

Biodiversity Evidence

Better Outcomes from Planning

Supported by the Mayor of London



Background

In 2016, a project by the Mayor of London concluded that about 18% of planning applications in a one year period in London should have been supported by a GiGL biodiversity data search. However, only 1% of applications that were validated were accompanied by a GiGL data search during the same period.

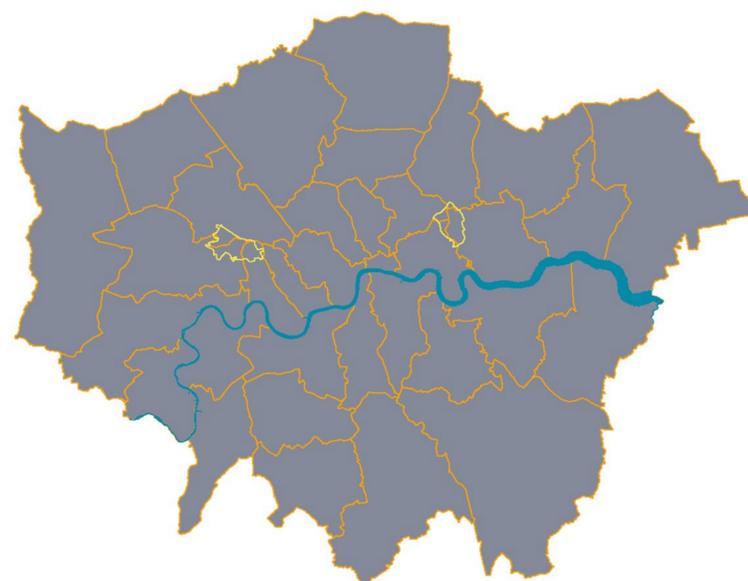
The project

The project examines how Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are currently considering biodiversity in their planning process. It will identify best practice approaches for the use of biodiversity data to support planning officers, but it will also identify challenges and needs in relation to biodiversity matters in planning. Tailored guidance material and training events will be delivered to support LPAs in taking into account biodiversity in the planning process and achieve better outcomes for biodiversity.

In a nutshell

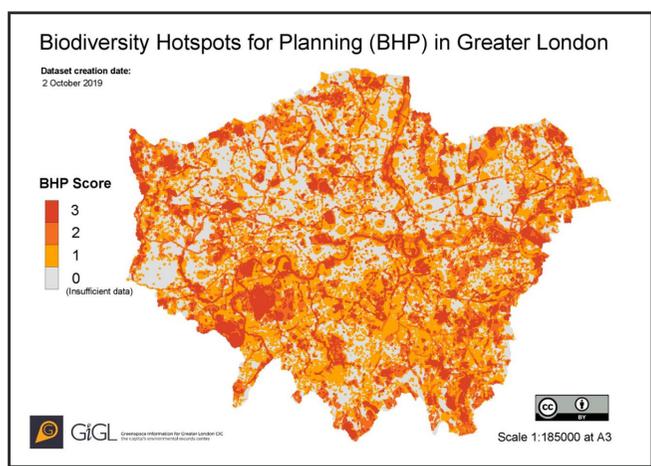
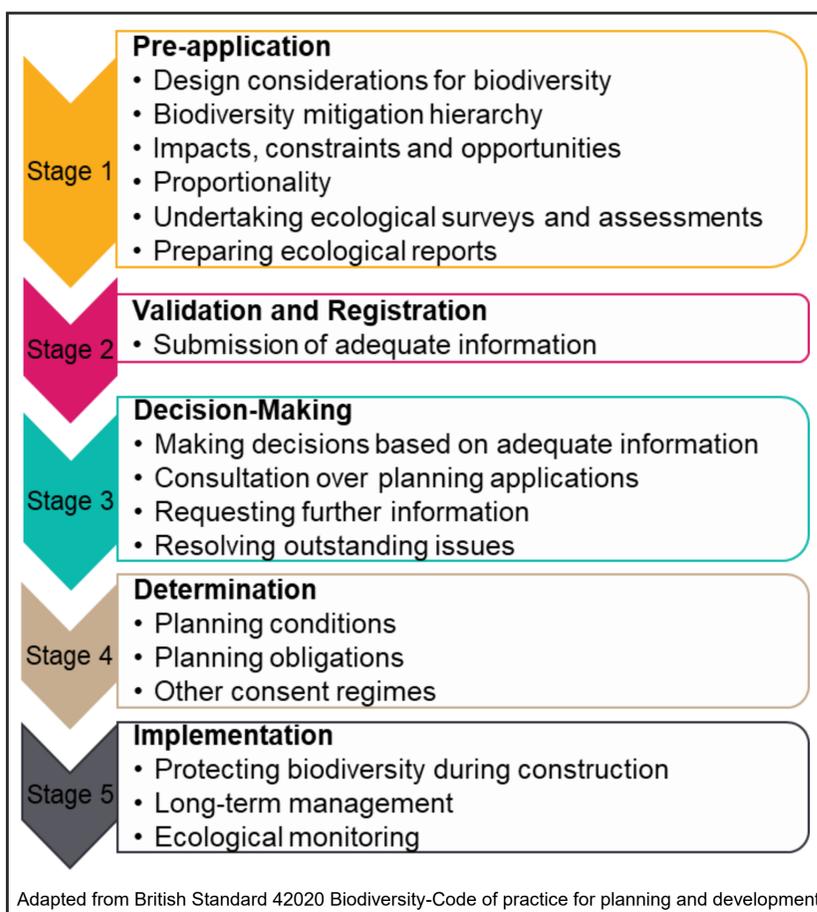


Scope of project - 35 Local Planning Authorities



Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map © Crown Copyright and database right 2019. Ordnance Survey 100032216 GLA.

GiGL data and services at different planning stages



BHP layer and Customisation

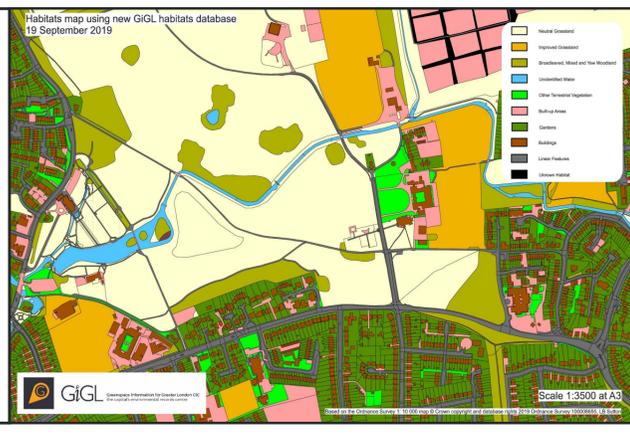
Biodiversity Hotspots for Planning is an open dataset indicating where records of protected and priority species, sites and habitats are present and most concentrated in Greater London.

Similar customised layers can be created based on an LPA's specific criteria, providing a support reference for application validation and decision making.

Habitat database

GiGL's new habitat database will provide greater opportunities to better monitor, understand and improve the habitat landscape.

This has the potential of enabling services related to the design, implementation and continued monitoring of work for delivering Biodiversity Net Gain.



Data search report

GiGL's data search service is tailored to the requirements of consultants and other commercial users and provides comprehensive biodiversity and open space information for a specific area of Greater London.

Bespoke reporting and analysis

Partners can also ask for tailored data searches or help with queries. Examples of requests for data or mapping include: bespoke maps showing species distribution, habitats, open space; site-based data search report; linking biodiversity and open space data to socio-economic data.

Data available to partners

GiGL partners have access to full resolution data from their geographic area (plus a buffer zone) as part of a quarterly data exchange and via specific ad hoc data requests to the GiGL team. Many of the datasets GiGL manage inform the planning process. Protected and notable species observations and designated sites information provide baseline data to consult as part of local decision making.

Conditions for enhancements based on species data.

Based on species data and local knowledge partners can identify areas where targeted species specific enhancements would be most beneficial for species. This trigger can inform planning officers that species specific enhancements could be conditioned for certain developments.

Data sharing

The Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) requires its members to share data with Local Environmental Records Centres (LERC). At determination of the planning application, best practice ensures delivery of any new environmental data to the LERC, to keep records up to date. This could be enforced via the local planning conditions.