5 Metropolitan Open Land Evidence Base

5 Metropolitan Open Land Evidence Base

Potential for amendments to land currently designated as MOL

5.1 **Appendix 5** sets out the results of the MOL audit. The results of the assessment are illustrated in **Figure 5.1**, and **Table 5.1** below summarises the potential amendments. We recommend that the Royal Borough considers these potential amendments on a case by case basis and considers the advantages and disadvantages of making changes to the extent of the designation.

Table 5.1: Summary of potential amendments to land currently designated as MOL

MOL ID and name	Open Space ID and name	Potential for amendment
MOL 1: Tripcock Park	108: Gallions Hill 192: Tripcock Park	Potential for extension of the MOL to include greenspace to the south east.
MOL 16: Adjacent Winn's Common	188: Winn's Common	Potential to include wooded dip at northern edge of MOL within the designation.
MOL 21: Dothill	80: Dothill	Potential to include the woodland to the east which is designated as Natural/Semi-natural and a SINC.
MOL 24: Adjacent Royal Garrison Church Land	504: Royal Garrison Church Land	Potential inclusion of green space to the north.
MOL 33: Adjacent Repository Woods	197: Repository Woods	Potential inclusion of open space to the east.
MOL 34: Napier Lines	175: Napier Lines	Potential inclusion of greenspace up to buildings at the eastern edge of the pocket of MOL.
MOL 56: Grounds of Royal Herbert Pavillions	124: Grounds of Royal Herbert pavilions 404: Brook Village Gated Community	Potential to redraw northern boundary around Gilbert Close.
MOL 59: Falconwood Field	103: Falconwood Field	Potential to exclude Substation to the south of Falconwood Fields. Large substation with pylons owned by UK Power Networks. No possibility of any other type of use in the foreseeable future.
MOL 76: Kingsground Triangle	507: Kingsground Triangle	Potential to remove designation: represents a tarmaced road and a triangle of greenspace at a road junction. Not clearly distinguishable from the urban area, no facilities, significant designations and is not considered to form part of a green chain. Could be re-designated community open space. Very small grassed area not consistent with MOL designation.

5.2 There are currently 1177.8ha of land designated as MOL within the Royal Borough. Of this, 1.8ha could be considered for exclusion as a result of this review. A further 10.9ha could be considered as meeting the criteria for MOL, and could therefore be considered for inclusion.

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 5.1

Metropolitan Open Land Review

Greenwich Borough Boundary

Metropolitan Open Land

Potential Metropolitan Open Land Boundary Change

Potential to exclude

Potential to include

MOL 1: Tripcock Park

MOL 21: Dothill

MOL 24: Adjacent Royal Garrison Church Land

MOL 16: Adjacent Winn's Common

MOL 33: Adjacent Repository Woods

MOL 34: Napier Lines

MOL 56: Grounds of Royal Herbert Pavillions

MOL 59: Falconwood Field

MOL 76: Kingsground Triangle

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

LUC

ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

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CB:KS EB:Manson D LUCGLA FIG5_1_6704-01_r2_A3L_MOL_Review 08/05/2017

Source: RGB

6
Urban Greening Evidence Base

6 Urban Greening Evidence Base

Green roofs

6.1 **Figure 6.1** shows the results of the green roof audit. 173 living roofs have been identified as part of the audit and **Table 6.1** summarises the number of each type of roof that has been identified in each Committee Area. Most of the roofs are extensive biodiverse, with extensive sedum having the next highest total.

Table 6.1: Summary table of types by committee area (numbers)

Type	Eltham and Kidbrooke area	Greenwich area	Woolwich and Thamesmead area	Royal Greenwich
Extensive biodiverse	21	47	16	84
Extensive biodiverse solar		2	5	7
Extensive sedum	7	28	13	48
Extensive sedum solar		1		1
Intensive	9	11	13	33
Total	37	89	47	173

6.2 **Table 6.2** shows the total additional area of 'greening' provided by green roofs in Royal Greenwich. Overall, more than 8ha of green roofs have been identified in Royal Greenwich. 78% of this is in the two northern Committee Areas. Extensive biodiverse roofs are the largest type in terms of area (and number), followed by intensive roofs. Although found in larger numbers, Extensive sedum roofs account for just under 1ha of green roofs. A small number of green roofs support solar installations as well.

Table 6.2: Summary table of types by committee area (square metres)

Type	Eltham and Kidbrooke area	Greenwich area	Woolwich and Thamesmead area	Royal Greenwich
Extensive biodiverse	10,118	27,482	11,802	**49,402**
Extensive biodiverse solar		186	661	**847**
Extensive sedum	1,782	4,365	3,387	**9,534**
Extensive sedum solar		92		**92**
Intensive	6,012	1,430	14,452	**21,894**
Total	**17,911**	**33,555**	**30,302**	**81,769**

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 6.1

Results of the Green Roof Audit

- Committee area boundaries
- Living roofs (GIGL)

Green roofs identified during audit

- Extensive biodiverse
- Extensive biodiverse solar
- Extensive sedum
- Extensive sedum solar
- Intensive
- Sedum extensive

Greenwich area

Woolwich and Thamesmead area

Eltham and Kidbrooke area

0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

LUC

ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

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CB:DM EB:Manson D LUCGLA FIG6_1_6704-01_r1_Green_roofs_A3L 08/05/2017

Source: Livingroofs Enterprises Ltd and the Green Infrastructure Consultancy Ltd

Street trees

6.3 There are over 150 species of street tree found in Royal Greenwich totalling almost 12,500 trees. 45% of these are found in the Eltham and Kidbrooke area as shown in **Table 6.3**. **Figure 6.2** and **Figure 6.3** show the distribution of the street tree network by species and by condition.

Table 6.3: Summary of street trees by Committee Area

Committee Area	Number of street trees	% of overall street trees
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	5,634	45%
Greenwich area	2,134	17%
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	4,704	38%
Royal Greenwich	**12,472**	**100%**

6.4 The following are all found in large numbers:

- Acer Platinoides (1148)
- Planatus hispanica (808)
- Tilia europea (804)
- Sorbus intermedia (790)
- Prunus kanzan (783)
- Pyrus calleryana (746)
- Sorbus aucuparia (687)
- Prunus cerasifera (640)

6.5 Broadly grouping the tree population shows that the highest population is cherries (2830), followed by Whitebeams/Rowans (1842) and Maples (1729) as shown in **Table 6.4.**

Table 6.4: Broad tree categories with >1% of overall population

Broad category	Number of trees	Percentage of overall population
Cherries	2830	23%
Whitebeams/Rowans	1842	15%
Maples	1729	14%
Limes	875	7%
Planes	809	6%
Pears	797	6%
Apples	512	4%
Birches	463	4%
Ashes	461	4%
Hornbeams	328	3%
Hawthorns	313	3%
Chestnuts	232	2%

6.6 **Table 6.5** shows that the top ten broad species are similar for each of the Committee areas, although Planes dominate in the Greenwich area as opposed to Cherries which dominate the other Committee Areas.

Table 6.5: Top ten broad species by Committee Area

Highest populations	Eltham and Kidbrooke area	Greenwich area	Woolwich and Thamesmead area
1	Cherries	Planes	Cherries
2	Whitebeams/Rowans	Maples	Whitebeams/Rowans
3	Maples	Whitebeams/Rowans	Maples
4	Limes	Limes	Planes
5	Pears	Cherries	Apples
6	Hornbeams	Pears	Limes
7	Birches	Hawthorns	Pears
8	Apples	Birches	Ashes
9	Chestnuts	Ashes	Birches
10	Ashes	Chestnuts	Hawthorns

6.7 71% of street trees are in good condition, 20% in average condition, 8% in poor condition and the remainder unknown or recommended for removal (at the time of the survey).

Private gardens

6.8 The contribution to the GI network made by private gardens should also be taken into consideration. For this assessment, Ordnance Survey MasterMap data has been reviewed to identify the classes that most likely contain private gardens. These areas are shown on **Figure 2.5** and as expected, are strongly influenced by the type of housing in each area.

6.9 This should be seen as an approximation as the Ordnance Survey data cannot provide the level of detail that would enable a review of the surfacing of each garden – it is therefore not possible to identify the extent to which hard surfaces (such as paving) are replacing grassed/natural surfacing in Greenwich gardens. A report by the Royal Horticultural Society[12] suggests that in 2015, three times as many front gardens are paved over compared to 2005. The report also suggests that there has been a significant increase in the number of 100% paved over gardens and the worst culprit for paving over front gardens is London, with half of all front gardens paved over.

[12] https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/pdf/Greener-Streets/greening-grey-britain-report

Figure 6.2

Diversity of Street Tree Network

Committee area boundaries

Main tree species

- Apples (264)
- Ashes (336)
- Birches (240)
- Cherries (2,536)
- Chestnuts (207)
- False Acacias (113)
- Hawthorns (225)
- Hornbeams (328)
- Limes (804)
- Maples (1,687)
- Oaks (100)
- Pears (746)
- Persian Ironwood (139)
- Planes (808)
- Whitebeams/Rowans (1,747)
- Other (2,193)

Greenwich area

Woolwich and Thamesmead area

Eltham and Kidbrooke area

GREENWICH

LEWISHAM

0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

LUC

ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

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CB:DM EB:Manson D LUCGLA FIG6_2_6704-01_020_r1_Tree_diversity_A3L 10/04/2017

Source: RBG

Figure 6.3

Tree Condition

Committee area boundaries

Condition

- Good (8,863)
- Average (2,490)
- Poor (998)
- Group Mixed Condition (23)
- Failure (1)
- Remove/removed (75)
- Unknown (24)

Greenwich area

Woolwich and Thamesmead area

Eltham and Kidbrooke area

0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

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CB:DM EB:Manson D LUCGLA FIG6_3_6704-01_020_r1_Tree_condition_A3L 02/02/2017

Source: ONS

7
Biodiversity Evidence Base

7 Biodiversity Evidence Base

7.1 Royal Greenwich supports 55 SINCs across the Royal Borough. This is made up of seven sites of Metropolitan importance, 16 of Borough Grade I importance, 18 of Borough Grade II and 14 of Local importance.

7.2 This study audited all of the SINCs that could be accessed and a further two potential SINCs. Full details of the biodiversity assessment of these sites are included in **Appendix 6.**

SINCs at Risk

7.3 Three SINCs were identified as at risk as a result of the audit. Urgent action is required at these sites. No action will result in the removal or alteration of the SINC designation. These sites are shown in **Table 7.1**.

Table 7.1: SINCs at risk with reasoning

SINC name	SINC Grade	Reason at Risk
Southwood Recreation Ground, New Eltham	Local (at risk)	The site has significantly changed from the SINC citation. The stream had dried and species, such as the cuckoo flower, were not evident. Bramble/scrub encroachment had also resulted in a significant change in the site. If enhancement works are not undertaken to improve floral diversity, drainage and reduce bramble encroachment, this should be undesignated.
East Wickham Open Space (Royal Greenwich section)	Local (at risk)	The site has changed significantly since the SINC citation. The qualifying features, such as the rough grassland and nettles are now encroached by brambles. If management is not implemented the site should be undesignated. Alongside this, the surrounding open space is likely to be more valuable for supporting wildlife than this site.
Twinkle Park	Local (at risk)	This has been recorded as having a significant change with the pond having dried and the marginal habitats no longer present. The site managers are aware of the issue and are seeking solutions. Otherwise, the site provides a valuable resource for the local community, in a very built up area and the adjoining green space. However if the pond cannot be restored, the site will no longer meet the criteria for designation as a SINC. It is therefore very important this is dealt with for the site to remain allocated with SINC status, or that other habitat enhancements are implemented if the pond cannot be restored.

7.4 SINCs identified at risk have been noted as a result of a major lack of qualifying features. In these cases, the features for which the site has been designated are no longer present. This is either due to encroachment of other habitats which out-compete the existing plant life. Or in the case of Twinkle Park, the pond for which the site is designated has completely disappeared (as shown in **Figure 7.1**). If action is not taken to restore these features important for wildlife, the sites will not reach the criteria by which a site qualifies to be a SINC.

Figure 7.1: Missing pond at Twinkle Park

SINCs where management is required to maintain qualifying features

7.5 As a result of the findings of the audit, seven SINCs have been highlighted as being in need of management to ensure that the qualifying features are maintained. These sites are shown in **Table 7.2**.

Table 7.2: SINCs where management is required to maintain qualifying features

SINC name	SINC Grade	Reason at Risk
Eltham Palace Fields	Grade 1	Eltham Palace itself remains unchanged from the SINC citation. However, the fields surrounding the Palace were found to have minor changes. The grassland was not as species-rich as it was previously found and there was evidence of over grazing and poaching. Recommend that the grassland is managed more appropriately to improve species-richness and diversity, particularly in wetter areas of the site. Other enhancements include the provision for native species in Eltham Palace's gardens.
Shrewsbury Park, Shooters Hill Golf Course, Dothill Allotments and Woodlands Farm	Grade 1	The site comprises of Shrewsbury Park, golf course, allotments and a working farm as described previously in the SINC citation. The site is likely to be important connective habitat, forming a green corridor between much larger areas of woodland to the north and south of the site. The site is largely unchanged from previous survey and assessment, however some minor changes have occurred in the golf course area, in relation to management. There is evidence of relaxed management and planting of some grassland areas outside of the fairways and a range of grass and wildflower planting presents opportunities for pollinators and other invertebrates. Invasive species, such as Japanese knotweed were recorded. Recommend that management of the working farm should include coppicing and thinning of hedgerows to maintain structure and that vegetation in ponds is reduced, and that management to eradicate invasive species is continued. There is also potential to enhance woodland ground flora in Shrewsbury Park.

SINC name	SINC Grade	Reason at Risk
Gallions Reach Park	Grade 2	A park with a variety of habitats. Since the SINC citation, there is evidence of changes in species distribution and a decline in species diversity. Recommend that improvements are made to species diversity through appropriate management and that polluted waterways running through the site are cleaned.
St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Woolwich	Local	The site has undergone minor changes since the previous survey. This is due the named ferns which are the main reason for the sites designation not being identified during the survey. The site comprises the church building and associated gardens which include amenity grassland with planted flowers and shrubbery. It is possible the wall with the ferns present was in an area which was not closely assessed due to a nursery occupying some of the site. The ferns could have also been located under thick shrubbery and not visible during the survey. It is recommended that presence or absence of the notable fern species is determined, and management of the site be adapted to encourage these species.
Academy Place Orchard	Local	Although there is no apparent change in the site itself has been identified, the habitat present has increased in size as the trees are of semi-mature / mature size now. The site comprises wet grassland and shrubs of fruiting variety which can provide many opportunities for wildlife. Particularly invertebrates and birds, of which several were recorded during the survey. It is recommended that comprehensive bird and invertebrate surveys are undertaken in order to establish the current state of the habitat on site and diversity. In addition, it is recommended that interpretation boards / signs and facilities to make the site more accessible to the public are installed, such as marked access points and walk ways. If improvements are made the site could be considered for an upgrade due to some of the rare species it does and may support, and its value as an educational resource if this avenue of improvement is developed.
Bostall Wood & Heath	Metropolitan	Ancient and secondary woodland with areas of heathland and acid grassland which remain largely unchanged from SINC citation. It is however, recommended that threats including motorbike scrambling and mountain biking (which result in habitat disturbance) are addressed (through prevention or management).
Pippenhall Meadows	Metropolitan	A series of small flower-laden meadows and pastures, rich in plant life largely remains unchanged from the SINC citation with smaller areas within the site, which have undergone significant changes. To maintain status as a Metropolitan Site of Importance, action is required to manage encroachment of scrub and to reduce poaching of ground from horses. Alongside this, due to management practices there was no evidence of ridge and furrow, which have previously been recorded at this site.

7.6 In many cases, habitats require management in order to maintain the highest quality and maximise species diversity. Furthermore, if habitats are left unmanaged, successional processes can occur leading to habitats such as woodland establishing, and loss of the existing habitat eventually. Sites in this section have been identified as a result of declining quality of habitat noted during the survey. These sites require some management to bring them back to the

standard they were when first designated. An example of this is Pippenhall meadows, designated for its rich meadow habitats. However scrub encroachment is a threat to this habitat, and land use in the way of horse paddocks is resulting in poaching of the land through erosion (as shown in **Figure 7.2**). In addition, some sites have been identified where management could improve current habitats to offer more opportunities for wildlife, and therefore potentially qualify for an upgrade in designation in the longer term.

Figure 7.2: Pippenhall Meadows scrub encroachment

Potential for upgrading or extending SINCs

7.7 As a result of the audit, ten sites have been assessed as having potential for an upgrade in their level of designation or potential for extension. These sites are listed in **Table 7.3**.

Table 7.3: SINCs with potential for upgrading or extending

SINC name	Current SINC Grade	Recommended SINC Grade	Justification
Plumstead Common (Winn's Common, Bleak Hill, and The Slade)	Grade 1	Grade 1	A large open space with acid grassland, woodland and a small pond, similar as previously described in the SINC citation. The habitats present were not unusual in their own right but the mosaic of habitats is likely to support a range of wildlife. Recommend that Workhouse Wood to the North of Winn's Common is included. The woodland is well-connected to the site and as a result of appropriate management provides suitable habitat for a range of species.
Eltham Palace Fields	Grade 1	Grade 1	Although this site is highlighted in Table 7.2 as requiring management to maintain qualifying features, this study also recommends extension to include field in the north (open space site 146) which is continuous with the designated site and comprises a similar horse grazed paddock.
Woolwich Common	Grade 1	Grade 1	The site is as described in the SINC citation.

SINC name	Current SINC Grade	Recommended SINC Grade	Justification
			Grassland is present across a majority of the site, with woodland and scrub areas around the edges and in patches throughout. The mosaic of habitats is likely to support a range of wildlife. Vandalism and signs of inappropriate use were recorded during the survey. Recommend that efforts to control this are put in place. Additionally, the site could be improved with interpretation and information boards to inform users of the importance of the site for nature conservation. Alongside this, it is recommended that the site boundary is enlarged slightly given a change of land use. An area to the far north-west of the site (along with an area in the north-east which is currently within the boundary) no longer has temporary buildings present. It is all currently grassland similar to much of the site.
Birchmere	Grade 1	Grade 1	The habitats recorded are present and widespread. The site remains largely unchanged from SINC citation. Improvements to the site were recorded, including the provision of tern rafts. It is recommended that the designation is extended to include the two waterways extending north and north east from the lake which support a mosaic of open water, grassland, scrub/trees, with areas of marginal planting, and provide natural continuations of the Birchmere habitats. Potential to enhance these areas would include reduced area of hardstanding, encouragement of rough/meadow grassland and increased marginal planting.
Royal Blackheath Golf Course South	Grade2	Metropolitan	A golf course comprising a mosaic of habitats which are likely to support a range of species. The site remains unchanged from the SINC citation. Although, there are no recommendations directly relating to the site, there is potential to combine this SINC with a Site of Metropolitan Importance (site 54), which is designated for its large population of great crested newts. Although, only a 500m buffer zone from an area with suitability for GCN is required, due to proximity and similarity in habitats, there is potential that this site also provides important habitat for GCN identified.
Sutcliffe Park Flood Alleviation Scheme	Grade 2	Grade 1	Sutcliffe Park has altered since the last survey. The site has all the features the original survey identified, however vegetation is well established and there are several areas of wildflower meadow. Reed beds extend around all of the waterbodies. There is a high floral diversity amongst a mosaic of several habitats which is likely to support an array of species. The site also provides one of the larger expanses of natural habitat for the area, including rare wetland features. It is recommended that the site is upgraded to Grade 1 borough due to the presence of good size habitats rare in Royal Greenwich such as reed beds. Also as it supports several notable and protected species, particularly invertebrates

SINC name	Current SINC Grade	Recommended SINC Grade	Justification
			and birds.
Westcombe Woodlands	Local	Grade 2	The site comprises entirely woodland, however has undergone changes since the previous survey. Due to improved management, the shrub layer has been reduced to allow greater species diversity, and exotic and alien invasive species have been removed. Enhancement to the site since the previous survey and assessment include encouragement of the breeding tawny owl by installation of species specific nest boxes and addition of a new pond has improved habitat diversity of the site. Recommend upgrade to Grade 2 Borough.
Eaglesfield Wood	Local	Grade 2	The site has undergone changes since the last survey, including a change in management. The site is now managed by Wide Horizons and has been managed as native woodland to maximise diversity. The structure of the woodland has changed since the last survey; the shrub and bramble layer has been reduced. Additionally management has made attempts to eradicate alien invasive and exotic species. Since the clearance of the site frequent native bluebell, an indicator of ancient woodland has been recorded amongst other ground flora on site. The old pond has been restored as it had been filled in previously, and marginal vegetation planted for nature conservation purposes. The site had an historical fly tipping issue, damaging and polluting the woodland. Although some very small signs of this are still evident in some parts of the site, the issue has been significantly improved since addressed in the current management of the site. It is recommended this site is upgraded to a Grade 2 borough site. This is due to woodland, possibly ancient, habitat being rare in the Royal Borough and the presence of rare species such as bluebell and bats. The site now supports a healthy woodland ecosystem. It is also recommended that the site name is changed due to the change in management. Previously named Eaglesfield Wood in association with the school who owned the land. The site is now called the 'Wide Horizons Woodland Centre' which should be reflected in the SINC designation and upgrade.
Royal Blackheath Golf Course	Metropolitan	Metropolitan	A golf course known to support a large population of GCN. The ponds, grassland and woodland remain largely unchanged from SINC citation. The survey did however note minor changes to the east of the site, where there was evidence of clearance and reseeding of grassland. This was not considered to directly affect the qualifying features of the site. Although, there are no specific recommendations relating to the site, there is potential to extend the SINC to include site 27. As mentioned above, site 27 adjoins this SINC and due to the proximity and similarity in habitats there is potential that site 27 may provide valuable resources for the GCN population identified in

SINC name	Current SINC Grade	Recommended SINC Grade	Justification
			M070. As a result of this, there is potential to combine these two sites.
Kidbrooke Green and Birdbrook Road Nature Reserves	Metropolitan	Metropolitan	The site remains largely unchanged from SINC citation. However due to the restricted access, the whole site could not be assessed. Comprising untouched scrub, trees, grassland, wetland and ponds this site provides an important habitat mosaic for nature, particularly in this built up part of London. GWAG recommended extending the SINC to incorporate the patch of woodland to the west. It is recommended this is undertaken. If possible pond creation in the new area would also be of major benefit ecologically.

7.8 During the surveys sites were identified which have either improved in quality and should therefore be considered for an upgrade, or in some cases where adjacent land forms part of the habitat, in which case an extension is recommended. Sites such as Eaglesfield Wood have undergone a change in land use over the past 5 years, and significantly improved management practices have made huge improvements to the quality of the site and diversity of species present. In addition, sites such as Sutcliffe Park Flood Alleviation Scheme have improved since their original designation, in this case due to the site being new at the time of assessment, whereas the habitats have now fully established and provide several opportunities for wildlife (**Figure 7.3**).

Figure 7.3: Upgrades at Sutcliffe Park

Potential new SINCs

7.9 As a result of consultation and findings from the open space audit, three sites were highlighted as having potential for designation. Of these, two were able to be accessed and have been assessed as having potential for designation as SINCs. These are listed in **Table 7.4**.

Table 7.4: Sites with potential for designation as SINCs

Site name	Proposed SINC Grade	Justification
Charlotte Turner Gardens	Local	Charlotte Turner Gardens is an open space comprising herb rich grassland, trees (mostly native) and a small hedgerow. The site is a good size and connects to Twinkle Park, a current SINC. Freely accessible to the public with no time restrictions,

Site name	Proposed SINC Grade	Justification
		this site is also used for community events and involvement. Additionally being one of just a few green spaces in this area, it is considered to be an important nature site in the local area. It is therefore recommended that Charlotte Turner Gardens is added on as an extension of Twinkle Park local SINC.
Gallions Park, Thamesmead Canal and Gallions Hill	Grade 2	These three open spaces provide a continuous area of accessible natural greenspace, with a diverse habitat mosaic (seemingly relatively recently created) likely to be of value to wildlife in the local area and the Royal Borough. Habitats include the lake and associated Thamesmead Canal, both of which include open water and marginal habitats; rough and meadow grassland areas including flower-rich, with the landforms of Gallions Park in particular providing exposed grasslands with varying aspects likely to be of value to a range of invertebrates; and scrub, woodland and scattered tree habitats. The sites are very accessible to the public with interpretation and a range of opportunities to enjoy nature. There are some issues with litter. Recommend designation at Borough Grade 2 (with potential to upgrade to Borough Grade 1 with further maturation of the habitats)

7.10 Mulgrave Pond in the Grounds of Rushgrove House was additionally raised as having potential for designation as a SINC. However, it was not possible to gain access to this site during the survey period. It is therefore recommended that site access is obtained and a full habitat survey of the site is undertaken to determine if it should be designated SINC status or not.

Unchanged SINCs

7.11 The following SINCs appeared to be correctly graded and although the site description of some sites differed from the descriptions provided the overall ecological resource was considered to be comparable:

- Tump 53 Nature Park
- Eltham Warren Golf Course, Gravel Pit Lane, and the Nature Study Centre
- Maryon Park, Gilbert's Pit and Maryon Wilson Park
- Greenwich Cemetery
- Avery Hill Fields
- Sidcup Road Grassland and Harmony Wood
- Greenwich Ecology Park and Southern Park
- Charlton House Lawn
- Oxleas Meadow
- Repository Wood and Charlton Cemetery
- Plumstead Cemetery
- St Nicholas Churchyard, Deptford
- Ridgeway in Greenwich
- Eastmoor Street Park
- Deansfield

- Eltham Park North
- Woolwich Cemeteries & Rockliffe Gardens
- Quaggy River at Blackheath Park
- St John the Baptist Churchyard, Eltham
- The Oaks, Plumstead
- The Tarn
- Mycenae House Gardens
- Plumstead Common Nature Reserve
- Well Hall Pleasaunce
- Shooters Hill Woodlands
- The River Thames and Tidal Tributaries
- Blackheath and Greenwich Park

SINCs that have not been assessed

7.12 It was not possible to gain access to the following SINCs during this study:

- Twin Tumps and Thamesmere
- Thamesmead Historic Area and Wetlands
- Belmarsh Ditches
- Plumstead Railway Cutting
- Westcombe Park Railsides
- Blackheath to Falconwood Railsides
- Mottingham and New Eltham Railsides
- River Ravensbourne in Greenwich
- Anglesea Road Open Space & School Wildlife Garden

Summary of findings from biodiversity survey

7.13 **Figure 7.4** summarises the recommendations from this review. In the most part sites remained unchanged from their original citations, with a general good level of management across the sites assessed. Royal Greenwich has several high quality sites for nature conservation and a good ecological network across the Royal Borough. Ten sites have been identified as missing some of the qualifying features, or as having a reduction in habitat quality. However, if all recommendations are followed, not only would these current designations remain, some may eventually improve to qualify for higher designation of SINC longer term, and an overall increase in SINC designations would result, with the recommendation of two new SINC sites. In addition, ten sites have been recommended for upgrade to a higher level of designation or to extend the SINC boundary to incorporate a larger area. Therefore, with these recommendations in place, designated sites and the total area of land in Royal Greenwich important for nature conservation will increase, leading to an overall improvement of biodiversity in Royal Greenwich.

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 7.4

SINC Review Recommendations

- Committee area boundaries
- Not currently designated (The labels show the Open Space ID)

Recommendation

- Extension/Upgrade
- Management required to protect qualifying features
- No action will result in the removal or alteration of SINC classification
- No access
- Unchanged

Recommended changes

- Combine
- Extend

Inset maps show recommended changes

1. Twinkle Park and Charlotte Turner Gardens (Combine)
2. Woolwich Common (Extend)
3. Kidbrook Green and Birdbrook Road Nature Reserves (Extend)
4. Birchmere (Extend)
5. Plumstead Common (Extend)
6. Royal Blackheath Golf Course (Combine)

0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

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ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

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8
The Royal Greenwich Green Infrastructure Network

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8.1 This section of the study looks at the wider green infrastructure network in the Royal Borough. The purpose of this section is to discuss some of the other functions of the Royal Borough's network of spaces, at the strategic level, that go beyond the open space assessment in previous sections. This section highlights a number of key considerations for green infrastructure provision in Royal Greenwich. The intention is to provide the Royal Borough of Greenwich with a holistic assessment of open space, biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.

8.2 Strategic green infrastructure elements need to be planned, designed and delivered in advance of and in step with development. A green infrastructure definition is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) March 2012[13], and this is appropriate to consideration of the more 'urban' and local dimension.

8.3 Green infrastructure can therefore essentially be seen as a linked network, and as a strategic consideration of the environment and landscape in and around the London Boroughs, in addition to fine grain/site specific open spaces.

8.4 Linkages and lateral connections should be encouraged in to the wider landscape avoiding fragmentation where possible of open space sites. Green Infrastructure provides many social, economic and environmental benefits close to communities including:

- Habitats for wildlife with access to nature for people
- Recreation and relaxation
- Health and well-being
- Climate change adaptation
- Environmental education
- Food production

8.5 As part of the audit, surveyors identified where there was potential to enhance (or develop new) functions. The full results for each site can be found in the site proformas included in **Appendix 7**.

The network

8.6 **Figure 8.1** shows the GI resources identified in Royal Greenwich through this study. **Figure 8.2** to **8.4** show more detail for each Committee Area. These figures reveal that:

- Greenwich Peninsula contains very little publicly accessible open space, there are also very few properties with gardens and many streets are without trees.
- The railway line from Greenwich to Abbey Wood marks a significant divide in green infrastructure provision in the Royal Borough. The land between this railway line and the River Thames has traditionally been characterised by industry. As a result this area contains few publicly accessible open spaces and few private gardens or street trees.
- The Thames footpath provides an important link for people to move through neighbourhoods and promotes sustainable transport links. However it contains few green infrastructure features and sections of the path are exposed and susceptible to extremes in temperature and wind. There may be potential to improve tree planting along the path and to increase connectivity between features of nature conservation importance.

[13] Communities and Local Government, 2012, National Planning Policy Framework

- Linear routes such as the railway lines provide valuable biodiversity links within the Royal Borough. Sections of these features are designated as SINCs and link to other sites of nature conservation importance. However there is limited tree planting along some of the major highways.
- The Green Chain is a prominent feature of the Royal Borough and is a key component of green infrastructure provision. It primarily extends through the east and south of the Royal Borough but a spur also extends through the centre of the Royal Borough providing a significant link to the River Thames.
- Greenwich Park and Blackheath Park are of strategic importance to residents in north-west of the Royal Borough and the adjoining London Borough of Lewisham.
- Aside from the communities that line the River Thames, most neighbourhoods in the Royal Borough have good provision of street trees and high proportion or residents have access to private gardens. However there is limited tree planting with the neighbourhoods along the south and western boundary of the Royal Borough. Sections of Thamesmead also have a limited number of street trees.

Key opportunities

8.7 Based on the findings of this study, the following are key opportunities for the enhancement of the Royal Greenwich GI network:

- Improve green infrastructure provision within the Greenwich Peninsula and throughout the north of the Royal Borough through the creation of new publicly accessible green space, street tree planting.
- Seek to incorporate green features such as balconies, green roofs and green walls within all new development.
- Seek to connect existing green infrastructures maximising the potential of linear features including railway lines, the Thames footpath and major highways.
- Strengthen the Green Chain which extends through much of the Royal Borough.
- Increase street tree planting to in neighbourhoods where street tree provision is low, particularly in the west and south of the Royal Borough.

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 8.1

The GI Network

- Committee area boundaries
- Street trees
- Green roofs
- SINCs
- All open space
- Approximate garden areas

Greenwich area

Woolwich and Thamesmead area

Eltham and Kidbrooke area

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0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

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CB:DM EB:Manson D LUCGLA FIG8_1_6704-01_r2_GI_A3L 08/05/2017

Source: RBG, Livingroofs Enterprises Ltd and the Green Infrastructure Consultancy Ltd, OS MasterMap, GIGL

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 8.2

GI in Greenwich Peninsula

- Committee area boundaries
- Strategic Development Locations
- Street trees
- Green roofs
- SINCs
- All open space
- Approximate garden areas

Greenwich area

Woolwich and Thamesmead area

Eltham and Kidbrooke area

0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

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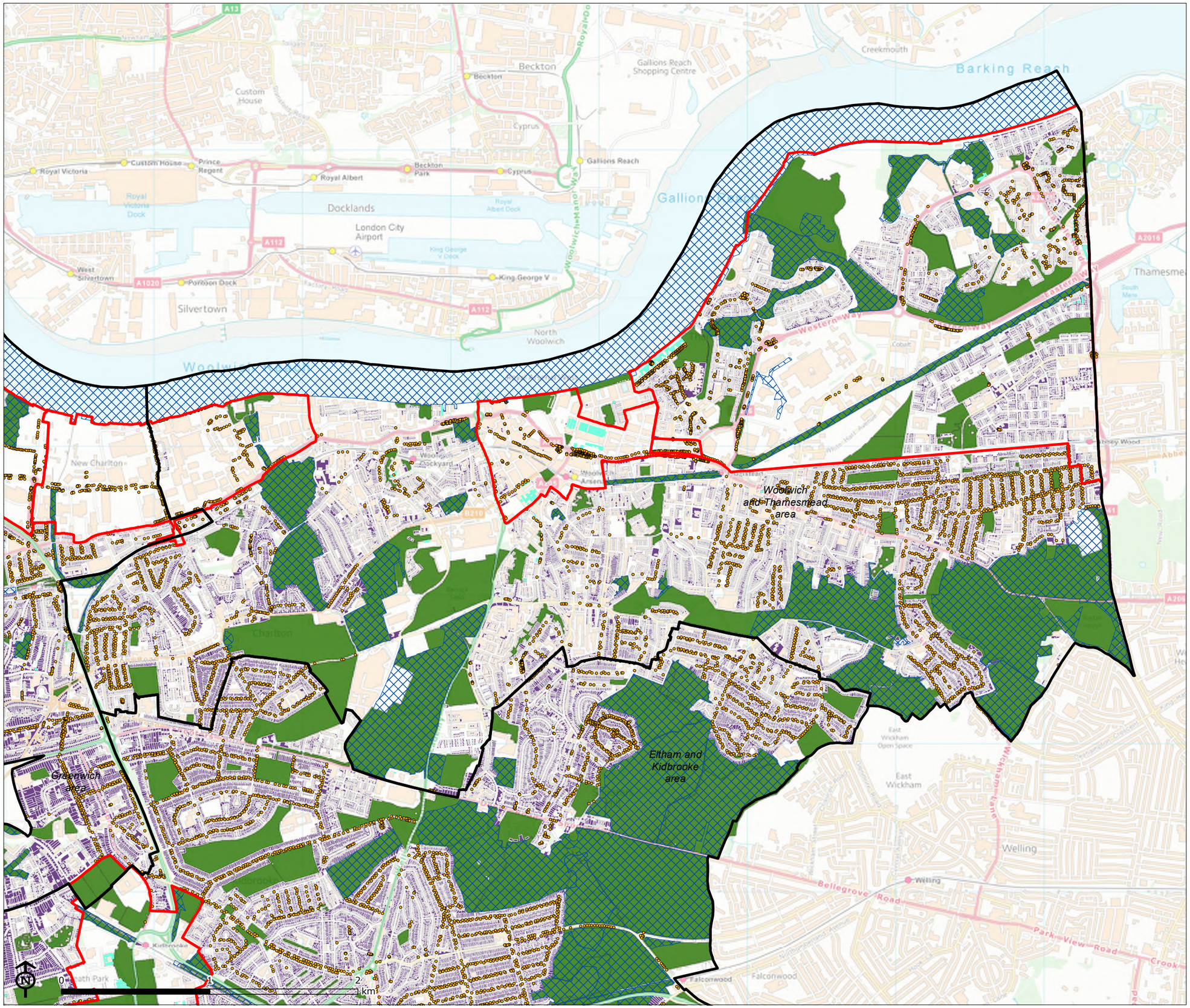
CB:DM EB:Manson D LUCGLA FIG8_2_6704-01_r2_GI_Greenwich_Peninsula_A3L 08/05/2017

Source: RBG, Livingroofs Enterprises Ltd and the Green Infrastructure Consultancy Ltd, OS MasterMap, GIGL



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Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 8.3

GI in Woolwich and Thamesmead Area

- Committee area boundaries
- Strategic Development Locations
- Street trees
- Green roofs
- SINCs
- All open space
- Approximate garden areas

Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

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ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

Source: RBG, Livingroofs Enterprises Ltd and the Green Infrastructure Consultancy Ltd, OS MasterMap, GIGL

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 8.4

GI in Eltham and Kidbrooke Area

- Committee area boundaries
- Strategic Development Locations
- Street trees
- Green roofs
- SINCs
- All open space
- Approximate garden areas

Woolwich and Thamesmead area

Greenwich area

Eltham and Kidbrooke area

0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

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CB:DM EB:Manson D LUCGLA FIG8_4_6704-01_r2_GI_Eltham_A3L 08/05/2017

Source: RBG, Livingroofs Enterprises Ltd and the Green Infrastructure Consultancy Ltd, OS MasterMap, GIGL

9
Conclusions and recommendations

9 Conclusions and recommendations

9.1 This section draws together the headline findings of the individual assessments of open space, Metropolitan Open Land, Urban Greening and biodiversity.

Open Space findings

- The greatest quantity of publicly accessible open space falls within the parks and gardens typology covering an area of 381.85 ha. This is followed by natural and semi-natural green spaces which cover an area of 299.79 ha.
- Woolwich and Thamesmead Committee Area contains the greatest quantity of publicly accessible open space, closely followed by Eltham and Kidbrooke Committee Area with 355.13 ha and 340.16 ha respectively.
- Parks and gardens are considered to have the greatest number of open spaces which achieve 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' scores for questions against the Green Flag Award's 'a welcoming place' criterion. However, a large proportion of natural and semi natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotment sites received 'fair' scores against this criterion.
- Parks and gardens, civic spaces and cemeteries and churchyards have the largest proportion of sites which achieve a score of 'good' or higher when assessing against the Green Flag Criteria for good safe access. However natural and semi-natural green spaces, green corridors and amenity greenspace received the greatest number of sites which received scores of 'fair' to 'very poor' for good safe access.
- Quality of facilities and grounds maintenance were identified as being an issue with a large proportion of sites across a number of typologies being scored as 'fair'.
- In general, open spaces across all typologies achieved a reasonable proportion of scores of 'good' or higher for environmental sustainability with parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace achieving a number of 'excellent' scores. A similar trend is identified for conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora and conservation of landscape features although no 'excellent' scores are achieved for natural and semi natural greenspace for the conservation of landscape features.
- 19 play facilities are found within Woolwich and Thamesmead, 18 in Eltham and Kidbrooke Area and seven in the Greenwich Committee Area.

9.2 The greatest deficiency in access to a range of open space hierarchies is within the following areas:

- Northern parts of Woolwich and Thamesmead
- Greenwich peninsula
- Kidbrooke
- Eltham
- Southern tip of the Royal Borough

9.3 Sections of communities in these areas do not have access to three or four levels of the open space hierarchy. A significant section of the Royal Borough's residents stretching from Kidbrooke to the River Thames are deficient in access to two levels of the hierarchy of open space. Residents living near to the open spaces which form the Green Chain from River Thames to Shooters Hill have access to all hierarchies of publicly accessible open space. Residents surrounding Greenwich Park and Blackheath Park are also able to access all hierarchies of open space.

Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) findings

9.4 A review of the Royal Boroughs MOL has demonstrated that the vast majority of MOL in the Royal Borough still meets the criteria expected of MOL; namely: Does the site…..

- Contribute to the physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area?
- Include open air facilities, especially for leisure, recreation, sport, the arts and cultural activities, which serve either the whole or significant parts of London?
- Contain features or landscapes (historic, recreational, biodiversity) of either national or metropolitan value?
- Form part of a Green Chain or a link in the network of green infrastructure and meet one of the above criteria?

9.5 There are currently 1177.8ha of land designated as MOL within the Royal Borough. Of this, 1.8ha could be considered for exclusion as a result of this review. A further 10.9ha could be considered as meeting the criteria for MOL, and could therefore be considered for inclusion. These are all extensions to the existing parcels.

9.6 We recommend that the Royal Borough considers these potential amendments on a case by case basis and considers the advantages and disadvantages of making changes to the extent of the designation.

Urban Greening findings

9.7 A little over 8ha of green/living roofs contribute to the Royal Greenwich GI network. The majority of these are found in the Greenwich Committee Area, followed closely by Woolwich and Thamesmead Committee Area.

9.8 There are almost 12 500 street trees in Royal Greenwich. The majority of these are in Eltham and Kidbrooke Area. This is made up of 150 species, with the main species being Acer Platinoides. Grouping the trees into broad categories, 23% of the population are cherries, followed by Whitebeams/Rowans and Maples.

Biodiversity findings

9.9 Retain, improve, upgrade existing SINC sites and biodiversity value of open spaces. The following SINCs should be **upgraded**:

- Royal Blackheath Golf Course South (from Grade II to Metropolitan)
- Sutcliffe Park Flood Alleviation Scheme (from Grade II to Grade I)
- Westcombe Woodlands (from Local to Grade II)
- Eaglesfield Wood (from Local to Grade II)

9.10 The following sites require urgent intervention or **risk losing their designation**:

- Southwood Recreation Ground, New Eltham
- East Wickham Open Space (Royal Greenwich section)
- Twinkle Park

9.11 The following sites should be **newly designated** as SINCs

- Charlotte Turner Gardens (to Local)
- Gallions Park, Thamesmead Canal and Gallions Hill (to Grade II)

9.12 The following sites should be **extended**:

- Plumstead Common (Winn's Common, Bleak Hill, and The Slade)
- Eltham Palace Fields
- Woolwich Common

- Birchmere
- Royal Blackheath Golf Course
- Kidbrooke Green and Birdbrook Road Nature Reserves