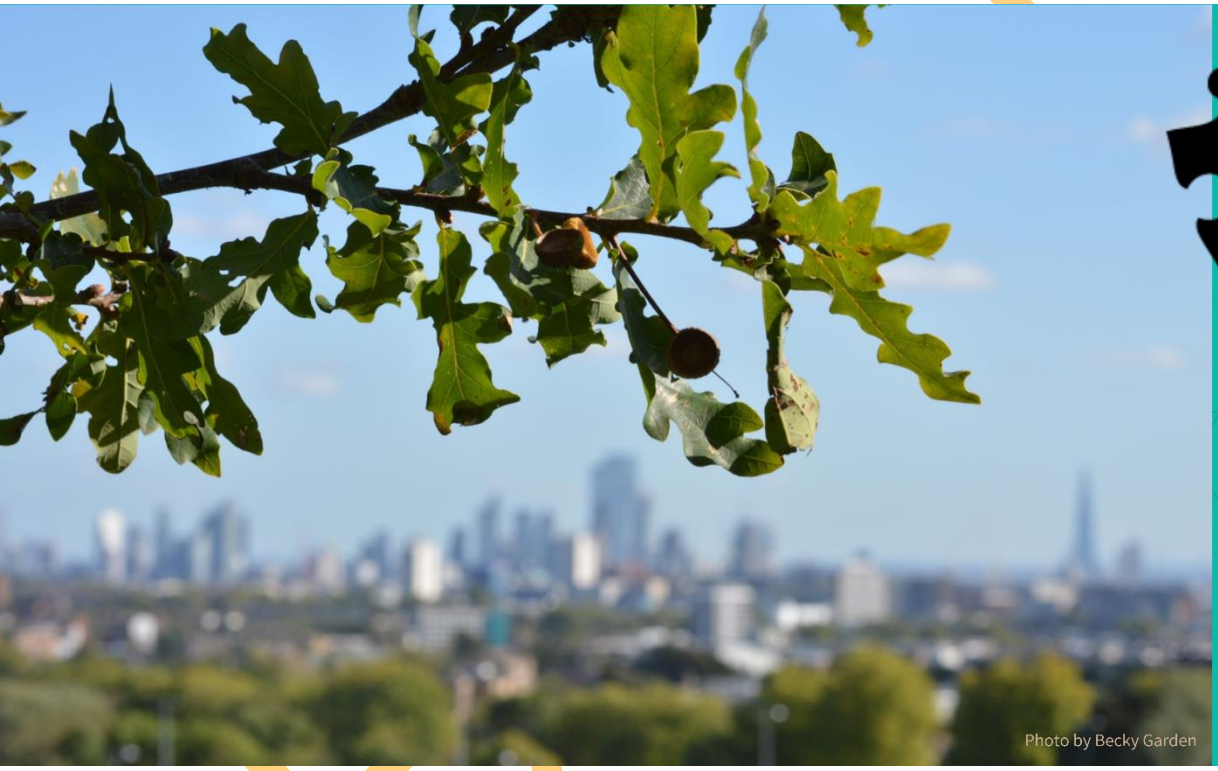
Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
the capital's environmental records centre

An Ecological Data Search for Example

On behalf of
A contractor



Report reference 2435

Prepared on 09 Oct 2025
by Becky Garden, Partnership Officer

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Contents

1.0 Introduction

An ecological data search for Example and surrounding land to a 1km radius on behalf of A contractor.

The following report was compiled by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL) on behalf of A contractor, to provide ecological information for the above site. This report may include information on statutory sites, non-statutory sites, species records, habitat or open space information held by GiGL, as requested for the above search area. The boundaries of this search area are defined in the maps that are provided separately and lie within the London Borough(s) of Barking & Dagenham and Havering.

For a compilation of planning documents for each Local Planning Authority in London, please visit our website.

Important information about this report

The data provided within this report are for the **internal** use of A contractor (which includes the client where applicable) to inform understanding of the site of interest for **1 year** in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed to on request of the search.

The data provided must not be distributed or published for an external or public audience, for example within the appendix of a report. Local Planning Authorities may request a copy of the data from GiGL either via their Service Level Agreement (most boroughs are GiGL partners) or as a data search.

The report is compiled using data held by GiGL at the time of the request. GiGL takes the accuracy of our data holdings very seriously and the GiGL Advisory Panel is set up to help with this important task to ensure what we provide to you is the best data possible for your needs.

GiGL is constantly striving to improve the coverage and currency of its data holdings. We would be interested in hearing from you if you are able to submit species or habitat data arising from field surveys.

2.0 Statutory Sites and Local Nature Reserves

A desk-based search shows that there are 2 sites with European or National statutory designation within the search area and 3 LNRs. A map of the statutory designations is provided in a separate PDF.

Statutory site designations:

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar sites
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

For further explanations of the designations please see the "Supporting Information" annex. Please note that statutory citations are legal documents, the content of which is fixed and true at the time of designation. Species referred to in the citations may not be present on site today. Citations may have been written based on data not held by GiGL.

Site Type	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
SSSI	Ingrebourne Marshes	65.61

[SHORT SAMPLE]

Citations

Any citations currently available for the statutory sites within the search area can be seen on the following pages.

Site Name: **Ingrebourne Marshes**

District: Havering

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Havering

National Grid Reference: TQ 532835 **Area:** 74.8 hectares

Information:
New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The Ingrebourne Valley supports the largest and one of the most diverse coherent areas of freshwater marshland in Greater London. The variety of habitat includes extensive areas of reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* and common reed *Phragmites australis* swamp; wet neutral grassland, and tall fen. Nowhere else in London do these habitats occur on such a large scale or in such intimate juxtaposition. These habitats also support a rich assemblage of associated invertebrates and breeding birds.

The most extensive beds of almost pure reed sweet-grass occur where winter flooding and silt deposition are most regular and where the ground remains wet throughout the summer. Few other plant species grow in these areas apart from the occasional water dock *Rumex hydrolapatham*, purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* and celery leaved buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*. Extensive beds of reed sweet-grass have become uncommon in Britain owing the efficient land drainage associated with modern agricultural practices and urban development. The Ingrebourne Marshes encompasses the largest area of reed sweet-grass in London and one of the largest in the country.

Wet neutral grassland occurs where the cover of reed sweet-grass has been reduced by cattle grazing. The low sward is comprised of grasses such as creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and marsh foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, with floating sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* and glaucous sweet-grass *Glyceria declinata* in the wettest areas. Tussocks of tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, soft rush *Juncus effusus* and hard rush *Juncus inflexus* are also common, and other frequent species include lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis*, common spikerush *Eleocharis palustris*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and creeping buttercup *R. repens*.

Two large reed beds occur within the marshes, one on the western flood plain of the River Ingrebourne and the other within a reservoir named Berwick Pond. The reed is very dense and grows in almost single species stands. Together these form the largest area of reed bed left in London.

The shallow standing waters at the margin of Berwick Pond, and elsewhere within the site, support tall fen communities. Reed sweet-grass is abundant in these communities, but the more open cover allows a greater diversity of other plants. These include yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*, nodding bur-marigold *Bidens cernua*, hairy willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, tufted forget-me-not *Myosotis caespitosa*, amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium*, water pepper *P. hydropiper* and greater reed-mace *Typha latifolia*. Golden dock *Rumex maritimus*, a nationally scarce plant, is also within the community growing alongside an irrigation reservoir to the east of Berwick Pond.

Another tall fen community occurs below Berwick Pond where it receives a constant through-flow of water from the Pond outfall. This community comprises a co-dominant mosaic of common reed, greater pond sedge *Carex riparia*, greater reed-mace, and reed sweet-grass. A wide variety of other species also occurs here including wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and comfrey *Symphytum officinale*.

The rich invertebrate fauna reflects the variety of wetland habitats and includes 16 nationally scarce fly, beetle, dragonfly and cricket species. Two Red Data Book (nationally rare) wetland insect species are also found here. These are the hoverfly *Anasimyia interpuncta* and the scarce emerald damselfly *Lestes dryas* which has its national stronghold alongside the Thames Estuary.

The extent and diversity of habitats also supports a diverse breeding bird population with 61 species of bird regularly breeding in the area, 14 of which are particularly associated with wetlands. These include redshank *Tringa totanus*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* which favour the wet tussocky grasslands, and pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* and mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* which use the cover of the tall fen communities in proximity to open water. The reed beds hold large populations of reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniculus*, reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, with cuckoos *Cuculus canorus* exploiting the nests of the latter 2 species. Water rail *Rallus aquaticus* also breed within the dense reed swamps and kingfishers *Alcedo atthis* nest in the steep banks of the River Ingrebourne.

[SHORT SAMPLE]

3.0 Non-Statutory Sites

A desk-based search shows that there are 13 SINCs, one proposed SINC and no RIGS/LIGS within the search area. Maps of the non-statutory designations are provided in a separate PDF.

3.1 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Introduction

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

There are three tiers of sites:

- Sites of Metropolitan Importance
- Sites of Borough Importance (borough I and borough II)
- Sites of Local Importance

The *London Plan* identifies the need to protect biodiversity and to provide opportunities for access to nature. The London Environment Strategy sets out the methodology and process for identifying such land for protection in Local Development Frameworks. A London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB) has been established to provide support and guidance on the selections of SINCs.

The boundaries and site grades reflect the most recent consideration of each site, details of which are available from London borough councils. Note that boundaries and grades may change as new information becomes available. London's Local Planning Authorities are responsible for SINC designations and for sharing any SINC updates with GiGL, as advised by the London Wildlife Sites Board. For further explanations of the designations please see the "Supporting Information" annex.

Areas of Deficiency (AoD) in Access to Nature are defined as built-up areas more than one kilometre actual walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or borough site. AoD areas can be seen on the SINC map.

Site Type	Site Name	Grade	Site Area (ha)
M031	River Thames and tidal tributaries	Metropolitan	2312.72

[SHORT SAMPLE]

Citations

Citations currently available for SINCs within the search area can be seen on the following pages.

Please note that the content of SINC citations is reviewed periodically and that species referred to in the citations may not be present on site today. Citations may have been written based on data not held by GiGL.

Metropolitan

Site Reference: M031

Site Name: River Thames and tidal tributaries

Summary: The Thames, London's most famous natural feature, is home to many fish and birds, creating a wildlife corridor running right across the capital.

Grid ref: TQ 389 788

Area (ha): 2312.72

Borough(s): Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, City of London, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Havering, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Westminster

Habitat(s): Intertidal, Marsh/swamp, Pond/Lake, Reed bed, Running water, Saltmarsh, Secondary woodland, Vegetated wall/tombstones, Wet ditches, Wet grassland, Wet woodland/carr

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Port of London Authority (Tidal banks) and Private (Riparian owners, non-tidal banks)

Site Description:

The River Thames and the tidal sections of creeks and rivers which flow into it comprise a number of valuable habitats not found elsewhere in London. The mud-flats, shingle beach, inter-tidal vegetation, islands and river channel itself support many species from freshwater, estuarine and marine communities which are rare in London.

The site is of particular importance for wildfowl and wading birds. The river walls, particularly in south and east London, also provide important feeding areas for the nationally rare and specially-protected black redstart. The Thames is extremely important for fish, with over 100 species now present. Many of the tidal creeks are important fish nurseries, including for several species of commercial importance and nationally uncommon species such as smelt.

Barking Creek supports extensive reed beds. Further downstream are small areas of saltmarsh, a very rare habitat in London, where there is a small population of the nationally scarce marsh sow-thistle (Sonchus palustris). Wetlands beside the river in Kew support the only London population of the nationally rare and specially-protected cut-grass (Leersia oryzoides). The numerous small islands in the upper reaches support important invertebrate communities, including several nationally rare snails, as well as a number of heronries. Chiswick Eyot, one of the islands, is a Local Nature Reserve. The towpath in the upper reaches is included in the site, and in places supports a diverse flora with numerous London rarities, both native and exotic. Bow Creek in Tower Hamlets supports significant numbers of teal and smaller numbers of other ducks, as well as redshank and common sandpiper. Shelduck nest in most years. The creek also has areas of intertidal reed beds which support breeding reed and Cetti's warblers.

Ninety per cent of the banks of the tidal Thames and its creeks are owned by the Port of London Authority, whereas the riparian owners are responsible for the non tidal (upriver) banks. The water is not owned by anybody. The River Thames upriver of the Thames Barrier is followed by the Thames Path National Trail.

Site first notified: 01/04/1986 **Boundary last changed:** 18/09/2024

Citation last edited: 18/06/2024 **Mayor Agreed:** 25/11/2002

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2025

[SHORT SAMPLE]

3.2 Proposed Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Introduction

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are recognised by the Greater London Authority and London borough councils as important wildlife sites. Proposed Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (pSINCs) are sites that have entered Regulation 18 (public consultation), but have not yet been adopted in a Local Plan.

The absence of pSINCs in this report does not mean that there are no proposed sites within the search area. The GiGL pSINC dataset is not comprehensive across London, as some London boroughs will not have proposals at this time, while others may have proposals that are not yet available.

There are three tiers of sites:

- Sites of Metropolitan Importance
- Sites of Borough Importance (borough I and borough II)
- Sites of Local Importance

The London Plan identifies the need to protect biodiversity and to provide opportunities for access to nature. The London Environment Strategy sets out the methodology and process for identifying such land for protection in Local Development Frameworks. A London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB) has been established to provide support and guidance on the selection of SINCs.

The boundaries and site grades reflect the most recent consultation of each proposed site, details of which are available from London borough councils. Note that boundaries and grades may change as new information becomes available. For further explanations of the designations please see the “Supporting Information” annex.

Site Type	Site Name	Grade	Site Area (ha)
pM031	River Thames and tidal tributaries	Metropolitan	2315.38

Citations

Citations currently available for pSINCs within the search area can be seen on the following pages.

Please note that the content of pSINC citations is reviewed periodically and that species referred to in the citations may not be present on site today. Citations may have been written based on data not held by GiGL.

Metropolitan

Site Reference: pM031

Site Name: River Thames and tidal tributaries

Summary: The Thames, London's most famous natural feature, is home to many fish and birds, creating a wildlife corridor running right across the capital.

Grid ref: TQ 389 788

Area (ha): 2315.38

Borough(s): Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, City of London, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Havering, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Westminster

Habitat(s): Intertidal, Marsh/swamp, Pond/Lake, Reed bed, Running water, Saltmarsh, Secondary woodland, Vegetated wall/tombstones, Wet ditches, Wet grassland, Wet woodland/carr

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Port of London Authority and Private

Site Description:

The River Thames and the tidal sections of creeks and rivers which flow into it comprise a number of valuable habitats not found elsewhere in London. The mud-flats, shingle beach, inter-tidal vegetation, islands and river channel itself support many species from freshwater, estuarine and marine communities which are rare in London. The site is of particular importance for wildfowl and wading birds. The river walls, particularly in south and east London, also provide important feeding areas for the nationally rare and specially-protected black redstart. The Thames is extremely important for fish, with over 100 species now present. Many of the tidal creeks are important fish nurseries, including for several nationally uncommon species such as smelt (Osmerus eperlanus).

In Richmond, Barking Creek supports extensive reed beds. Further downstream are small areas of saltmarsh, a very rare habitat in London, where there is a small population of the nationally scarce marsh sow-thistle (Sonchus palustris). Wetlands beside the river in Kew support the only London population of the nationally rare and specially-protected cut-grass (Leersia oryzoides). The numerous small islands in the upper reaches support important invertebrate communities, including several nationally rare snails, as well as a number of heronries. Chiswick Eyot, one of the islands, is a Local Nature Reserve. The towpath in the upper reaches is included in the site, and in places supports a diverse flora with numerous London rarities, both native and exotic. Ninety per cent of the banks of the tidal Thames and its creeks are owned by the Port of London Authority, whereas the riparian owners are responsible for the non-tidal (upriver) banks. The water is not owned by anybody. The River Thames upriver of the Thames Barrier is followed by the Thames Path National Trail.

In Newham, the river Thames itself includes extensive mudflats which provide feeding areas for birds such as oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus), shelduck (Tadorna tadorna), redshank (Tringa tetanus) and teal (Anas craca) with the open water providing habitat for cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo), common tern (Sterna hirundo), lesser black-backed gull (Larus fuscus) and herring gull (Larus argentatus). It also includes the tidal creeks of Bow Creek and Barking Creek. Both support areas of intertidal habitat including tidal reedbeds of Phragmites australis and plants of a more estuarine nature such as sea aster (Aster tripolium) and sea beet (Beta vulgaris subsp. Maritima).

Site first notified:	01/04/1986	**Boundary last changed:**	28/07/2022
Citation last edited:	28/07/2022	**Mayor Agreed:**	11/09/2023
Defunct:	N		

Last Updated: 11/08/2025

3.3 Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites

Introduction

The designation in planning documents of regionally important geological sites (RIGS) and locally important geological sites (LIGS) 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 are currently 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. In London, RIG Sites have been selected by South London RIGS, North West London RIGS and GeoEssex (voluntary organisations) but have yet to be formally designated in Greater London.

The London boroughs may also designate certain areas as being of local interest for their geodiversity - LIGS. The boundaries and site grades reflect the most recent consideration of each site. Details may change as new information becomes available.

More information can be found in the London Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance *London's Foundations* (March 2012), Revised Site Assessments for London's Foundations (2021) and the *London Geodiversity Action Plan*, all available from www.londongeopartnership.org.uk.

RIGS/LIGS are designated in four stages:

- **Potential RIGS/LIGS** are those recommended by the London Geodiversity Partnership and identified in *London's foundations*
- **Recommended RIGS** 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** are those included in draft Borough Development Plan Documents
- **Adopted RIGS/LIGS** are those identified in adopted Borough Development Plan Documents

There are no RIGS or LIGS within the search area.

4.0 Species

Species from these categories can be seen on the following pages:

- Internationally or nationally protected species *
- London Priority Species
- Red Data List species
- Species of Conservation Concern in London
- London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI) species

Note that GiGL does not currently hold comprehensive species data for all areas. Even where data are held, a lack of records for a species in a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that the species does not occur there – the area may simply not have been surveyed.

Distances and direction to each species record are calculated from the centre-point of a search area. Note that because the resolution of grid references varies between surveys the records with a low grid reference resolution are presented in the Vague Records table.

The species, listed by taxon name, were recorded from a broad range of surveys - from public and species specific surveys to formal surveys carried out during the GLA's rolling survey programme.

Please note: Records of bat sightings are presented in the report if found in the search area. Bat roost records, if available within the search area, are included in the confidential records table. If you require further information about bat sightings you can contact the London Bat Group directly: enquires@londonbats.org.uk or records@londonbats.org.uk. GiGL is exploring the best way to present information from new methods of collecting data (e.g. bioacoustics, eDNA, etc.). In the meantime, these records, where available, will be included in the species table below.

If you would like further information regarding rare, notable and protected species please contact a relevant person listed in the Further Contacts section of this report.

* Protected species are those listed on EC Habitats Directive – Annexes II and IV, EC Birds Directive – Annex I, Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 – Schedules 2 & 5, NERC 2006 Section 41, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – Schedules 1, 5 & 8, Protection of Badgers Act 1992

4.1 Protected Species and Species of Conservation Concern

Records in this section come from a variety of planning and conservation designations and are presented here to provide a broad range of information about the search area. GiGL's Advisory Panel have advised on the inclusion of each category and further information about the designations (legal and notable) can be found in the "Supporting Information" annex.

The total 'number of records' states the number of recorded instances for a species in the search area e.g. one recorded instance of fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) could have a count of 10 individual plants but the total number of records would be 1. The 'maximum occurrence' column records either that the species was present "P" or gives a numerical value of the highest count of a single recorded instance for the species in the search area, where this is known. In the above example, the 'maximum occurrence' would be 10.

Table 1 Red Data List designation abbreviations used in the species table. Further information on the designations can be found in the annex.

Designation short name	Designation full name	Designation short name	Designation full name
RL_DataDeficient	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	RL_LowerRisk	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened
RL_CriticalEndangered	IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered	RL_Extinct	IUCN (2001) - Extinct
RL_Endangered	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	RL_ExtinctWild	IUCN (2001) - Extinct in the wild
RL_Vulnerable	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	RL_RegionExtinct	IUCN (2001) - Regionally Extinct

Protected species and Species of Conservation Concern – Fine Resolution Records

The species records in this table were recorded to at least 100 m^2 accuracy (a six-figure grid reference or higher).

Taxon Name	Common Name	Designation	Number of records	No. of breeding records	Maximum occurrence	Distance (m) of nearest record	Bearing of nearest record	Date of nearest record	Distance (m) of most recent record	Bearing of most recent record	Date of most recent record
Higher Plants - Flowering Plants											
Carex divisa	Divided Sedge	NERC Act Section 41 London Priority Species Local Spp of Cons Conc RL_Vulnerable Nationally Scarce	5		P	1338	SE	01/08/2001	1338	SE	01/08/2001

[SHORT SAMPLE]

Protected species and Species of Conservation Concern – Coarse Resolution Records

The species records in this table represent records of 1km^2, 2km^2 or 10km^2 accuracy.

Taxon Name	Common Name	Designation	Number of records	Record accuracy	Date of oldest record	Date of most recent record
Higher Plants - Flowering Plants						
Anthemis arvensis	Corn Chamomile	Local Spp of Cons Conc RL_Endangered	1	10km	1927	1927

[SHORT SAMPLE]

4.2 Confidential Records

Records included in this section do not include any geographic content as it has been requested (by the data owners/originators) that the location remains confidential. The following information is provided to create a 'species alert' record highlighting the presence of a species in the search area.

In order to establish the presence of confidential records on the site in question, a second data search request must be submitted with a detailed site boundary. For further explanations of GiGL's Access to Data Policy and the confidential records please see the "Supporting Information" annex.

For more details about any bat roost records in the table please contact the London Bat Group enquiries@londonbats.org.uk

Taxon Name	Common Name	Designation	Number of records	Date of oldest record	Date of most recent record
Birds					
Aythya ferina	Pochard	London Priority Species Local Spp of Cons Conc Bird-Red	6	01/06/2001	24/05/2019

[SHORT SAMPLE]

4.3 Invasive non-native species

In London, the London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI) encourages better co-ordination and partnership working to prevent, reduce and eliminate the impacts caused by invasive non-native species (INNS) across the city.

The list presents a number of species present in London and causing impacts for which action, monitoring or research is needed. It also lists species not currently in London but of concern due to high risk of negative impact should they arrive, including those for which national alerts are in place through the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat. LISI categorises invasive non-native species based on their likely risk to the environment. For further explanations please see the Supporting Information annex.

LISI Category	Explanation
LISI 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.
LISI 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.
LISI 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.
LISI 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.
LISI 5	Species for which insufficient data or evidence was available from those present to be able to prioritise.
LISI 6	Species that were not currently considered to pose a threat or have the potential to cause problems in London.

For further information on the London Invasive Species Initiative, the Species of Concern list and the London Invasive Species Plan, please see our website: https://www.gigl.org.uk/our-data-holdings/species-data/london-invasive-species/.

To report invasive non-native species, and any management of them, please use one of the methods set out on our website: https://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/.

Invasive non-native species – Fine Resolution Records
The species records in this table were recorded to at least 100 m^2 accuracy (a six-figure grid reference or higher).

Taxon Name	Common Name	Designation	Number of records	Maximum occurrence	Location of nearest record	Date of nearest record	Location of most recent record	Date of most recent record	Date range
Higher Plants - Ferns									
Azolla filiculoides	Water Fern	LISI category 2	1	P	TQ5181981206	01/08/2001	TQ5181981206	01/08/2001	01/08/2001

[SHORT SAMPLE]

Invasive non-native species – Coarse Resolution Records
The species records in this table represent records of 1km^2, 2km^2 or 10km^2 accuracy.

Taxon Name	Common Name	Designation	Number of records	Record accuracy	Date of oldest record	Date of most recent record
Higher Plants - Ferns						
Azolla filiculoides	Water Fern	LISI category 2	5	1km, 10km	1988	2001

[SHORT SAMPLE]

4.4 Axiophyte Species

Records in this section show presence of axiophytes within the search area. Paul Losse and Dr Mark Spencer have been instrumental in pulling together the axiophyte list for Greater London & Middlesex.

Axiophytes, Greek for 'worthy plant', are plant species which are indicators of habitats of interest for nature conservation. They are not necessarily rare species which are encountered only occasionally, nor are they very common species which occur in a wide range of habitats. They may, however, be very common in habitats of high value. The majority of the axiophyte plants on this list are not considered to be threatened with extinction in Greater London and Middlesex or may be in lower risk categories (such as Near Threatened or Vulnerable). All taxa with higher threat levels are listed in the Greater London and Middlesex Vascular Plant and Stonewort Red-list and should be considered accordingly. Axiophytes which are on the Red Data List will be included in sections 4.1 & 4.2 of this report.

The presence of axiophyte plants may be used as a measure of site or habitat quality and could be useful for a number of purposes. Axiophyte taxa may be used as an additional tool for site evaluation for a range of surveys alongside Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEA), biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessments and criteria used in Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs). Broadly, the greater the number of axiophytes present, the greater the botanical value of a site.

A change in the number or abundance of axiophytes at a site may be particularly useful for the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) review process for local authorities in London. The number and abundance of axiophytes present may also be a useful way of measuring the relative importance of sites across a borough (as well as Greater London and Middlesex) which will help in setting conservation priorities. Over time, axiophytes could also form part of long-term monitoring protocol for a site. Monitoring could involve a simple count of species or a more robust sampling of vegetation where statistical analysis can be applied to assess the significance of any changes.

Further information on axiophytes can be found here and more details on the full Greater London & Middlesex Axiophyte List here. There is also a comparison tool, which compares species lists against the London Axiophyte, London Invasive Species, Schedule 9 and Section 41 lists.

The absence of axiophyte species does not imply that a site has no value. It is recommended that this list should be used in addition to other methods and standard data sources for site assessment.

Axiophyte List – Fine Resolution Records

The species records in this table were recorded to at least 100 m^2 accuracy (a six-figure grid reference or higher).

Taxon Name	Common Name	Habitat Name	Number of records	Maximum occurrence	Location of nearest record	Date of nearest record	Location of most recent record	Date of most recent record	Date range
Higher Plants - Flowering Plants									
Aira praecox	Early Hair-grass	Lowland dry acid grassland	1	P	TQ5058681221	23/10/2001	TQ5058681221	23/10/2001	23/10/2001

[SHORT SAMPLE]

Axiophyte List – Coarse Resolution Records

The species records in this table represent records of 1km^2, 2km^2 or 10km^2 accuracy.

Taxon Name	Common Name	Habitat Name	Number of records	Record accuracy	Date of oldest record	Date of most recent record
Higher Plants - Horsetails						
Equisetum palustre	Marsh Horsetail	Lowland fens	1	1km	1965-1976	1965-1976

[SHORT SAMPLE]

4.5 Species Records Acknowledgements

GiGL would like to acknowledge the following data owners/originators that have provided the species records that are included in this report.

ARC, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Barking and Dagenham, London Borough of
BC, Butterfly Conservation

[SHORT SAMPLE]

5.0 Blue Infrastructure

5.1 River Restoration Opportunities

A desk-based search shows that there are 22 river restoration opportunities within the search area, of which 21 are Environment Agency Opportunities and one is a Catchment Plan Opportunities.

The PDF map provided with this report will also show if there are any Environment Agency Statutory Main Rivers, Natural England Priority rivers or completed projects within the search area.

Greater London's 600km of rivers and streams are an important asset. Flowing through eleven catchments, they create special places for Londoners, reconnecting them with nature, as well as supporting nature's recovery and rewilding, and helping to improve flood resilience and our ability to adapt to climate change.

Restoration and rewilding projects boost a river's natural processes. This can be achieved in a variety of ways and at different scales. Examples include improving a river channel by removing hard engineering to create natural planted banks, reinstating meanders or creating more natural river flows by removing sluices and weirs. Restoration could also reclaim 'lost' rivers and open up surface water drains to create wetlands, as well as improve habitat and ecological connectivity.

River restoration opportunities included in this chapter:
- Catchment Plan river restoration opportunities
- Environment Agency river restoration opportunities

More information, including projects that have been completed, can be found on the River Restoration Opportunity online map.

If your development/project is within or in close proximity to any of these opportunities, you can use this information to take inspiration through complementary enhancements, contribute financially or with delivery. Please contact the relevant river catchment partnership to find out more information about each opportunity. These projects could provide opportunities for biodiversity net gain (BNG) and catchment plan delivery, as well as delivering wider social benefits and improving the quality of developments. For more information on BNG and river restoration, please contact your local Environment Agency biodiversity team.

Catchment Plan River Restoration Opportunities

Catchment Plan Restoration Opportunities have been submitted by London's River Catchment Partnerships, based on information in their Catchment Plans. Project data were collated by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) from the River Restoration Partnerships in London (RiPL) in spring 2024 for an Environment Agency led project.

Restoration projects included are those that aim to restore a river or stream (excluding canals) that have been registered within the local catchment plan's list of potential projects. Their aims include significantly increasing the diversity of hydromorphological features, improving floodplain connectivity to more than 50m of river, making space for water, improving sediment transport, and supporting nature recovery and animal migration. Constructed wetlands that aim to improve water quality and slow the flow into a river are also included.

Types of river restoration included in the Catchment Plan River Restoration opportunities include:

- De-culverting - removing a culvert to restore a watercourse to a more natural state
- Habitat enhancement - any work to restore habitat around a watercourse
- Constructing wetland - the process of creating habitats around a watercourse

Please note that opportunities may not yet have landowner approval or feasibility studies – see table below for information on project stage status, which is correct at of the time of data collection.

ID	Project name	Project lead	Catchment	River	Midpoint	Length (Km)	Restoration type	Restoration details	Project stage	Project driver(s)	Last updated
5	Lower Ingrebourne Restoration	Havering Council	Roding, Beam and Ingrebourne	Ingrebourne	TQ 52609 82896	0.50	Habitat enhancement	Increase in channel habitat heterogeneity, re-meander/re-profile and reconnect to flood plain	Underdeveloped opportunity with landowner agreement	Amenity (place making) and nature/biodiversity	September 2024

Environment Agency River Restoration Opportunities

Environment Agency River Restoration Opportunities are from the Environment Agency's Catchment Planning System (CPS), collated from catchment leads. This may include some overlaps with the Catchment Plan Restoration Opportunity points, but also includes wider mitigation measures such as fish passes and invasive species control.

ID	Project name	Project lead	Catchment	River	Midpoint	Length (Km)	Details	Last updated
163	Modification of Beam tidal sluice to allow fish passage	Environment Agency	Roding Beam and Ingrebourne	Beam and Ravensbourne	TQ4992481550		Beam Tidal Sluice: Modification of tidal sluice to allow fish passage.	October 2024

[SHORT SAMPLE]

5.2 Notable Thames Structures

Please note there is one notable Inner Thames structure, e.g. derelict dolphin jetties, T-jetties or abandoned barges or wall structures, which should be taken into account during local bird assessment.

Structures with significant bird use along the eastern tidal Thames are identified by the Inner Thames High Tide Group and were digitised by GiGL on behalf of the Group, and collaborating partners London Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency, in 2012. As this is sensitive information we cannot provide more details but associated bird records are maintained within the GiGL species database and are summarised above in records or confidential records tables.

6.0 Habitats

Habitats present within the search area from these sources can be seen on the following pages:

- Survey Data
- BAP Condition Assessment and Habitat Suitability

They can be cross-referenced with the Survey Parcels Map.

Note that GiGL does not currently hold habitat data for all areas. Even where data are held, a lack of records in a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that the habitat does not occur there – the area may simply not have been surveyed.

This section identifies and maps components of the local ecological networks and potential areas identified for habitat restoration or creation.

6.1 Survey Data

The GLA conducted a series of rolling habitat surveys between the mid-1980s and 2009. It used the habitat typologies developed specifically for Greater London. For further details of categories please refer to the Supporting Information section of the Annex. Other habitat classification methodologies recorded in the database are National Vegetation Classification, Phase 1 Habitat Assessment, and Biodiversity Action Plan Broad Habitat classification.

This table contains the most recent habitat survey information for all survey parcels within the search area. It includes data collected via different survey methodologies.

Site Name	Polygon ID	Grid Ref	Site Area (ha)	Survey Date	Habitat Type	Area (%)	Area (ha)	Survey Type
Rainham Marsh, S of A13, Main Drain, central section	GiGL_HAB_4699	TQ5208580825	1.39	01/08/2001	Neutral grassland (semi-improved)	60	0.83	Lon(P1)
					Tall herbs	25	0.35	
					Ditches (water filled)	10	0.14	
					Typha etc. swamp	5	0.07	

[SHORT SAMPLE]

6.2 BAP Condition Assessment & Habitat Suitability

The London Biodiversity Partnership (LBP) habitat suitability dataset was created to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats. This is a modelled dataset which, if used to create one or more of the nine selected BAP priority habitats, should give the best benefit to biodiversity in London.

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 GLA habitat surveys, and assessed their condition using species records and other datasets. Further to this work, GiGL created a predictive 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.

This dataset was a one-off project and is not updated.

This table contains the habitat condition assessment and habitat suitability for all survey parcels within the search area.

Site Name	Polygon ID	Grid Ref	Site Area (ha)	Created Date	Habitat Condition	Area (ha)	Habitat Suitability	Area (ha)
Rainham Marsh, S of A13, Main Drain, central section	GiGL_HAB_4699	TQ5208580825	1.39	2001	Floodplain G M condition Poor	0.83	Create new/restore relict floodplain GM	1.38

[SHORT SAMPLE]

7.0 Open Spaces

Open space information within the search area can be seen on the following pages.

The table can be cross-referenced with the Open Space Map.

This open space dataset is a combination of information collected during GLA surveys, information provided to GiGL by the London boroughs and data sourced through other means, e.g. volunteer surveys.

Note that GiGL does not currently hold open space data for all areas. Even where data are held, a lack of records in a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that the open space features do not occur there the area may simply not have been surveyed.

GiGL manages a dataset of spaces designated as public open space categorised according to a site hierarchy documented in The London Plan (Table 8.1). Information on public open spaces sites are displayed within the open space table.

GiGL uses the following open space definition: undeveloped land which has an amenity value, or has potential for an amenity value. The value could be visual, derive from a site's historical or cultural interest or from the enjoyment of facilities which it provides. It includes both public and private spaces, but excludes private gardens.

7.1 Open Space Data

The dataset documents the primary and secondary uses of open space (divided according to broad land use categories) along with other information such as public accessibility, facilities, and special designations which apply to the site. For further details of open space typology and designation categories please also refer to the Supporting Information section of the Annex.

Site Name	Site ID	Grid Ref	Site Area (ha)	Open Space Typology			Public Open Space Awards and Designations	Public Access	Facilities
				Land use category	Primary use	Secondary uses			
A13 Flyover - Banks and Ditches	OS_Hv_0004	TQ5221281401	10.8473	Green Corridors	Road island/verge		SSSI (43%) SINC (M039 48%) Green Belt (29%)	None	

[SHORT SAMPLE]

8.0 Strategic Areas

8.1 Important Invertebrate Areas (IIAs)

A desk-based search shows that there is one Important Invertebrate Area (IIA) within the search area. A map of the IIAs is provided in a separate PDF.

Important Invertebrate Areas (IIAs) are nationally or internationally significant places for invertebrates and their habitats. They can help to direct conservation efforts for invertebrates and to ensure better decisions are made to restore sustainable populations of them. Prepared by Buglife in collaboration with other environmental organisations (such as Local Environmental Records Centres and data partners), they are a vital tool to help conserve our most threatened species and assemblages of invertebrates, mapped using data from national and local recorders and developed in consultation with local experts.

Although not a legal site designation, they can help to ensure that key sites for invertebrates are considered in local and national planning and land management decision making, to help restore sustainable populations of invertebrates. This can include informing site-specific planning decisions, but also strategic decisions about conservation priorities at the landscape scale.

This information can be used to help ecological consultants and other professionals identify key invertebrate sites, habitats and features; flag important wildlife sites early on in the planning process; help identify when invertebrate surveys are needed to assess potential impacts; recognise sites and habitats that are important for nationally rare and threatened invertebrates; support consideration of invertebrate populations in strategic planning.

For more information on the methodology and their importance in planning, please read the following documents by Buglife: 1) 'What are IIAs', and 2) 'IIAs in planning'.

It is important to note that habitats outside of IIAs can still be home to rare and threatened invertebrates in need of conservation. New data and status reviews will continue to become available and IIAs might be updated accordingly. Currently, there are only three IIAs finalised for Greater London: Thames Estuary North, Thames Estuary South and Epping Forest & Lea Valley. Other IIAs for Greater London will be added as they become available.

For IIAs to be best interpreted, they should be viewed alongside the relevant IIA profiles. Two IIA profiles have been completed for London: 1) Thames Estuary North, and 2) Thames Estuary South.

8.2 B-Lines

A desk-based search shows that there is one B-Line within the search area. A map of the B-Lines is provided in a separate PDF.

B-Lines are a network of 3-kilometre-wide insect pathways, mapped and delivered through partnerships. They are designed to reconnect our landscapes, enabling pollinators and other wildlife to move freely, supporting nature's recovery. They were mapped at a regional or county level, using national and local datasets and agreed by a partnership of experts including conservation partners, local authorities and other groups, including local stakeholders who understand the landscape. The aim was to map the best remaining wildflower-rich habitats and the best connections between them for pollinators, while considering where the best opportunities to restore habitats might be and how to link to neighbouring regions.

B-Lines link existing wildlife areas and help conserve and increase the numbers of our native pollinators. While not a statutory consideration, this information can be used to improve land management, guide habitat restoration and support strategic planning and green infrastructure work. In planning they can help consider potential impacts on the connectivity of flower-rich habitats, identify important wildflower networks within the landscape, encourage development with multifunctional green spaces that delivers for pollinators, support community activities and wellbeing, and inform biodiversity net gain delivery by incorporating wildflower areas where appropriate.

For more information on the B-Lines, as well as ways that different groups can help, please read the following documents by Buglife: 1) 'What are B-Lines', 2) 'Creating Pollinator Friendly Gardens and Green Spaces on B-Lines', 3) 'Local Authority Guidance for England', and 4) 'B-Lines – Frequently Asked Questions'.

It is important to note that habitats outside of B-Lines can still be home to pollinators in need of conservation and wildflower rich habitats should also be considered outside these areas.

9.0 Contacts

9.1 Borough Contacts

Further details of sites and species within the search area may be gathered from the following borough contacts:

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Development Management, 9th Floor
Maritime House, 1 Linton Road, Barking,
IG11 8HG

Tel: 020 8215 3000
Email: planning@befirst.london

London Borough of Havering

Planning Services, Mercury House, Mercury Gardens, Romford, RM1 3SL

Tel: 01708 433100
Email: planning@havering.gov.uk

9.2 Further Contacts

The following contacts work closely with GiGL and are the best source for further advice or interpretation of the data provided by us. They are widely recognised in Greater London as the experts in their fields, and have provided the following information as the preferred method of contact.

Areas of expertise	**SINCs, open space and habitat survey data advice**
Organisation	**GiGL – Greenspace Information for Greater London;**
Website & email	www.gigl.org.uk enquiries@gigl.org.uk

Areas of expertise	**Geological Designations**
Organisation	**London Geodiversity Partnership;**
Website & email	www.londongeopartnership.org.uk; info@londongeopartnership.org.uk

[SHORT SAMPLE]

Annex A – Supporting Information

[SHORT SAMPLE]