

# OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

# 2025- 2027



**GiGL**

Greenspace Information for Greater London  
the capital's environmental records centre

## Introduction

Over the previous strategic plan period, many of the organisations that we work with have declared climate and ecological emergencies. New legislation has been put in place to make the natural environment and the many direct and indirect benefits of protecting and enhancing it a key consideration in policy and decision-making and related activities.

As a local environmental records centre, we will continue to be the recognised steward of data about Greater London's natural environment, empowering stakeholders to both inform, and make, decisions that conserve and enhance nature in the city. Through our comprehensive services, we provide our stakeholders with valuable insights and tools to manage land, shape policies, conduct research, and actively protect nature in local decisions and activities. Our services are essential to the creation and delivery of London's local nature recovery strategy, and to designing, delivering and monitoring biodiversity net gain.

10,313,396

Species Records

1,683

SINCs

13,108

Open Space  
Records

56

GiGL Partners

15,460

Client Data  
Search Reports

Figures correct at January 2025

We are a social enterprise registered with the national organisation Social Enterprise UK. Our mission is to collaborate with our community and professional networks to ensure London's natural environment is understood, protected, improved, and enjoyed for the benefit of nature and the people that live in and visit the capital.

Our holistic approach, supported by cutting-edge technology and a collaborative network of experts, establishes us as a trusted and reliable source of data-driven solutions.

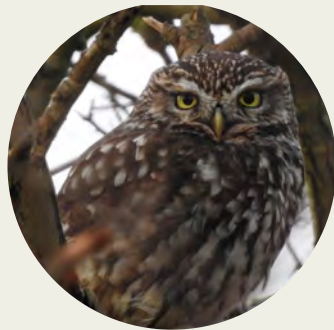


## Our Vision

We envision a future where every decision affecting London's natural environment is informed by a robust evidence base and a genuine commitment to the well-being of people and nature.

We deliver our social impact by:

- 📍 Investing in good data stewardship
- 📍 Developing and providing access to data, information and answer services that help our stakeholders make informed decisions
- 📍 Investing in a robust survey and monitoring programme



## GiGL Stakeholders

Our stakeholders work with us for a range of reasons, from complying with relevant legislation, policy and guidance, through to improving their physical and mental health. We help our community and professional networks through supporting the generation and sharing of data to enable evidence-based policy and decision-making. We also support the work of our project networks through access to our evidence base and related services.

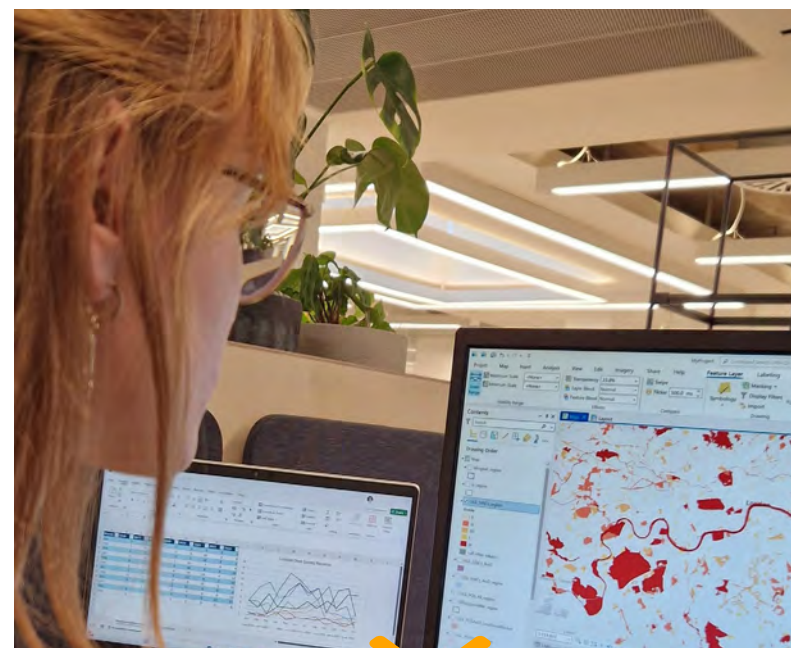
## Our Community

We support our professional and community networks in the generation of data and use of our services to assist them in protecting, enhancing, understanding and enjoying London's natural environment. Our networks include a range of private, public and voluntary sector organisations, local groups as well as the general public.

## Our Services

We undertake a range of essential activities relating to good data stewardship, including our work with the members of our community that generate data in Greater London, development and maintenance of systems, inputting and managing data to recognised standards, and quality assurance.

We make data accessible to our stakeholders via our data, information and answer services



Generating and sharing data supports our communities



## GiGL Family

We work with a range of experts who provide independent advice and services relevant to developing and running a social enterprise.

Our board of directors oversee governance and set our strategic direction, and our expert team lead on the day-to-day business of being a local environmental records centre. We also offer opportunities for volunteers to engage in our work.



**GiGL Board** A community interest company has a board of directors, and in GiGL's case the chief executive is also a company director. The directors ensure the business' compliance with relevant legislation and regulation, as well as its community interest statement.



**Advisory Panel** Members' areas of expertise are representative of the areas of GiGL's work. They help ensure the GiGL partnership data and related services are robust and relevant.



**Volunteers** GiGL volunteers make an invaluable contribution to service delivery and help GiGL provide the best possible service to the community.



**Expert team** Responsible for partnership and client-base development and retention, service delivery and representing London's data needs via various forums.

**Advisors** These external consultants are engaged with GiGL business and provide advice in areas such as business development, data and systems, communications, HR, finance, fundraising and marketing



Business



Communications



HR



Marketing



Fundraising



Technical



## The Social Enterprise

Our work benefits the natural environment as well as everyone that lives in or visits Greater London. This can be directly, for example by enabling our community and professional networks to factor nature into their decisions and activities, or indirectly, for example through the positive impact that same work by our networks has on their own stakeholders.

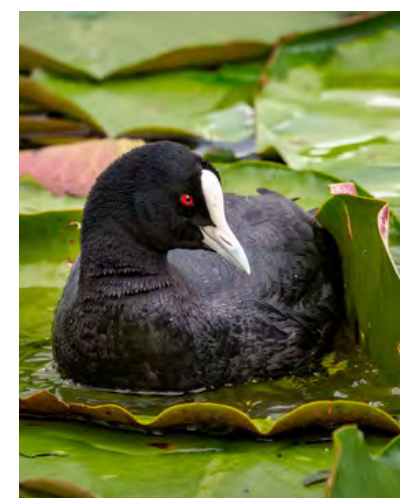
Since we became a community interest company in January 2013 we have invested our profits in improved data stewardship and services for the benefit of our stakeholders, including through the creation of jobs. We will continue to take this approach in consultation and collaboration with key stakeholder groups, and aim to invest in a survey and monitoring programme that will tell us how London's natural environment is faring and where the opportunities to make a difference are.

We will continue to work with organisations that represent businesses like ours, and will seek opportunities to be further recognised as a social enterprise. We will engage with the wider Social Enterprise sector but also look for opportunities within our biodiversity sector and look at how our supply chain could also become more socially-minded.

### Did you know?

As of June 2024 there are more than 131,000 social enterprises in the UK, with a collective turnover of £78 billion and employing around 2.3 million people. Social Enterprise UK state that social enterprises must:

- Have a clear social and/or environmental mission set out in their governing documents
- Generate the majority of their income through trade
- Reinvest the majority of their profits
- Be autonomous of state



## Local Environmental Records Centre

In our capacity as a local environmental records centre we provide a range of services that help our stakeholders to protect, improve, study and enjoy London's natural environment.

We will continue to engage with the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) and the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust to ensure we play a part in the UK-wide networks they represent. We will maintain our ALERC accreditation.

We will continue to build a successful social enterprise that invests in good data stewardship, relevant data, information and answer services and a robust survey and monitoring programme.

We will collaborate with our professional and community networks to ensure London's natural environment is better protected, enhanced, understood and enjoyed to benefit nature and the people that live in or visit the capital.



## Wider collaborations

It is really important that we collaborate with and learn from organisations in our sector elsewhere in the UK. There are opportunities to do this through the UK-wide network of local environmental records centres, and the National Biodiversity Network, a partnership of organisations that generate, manage and consume data about nature which includes LERCs as well as government, country agencies, wildlife conservation organisations and national schemes and societies. There are two membership organisations that oversee these networks that are essential to our continued growth and they are the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC), and the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust.

### ALERC, [www.alerc.org.uk](http://www.alerc.org.uk)

ALERC is a community interest company that was set up in 2009 to give local environmental records centres a voice at a UK-level. It promotes members' services at country and regional level, and runs an accreditation scheme that enhances the professional standing of LERCs. ALERC runs an annual conference and less formal gatherings that ensure members learn from each other and collaborate where doing so is of benefit to their stakeholders, including nature.

### NBN Trust, [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

The National Biodiversity Network (NBN), is the UK's largest partnership for nature. It formed in the 1990s and is overseen by the NBN Trust, which was set up as an independent charity in 2000. The Trust and Network set standards for our sector that we work to and with at GiGL, including software, data exchange principles, taxonomic dictionaries, and a platform for publishing open and shared data known as the NBN Atlas. The Trust also runs an annual conference that helps us to stay connected with colleagues and learn about all the incredible work delivered by Network members to enable research and evidence-based decision making elsewhere in the UK.



# STRATEGIC THEMES AND GOALS

Our social enterprise

Our community

Our services



## Our goals for our Community

We support our professional and community networks in the generation of data and use of our services to support them in protecting, enhancing, understanding and enjoying London's natural environment. Our networks include a range of private, public and voluntary sector organisations, local groups as well as the general public.

We will:

1. Support our professional networks and ensure they are representative of our target audiences including partners, clients and GiGL ambassadors.
2. Support our community networks, including recording groups, community groups, and the general public to ensure they are able to access relevant services.
3. Ensure our project networks understand our role in London, and have access to GiGL expertise and relevant services.
4. Work with experts from other sectors to understand and break down the barriers to people who are under-represented in our networks.

### Become a GiGL partner

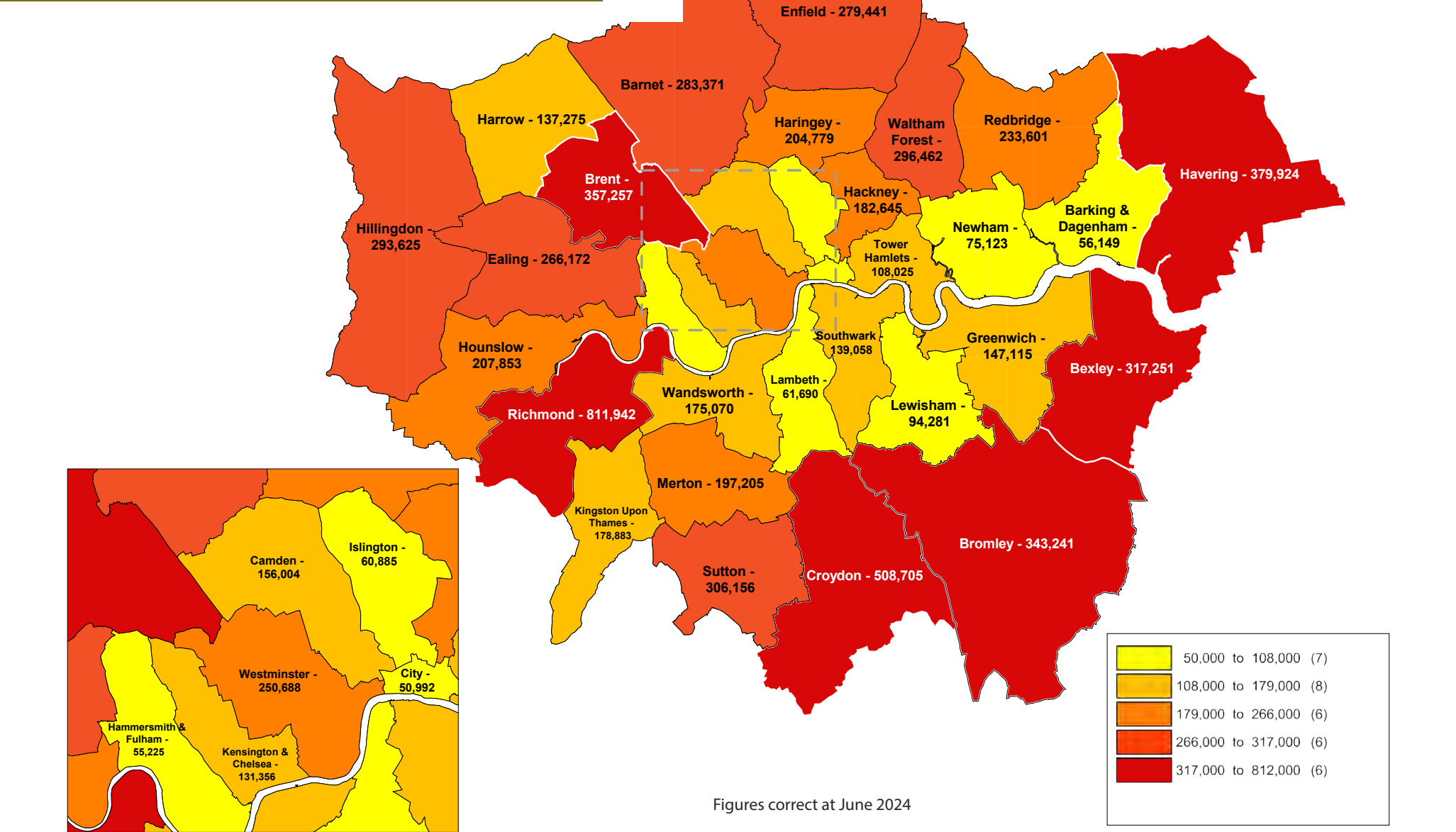
If you feel that your organisation would benefit from becoming a partner, please [contact us](#) for an initial discussion of your needs and to arrange a demonstration of our products and services.

New partners and new contacts from existing partners are encouraged to come in and meet us to talk about how we can help. A good working relationship with all our partners is an important part of how we work and ensures that you get the most from your service level agreement.

GiGL has agreements with organisations in the private, public and voluntary sector. They include utility companies, local authorities, large charities and local, regional and national schemes and societies.



# Heatmap - Number of volunteer records submitted per London Borough

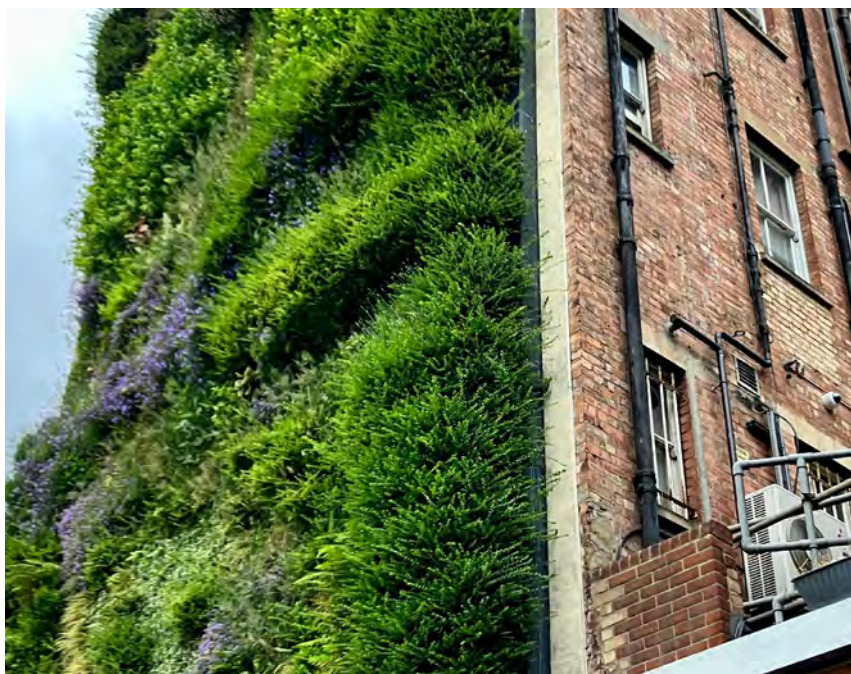




## Our goals for our Services

We make data accessible to our stakeholders via our data, information and answer services. We will:

1. Adapt our systems and services to changing social and technological perspectives, and the evolving needs of our stakeholders.
2. Continue to invest in improved data stewardship.
3. Continue to invest in new and improved data, information and answer services in response to feedback from our stakeholders.
4. Increase our visibility through further development of our online offer, including open data and web-mapping
5. Generate and invest profit in a London-wide survey and monitoring programme focusing on species, habitats and open spaces / green infrastructure.



We undertake a range of essential activities relating to good data stewardship, including our work with the members of our community that generate data in Greater London, development and maintenance of systems, inputting and managing data to recognised standards, and quality assurance.



## Our goals for Social Enterprise

We will:

1. Retain a confident and **expert board of directors** to ensure our long-term competence and sustainability.
2. Maintain a strong portfolio of **expert contacts** to guide our development via our **advisory panel**.
3. Nurture **a happy, healthy and expert team**, and **high performance ethos**.
4. Develop and support a team of **highly engaged volunteers** in the business of being a local environmental records centre.
5. Ensure that **revenue generated** is sufficient to finance our current activities and will seek to generate a profit to support additional data stewardship, and to develop new and improve existing services.
6. Develop and implement transparent social, environmental and financial **accounting processes**.
7. Actively seek out **grant funding** for strategic projects that will benefit our stakeholders and the natural environment.
8. Continue to focus business delivery on **Greater London** but ensure we influence relevant national policy and activities.
9. Achieve **accreditation** from relevant professional bodies to demonstrate we meet good practice standards as a social enterprise and local environmental records centre.



GiGL is a community interest company (CIC). CICs operate on a not-for-profit basis, which means they exist to benefit the community rather than private shareholders. We aim to make a profit, but we invest it back into our activities to create positive social and environmental change.

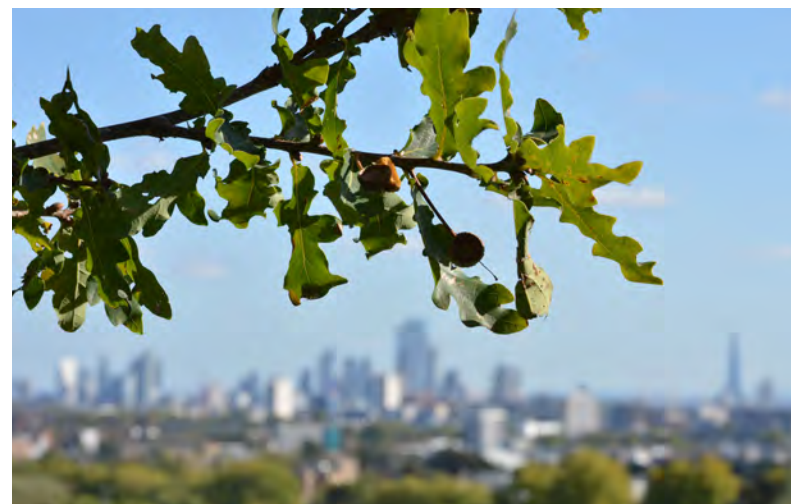






Photo credits: Page 3 (Left to right): Stephen John Davies, Wayne Hoeftmann, Becky garden. Page 6 (top to bottom right): Ignacio Brosa, Gavin Kingcombe, Jason Gallier, Wei Li Jang. Page 7, 9 and 13: Gavin Kingcombe, Page 8 & 12: Becky garden. Page 11: Digby Wheeler.



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Correct at 01/2025

[gigl.org.uk](http://gigl.org.uk)