



GiGL

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

H003 GiGL Data Guide

Guide to datasets managed and provided by GiGL. Includes dataset descriptions and attribute information.

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1. Overview

This document gives a brief description of the data managed and provided by GiGL.

1.1 Available Data Formats

Different datasets and formats are available to GiGL partners, customers, students and academic researchers as in the table below.

Dataset format	GiGL partners(SLA/data exchange agreement)	Students/ researchers	Clients (e.g. commercial consultancies)
GIS data (TAB or SHP)	✓	✓	
Recorder 6	✓	✓	
Spreadsheet (XLS, CSV)	✓	✓	
Database (MDB, SQLserver)	✓	✓	
TXT files	✓	✓	
Raster maps (JPG, PDF)	✓	✓	✓
Report (DOC)	✓	✓	
Report (PDF)	✓	✓	✓

1.2 Standard and Bespoke datasets

The overviews and attribute descriptions provided in this document are of the standard versions of GiGL datasets. Depending on your project, you may receive a standard dataset with the original file name and attributes, or we may send you a tailored extract from one or more of these tables. Many tailored products will include the same columns/ attributes as described below.

1.3 Feedback

We welcome feedback on both the content and structure of GiGL data tables as we are constantly striving to improve the integrity of the data and want to make sure that it is delivered in formats that meet your needs. If you have any comments or suggestions please [contact](#) one of our data team.

1.4 Use of data

Data is provided for use under a [GiGL Data Use Licence](#) and in accordance with [GiGL's Data Access policy](#). For more information about licensing, please click [here](#).

2. Species

GiGL manage species records in a Recorder 6 database which we update on an on-going basis with new records provided by our network of contacts. Data are extracted from the Recorder 6 database as GIS datasets, which we provide as several separate subsets to aid interpretation. The standard subsets provided, and the table structure of all the GiGL species GIS datasets, are described in the following pages. Please note that custom extracts are also available on request.

GiGL classifies the spatial accuracy of records using the standard NBN categories (100m², 1km², 2km² or 10km²) and use additional 10m² and 1m² categories to accommodate very accurate records. Records to grid squares of 100m or less are provided separately to those mapped to 1km or more; because they are appropriate for different uses, because they are best displayed in different ways, and to avoid unwieldy file sizes; these are referred to as “Points” and “Polygons” datasets respectively.

2.1 Species Records – All Taxa

2.1.1 All taxa records – Points (<=100m)

TABLE NAME: **GiGL_AllTaxa_Point**
 OR GiGL_Birds_Point, GiGL_Plants_Point,
 GiGL_OtherTaxa_Point, GiGL_HistoricSpp_Point,
 GiGL_HistoricBirds_Point *

* due to the size of the GiGL species dataset (c. 6 Million records) it is not possible to provide all species records in a single GIS file for areas larger than a borough. Regional and London-wide datasets are therefore split into (mutually exclusive) historic records and taxonomic subsets.

HistoricSpp records contains records of all species excluding birds from over 20 years ago that are mapped to 100m squares or less. HistoricBirds records contains records of all bird species from over 15 years ago that are mapped to 100m squares or less. Note that this is by year, not by exact date, and that the cut-off point is dynamic: for example, at the time of writing in 2022 the “HistoricSpp” dataset ends with records from 2001 (inclusive), next year it will end at 2002, and so on. The Plants and OtherTaxa datasets contain the records from 20 years ago to today, (for example in 2022 this would be 2002 to 2022 inclusive), divided into the species groups indicated by the file names: plants; and “other”, i.e. everything else that is not a bird or plant. The Birds dataset contains records from 15 years ago to today.

DESCRIPTION: This is a dataset of all species records that have been recorded to a fine accuracy (i.e. 100m or less). They are mapped as points, where each point represents the south-east corner of the grid square in which the species was observed. Points may be stacked if 2 or more records have been made at the same location.

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2.1.2 All taxa records – Polygon (>=km)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_AllTaxa_Polygon

DESCRIPTION: This is a dataset of all species records that have been recorded to a coarse accuracy (1km, 2km or 10km). They are mapped as squares, where the size of the square represents the recording accuracy. Squares may overlap, if 2 or more records have been made at the same location.

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2.2 Species Records – Designated Species

2.2.1 Designated species records – Points (<=100m)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_DesignatedSpp_Point

DESCRIPTION: Some species are afforded protection through international, national or regional designations. Other designations indicate a species' rarity or conservation importance. The GiGL Advisory Panel decides which designations are most important in London.

The dataset represents all species listed under selected international, national and London designations (see *Appendix A.1*) and recorded to fine accuracy (i.e. grid squares of 100m or less). The data is a subset of the GiGL All Taxa Points dataset (see above). For designated species recorded to larger gridsquares, see GiGL_DesignatedSpp_Polygon.

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2.2.2 Designated species records – Polygons (>=km)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_DesignatedSpp_Polygon

DESCRIPTION: Some species are afforded protection through international, national or regional designations. Other designations indicate a species' rarity or conservation importance. The GiGL Advisory Panel decides which designations are most important in London.

The dataset represents all species listed under selected international, national and London designations (see *Appendix A.I*) and recorded to coarse accuracy (i.e. grid squares of 1km or greater). The data is a subset of the GiGL All Taxa Polygons dataset (see above). For designated species recorded to smaller grid squares, see GiGL_DesignatedSpp_Point.

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2.3 Species Records – Invasive Species

2.3.1 LISI species records – Points (<=100m)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_LISISpp_Point

DESCRIPTION: London Invasive Species Initiative has identified species of concern for London - see *Appendix A.II* and recorded to fine accuracy (i.e. grid squares of 100m or less). The data is a subset of the GiGL All Taxa dataset (see above).

For invasive species recorded to larger grid squares, see GiGL_LISISpp_Polygon.

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2.3.2 LISI species records – Polygons (\geq km)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_LISISpp_Polygon

DESCRIPTION: London Invasive Species Initiative has identified species of concern for London - see *Appendix A.II* and recorded to coarse accuracy (i.e. grid squares of 1km or more). The data is a subset of the GiGL All Taxa dataset (see above).

For invasive species recorded to smaller grid squares, see GiGL_LISISpp_Point.

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2.4 Species Records – Absent Species

2.4.1 Absent species records – Points (\leq 100m)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_SppAbsence_Point

DESCRIPTION: A point dataset of all negative species records (records where a species was looked for but not seen). It includes records of all accuracy categories. Points may overlap, if two or more records have been made at the same location. These records are not found in any other dataset.

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2.4.2 Absent species records – Polygons (\geq km)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_SppAbsence_Polygon

DESCRIPTION: This is a dataset of all negative species records (records where a species was looked for but not seen) that have been recorded to a coarse accuracy (1km, 2km or 10km). They are mapped as squares, where the size of the square represents the recording accuracy. Squares may overlap, if 2 or more records have been made at the same location.

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2.5 Species Table Data Attributes

All species tables described above have the same data structure which is set out in the table below.

Field name	Description	Examples
TaxonName	Latin name of the species.	Hyacinthoides non-scripta
CommonName	Common name of the species, where one exists.	Bluebell
TaxonRank	Level to which species was identified/recorded.	(sub)Species or Genus or Order
TaxonGroup	Taxonomic group.	Flowering plant or mammal or amphibian
SortOrder	A number that can be used to create a taxonomically sorted species list.	108
Abundance	Qualifiers relating to the species record, usually describing abundance.	Abundance – frequent; Count 3; DAFOR scale measurement
RecDate	The date or time span during which the observation was made. (Record Date).	01/02/2003 - 04/05/2003
RecYear	Year record was seen. (Record Year).	2002
Recorder	Name of recorder/observer. <i>Please note that recorder names are now removed in standard data extracts; if you need data with names they are available on request.</i>	Matt Davies/Available from GiGL
Determiner	Name of person who has verified the original record from observation/specimen. <i>Please note that determiner names are now removed in standard data extracts; if you need data with names they are available on request.</i>	Robert Smith/Available from GiGL
GridRef	Ordnance Survey grid reference location of record.	TQ4379179737
GRPrec	Estimate of the grid reference accuracy (metres) of the record. (Grid Reference Precision).	100
GRQual	Indicates the position of the grid reference relative to the site. (Grid Reference Qualifier).	Centroid

Easting	Easting location of the record.	543791
Northing	Northing location of the record.	179737
Location	Name of place where record was seen.	Smith's Square
BreedStat	Indication of nesting, home, breeding –based on terms in comments (BreedingStatus).	Y
StatusLeg	Abbreviated list of legislation protecting the species in the planning system. For a full list see Appendix A.I. (Status: Legal).	WCA8, PBA
StatusOth	Abbreviated list of additional (conservation) designations for the species. For a full list see Appendix A.I. (Status: Other).	LSOCC, Bird-Red
StatusLISI	London Invasive Species Initiative category abbreviation, if one applies to the species. See Appendix A.II for list of categories.	LIScat2
SurveyName	Name of Recorder 6 database survey to which the record belongs.	Habitat Survey of the LBGGreenwich
Comment	Comments associated with the record.	Seen for third year running at this location
Confident	Those records identified by GiGL's Advisory Panel as being confidential. See ' Accessing Data Policy ' for further details. (Confidential).	Y
Sensitive	Those records identified by GiGL's AdvisoryPanel as being sensitive. It includes all species of interest to planners (as in GiGL_DesignatedSpp_Point).	Y
Verified	Statement of verification status (see DataValidation and verification policy)	Correct or incorrect or, if null, record is assumed correct
RecOccKey	Recorder 6 database Taxon Occurrence Key,(the unique identifier for this record).	THU00003000A0QSF
VersionDt	The date this extract was created. (VersionDate).	21/01/2022

3. Habitats

3.1 Habitat Data

TABLE NAME: GiGL_Habitats

DESCRIPTION: The most recent habitat survey information for a given area, mapped as polygons. The data includes information collected using different habitat surveying methodologies. Depending on the methodology, a polygon may represent one habitat type or a habitat 'parcel', which may contain multiple habitat types. More information about habitat survey methodologies and habitat types are provided in *Appendix B*. The layer is updated on an on- going basis as new survey information becomes available.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
HabitatShortName	Abbreviated habitat name(s)	AMNG (96%, 6.44ha); SCTR (2%, 0.13ha); NNHD (1%, 0.07ha); NVHD (1%, 0.07ha)
HabitatLongName	Longer descriptions of habitat names.	Amn grass (96%, 6.44ha); Scat trees (2%, 0.13ha); Non-native hedge (2%, 0.07ha)
HabitatClassification	Type of survey used	Lon(P1) or Phase 1 or NVC
ClassificationVersion	Habitat survey classification version	2005
NBN_biotope	NBN biotope code, if relevant	NBNSYS0000004551
SiteName	Name of site	Recreation Ground south-east of Wembley Town Centre
SiteNameOther	Additional information relating to the site's name	Recreation Ground south-east of Wembley Town Centre - 28345; Recreation Ground south-east of Wembley Town Centre 28345/001 - 01/09/2005
SiteRef	Unique code of land parcel created during survey (where applicable)	28345/01 <i>NOTE: site references like this example were created for the London Survey Method habitat survey programme (1984-2009) and often form the baseline of site referencing and naming</i>

Borough	London borough(s) containing the site	Brent
NBN_Loc	NBN location code, if relevant	SR000118000004SS
PolygonID	Unique GiGL habitat polygonID	GiGL_HAB_13287
GISlinkID	Sequential number to identify polygon in SQL server	13287
OriginalPolygonRef	Polygon reference from survey/ data provider	28345/01
AreaHa	Given in hectares. Measured from GIS.	7.02 <i>NOTE: for areas less than 1m², this may appear as 0.00 ha. To determine the area, consult your GIS polygon, changing the map units to m².</i>
CentroidX	X coordinate of site centroid (Easting)	518772
CentroidY	Y coordinate of site centroid (Northing)	184858
GridRef	Full grid reference of centrepoint	TQ2804887729
SurveyDate	Date of survey	01/09/2005
Surveyor	Name of surveyor/recorder	LWT staff
DataCreatedDate	Date polygon was created	2005
DataCreatedUser	Name of creator	CDR Group staff
DataCreatedComment	Any comments on creation	Digitised from survey maps
LastModifiedDate	Last time polygon was modified	2005
LastModifiedUser	Name of modifier	GiGL staff
LastModifiedComment	Any comments on modification	Collated to GiGL habitat layer
BaseMap	Maps used during survey	OS 1:10,000
Digitisation	Maps used to create GIS information	MasterMap
FurtherInfo	Any further information on data entry	

3.2 BAP Habitat Condition and Suitability Mapping

TABLE NAME: GiGL_BAP_CA_S

DESCRIPTION: Launched in 2010, this dataset is based on methods developed with the London Biodiversity Partnership's Habitat Action Plan (HAP) groups. GiGL mapped Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat distribution using information from London Survey Method surveys, and assessed their condition using species records and other datasets. Further to this work, GiGL created a predictive GIS model of areas suitable for either maintaining existing BAP habitat, expanding areas of BAP habitat or creating new BAP habitats. Again, the methodology was designed in partnership with the HAP groups, and includes factors such as soil type.

The data is mapped as polygons of London Survey Method survey parcels with areas of BAP habitat and their condition as well as areas suitable for maintaining, expanding or creating new BAP habitats. This dataset is a one-off project and is not updated.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
ConditionShort	A short description of BAP habitat condition in the parcel	SAG_CATC (74.39ha); WOD_MNNK (3.92ha)
ConditionLong	A long description of BAP habitat condition in the parcel	Species Rich Acid grass CAT C (74.39 ha); Wood Unknown condition (management not known, 3.92 ha)
SuitabilityShort	A short description of the BAP habitat suitability in the parcel	AG_CNRR (78.31ha); PD_CNRR (3.92ha); HE_CNRR (3.92ha)
SuitabilityLong	A long description of the BAP habitat suitability in the parcel	Create new/restore relict acid grass (78.31 ha); Create new/restore relict heath (3.92 ha); Create new/restore relict pond (3.92 ha)
OriginalHabShort	A short description of the habitats originally recorded in the parcel (according to survey classification)	ACDG (95%, 74.39ha); NVBW (5%, 3.92ha)

OriginalHabLong	A long description of the habitats originally recorded on the parcel (according to the survey classification)	Acid grass (95%, 74.39ha); Native wood (5%, 3.92ha)
SiteName	Name of site	Hampton Court Park, Hampton Court Park Golf Course
SiteNameOther	Other information relating to the site's name	Hampton Court Park - 24032; Hampton Court Park Golf Course 24032/014 - 26/09/1984
SiteRef	Survey parcel reference number	24032/14
Borough	London borough(s) containing the site	Richmond upon Thames
PolygonID	Unique GiGL polygon ID	GiGL_HAB_10809
GISlinkID	Sequential number to link data to SQLserver	10809
OriginalPolygonRef	Polygon reference from survey/data provider	28345/01
PolygonAreaHa	Polygon area in hectares	78.55
CentroidX	X coordinate of site centroid (Easting)	518772
CentroidY	Y coordinate of site centroid (Northing)	184858
GridRef	Full grid reference of centrepoint	TQ2804887729
DataCreatedDate	Date polygon was created	1984
DataCreatedUser	Name of creator	CDR Group staff
DataCreatedComment	Any comments on creation	Digitised from survey maps
BaseMap	Map used during survey	OS 1:10,000
Digitisation	Maps used to create GIS information	OS MasterMap
FurtherInfo	Further information about the data entry	

4. Urban Greening

4.1 Urban Greening Features

TABLE NAME: GiGL_UrbanGreening

DESCRIPTION: Created in 2013, this dataset collates information about Urban Greening Features. It includes features that enhance nature conservation and green infrastructure, either by design or unintended consequence - for example, living roofs installed on buildings or river jetties being used as bird roosts. The dataset includes potential or planned features as well as existing, active features.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
GI_Name	Name (official or allocated) of the feature	East India Dock Basin
GI_Other_Name	Alternative or locally given name	Bow Creek
GI_Type	Type of feature	Jetty Roost
GI_SubType	Secondary type of feature	River Wall
FeatureComment	Comments on characteristics of feature	Black Redstart breeding in area annually; Little Ringed Plover breeding in area annually
MeasurementType	Appropriate measurement for this feature	Area
Area	Metres squared	45
Number	Count of features described in this entry	1
Status	Feature could be present and active, or proposed	Active
InstallDate	Date of installation (if appropriate)	26/08/2012
DueDate	If a proposed feature, anticipated date of installation	26/11/2020
SpeciesComment	Comment about the species using this feature or that the feature is designed for	Nesting box for barn owl; black redstart observed on living roof June 2011
SpeciesCommentDate	Date of species comment	06/2011
OriginalRef	Unique reference from original dataset, if appropriate	GR421

Easting	X coordinate of site centroid (Easting)	528400
Northing	Y coordinate of site centroid (Northing)	185300
GridRefAccuracy	Estimate of the grid reference accuracy(metres)	1000
GridRefAccuracyComment	Any comment on the positional accuracy	Estimated from postcode
LocationType	Description of the location	School
Address_Number	Street number	68
Address_Name	Feature address name	KENTISH TOWN CITY FARM
Address_Street	Street name	KENTISH TOWN
Address_Area	Location area name	Mill Hill
Postcode	Postcode of feature	NW54BN
Borough	Borough of feature	Camden
BuildingType	Type of building	Office
PrimaryDataSource	Original source of data	LivingRoofs.org
PrimarySourceComment	Comments about source	Application no: 2008/5900/P
PrimarySourceDate	Date of source	01/09/2011
ScndryDataSource	If another source of information is used to verify this feature, or to improve the accuracy	LB Camden
ScndrySourceComment	Comments on secondary source	Visible on aerial, grid ref adjusted
ScndrySourceDate	Date of source	01/09/2011
CreatedDate	Date feature added to dataset	28/08/2012
CreatedUser	Name of person who added the feature to the dataset	GiGL
CreatedComment	Comments on creation	Polygons of sites available
LastModifiedDate	Date this feature was last modified in the dataset	16/07/2014
LastModifiedUser	Person who last modified this feature in the dataset	CAS
LastModifiedComment	Comment on modification	Secondary source added
BaseMap	Map used in the field (if applicable)	OS Master Map
Digitisation	Maps used to create GIS information	Master Map
GISlinkID	Sequential number to link GIS data toSQL server	123487
FeatureID	Unique ID, allocated	
License	License for data entry	GiGL

4.2 Borough Trees and Street Trees

TABLE NAME: GiGL_Trees

DESCRIPTION: In 2008, GiGL collected tree data from London boroughs for use in the Mayor of London's street tree project and, realising the potential usefulness for other projects, in 2011 created a bespoke Data Exchange Agreement with the London Tree Officer's Association. This facilitated the on-going, two-way exchange of tree data between London boroughs and GiGL. Only data for boroughs who have signed this agreement is included in this dataset. The data coverage and completeness of the attributes reflects what has been provided by the boroughs.

Location of and information known about street and park trees in this dataset are as provided by London boroughs. It is a point dataset where each point represents one tree record. The data is updated on an on-going basis as new information is provided.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
DataProvider	London Borough that provided the data	Lambeth
Species	Tree species name, mix of common and scientific names	Sorbus aucuparia
Age	Age of tree	Mature
Canopy	Canopy size at time of inspection	Medium
Height	Height at time of inspection	Between 5m and 10m
Girth	GBH	Between 20cm and 35c
Condition	Condition from inspection	Fair
Date	Date of tree assessment	24/10/1998
OrgBorRef	Database reference number provided by borough	56
StreetTree	Whether or not the tree is a street tree (Yes or No)	Y

5. Open Space

5.1 Open Space Sites

TABLE NAME: GiGL_OpenSpace_Sites

DESCRIPTION: This dataset is a combination of information collected during the London Survey Method habitat survey programme, information provided to GiGL by the London boroughs and data sourced through other means, e.g. volunteer surveys.

The GiGL Open Space dataset maintains information on the characteristics and boundaries of open land in Greater London, including green spaces and other open spaces such as paved civic squares – but excluding domestic private gardens. The database indicates if spaces are protected under statutory designations and/or according to London Plan criteria. These data include spaces with public or private ownership and spaces where public access is unrestricted, restricted or unavailable.

This dataset provides descriptive information about each open space including name, type, ownership and access information. It also includes summaries of designations applying to the site. It is a polygon dataset where one polygon represents one open space. The dataset is updated on an on-going basis as information becomes available. Further site information may be available on request.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SiteName	Name of the site	Battersea Park
SiteID	A unique identifying code	OS_Wa_0025
PPG17	Main land use typology of the site. See appendix.	Parks and Gardens (see Appendix C for list of PPG17 categories)
PrimaryUse	Primary land use type.	Park (see Appendix C for list of land use categories)
OtherUses	Other land use types.	nature reserve; playing fields
Borough	London borough(s) containing the site.	Wandsworth
AreaHa	Area of site given in hectares. Measured from GIS.	80.6936
Easting	X coordinate of site centroid	528,048

Northing	Y coordinate of site centroid	177,197
Qualifier	Qualifier for Easting and Northing location.	Centroid
GridRef	Ordnance Survey grid reference for the centre of the site.	TQ2804877197
Postcode	Nearest postcode to the site.	SW11 4NJ
OwnerType	Type of site ownership. See appendix C.ii	Local Authority
Owner	Name of site owner.	London Borough of Wandsworth
Manager	Name of site manager.	
Access	Accessibility of the site to the general public. See appendix C.iii.	Free
AccessDets	Additional information on public access to site	e.g. only open Wednesdays
OpenTimes	Site opening times. (First 254 characters only)	Dawn till dusk
SiteDesc	Short description of the site. (First 117 characters only).	A large, popular Victorian park, built between 1854 and 1870, with a range of facilities and events.
Website	Web page of the site, if applicable.	www.batterseapark.org
FriendsGrp	Name of any site Friends Groups	Friends of Battersea Park
SurveyName	Name of last site survey from which GiGL received information for this site.	Habitat Survey of LB Wandsworth
SurveyDate	Date of last site survey from which GiGL received information for this site.	18/08/1999
SurveyRef	Site reference ID from last site survey (as allocating by those conducting the survey).	24031/45
ModDate	Date site entry was last modified.	07/01/2017
ModUser	Name of user to make last modification.	GiGL staff
ModComm	Comment regarding changes made in last modification.	Boundary changed according to new information from site owner.
StatDes	List of any statutory site designations held by the open space site: SSSI [Site of Special Scientific Interest]; NNR [National Nature Reserve]; LNR [Local Nature Reserve]; SPA [Special Protection Area]; SAC [Special Area of Conservation]; Ramsar. <i>A designation will be recorded in this column if the designated site overlaps 5% or more of the open space site's area.</i>	SSSI (23%)
NonStatDes	List of non-statutory site designations held by the open space site: SINC [Site of Importance for Nature Conservation]; POS [Public Open Space]; POPS [Privately Owned Public Space]; COS [Community Open Space - Ealing]. <i>For SINCs, the designation will be recorded in this</i>	SINC (ByBI05 98%); POS - District Park (Chislehurst Common)

	<i>column if the SINC site overlaps 5% or more of the open space site's area. In addition, if 50% or more of a SINC is contained within an open space site, then the SINC designation will be included in this column even if it covers less than 5% of the total area of the open space site.</i>	
LandscDes	List of other landscape designations held by the open space site: Green Belt; MOL [Metropolitan Open Land]; Conservation Area; English Heritage Parks and Gardens; Green chain; Green corridor; Green Flag Award; London Common/Village Green; London Square. <i>For Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land, the designation will be recorded in this column if the designated area overlaps 5% or more of the open space site's area.</i>	English Heritage Parks and Gardens - Grade II* (Kenwood); Green Flag Award (2016); London Common/Village Green; MOL (100%)
Features	List of facilities and features at the site.	Car park; fishing; golf course; tennis courts; toilets; play area; bandstand

5.2 Spaces to Visit

TABLE NAME: GiGL_OpenSpace_SV

DESCRIPTION: A sub-set of the GiGL Open Space dataset, released as open data to show locations of open spaces in Greater London that are available to the public as destinations for leisure, activities and community engagement. The dataset also includes connecting spaces for walking and cycling. It includes green corridors that provide opportunities for walking and cycling.

COPYRIGHT: The open space dataset is a collated dataset that has been compiled from a range of sources. Data providers retain copyright on their data and GiGL have the copyright of

the overall dataset (database rights). Some features are derived from Ordnance Survey data and thus the end user must have a license to use Ordnance Survey data to use this dataset. Please refer to the Data Use Agreement for conditions of supply, use and publication.

ATTRIBUTES: Are the same as for the full GiGL Open Space dataset, see above

5.3 Open Space Features

TABLE NAME: GiGL_OpenSpace_Features

DESCRIPTION: This is a point and polygon dataset of features and facilities within open spaces. Data on features is available as part of the Open Space database (list of features (FeatType) associated with each Open Space site) or as a standalone layer with the attributes listed below. The dataset is updated on an on-going basis as information becomes available.

COPYRIGHT: The open space features dataset is a collated dataset which has been compiled from a range of sources. Data providers retain copyright on their data and GiGL have the copyright of the overall dataset. Some features are derived from Ordnance Survey data and thus the end user must have a license to use Ordnance Survey data to use this dataset. Please refer to the Data Use Agreement for conditions of supply, use and publication.

ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SiteID	GiGL Id of the open space site the feature/facility is located in	OS_Wa_0206
FeatCat	Feature category: 'feature' or 'facility'	Facility
FeatType	What the feature or facility is	Outdoor swimming pool
FeatName	Name of the feature, where applicable	Tooting Bec Lido
Eastings	X coordinate of site centroid (Easting)	529450
Northings	Y coordinate of site centroid (Northing)	171985
GridRef	Ordnance Survey grid reference for the centre of the site.	TQ29457198 10
Precision	Accuracy of point's location, in metres	10
Qualifier	What the eastings and northings are based upon	mapped polygon
FeatSource	Source of information about the feature/facility	GLA,1999
MoreInfo	Further information on the feature, where applicable	

6. Protected Areas

Protected area boundaries for London are provided in several GIS files, relating to the different levels of designation.

6.1 Statutory Site Designations

6.1.1 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

TABLE NAME: SACLondon

DESCRIPTION: Land designated as a SAC. It is a polygon dataset, provided by GiGL but managed by Natural England. SACs are areas designated under European law and are the most important sites for wildlife in the UK. They are designated under the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), which provides for the creation of a network of protected wildlife areas across the EU, to be known as “Natura 2000”. The designations aim to conserve important or threatened species and habitats and provide them with increased protection and management.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SAC_Name	Name of site.	Epping Forest
SAC_Code	Unique ID code for designated site.	UK0030301
SAC_Area	Area of site in GiGL database (excludes polygons that do not intersect Greater London). Hectares.	351.13
SAC_Easting	Eastings of site centroid or reference point.	519,833
SAC_Northing	Northings of site centroid or reference point.	198,197
SAC_Grid_Ref	Grid reference of site centroid or reference point.	TQ198981
Designation_Status	Designation status, as stated by Natural England.	Candidate
GIS_Date	GIS date. <i>We are not completely sure whether this is when the source data was created or when it was last updated, as Natural England do not specify.</i>	28/03/2012
SAC_TotalArea	Some sites have additional polygons that are entirely outside of Greater London and therefore are not included in the GiGL database. This area column is the total site area, which includes any bits outside of London if relevant. Hectares.	798.21
Source	Data source, and date of last update for the (national) source dataset, as stated in the source metadata.	Natural England open data August 2019

6.1.2 Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

TABLE NAME: SPALondon

DESCRIPTION: Land designated as a SPA. It is a polygon dataset, provided by GiGL but managed by Natural England. SPAs are areas designated under European law and are the most important sites for wildlife in the UK. They are designated under the European Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), which provides for the creation of a network of protected wildlife areas across the EU, to be known as “Natura 2000”. The designations aim to conserve important or threatened species and habitats and provide them with increased protection and management.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SPA_Name	Name of site.	Epping Forest
SPA_Code	Unique ID code for designated site.	UK0030301
SPA_Area	Area of site in GiGL database (excludes polygons that do not intersect Greater London). Hectares.	351.13
SPA_Easting	Eastings of site centroid or reference point.	519,833
SPA_Northing	Northings of site centroid or reference point.	198,197
SPA_Grid_Ref	Grid reference of site centroid or reference point.	TQ198981
Designation_Status	Designation status, as stated by Natural England.	Candidate
GIS_Date	GIS date. <i>We are not completely sure whether this is when the source data was created or when it was last updated, as Natural England do not specify.</i>	28/03/2012
SPA_TotalArea	Some sites have additional polygons that are entirely outside of Greater London and therefore are not included in the GiGL database. This area column is the total site area, which includes any bits outside of London if relevant. Hectares.	798.21
Source	Data source, and date of last update for the (national) source dataset, as stated in the source metadata.	Natural England open data August 2019

6.1.3 RAMSAR Sites

TABLE NAME: RAMSARLondon

DESCRIPTION: A polygon dataset, provided by GiGL but owned and maintained by Natural England. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. The initial emphasis was on selecting sites of importance to water birds within the UK, and consequently many Ramsar sites are also Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive. Non-bird features are now increasingly taken into account, both in the selection of new sites and when reviewing existing sites.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
Ramsar_Name	Name of site.	Epping Forest
Ramsar_Code	Unique ID code for designated site.	UK0030301
Ramsar_Area	Area of site in GiGL database (excludes polygons that do not intersect Greater London). Hectares.	351.13
Ramsar_Easting	Eastings of site centroid or reference point.	519,833
Ramsar_Northing	Northings of site centroid or reference point.	198,197
Ramsar_Grid_Ref	Grid reference of site centroid or reference point.	TQ198981
Designation_Status	Designation status, as stated by Natural England.	Declared
GIS_Date	GIS date. <i>We are not completely sure whether this is when the source data was created or when it was last updated, as Natural England do not specify.</i>	28/03/2012
Ramsar_TotalArea	Some sites have additional polygons that are entirely outside of Greater London and therefore are not included in the GiGL database. This area column is the total site area, which includes any bits outside of London if relevant. Hectares.	798.21
Source	Data source, and date of last update for the (national) source dataset, as stated in the source metadata.	Natural England open data August 2019

6.1.4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

TABLE NAME: SSSILondon

DESCRIPTION: A polygon dataset, provided by GiGL but owned and maintained by Natural England. This dataset represents areas notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, by Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage as being of special interest for nature conservation. Sites are selected in such a way that the protection of each site, and hence the network, aims to conserve the minimum area of wildlife habitat necessary to maintain the natural diversity and distribution of Britain's native flora and fauna and the communities they comprise. Geological SSSIs—more correctly termed Earth Science SSSIs—are the best sites chosen for their research value, the criterion being that they are of national or international importance.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SSSI_Name	Name of site.	Epping Forest
SSSI_Area	Area of site in GiGL database (excludes polygons that do not intersect Greater London). Hectares.	351.13
SSSI_Easting	Eastings of site centroid or reference point.	519,833
SSSI_Northing	Northings of site centroid or reference point.	198,197
SSSI_Grid_Ref	Grid reference of site centroid or reference point.	TQ198981
Designation_Status	Designation status, as stated by Natural England.	Declared
GIS_Date	GIS date. <i>We are not completely sure whether this is when the source data was created or when it was last updated, as Natural England do not specify.</i>	28/03/2012
SSSI_TotalArea	Some sites have additional polygons that are entirely outside of Greater London and therefore are not included in the GiGL database. This area column is the total site area, which includes any bits outside of London if relevant. Hectares.	798.21
Source	Data source, and date of last update for the (national) source dataset, as stated in the source metadata.	Natural England open data August 2019

6.1.5 National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

TABLE NAME: NNRLondon

DESCRIPTION: A polygon dataset, provided by GiGL but owned and maintained by Natural England. Dataset of land designated as National Nature Reserves. NNRs are statutory reserves established for the nation under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. NNRs may be owned by a relevant national body (e.g. Natural England) or by established agreement; a few are owned and managed by non-statutory bodies. NNRs cover a selection of the most important sites for nature conservation in the UK.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
NNR_Name	Name of site.	Epping Forest
NNR_Area	Area of site in GiGL database (excludes polygons that do not intersect Greater London). Hectares.	351.13
NNR_Easting	Easting of site centroid or reference point.	519,833
NNR_Northing	Northings of site centroid or reference point.	198,197
NNR_Grid_Ref	Grid reference of site centroid or reference point.	TQ198981
Designation_Status	Designation status, as stated by Natural England.	Declared
GIS_Date	GIS date. <i>We are not completely sure whether this is when the source data was created or when it was last updated, as Natural England do not specify.</i>	28/03/2012
Source	Data source, and date of last update for the (national) source dataset, as stated in the source metadata.	Natural England open data August 2019

6.1.6 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

TABLE NAME: LNRLondon

DESCRIPTION: A polygon dataset of land designated as a LNR. LNRs are land owned, leased or managed by Local Authorities and designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. They are sites of some nature conservation value managed for educational objectives — no need for SSSI status. In some cases they are managed by a non-statutory body (e.g. London Wildlife Trust). Local Authorities have the power to pass bylaws controlling access, special protection measures.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
LNR_Name	Name of site.	Epping Forest
LNR_Area	Area of site in GiGL database (excludes polygons that do not intersect Greater London). Hectares.	351.13
LNR_Easting	Eastings of site centroid or reference point.	519,833
LNR_Northing	Northings of site centroid or reference point.	198,197
LNR_Grid_Ref	Grid reference of site centroid or reference point.	TQ198981
Designation_Status	Designation status, as stated by Natural England.	Declared
GIS_Date	GIS date. <i>We are not completely sure whether this is when the source data was created or when it was last updated, as Natural England do not specify.</i>	28/03/2012
Source	Data source, and date of last update for the (national) source dataset, as stated in the source metadata.	Natural England open data August 2019

6.2 Non-Statutory Site Designations

6.2.1 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_SINCs

DESCRIPTION: London's important wildlife sites are recognised by the Greater London Authority and London borough councils as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). SINCs are London's equivalent of Local Wildlife Sites. There are three tiers of sites: Metropolitan, Borough (Grade 1 and 2) and Local. More information is provided in *Appendix D.I*, along with information about SINC data management.

This dataset represents sites designated as a SINC. It is a polygon dataset that is updated when Local Planning Authorities, such as London boroughs inform, GiGL of changes made to their SINCs in their Local Plans. Any SINCs that are lost are removed from the dataset as soon as GiGL is informed by the London Boroughs.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SiteName	Name of the site	Site One
SiteRef	Unique site code	ExBII01
Grade	Grade of site designation. See Appendix D.I for hierarchy of site designations.	BII
Borough	Borough(s) containing the site	Example
AreaHa	Area of the site in hectares	1.25
Easting	Eastings of the centre of the site	530,120
Northing	Northings of the centre of the site	176,565
Qualifier	Explains the position of the grid reference relative to the site. Grid references are given for the site centroid* for all SINCs in the GiGL database.	Centroid

Access	Site accessibility information	No public access
OtherRefs	Any previous codes applied by the London boroughs	SINC01, formerly ExL01
AlleviAoD	If a site alleviates Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature (AoD). <i>See section 6.2.2 Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature</i>	No
ReviewDt	Date when the borough last reviewed the site	01/01/2015
LWSBApp	If the designation has been approved by the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB)	Yes
LWSBAppDt	The most recent date when the LWSB approved the site	01/05/2018
AdoptDt	The date that the Local Plan the site is based on was published	01/10/2020
ExpRevFreq	The expected number of years between borough SINC's reviews (max. 10 years from the last review)	10
ExpRevDt	When the borough is planning to review the site	01/01/2028
VerifDt	Date when the borough confirmed to GiGL the data is up-to-date	01/01/2021
ChangePend	If there are proposed changes to the site stored in the GiGL pSINC database, or if the site has been deselected in proposals	No
LastModDt	Year the site was last edited by GiGL (Last Modified Date)	01/02/2021
Licence	The licence holder of this dataset. See GiGL's Data Access policy for further details	GiGL

* This is the MapInfo "centroid" which is technically a "representative point" rather than the mathematical centroid of the polygon: it is the centre of the minimum bounding rectangle. If this point is outside of the site then it is shifted until it is within it. If it is a multi-polygon site, only the largest polygon is used for the calculation.

6.2.2 Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature

TABLE NAME: GiGL_SINCS_AoD

DESCRIPTION: A polygon dataset that GiGL update via GIS modelling following SINC changes. Areas of Deficiency (AoD) are defined as built-up areas more than one kilometre actual walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC.

COPYRIGHT: The dataset is GiGL copyright. Please refer to the Data Use Agreement for conditions of supply, use and publication.

ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
Ward	Ward name (and borough name in brackets)	Abbey Wood (Greenwich)
AreaHa	Total area of AoD within the ward, in hectares	791.91
CentroidX	Eastings of the centre of the site	531,180.85970786
CentroidY	Northings of the centre of the site	180,380.45588683
UpdateDate	Date the AoD was calculated	01/07/2003
Licence	The licence holder of this dataset. See GiGL's Data Access policy for further details	GiGL

6.2.3 Proposed Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (pSINCS)

TABLE NAME: GiGL_pSINCS

DESCRIPTION: London's important wildlife sites are recognised by the Greater London Authority and London borough councils as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS). SINCS are London's equivalent of Local Wildlife Sites. There are three tiers of sites: Metropolitan, Borough (Grade 1 and 2) and Local. More information is provided in *Appendix D.1*.

This dataset represents proposed SINCS. These are sites that have entered public consultation as part of Local Planning Regulation 18 but have not yet been formally adopted, which happens when the sites are published in a Local Plan. It is a polygon dataset that is updated when London boroughs inform GiGL of changes made to proposals.

COPYRIGHT: The pSINC dataset is a collated dataset which has been compiled from a range of sources. Data providers retain copyright on their data and GiGL have the copyright of the overall dataset. Please refer to the Data Use Agreement for conditions of supply, use and publication.

ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SiteName	Name of the site	Proposed Site One
SiteRef	Unique site code	pExBI01
Grade	Grade of site designation. See Appendix D.I for hierarchy of site designations.	BI
Borough	Borough(s) containing the site	Example
AreaHa	Area of the site in hectares	1.25
Easting	Eastings of the centre of the site	530,000
Northing	Northings of the centre of the site	175,000
Qualifier	Explains the position of the grid reference relative to the site. Grid references are given for the site centroid† for all SINCS in the GiGL database.	Centroid
Access	Site accessibility information	Free public access (all/most of site)
OtherRefs	Any previous codes applied by the London boroughs	PSINC01
AlleviAoD	If a site alleviates Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature (AoD). See section 6.2.2 Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature.	Yes
LWSBApp	If the designation has been approved by the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB)	Yes
LWSBAppDt	The most recent date when the LWSB approved the site	01/10/2020
PropChange	The proposed changes to a site	Boundary/Citation
NotifDt	Date when the proposed changes were first published or when GiGL were first informed	01/01/2021
PlanStage	The stage at which the site is in within the planning cycle	Reg18
SurveyType	The type of survey carried out	Comprehensive
Surveyor	Who carried out the survey	Available on request
ExpAdptDt	Date when the new Local Plan is likely to be published	01/01/2022
LastModDt	Year the site was last edited by GiGL (Last Modified Date)	01/02/2021
Licence	The licence holder of this dataset. See GiGL's Data Access policy for further details	GiGL

† This is the MapInfo “centroid” which is technically a “representative point” rather than the mathematical centroid of the polygon: it is the centre of the minimum bounding rectangle. If this point is outside of the site then it is shifted until it is within it. If it is a multi-polygon site, only the largest polygon is used for the calculation.

6.2.4 Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites

TABLE NAME: GiGL_RIGSandLIGS

DESCRIPTION: Regionally Important Geology Sites (RIGS) are the most important designated places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as SSSIs. They are equivalent to Sites of Metropolitan importance for nature conservation. Locally Important Geology Sites (LIGS) may also be designated by London boroughs in recognition of local interest for geodiversity. These are equivalent to Sites of Borough or Local importance for nature conservation, which are accorded protection commensurate with their borough or local significance.

The designation of RIGS and LIGS in London is coordinated by the London Geodiversity Partnership. More information is available in *Appendix D.II*. This is a polygon dataset, which is updated on an on-going basis as changes are recommended by the London Geodiversity Partnership or formalised by the London boroughs.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
GLA_ID	Unique ID in GLA document ‘London’s foundations’	GLA 6
Name	Site name	Croham Hurst
Grid_Ref	Six figure northings of the centre of the site	TQ 33814 63200
Area_ha	Area of the site, given in hectares	34.57
Designation	Designation level. See Appendix D.II for categories.	recommended RIGS
Documentation	Link to London Borough document where site is designated	

Borough	London Borough(s) containing the site	London Borough of Croydon
Site_Ownership	Name of site owner	London Borough of Croydon
Site_Type	Type of geodiversity	Natural exposure
Current_Use	Current use of the site	Recreational land
Date_LastSurvey	Date the site was last surveyed for geodiversity	April 2010
Comments_and_Statigraphy	Further geodiversity information	Harwich Formation, Eocene; Lambeth Group, Palaeocene – Eocene; Thanet Sand Formation, Palaeocene; Chalk Group, Late Cretaceous
Geodiversity_Topic	Geodiversity topic(s)	sedimentology; lithostratigraphy; geomorphology
Access	Site accessibility information	Open access, check with local borough for organised visits
Geodiversity_Value	Information about why the site is important	Small exposures of a range of lithologies in woodland with adequate access.
London_Foundations	Link to Supplementary Planning Guidance document	Small exposures of a range of lithologies in woodland with adequate access.
Website	Link to London Geodiversity Partnership website	www.londongeopartnership.org.uk

6.2.5 Green Belt

TABLE NAME: GiGL_GreenBelt

DESCRIPTION: This dataset represents areas designated as Green Belt. It is a polygon dataset comprising of data collated and updated by GiGL from Local Planning Authorities, such as London boroughs, regarding the status and changes to Green Belt in their Local Plans. Any areas of Green Belt that are lost are removed from the dataset as soon as GiGL is informed by the London Boroughs.

COPYRIGHT: The London Green Belt dataset is a collated dataset which has been compiled from a range of original sources. Data providers retain copyright on their data and GiGL have the copyright of the overall dataset. Please refer to the Data Use Agreement for conditions of supply, use and publication.

ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SiteID	Unique site ID	GB_BD_1
SiteName	Area name, when given by designating authority	Eighty Acre Wood
AreaHa	Polygon area, in hectares	531.25
Borough	London Borough in which the area is located	Barking and Dagenham
PolicyNumber	Policy number which the area is designated	CM3
Policies	Policies under which the area is designated	LDF - Planning for the Future of Barking and Dagenham - Core Strategy
URL	Link to policy online or DCLG dataset where appropriate	http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/Environment/Documents/LDF/core-strategy-development-plan-jul-2010.pdf
DateDesignated	Date the area was designated	July 2010
DesignationChanges	Any changes to the designated area	May change with new Local Plan in 2018
Source	Source of the data	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
SourceDate	Date of the data	provided September 2016
SourceRef	ID of the original source data	
ModDate	Date the data was last modified	September 2012
ModUser	Who made the modification	GiGL staff
ModComm	Details of the modification	Removed excess nodes within polygon
Licence	The data use licence type for the specified data	GiGL shared licence (named access) 2017, or, Open Government Licence v3.0

6.2.6 Metropolitan Open Land

TABLE NAME: GiGL_MOL

DESCRIPTION: This dataset represents areas designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). It is a polygon dataset that is updated when Local Planning Authorities, such as London boroughs, inform GiGL of changes made to MOL in their Local Development Frameworks. Any areas of MOL that are lost are removed from the dataset as soon as GiGL is informed by the London Boroughs.

COPYRIGHT: The Metropolitan Open Land dataset is a collated dataset which has been compiled from a range of sources. Data providers retain copyright on their data and GiGL have the copyright of the overall dataset. Please refer to the Data Use Agreement for conditions of supply, use and publication.

ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SiteID	Unique site ID	MOL_Wa_9
SiteName	Area name, when given by designating authority	St Mary's Cemetery
AreaHa	Polygon area, in hectares	3.15
Borough	London Borough in which the area is located	Wandsworth
PolicyNumber	Policy number which the area is designated (most recent known)	CS Policy PL4; DMDP Policy DMO1
Policies	Policies under which the area is designated (most recent known)	Core Strategy adopted version October 2010; Development Management Policies Document dmpd adopted version February 2012
URL	Link to policy online	
DateDesignated	Date of (most recent) designation	March 2006
DesignationChanges	Any changes to the designated area or policies (including pending changes)	New Local Plan to be adopted end of 2018 - will change Green Belt boundaries
Source	Source of the data	London Borough of Wandsworth

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SourceDate	Date of the data	provided October 2016
SourceRef	Site ID from the original source data	83
ModDate	Date the data was last modified	30/03/2018
ModUser	Who made the modification	GiGL staff
ModComm	Details of the modification	Added as new site
Licence	The data use licence type for the specified data	GiGL shared licence (named access) 2017, or, Open Government Licence v3.0

6.2.7 Public Open Spaces

TABLE NAME: GiGL_POS

DESCRIPTION: The Public Open Space hierarchy provides a benchmark for the provision of publicly accessible open space in London; categorising spaces according to their size, facilities and local importance. Public Open Spaces are categorised according to a site hierarchy documented in *The London Plan* (Table 7.2). More information on the source and management of Public Open Space data is available in *Appendix D.III*. This dataset represents sites designated as Public Open Space. It is a polygon dataset, updated on an on-going basis.

Please note that this layer is a subset of the Open Space Sites dataset (GiGL_OpenSpace_Sites: see the NonStatDes attribute column for POS designations). It is therefore not usually included in the Data Exchange, to avoid duplication of information, but is available on request if needed.

COPYRIGHT: The overall GiGL POS dataset is a collated dataset which has been compiled from a range of sources. Data providers retain copyright on their data and GiGL have the copyright of the overall dataset. Some features are derived from Ordnance Survey data and thus the end user must have an appropriate licence to use this dataset. Please refer to the DataUse Agreement for conditions of supply, use and publication.

ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
Open_Space_Site_ID	ID of open space site	OS_Wa_0075
Designation		Public Open Space
Designation_Grade	Designation within the Public Open Space hierarchy.	Metropolitan Park

Name_of_Designated_Site	Name applied to Public Open Space. Multiple open space sites may make up one designated Public Open Space.	Battersea Park
Designation_Source	Source of Public Open Space information	Wandsworth Open Space Study,2007

6.2.8 Areas of Deficiency in Access to Public Open Space

TABLE NAME: GiGL_AoDPOS_Local_Small_Pocket, GiGL_AoDPOS_District, GiGL_AoDPOS_Metropolitan, GiGL_AoDPOS_Regional

DESCRIPTION: *The London Plan* (Table 7.2) sets out a maximum distance that London residents should travel in order to access public open spaces. Areas outside of these distances are areas of deficiency in the provision of public open space.

GiGL uses GIS modelling to map these areas for each type of public open space in the POS hierarchy. See *Appendix D.III*.

The AoD to POS tables are polygon datasets, which GiGL update periodically to reflect changes to open spaces.

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ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
ID	Type of area of deficiency	District Park AoD

7. Biodiversity Hotspots for Planning

This dataset provides indicative areas of biodiversity hotspots in Greater London, identified by research and data analysis using methods derived from the Greater London Authority's (GLA) "[Planning for Biodiversity?](#)" report (2016).

The dataset has been created by GiGL and is based on [GiGL partnership data](#) which are continuously updated. The underlying data for the dataset may have been subject to changes since the current version was modelled. Subsequent versions will provide updated information from the GiGL database annually (every November). The dataset is a coarse-resolution presentation of high-resolution data.

Research for this dataset has been assisted by London and South East England Local Records Centres (LaSER) and the London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum (LBBF), and is based on advice provided by the Open Data Institute (ODI).

The full, London-wide, dataset can be found on the [London Datastore](#).

Description

To meet Policy 7.19 of [The London Plan \(2017\)](#), the capital's spatial development strategy, developers must “*wherever possible, make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity*”. This requires them to provide Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) enough ecological information in their development proposals that will allow LPAs to make a fully informed decision on whether to grant them planning permissions.

The **Biodiversity Hotspots for Planning (BHP)** dataset provides developers, homeowners and LPAs an indication of areas, where data are available, that have potential impacts on biodiversity and are likely to be relevant to local planning decisions by applying biodiversity criteria developed by GiGL, based on the original “Planning for Biodiversity?” research. ‘Hotspot’ areas indicate a detected presence of sensitive biodiversity that could potentially be affected by development. Original records can be accessed from GiGL to assist the decision-making process.

N.B.1: Areas without these biodiversity indicator records may still have undetected biodiversity so should also be considered for biodiversity potential on a case-by-case basis.

N.B.2: The dataset is purely indicative and an ecological desk study must still be commissioned as evidence for planning applications.

Specification

The GIS file shows London as 100m hexagon tiles. Each tile is scored for the known presence of protected species, sites and habitats impact areas based on the impact buffer size as specified in the criteria table below, giving a cumulative score range of 0 to 3. Tiles are considered a hotspot where impact areas overlap the tile by more than 10%.

Biodiversity Hotspots for Planning: Criteria Table			
Categories	Designations	Data Conditions	Impact Buffer Size
Protected and Priority Species	Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV Birds Directive Annex I	Recorded to 100m precision quality or better No bats in <i>Pipistrellus</i> genus No invertebrates Only roost records for bats and birds	500m
		Recorded to 100m precision quality or better No bats in <i>Pipistrellus</i> genus Includes invertebrates Includes non-roosting records for bats and birds	50m
	1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 5 & 9 Protection of Badgers Act (1992) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – Species of Principal Importance in England (Section 41)	Recorded to 100m precision quality or better No bats in <i>Pipistrellus</i> genus No widespread species (common toad, skylark, house sparrow, hedgehog and common lizard)	
Designated Sites	Special Areas of Conservation Special Protection Areas RAMSAR sites Sites of Special Scientific Interest National Nature Reserve	All designated sites	100m
	Local Nature Reserve Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	All designated sites	50m
Priority Habitats	London Biodiversity Action Plan	All priority habitats	

Tiles with a score of 0 indicate that there are currently no known protected species, sites or habitats impact areas present in that area based on the criteria table, which excludes some protected species. Tiles with a score of 3 indicate the presence of impact areas for all three categories. Intermediate scores indicate the presence of impact areas for one or more of the categories without specifying which are present.

Appendix A: Species Information

i. Species Designations

The GiGL Advisory Panel decides which species designations are most important in London and should be highlighted in the GiGL datasets; these are listed in the table below.

Type	Full name	Short name	Column
National Legislation	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 2)	HabRegs2	StatusLeg
National Legislation	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 5)	HabRegs5	StatusLeg
International	Birds Directive Annex 1	BD1	StatusLeg
International	Habitats Directive Annex 2 - priority species	HSD2p	StatusLeg
International	Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species	HSD2np	StatusLeg
International	Habitats Directive Annex 4	HSD4	StatusLeg
International	Habitats Directive Annex 5	HSD5	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41)	Sect.41	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	WCA1i	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring))	WCA5/9.1k/l	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking))	WCA5/9.1t	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4a)	WCA5/9.4a	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b)	WCA5/9.4b	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4c)	WCA5/9.4c	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8)	WCA8	StatusLeg
National Legislation	Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	PBA	StatusLeg
London Priority List	London Priority Species	LPS	StatusOth
Red Data List	Bird Population Status - red	BRed	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered	RLGB.CR	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	RLGB.DD	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	RLGB.EN	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Extinct	RLGB.EX	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Extinct in the wild	RLGB.EW	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Regionally Extinct	RLGB.RE	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	RLGB.Lr(NT)	StatusOth
Red Data List	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	RLGB.VU	StatusOth
Other rare/scarce	Nationally Rare. Excludes Red Listed taxa	NR-excludes	StatusOth
Other rare/scarce	Nationally rare	NR-excludes	StatusOth

Type	Full name	Short name	Column
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Other rare/scarce	Nationally rare marine species	NRMar	StatusOth
Other rare/scarce	Nationally Scarce. Excludes Red Listed taxa	NS-excludes	StatusOth
Other rare/scarce	Nationally rare	NS-excludes	StatusOth
Other rare/scarce	Nationally scarce marine species	NSMar	StatusOth
Local	London Species of Conservation Concern	LSOCC	StatusOth

Further Information:

- London priority species can be found on the [Greater London Authority website](#)
- NERC Act Section 41 species, see more on the [Natural England website](#)

ii. London Invasive Species Initiative Information

The LISI species layer is based on the following status information:

- Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- The UK Water Framework Directive Technical Advisory Group's invasive species list
- LISI knowledge, which assigns the following categories:

Category	Description
1	Species not currently present in London but present nearby or of concern because of the high risk of negative impacts should they arrive. Should any species listed in this category appear in London, this should be reported to GIGL or LISI to ensure that action is taken rapidly.
2	Species of high impact or concern present at specific sites that require attention (control, management, eradication etc.). Such species are priority species for action in London and LISI encourages this wherever possible.
3	Species of high impact or concern which are widespread in London and require concerted, coordinated and extensive action to control/eradicate. These species are species currently causing large scale impacts across London and LISI supports area or catchment wide partnership working to ensure this.
4	Species which are widespread for which eradication is not feasible but where avoiding spread to other sites may be required. Appropriate biosecurity is required for sites where these species are found.
5	Species for which insufficient data or evidence was available from those present to be able to prioritise.
6	Species that were not currently considered to pose a threat or have the potential to cause problems in London.

Appendix B: Habitat Information

i. Habitat Types (London Phase 1 method)

Habitat survey classification	Habitat survey category	Abbreviated name	Short name	Description
London Survey Method (Phase 1)	Woodland			Stands of trees forming at least 75% cover, including coppice and trees of shrub size, but excluding fen carr (19). Includes stands of willow except <i>Salix cinerea</i> , <i>caprea</i> and <i>viminialis</i> , but excludes hawthorn, hazel (except hazel coppice with standards), elder, juniper and the three willow species listed above, which are always scrub (06) regardless of height. Where the species composition does not fulfil any of 01, 02 or 03 below, code as a mixture. Always record % shrub layer under the qualifiers.
	Native broadleaved woodland	Native wood	NVBW	Woodland (see above) with native broadleaved species (i.e. excluding sycamore and sweet chestnut) comprising at least 75% of the canopy.
	Non-native broadleaved woodland	Non- native wood	NNBW	Woodland (see above) with non-native broadleaved species (including sycamore and sweet chestnut) comprising 75% of the canopy.
	Coniferous woodland	Conifer wood	CONW	Woodland (see above) with coniferous species (including yew) comprising 75% of the canopy.
	Recently felled woodland	Felled wood	RFDW	Does not include coppice, which is coded as woodland.
	Scrub	Scrub	SCRB	Dominated (at least 75% cover) by shrubs (usually less than 5 metres tall), excluding fen carr (19), heathland (15), young woodland, coppice, hedges (25, 34) and

				planted shrubberies (38). Includes stands of hawthorn, hazel (except coppice with standards), elder and <i>Salix cinerea</i> , <i>caprea</i> and <i>viminalis</i> regardless of height.
	Amenity grassland	Amn grass	AMNG	Usually frequently mown, species-poor mesotrophic grassland characteristic of parks and sports pitches, containing similar species to 11. Scattered trees and shrubberies in parks should be coded separately.
	Acid grassland	Acid grass	ACDG	Un- or semi-improved grassland on acidic soils, with less than 25% cover of heather or dwarf gorse. Excludes reedswamp (17). Usually with one or more of <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> , <i>Molinia caerulea</i> , <i>Nardus stricta</i> , <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> , <i>Galium saxatile</i> , <i>Potentilla erecta</i> or <i>Rumex acetosella</i> in abundance.
	Neutral grassland (semi-improved)	Semi-imp grass	NSIG	Mesotrophic grassland usually with one or more of <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> , <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> , <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> , <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> or <i>F.pratensis</i> . Contains more than just <i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> , <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , <i>Taraxacum</i> , <i>Bellis perennis</i> and <i>Ranunculus</i> species (see 07 and 11), but lacks the characteristic forbs of 35. Excludes reedswamp (17).
	Basic grassland	Chalk grass	BASG	Un- or semi-improved grassland containing calcicoles. Usually with some of <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i> , <i>Bromopsis erecta</i> , <i>Helictotrichon pratense</i> , <i>Thymus polytrichus</i> , <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> , <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i> or <i>Origanum vulgare</i> in some abundance.
	Improved or re-seeded agricultural grassland	Imp-agri grass	IRAG	Species-poor mesotrophic grassland containing little but <i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> , <i>Agrostis</i> species, <i>Bellis perennis</i> , <i>Taraxacum</i> and <i>Ranunculus</i> species.

				Distinguished from 07 by its agricultural use and hence usually less frequent mowing.
	Ruderal or ephemeral	Ruderal	RDEP	Communities composed of pioneer species such as occur in early succession of heavily modified substrates. Typical species include <i>Senecio squalidus</i> , <i>S.vulgaris</i> , <i>Sinapis arvensis</i> , <i>Poa annua</i> , <i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> and species of <i>Polygonum</i> , <i>Persicaria</i> , <i>Melilotus</i> , <i>Atriplex</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Medicago</i> , <i>Vulpia</i> , <i>Picris</i> , <i>Lactuca</i> , <i>Diplotaxis</i> , <i>Conyza</i> and <i>Reseda</i> .
	Bracken	Bracken	BRAK	Stands where bracken is dominant. Also used with other habitat codes to indicate scattered bracken.
	Tall herbs	Tall herb	TLHB	Stands of tall non-grass herbaceous species, often rhizomatous perennials, such as <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , <i>Conium maculatum</i> , <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> , <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> , <i>Solidago canadensis</i> and species of <i>Aster</i> and <i>Heracleum</i> . Excludes herbaceous fen vegetation 32).
	Heathland	Heath	HTHL	Dwarf-shrub cover greater than 25% of species such as heathers and <i>Ulex minor</i> , with less than 50% cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> . May include a large amount of acid grassland (06) in a close mosaic, but code as a mixture if grassland areas are large.
	Bog	Bog	BOGG	Dominated by <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses (greater than 50% cover) with water table at or just below the surface.
	Reedswamp	Reed	RDSW	Stands of <i>Phragmites australis</i> with at least 75% cover of reeds. Includes dry and tidal stands.

Wet marginal vegetation	Wet marginal	WTMV	Emergent vegetation with a permanently high water table in strips less than five metres wide on the margins of water bodies. Contains species such as <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> , <i>Apium nodiflorum</i> , <i>Acorus calamus</i> and species of <i>Rorippa</i> , <i>Alisma</i> and <i>Juncus</i> . May include <i>Phragmites</i> , <i>Typha</i> and <i>Glyceria maxima</i> , but where these form single-species stands code as 17 or 40 respectively. Usually too small to map but must always be coded if present.
Fen carr (woodland or scrub over fen)	Carr	FNCR	Woodland or scrub over herbaceous vegetation with the water table above ground for most of the year.
Standing water (includes canals)	Still water	STWC	Lakes, reservoirs, pools, wet gravel pits, ponds, canals, docks and brackish lagoons beyond the limit of swamp or wet marginal vegetation. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.
Ditches (water filled)	Ditch	DTWF	Distinguished from 20 and 22 by their (often agricultural) drainage role. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.
Running water (rivers and streams)	River	RWRS	Rivers and streams. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.
Intertidal mud, sand, shingle etc	Intertidal	IMSS	Intertidal areas without significant vegetation of higher plants. Try to record the extent at low tide.
Saltmarsh	Saltmarsh	STMS	Intertidal areas appreciably vegetated with higher plants, excluding reedswamp (17).
Native hedge	Native hedge	NVHD	Line of shrubs, with or without treeline, one or two mature shrubs wide (wider belts should be coded as scrub or woodland), with native species comprising at least 75% of the

				shrubs.
Bare soil and rock	Bare ground	BSAR		Includes active quarries, fresh road workings, spoil or tipping and earth banks of water habitats, where these are minimally vegetated. Excludes arable land (28).
Bare artificial habitat	Bare artificial	BATH		Includes tarmac, concrete, railway ballast, gravel paths, buildings and artificial margins to aquatic habitats, where these are minimally vegetated.
Arable	Arable	ARBL		Cropland, horticultural land (excluding allotments), freshly ploughed land and livestock paddocks stocked so heavily as to have little vegetation.
Other	Other	OTHR		To be avoided if possible. Must be specified if used.
Habitat information not available	Not available	HINA		Areas which cannot be observed due to restricted access, etc.
Orchard	Orchard	ORCH		Planted fruit or nut trees forming at least 50% canopy cover.
Species-rich herbaceous fen	Species-rich fen	SRFN		Stands of herbaceous vegetation where the water table is above ground for most of the year, with less than 75% dominance of Phragmites, Typha, Glyceria and Phalaris arundinacea. Distinguished by width from 18. So rare in London that it is not on the survey form; write in under "Other" if required.
Roughland (intimate mix of 9, 14 and 6)	Roughland	RGHL		An intimate mix of semi-improved neutral grassland (09), tall herbs (14) and scrub (06). If these occur in large enough patches they should be coded separately. Usually the next successional stage after 12.
Non-native hedge	Non-native hedge	NNHD		As above but with non-native species comprising at least 75% of the shrubs. If neither 25 nor 34 apply, code as a mixture.

Neutral grassland (herb-rich)	Herb rich grass	NHRG	Mesotrophic grassland with more forbs typical of old grassland than 09. Likely to contain one or more of <i>Primula veris</i> , <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> , <i>Achillea ptarmica</i> , <i>Silaum silaus</i> , <i>Succisa pratensis</i> , <i>Stachys officinalis</i> , <i>Serratula tinctoria</i> , <i>Ophioglossum</i> , <i>Gensita tinctoria</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> or <i>Caltha palustris</i> , or an abundance of <i>Carex ovalis</i> , <i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i> , <i>Conopodium majus</i> , <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> , <i>Knautia</i> or <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> .
Vegetated walls, tombstones etc.	Veg walls	VEGW	Includes ruins, fences and other artificial structures with an appreciable amount of vegetation (including mosses and lichens) but excluding artificial water margins, which should be coded as wet marginal vegetation (18) if vegetated.
Scattered trees	Scat trees	SCTR	Trees forming less than 75% canopy cover over another habitat (excluding coppice with standards, which is coded as woodland). Record percentage tree cover here, and the rest of the area under the appropriate habitat.
Planted shrubbery	Shrubbery	PLSH	Dominated (at least 75% cover) by shrubs, usually non-native species, the majority of which have clearly been planted. Excludes hedges (25, 34).
Allotments (active)	Allotments	ALTA	Communal allotment gardens which are under cultivation. Code disused plots under other habitats as appropriate.
Typha etc. swamp	Swamp	TYSW	Stands of <i>Glyceria maxima</i> , <i>Typha</i> species or <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> where these species form at least 75% cover.

ii. Habitat Classifications

For further information on the recognised habitat classification systems and survey methods that may be represented within the GiGL data, please visit the following links:

[National Vegetation Classification \(NVC\)](#)

[Phase I and Extended Phase I Habitat Assessment](#)

[Biodiversity Action Plan \(BAP\) Broad Habitat classification](#)

[London Survey Method \(Phase I\)](#)

iii. BAP Condition Assessments and BAP Habitat Suitability

The table below provides the full names of condition assessment and suitability categories used in the dataset. The full details of methodology and definitions are available in the document *London BAP Habitat Suitability Maps* available to download on [our website](#).

Category	Short name
BAP condition assessment	
Floodplain GRAZING MARSH condition Average	FGM_AVRG
Floodplain GRAZING MARSH condition Poor	FGM_POOR
Meadow condition Good	MED_GOOD
Meadow condition Poor	MED_POOR
Pond condition Average	PND_AVRG
Pond condition Good	PND_GOOD
Pond condition Poor	PND_POOR
Reed condition Average	RED_AVRG
Reed condition Excellent	RED_EXLT
Reed condition Good	RED_GOOD
Reed condition Poor	RED_POOR
Species Rich Acid grass CAT A	SAG_CATA
Species Rich Acid grass CAT B	SAG_CATB
Species Rich Acid grass CAT C	SAG_CATC
Species Rich Chalk grass CAT A	SCG_CATA
Species Rich Chalk grass CAT B	SCG_CATB
Species Rich Chalk grass CAT C	SCG_CATC
Species Rich Heath CAT A	SHE_CATA
Species Rich Heath CAT B	SHE_CATB
Species Rich Heath CAT C	SHE_CATC

Wood Good condition (under active management)	WOD_ACMN
Wood Unknown condition (management not known)	WOD_MNNK

BAP Suitability	
Create new/restore relict acid grass	AG_CNRR
Create new/restore relict chalk grass	CG_CNRR
Create new/restore relict floodplain GM	FG_CNRR
Create new/restore relict heath	HE_CNRR
Create new/restore relict meadow	MD_CNRR
Create new/restore relict pond	PD_CNRR
Create new/restore relict reed	RD_CNRR
Create new/restore relict wood	WD_CNRR
Expand existing acid grass	AG_EXPE
Expand existing chalk grass	CG_EXPE
Expand existing floodplain GM	FG_EXPE
Expand existing heath	HE_EXPE
Expand existing meadow	MD_EXPE
Expand existing pond	PD_EXPE
Expand existing reed	RD_EXPE
Expand existing wood	WD_EXPE
Maintain existing acid grass	AG_EXPE
Maintain existing chalk grass	CG_EXPE
Maintain existing floodplain GM	FG_MNTE
Maintain existing heath	HE_MNTE
Maintain existing pond	PD_MNTE
Maintain existing reed	RD_MNTE
Maintain existing wood	WD_MNTE

Appendix C: Open Space Information

i. Open Space Site Typologies

The main site typologies are based upon previous *Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation* categories.

PPG17	Space Typologies	Description
Parks and Gardens	Park	This refers to traditional public open spaces laid out formally for leisure and recreation. They usually include a mixture of lakes, ponds, lidos, woodland, flowerbeds, shrubs, ornamental trees, play spaces, formal and informal pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, golf pitch & put, footpaths, bandstands, toilets, cafes and car parks - but not necessarily all of these. Parts of some parks might be managed as so-called natural areas. Examples of parks include the Royal Parks, municipal parks such as Battersea and Victoria, and wilder places such as Hampstead Heath which, although having distinctly informal qualities, are maintained predominantly for the same purpose, and include the usual swings and roundabouts and playing pitches. Many parks are enclosed by walls or railings, although some parks that began as common land may not be enclosed.
	Formal garden	This refers to spaces with well-defined boundaries that display high standards of horticulture with intricate and detailed landscaping. It includes the London squares common to central London, which are typically square areas of grass with some shrub borders, bounded by railings, and surrounded by buildings. Examples include Belgrave Square and Soho Square.
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	Common	This is a formal designation. They are publicly accessible open spaces with few if any 'facilities'. They will typically be mainly open rough grassland (not mown playing field or recreation ground type grass) and/or woodland. Commons are much less formal than parks or parkland. Examples include Wimbledon Common and Clapham Common.
	Country Parks	These are large areas set aside for informal countryside recreation near or within towns and cities. A list of sites that call themselves Country Parks is available on the Natural England website.

	Private woodland	This refers to woodland that is not accessible for recreational use, nor managed for nature conservation.
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	Public woodland	This refers to woodland that is accessible for recreational use, but not managed for nature conservation.
	Nature reserve	This is a category reserved for an open space that is managed primarily for nature conservation.
Green Corridors	River	This should only be used for rivers and streams that do not form part of another land use, such as park, common or nature reserve.
	Canal	This implies an artificial waterway that is navigable. Docks are included in this category.
	Railway cutting and railway embankment	
	Disused railway trackbed	This is usually obvious, with some traces of its former use. Where disused trackbeds are specifically managed for nature conservation record as nature reserve.
	Road island/verge	
	Walking/cycling route	
	Tramway	This is a route that is actively used for trams
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Recreation ground	This is an area of mown grass used primarily for informal, unorganised ball games and similar activities (including dog walking). Not to be confused with playing fields, below.
	Playing field	This is a site comprising playing pitches, usually for football, but also for rugby and hockey and, in the summer, for cricket. They often have changing rooms and pavilions. Almost always, playing fields consist only of pitches; but they will sometimes have other bits of open land around the edges. Pitches are often to be found in parks and commons, but the type here is concerned with sites that are exclusively or predominantly reserved for organised team sports.
	Golf course	
	Other recreational	This is used for sites that are used exclusively or predominantly for other organised sports such as bowls or tennis.
Amenity	Amenity green space	This is an expanse of grass used for informal recreation. There will be, if any, facilities.
	Village green	This is a formal designation. It is usually an expanse of grass in the centre of old villages, often used in the summer for cricket.
	Hospital	This includes the grounds of any clinic or health centre.
	Educational	This refers to school or college grounds and field study centres where school education is the primary function.

	Landscaping around premises	This includes communal amenity space around housing estates and community centres, and also landscaping around industrial premises.
	Reservoir	This includes covered reservoirs unless these form part of a park.
Children and Teenagers	Play space	This is a site set aside mainly for children. It will contain the usual paraphernalia of swings, slides and roundabouts.
	Adventure playground	This is a defined play area for children in a supervised environment. Boundaries and entrances are secure.
	Youth area	This is a defined area for teenagers including skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and other more informal areas such as 'hanging out' areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments, Community gardens and City Farms	Allotments	
	Community garden	This includes an area that is generally managed and maintained by the local population as a garden and/or for food growing and are normally restricted in their access. For examples Phoenix Garden in Holborn.
	City farm	This includes areas that are generally managed and maintained as a small farm by the local population. They contain livestock and planting and are normally restricted in their access. For example, Freightliners Farm in Islington.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Cemetery/churchyard	This includes burial grounds, graveyards, crematorium grounds and memorial gardens, and gardens or grounds of non-Christian places of worship.
Other Urban Fringe	Equestrian centre	This includes any land used for intensive horse keeping and riding, but not extensive horse grazing, which should be recorded as agriculture.
	Agriculture	This includes arable and grazing land, including horse grazing, and market gardening (such as vegetables, often grown under cloches, etc.).
	Nursery/horticulture	This does not include commercial retail nurseries (although these might legitimately form a part of a park or common, etc.). Horticulture includes areas of permanent glasshouses.

Civic Spaces	Civic/market square	This includes tarmac areas or paved open spaces, which may or may not include planting. They do not necessarily have seats and may just be a plaza area. They often provide a setting for civic buildings and opportunities for open-air markets, demonstrations and civic events. Examples include the area in front of the jubilee line station at Canary Wharf, and the plaza in front of Westminster Cathedral.
	Other hard surfaced areas	This includes other areas designed for pedestrians. These typically are used as 'sitting out' areas, where workers can enjoy the sun and eat their sandwiches, and as such usually have seats or benches. For example, Emma Cons Gardens opposite the Old Vic Theatre. This category excludes pedestrianised streets, car parks, servicing areas to buildings, and housing amenity space such as communal courtyards.
Other	Sewage/water works	This includes extensive sludge drying areas, filter beds, etc.
	Disused quarry/gravel pit	This may be water-filled, but is not necessarily so.
	Vacant land	This is land with no formal land use. This includes many "urban commons" which are used by people for informal recreation and which may be very valuable for nature conservation. If sites have formalised access and management for nature conservation, record as commons or nature reserves as appropriate.
	Land reclamation	This is land recently decontaminated or reclaimed from disuse, which has not yet been redeveloped.
	Other	This could be anything that does not fit any of the above categories, such as airfields.

ii. Ownership Typologies

Ownership Types				
Local Authority	Government/Crown	Health	Education	Religious
Voluntary Organisation	Charity	Rail Company	London Regional Transport	Gas Company
Water Company	Electric Company	Other Private		

iii. Access Typologies

Access Type	Description
Free	
De Facto	Sites are readily accessible and clearly used by the public.
Restricted	Access includes sites where time restrictions apply such as open days (but not parks that close at night), are only accessible to certain people, such as club members, where there is a financial charge for access, or if there is access only to parts of the site, such as on footpaths.
None	

iv. Verification Status Typologies

Verification Status	Description
Verified by Borough	Indicates that the information shown has been approved as accurate by the corresponding local authority.
Ready for Verification by Borough	Indicates that the information shown is a combination of Greater London Authority and borough surveys. GiGL aims to verify all of the information with local authority officers so as to ensure the data actually reflects the situation on the ground. This verification process has not yet been completed for this information.
May Require Update from Borough	Indicates that the information shown originates from a Greater London Authority Survey and will be updated with information from borough surveys as and when data becomes available. GiGL is working to update information on a continuous basis.

Appendix D: Protected Areas Information

i. SINC, pSINC and AoD in Access to Nature

London's important wildlife sites are recognised by the Greater London Authority and London borough councils as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

The process of designation is overseen by the London Wildlife Sites Board, chaired by the GLA. Further information can be found [here](#).

The following is a summary of the three designation tiers of SINCs and pSINCs.

1. The top tier, Sites of Metropolitan Importance, includes the best sites in London. They include nationally important wildlife sites such as Richmond Park, Epping Forest and Rainham Marshes, and places such as Sydenham Hill Woods, Eastbrookend Country Park and Hounslow Heath where Londoners can discover the natural environment within their urban setting.
2. The second tier comprises Sites of Borough Importance. They include woodlands, rivers, grasslands and parks where nature conservation is a primary objective of land management.
3. The third tier comprises Sites of Local Importance, which provide people with access to nature close to home. They are those parks and green spaces where there is some intrinsic nature conservation value.

ii. Regionally and Locally Important Geological Sites

GiGL has worked with London Geodiversity Partnership to make available boundaries and detailed information about geological/geomorphological sites within Greater London.

Sites should be protected as set out in Policy 3D.16 of the London Plan. In London, RIG Sites have been selected by South London RIGS, North West London RIGS and GeoEssex (voluntary organisations) but have yet to be fully formally designated in Greater London. The designation in Development Plan Documents of local geological sites is one way of recognising and protecting important geodiversity and landscape features for future generations to enjoy.

Geodiversity is defined as:

'the variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms, soils and natural processes, such as weathering, erosion and sedimentation, that underlie and determine the character of our natural landscape and environment' (London Plan).

RIGS/LIGS Typologies	
Designation	Description
Potential RIGS/LIGS	These are those recommended by the London Geodiversity Partnership and identified in London's foundations
Recommended RIGS/LIGS	These are those recommended by the London Geodiversity Partnership, identified in London's foundations and have been through a consultation process with the London boroughs and relevant landowners
Proposed RIGS/LIGS	These are those included as proposals in Borough Development Plan Documents
Adopted RIGS/LIGS	These are those identified in adopted Borough Development Plan Documents

The boundaries and site grades reflect the most recent consideration of each site. Details may change as new information becomes available. Accompanying citations are also currently available. The content of RIGS and LIGS citations is reviewed periodically by the London Geodiversity Partnership.

Further information:

- [London Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance *London's foundations*](#)
- [London Geodiversity Action Plan](#)
- [GeoConservation UK](#)

iii. Public Open Spaces and AoD in Access to Public Open Space

Public Open Spaces are categorised according to a site hierarchy documented in *The London Plan* (Table 7.2).

Public Open Space Category	Description	Size guideline	Distances from homes
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Regional Parks	Large areas, corridors or networks of open space, the majority of which will be publicly accessible and provide a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. Offer a combination of facilities and features that are unique within London, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	400 hectares	3.2 to 8 km
Metropolitan Parks	Large areas of open space that provide a similar range of benefits to Regional Parks and offer a combination of facilities at a sub-regional level, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	60 hectares	3.2 km
District Parks	Large areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits.	20 hectares	1.2 km
Local Parks and Open Spaces	Providing for court games, children's play, sitting out areas and nature conservation areas.	2 hectares	400 m
Small Open Spaces	Gardens, sitting out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.	Under 2 hectares	Less than 400m

Pocket Parks	Small areas of open space that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation that sometimes have seating and play equipment.	Under 0.4 hectares	Less than 400 m
Linear Open Spaces	Open spaces and towpaths alongside the Thames, canals and other waterways; paths, disused railways; nature conservation areas; and other routes that provide opportunities for informal recreation. Often characterised by features or attractive areas which are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space.	Variable	Wherever feasible

The draft dataset of public open space designations was sourced from published borough documents, and by liaising with some borough officers. It is a dynamic dataset and will be updated on an on-going basis. In cases where designations are unclear, information from the Sub-Regional Development Frameworks (2006) has been used for Regional, Metropolitan and District Park designations. Where information is not yet available on the designation of smaller public open spaces, or where data is yet to be included due to time restraints, GiGL has derived designations according to other information in the GiGLOpen Space Dataset. More information is available from www.gigl.org.uk.

The London Plan (Table 7.2) also sets out a maximum desirable distance which London residents should travel in order to access public open spaces. By mapping areas outside of these distances for each public open space category (areas of deficiency) the provision of public open space across Greater London can be analysed and open spaces planned and managed accordingly. GiGL has developed a new method for accurately mapping areas of deficiency based on actual walking distances along roads and paths from open space access points.

As precise survey data on public open space access points was unavailable for the whole of Greater London at the time of processing, GiGL has modelled access point locations based on GiGL public open space data, Ordnance Survey’s Integrated Transport Network information and existing access point data. This dataset is dynamic and will be improved through ongoing collaboration with GiGL’s partners. Areas within acceptable distances to public open space are calculated via Network Analysis using the Ordnance Survey’s Integrated Transport Network. Areas outside of these calculated spaces are classified as areas of deficiency to public open space. Linear open spaces are excluded from the methodology. More information is available from www.gigl.org.uk.