

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

8 Approach to the study

Policy guidance

- 8.1 This section will set out the relevant policies from the previous policy context review and detail how this is reflected in this study.

Policy Document	Implications for the Haringey Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment
National Planning Policy Framework	The Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment will ensure compliance with the NPPF, by identifying and mapping biodiversity assets. Haringey Council should then use this information to develop policies which ensure biodiversity assets are maintained and restored. Haringey Council should consult neighbouring authorities when planning for biodiversity.
London Plan	The Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment will highlight where Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be maintained or enhanced. The Council's Biodiversity Action Plan should be considered alongside the Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment, and it may be appropriate to develop a strategy which addresses these topics in parallel. Green Infrastructure could also form a part of any future open space strategy for the Borough, as it can provide an overarching context through which both open space and biodiversity improvements can be delivered in a coordinated way.
All London Green Grid	<p>The Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment will identify the current quality of SINCs, and habitats which are present. Haringey Council should use this evidence base to ensure that SINCs of a high quality are protected, whilst those with less value are enhanced to reflect their conservation objectives and biodiversity potential. In addition, the Council should also seek to enhance other open space to support biodiversity objectives.</p> <p>The findings of the Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment can also be utilised by the Council to identify of key areas of deficiency in access to nature, through application of the Mayor's distance threshold.</p>
Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework (adopted July 2013)	This planned enhancement of access to the River Lee and improvements to the open space resource it offers is a key opportunity for Haringey's open space and biodiversity objectives. The enhancement of the river corridor offers potential to address deficiencies in strategic open space, and also provides a tool for enhancing ecological connectivity along the river. Haringey Council should work with the GLA and neighbouring boroughs, particularly Waltham Forest to ensure that the regeneration of the area contributes to its own open space and biodiversity objectives.
Haringey Community Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2013)	The Community Infrastructure Delivery Plan should be reviewed when determining the priorities for enhancement of open space and biodiversity provision. It is likely that in many cases, the proposals listed in the CIDP have not yet been delivered, and could be designed to help implement any additional requirements identified through this study. The CIDP will also be useful in identifying potential partner organisations to support the Council's delivery of its objectives.

Policy Document	Implications for the Haringey Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment
Haringey Community Infrastructure study (2010)	This study should determine the extent to which the priority actions for enhancement of open space and biodiversity have been delivered, and whether those priorities remain.
Haringey Community Infrastructure Plan Update (April 2013)	This study needs to recognise the likely increases to population and associated open space demand as a result of the proposed regeneration schemes. Open space requirements should be assessed in light of both the existing and potential future population. The ecological sensitivity of the Lee Valley Regional Park and Alexandra Palace should be considered, as use of these sites is likely to increase. Actions to minimise impacts on the features of ecological value may be necessary, as well as appropriate mitigation or adaptation.
A Plan for Tottenham	The Open Space and Biodiversity Assessment should take into consideration the significant population growth which will result from the Plan for Tottenham. This should be reflected in the anticipated pressure on open spaces, the potential need for new and/or improved open space provision, and the demand for access routes between local centres/communities and the surrounding area. The study may identify sensitive biodiversity assets, which should be considered in the design of the regeneration schemes, and may also highlight potential improvements to the biodiversity resource which can be delivered through these schemes.

Table 8.1 Review of policies and the implications for biodiversity

Methodology

Overview

Site selection

- 8.2 Haringey Council provided a list 21 sites to be audited during this study. 17 of these sites were existing SINC's and four were sites Haringey Council thought were potential SINC's. The sites audited are shown in **Table 8.2** along with their current SINC designation.
- 8.3 Haringey Council provide a GIS layer showing the site boundary for these SINC's. A database was also supplied containing:
- Site name
 - Grid reference
 - Area (ha)
 - A list of habitats
 - Site description
 - Date the site was first notified
 - Date the boundary was last changed
 - Date the citation was last edited

Site Name	Current SINC Designation
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Site Name	Current SINC Designation
The Lea Valley	Metropolitan
Southwood Lane Wood	Local
St Anne's Hospital Wood	Local
Chestnuts Recreation Ground	Local
Lordship Lane Recreation Ground	Local
Land beside Fortismere School	Local
Former Friern Barnet Sewage Works	Borough Grade II
Highgate Golf Course	Borough Grade II
Tottenham Railsides	Borough Grade II
Markfield Recreation Ground	Borough Grade II
Tottenham Hale to Northumberland Park railsides	Borough Grade II
Tunnel Gardens	Borough Grade II
Shepherds Hill Gardens	Local
Bruce Grove Wood	Local
Parkland Walk, Queen's Wood and Highgate Wood	Metropolitan
Land behind 3 Fairfield Road	Local
Stationers Park	Not currently a SINC
Golf Course Allotments	Not currently a SINC
Grove Railway Allotments	Not currently a SINC
Tile Kiln Land Covered Reservoir	Not currently a SINC
New River Sports Centre, White Hart Lane Rec and Woodside Park	Local

Table 8.2: Sites and current SINC designation

Site audit methodology

- 8.4 The survey implemented by LUC follows the Greater London Authority's Open Space and Habitat Survey Methodology which has been specifically developed to enable the identification of SINC. This methodology involves the collection of data relating to a range of site attributes ranging from land use, access and management to the habitats present and their percentage cover. Data was also collected on threats and disturbances, potential enhancements and a site overview. This data was collected for each SINC or Potential SINC.

- 8.5 Survey forms were prepared in advance for the priority SINC and potential SINC with any existing information already completed. Data was entered directly into a GIS linked database via a tablet computer taken to each site. The database was designed so that a single proforma could be produced for each site audited.
- 8.6 In March 2013 the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB) published an advice note titled Process for selecting and confirming SINC in Greater London. This advice note sets out the process by which London Boroughs should select and approve SINC. The audit carried out by LUC fits within the recommended SINC selection process.
- 8.7 The LWSB advice note recommends only three grades of SINC; Local, Borough and Metropolitan. Thus all existing Borough Grade I and II sites will now be amalgamated into a single Borough grade SINC.

Analysis

- 8.8 Analysis of the data collected in 2013 was undertaken through interrogation of the GIS linked database. Existing SINC were reviewed to identify
- Changes in area by comparing the SINC boundary data with the 2013 survey findings, with new areas of hardstanding/built development or disturbance (as indicated by recent bare ground) taken to represent loss.
 - Changes in habitat composition of the sites.
 - Identifying the presence of BAP priority habitats, or potential to support priority or protected species.
 - Reviewing the SINC citations to determine whether features for which the sites were listed remained in good condition, and if not why, or whether the sites had been enhanced to a sufficient degree to warrant an increase of the SINC grade. This was considered in terms of the Local Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB) criteria.
- 8.9 This enabled the identification of:
- Those SINC with no change regarding their reason for listing (although site conditions are likely to have changed);
 - Those SINC which may be upgraded to a higher level of designation (for example, Local to Borough Grade);
 - Those which are threatened as a result of declining quality or area;
 - Those which have been lost.
- 8.10 These LWSB criteria in summary comprise:
- Representation;
 - Habitat / Species Rarity / Richness;
 - Size;
 - Important populations of species;
 - Ancient character;
 - Recreatability and Potential;
 - Typical urban / Cultural or historic character;
 - Geographic position including in relation to Areas of Deficiency (AOD) ;
 - Access, Use and Aesthetic appeal;
 - Geodiversity interest.

Limitations

- 8.11 Not all the open spaces to be surveyed had open access. Where access details were provided by Haringey Council (for example contact details for schools, site managers or transport or utility companies) it was mostly possible to arrange access; for some sites access was gained on arrival

from site managers or residents, for example. For certain sites (for example utility or rail land), even where direct access was not available, the site could be viewed through or over fencing, or from trains.

- 8.12 Biological records were not sought for the SINCs and no species surveys were undertaken as part of this study. Appraisals of the species richness and species rarity of a site were undertaken using the judgement of the surveyor on the basis of the other LWSB criteria.

9 Overview of assessment findings

- 9.1 Haringey supports 59 SINCs across the Borough. This is made up of five sites of Metropolitan importance, nine of Borough Grade I importance, 13 of Borough Grade II and 32 of Local importance. The Borough Grade I and II SINC will be now amalgamated into one group.
- 9.2 This study audited 17 of these SINC and a further 4 potential SINC. Full details of the biodiversity assessment of these sites is included in **Appendix 6**

SINC at Risk

- 9.3 Three SINC were identified as at risk given the loss of an area of the site to development or disturbance. This included permanent loss with areas being converted to hard standing and buildings as well as changes to the habitats supported by a site caused by large scale disturbance. A summary of these changes is contained in **Table 9.1**.

SINC name	SINC Grade	Reason at Risk
Land adjacent to Fortismere School	Local	Over 50% of this site has been redeveloped to accommodate the development of Eden Primary School.
Bruce Grove Wood	Local	Area of woodland that the site supports has been reduced by approximately 75%. This woodland has been felled and bramble dominated scrub has replaced it.
Land behind 3 Fairfield Road	Local	Relatively large private garden with mature trees and small areas of scrub. No longer fulfils the criteria for a Local SINC according to the LWSB criteria.

Table 9.1: SINC at risk with reasoning

Land adjacent to Fortismere School

- 9.4 The construction of Eden Primary School on this Site has resulted in a significant loss of woodland habitat. The woodland that remains is still thought to be of sufficient size and quality to warrant its status as a local SINC. However the boundary of the SINC should be redrawn to reflect the distribution of ecologically valuable habitats. This is shown in **Figure 9.1**. This site has extremely limited public access and this lack of disturbance will impact upon the faunal species that use this site, potentially offering a resource to more sensitive species.

Figure 9.1: Land Beside Fortismere School

Bruce Grove Wood

- 9.5 Since the previous survey approximately 75% of the woodland previously supported by the site has been removed. It is unclear why this happened, it is potentially associated with the development along Champa Close or it could have occurred with the development of this site in mind. Since the woodland has been removed a dense area of bramble dominated scrub has developed. This is still of some ecological value although it is a less diverse habitat than the

Figure 9.1

Land Beside Fortismere School
Proposed SINC Boundary

-  Proposed SINC boundary
-  Current SINC boundary



Map Scale @ A3:1:550



woodland it replaced. The mosaic of woodland, scrub, allotments and grassland that the site supports is adjudged to be of sufficient richness for the site to remain a local SINC.

- 9.6 This site would have significant potential for ecological improvements given the large expanse of fairly monotonous scrub that currently occupies approximately 50% of it.

Land behind 3 Fairfield Road

- 9.7 This Site has no public access and appears to be a private garden with a locked gate. The site also contains an electricity substation and it is assumed that occasional access is required to this building. The Site is composed of a mosaic of amenity grassland lawns, flower beds, scattered trees and small areas of scrub. None of the attributes of this Site appear to fulfil the LWSB criteria for a Local SINC.

Potential for Upgrading SINC

Lordship Lane Recreation Ground

- 9.8 Lordship Lane Recreation Ground has undergone dramatic enhancements in recent years. The Moselle Brook which formerly ran along a relatively narrow channel directly south of the hardstanding path that runs east-west across the site, has been diverted to the north of this path. A new channel has been created with a meandering course and banks with a variety of slopes. This is the only example of natural banks to a watercourse in the Borough and this now supports a rich variety of wetland and marginal vegetation including fairly extensive reedbeds. Other ecological improvements include the creation of large areas of wildflower meadows and a notable amount of tree planting in the main northern field of the site. All of these enhancements are north of the boundary of the existing SINC. It is therefore the recommendation of this report that the boundary of this SINC is extended to include the entire site. A proposed boundary for an updated SINC is shown in **Figure 9.2**.

Figure 9.2: Lordship Lane Recreation

- 9.9 With a redrawn boundary this Site would cover approximately 20 ha and therefore be one of the larger SINC
- Examining the LWSB criteria for SINC
- Lordship Lane Recreation Ground scores highly for representation, habitat rarity, habitat richness, size, access and use. These criteria are examined in more detail below.
- **Representation.** The relatively extensive wetland habitats supported by this site are found almost nowhere else in the borough. The wildflower meadow area is also one of the largest examples of this habitat in the Borough. This site is therefore the best representation of these habitats in Haringey.
 - **Habitat Rarity.** Similarly the wetland habitats are extremely rare in the Borough and the meadow, scrub and woodland habitats are also unusual
 - **Habitat Richness.** The mosaic of scrub, woodland, wildflower meadows and wetland habitats is exceptionally rich for a Site of this size in Haringey.
 - **Size.** At approximately 20 ha Lordship Recreation Ground is one of the largest SINC
 - **Access and Use.** The site is in a highly urban area and has open access to the public. It is therefore very well used.

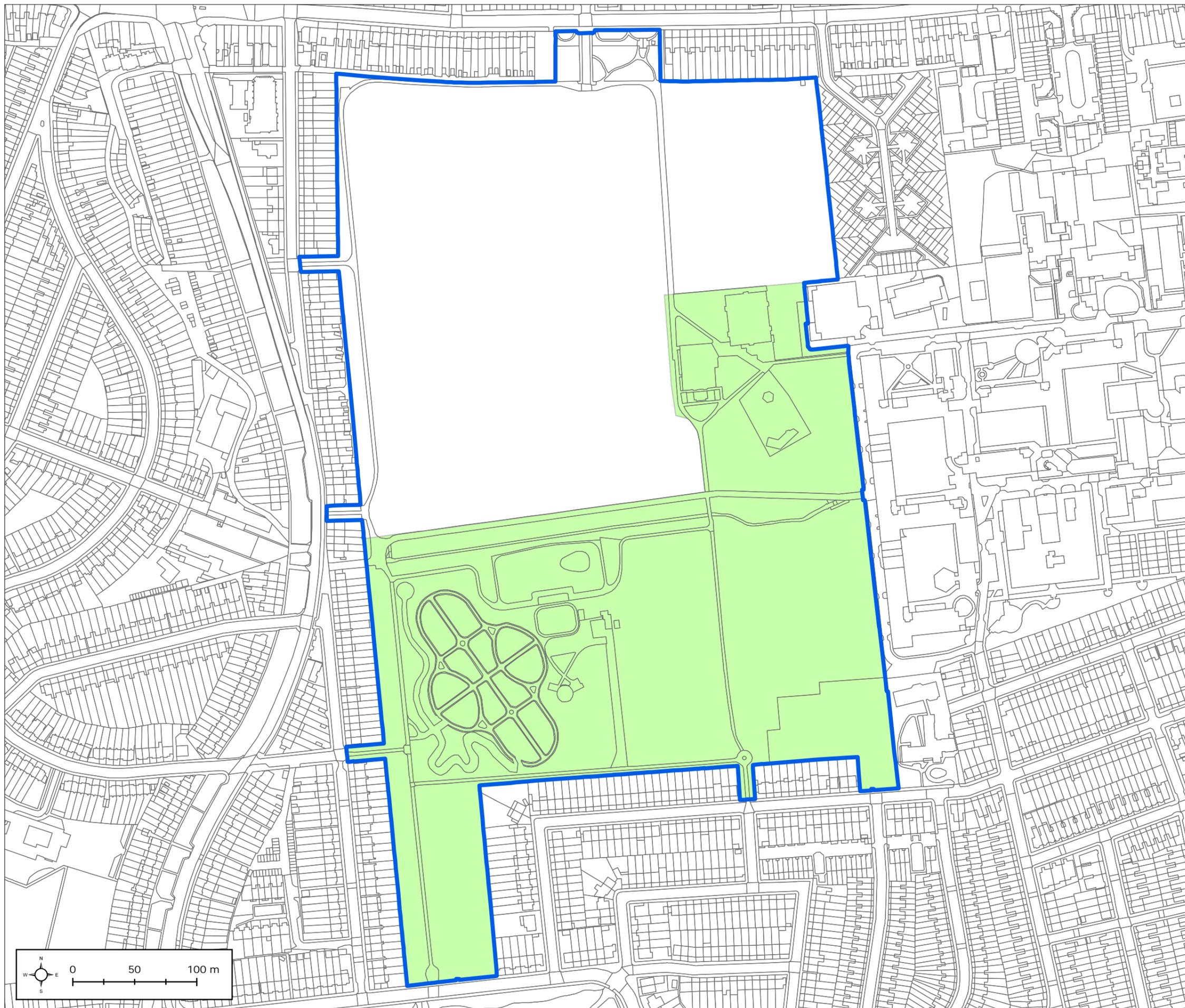
Potential New SINC

- 9.10 The four potential SINC sites included two sets of allotments, a covered reservoir and a local park. All four were considered to make a significant contribution to the ecology of their local areas. A summary of these sites is provided in **Table 9.2**.

Figure 9.2

Lordship Lane Recreation Ground Proposed SINC Boundary

-  Proposed SINC boundary
-  Current SINC boundary



Map Scale @ A3:1:3,000



Site Name	Site Description	Recommended SINC Grade
	are unusual for a London park. This park is likely to support interesting invertebrates and offer a useful resource for bats and birds.	
Golf Course Allotments	Well used allotments providing ecological benefits in the form of a large green space with low levels of disturbance and numerous mature fruit trees. Social and health benefits for the allotment users.	Local
Grove Railway Allotments	Quiet green space adjacent to parkland walk, so has good ecological links and a pleasant sheltered spot which will provide a useful resource for birds, bats and invertebrates.	Local
Tile Kiln Land Covered Reservoir	Majority of site is formed of slightly rank grassland although there is a small woodland in the north of the site with a canopy which includes oak, ash, sycamore and poplar sp.	Local

Table 9.2: Potential SINC

Stationers Park

- 9.11 The wetland areas within this park support sweetgrass sp. , common reedmace , flowering-rush and sea-club rush. All of these species are uncommon in Haringey and their abundant presence here is notable. The other habitats this Site supports are sufficiently varied to make this site suitable for a local SINC designation.

Golf Course Allotments

- 9.12 This relatively large and undisturbed site forms part of a continuous mass of green space in this area providing a link between Albert Road Recreation Ground, Muswell Hill Golf Course and Bluebell Wood. The presence of allotments here is also part of the cultural character of this part of London. For these reasons it is thought that this Site should be designated as a local SINC.

Grove Railway Allotments

- 9.13 This small collection of allotments is directly adjacent to Parkland Walk and the railway line that runs east west across the Borough. It is sheltered by the woodland that almost surrounds it and is likely to provide a useful foraging resource for a range of birds and bats. The presence of allotments here is also part of the cultural character of this part of London. For these reasons it is thought that this Site should be designated as a local SINC.

Tile Kiln Land Covered Reservoir

- 9.14 Although it was not possible to access this site to accurately survey the ground vegetation this site supports a small area of woodland and a relatively large expanse of slightly rank grassland. Neither of these habitats are common across the Borough and their presence here is sufficient for this site to be recommended as a Local SINC.

SINCs with no Change

- 9.15 The remaining SINC
- s 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.

