fungus	<i>Hericium erinaceum</i>
Oak polypore	<i>Piptoporus quercinus</i>
Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>

#### Birds

(Schedule 1 of Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))

Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Bearded tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>
Black-necked grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Common crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Marsh warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>



**Mammals**

(Badgers Act/Schedule 5 of Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))

Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
Bats (all species)	Chiroptera
Common dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
Water vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>

**Amphibians and reptiles**

(Schedule 5 of Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))

Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>
Common lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>
Grass snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>

**Fish**

(Schedule 5 of Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))

Twaite shad	<i>Allosa phallax</i>
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**Invertebrates**

(Schedule 5 of Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))

Heath fritillary butterfly	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>
Tentacled lagoon worm	<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>

**London Biodiversity Action Plan priority species****Higher plants**

Autumn squill	<i>Scilla autumnalis</i>
Black poplar	<i>Populus nigra betulifolia</i>
Chalk eyebright	<i>Euphrasia pseudokernerii</i>
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>
Copse-bindweed	<i>Fallopia dumetorum</i>
Creeping marshwort	<i>Apium repens</i>
Cut-grass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>
Dwarf milkwort	<i>Polygala amarella</i>
Early gentian	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>
Greater yellow-rattle	<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>
Green-flowered helleborine	<i>Epipactis phyllanthos</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Lesser calamint	<i>Clinopodium calamintha</i>
Man orchid	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>
Marsh sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus palustris</i>

Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>
Mudwort	<i>Limosella aquatica</i>
Narrow-leaved water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>
Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>
River water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe fluviatilis</i>
Slender bedstraw	<i>Galium pumilum</i>
Tower mustard	<i>Arabis glabra</i>
Wall bedstraw	<i>Galium parisiense</i>

### Lower plants

Veilwort	<i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>
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### Fungi

Bear cockleshell	<i>Lentinellus ursinus</i>
Crimson bolete	<i>Rubinoboletus rubinus</i>
Hedgehog/Bearded tooth	<i>Hericium erinaceum</i>
Oak polypore	<i>Piptoporus quercinus</i>
Olive earthtongue	<i>Microglossum olivaceum</i>
Pink waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe calyptriformis</i>
Tiered tooth	<i>Hericium cirrhatum</i>
tooth fungi	<i>Hydnellum, Phellodon spp.</i>
Zoned rosette	<i>Podoscypha multizonata</i>

### Birds

Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellata</i>
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Corn bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Marsh tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>
Marsh warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>

Turtle dove  
Yellowhammer

*Streptopelia turtur*  
*Emberiza citrinella*

### **Mammals**

Brown hare  
Common dormouse  
Common long-eared bat  
Common pipistrelle  
Daubenton's bat  
Leisler's bat  
Nathusius' pipistrelle  
Natterer's bat  
Noctule (bat)  
Otter  
Serotine (bat)  
Soprano pipistrelle  
Water vole  
Whiskered/Brandt's bats

*Lepus europaeus*  
*Muscardinus avellanarius*  
*Plecotus auritus*  
*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*  
*Myotis daubentoni*  
*Nyctalus leisleri*  
*Pipistrellus nathusii*  
*Myotis nattereri*  
*Nyctalus noctula*  
*Lutra lutra*  
*Eptesicus serotinus*  
*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*  
*Arvicola terrestris*  
*Myotis mystacinus/brandtii*

### **Reptiles and amphibians**

Adder  
Common lizard  
Grass snake  
Slow-worm  
Great crested newt

*Vipera berus*  
*Lacerta vivipara*  
*Natrix natrix*  
*Anguis fragilis*  
*Triturus cristatus*

### **Fish**

Twaite shad  
Smelt

*Allosa phallax*  
*Osmerus eperlanus*

### **Invertebrates**

Balsam carpet (moth)  
Brown-banded carder bee  
Buttoned snout (moth)  
Chalkhill blue butterfly  
a click beetle  
a click beetle  
a crane fly  
Dark green fritillary butterfly  
Depressed river mussel  
Desmoulin's whorl-snail  
Double line (moth)  
Five-banded digger wasp  
Four-spotted (moth)

*Xanthorhoe birivata*  
*Bombus humilis*  
*Hypena rostralis*  
*Lysandra coridon*  
*Ampedus cardinalis*  
*Elater ferrugineus*  
*Lipsothrix nervosa*  
*Argynnis aglaja*  
*Pseudanodonta complanata*  
*Vertigo moulinsiana*  
*Mythimna turca*  
*Cerceris quinquefasciata*  
*Tyta luctuosa*

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German hairy snail	<i>Perforatella rubiginosa</i>
Heath fritillary butterfly	<i>Melicta athalia</i>
Hornet robber-fly	<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>
Pale shining brown (moth)	<i>Polia bombycina</i>
a picture-winged fly	<i>Dorycera graminum</i>
Scarce emerald damselfly	<i>Lestes dryas</i>
Shrill carder bee	<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>
Small blue butterfly	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Southern wood ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>
Stag beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
Star-wort (moth)	<i>Cucullia asteris</i>
Swollen spire snail	<i>Pseudamnicola confusa</i>
Toadflax brocade (moth)	<i>Calophasia lunula</i>
Two-lipped door snail	<i>Laciniaria biplicata</i>



## Other formats and languages

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### Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

### Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinizde hazırlanmış bir nüshasını edinmek için, lütfen aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arayınız

### Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਰਾਖਤਾ ਕਰੋ:

### Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज़ की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

### Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

### Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

### Arabic

إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الوثيقة بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو مراسلة العنوان أدناه

### Gujarati

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