

**Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England)
Regulations 2012 (As Amended)**

BIODIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

ADOPTION STATEMENT

1 DECEMBER 2025

In accordance with Regulation 14 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Wandsworth Council formally adopted the:

Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

on

1 December 2025

Pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), Wandsworth Council made modifications to the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document following public consultation. These modifications are detailed in Annex 1.

The adopted Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (the SPD), this Adoption Statement and a Consultation Statement will be available to inspect on the Council's website. A copy of the adopted SPD and this Adoption Statement will also be made available to inspect at Wandsworth Town Hall (Main Reception), Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU for a period of 3 months from the date of this statement.

Any person with sufficient interest in the decision to adopt the SPD listed above may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of the Council's decision to adopt the SPD. Any such application must be made promptly, not later than 3 months after the date on which the SPD was adopted (01 December 2025).

Annex 1: Modifications made to Biodiversity SPD pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Nb: Text that has been added to the SPD following consultation is indicated in highlighted and underlined text. Content that has been deleted from the version of the SPD consulted upon is indicated as highlighted and struckthrough text.

Paragraph and Figure Numbers refer to the adopted version of the SPD.

Paragraph or Figure Number	Modification Made
Multiple	Updated heatmaps with the most recent version where available.
2.7	Amended text: <u>Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL)</u>
2.7	New sentence at 2.7 into Data Use & Sharing section: <u>Desk studies of ecology reports and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) projects and plans are encouraged to use an up-to-date data search report by GiGL.</u>
Multiple Heat Maps	Included an acknowledgement to GiGL after maps: <u>Heatmaps kindly provided by GiGL (March 2021)</u> <u>Heatmaps kindly provided by GiGL (October 2025)</u>
Figure 2	Text changed within figure 2
Table 2	Additional text added at Stage 1: <u>Applicants are also encouraged to consider BNG early in the development process and factor it into site selection and design.</u>
Table 3	Amended text: Prior to any <u>During early</u> pre-application consultation discussions , applicants are encouraged to commence any necessary surveys and studies (see list in Potential Outputs). These studies should be drafted alongside early design work to ensure the layout of the site has as little impact on biodiversity as possible. However, applicants should note that the content of the PEA can become out of date and may require updating at the submission stage. Early discussions with the Environment Agency are encouraged where relevant.
Table 3	Deleted text from list of possible outputs: CEMP & EclA

Paragraph or Figure Number	Modification Made
Table 4	Amended text: More detail can be found in the section Urban Greening Factor .
Table 4	Amended text: Urban Greening Plan Draft Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Plan • Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)
Table 5	Amended text: • Draft Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Plan (Applicants are encouraged to use the Wandsworth BNG Checklist) • Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) External lighting plans Protected Species License (if needed)
Table 6	First paragraph to read: <u>Prior to commencing construction, applicants must discharge any pre-commencement conditions regarding Biodiversity Net Gain, (including the submission of the Biodiversity Gain Plan, and if needed a HMMP following the grant of planning permission) as well as any other documentation required by a condition.</u> Add to potential outputs: • Biodiversity Gain Plan • Habitats Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)
Table 7	Amended potential outputs: • BNG reporting as outlined in the HMMP (Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan) • Meet requirements of LEMP (Landscape Ecological Management Plan) • Address any monitoring or survey requirements in conditions to the planning permission.
4.11	Text amended: Once a common sight in parks and gardens, it is now widely acknowledged that there has been a severe decline in the UK house sparrow and swift population. These species

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	<p>naturally nest in the crevices of cliff faces and sparrows naturally nest in dense vegetation. Both species have adapted to make the urban landscape their home by taking advantage of features that replicate this environment, favouring the eaves and roof space of buildings. Modern building design and the redevelopment of buildings have meant that they have been excluded from many suitable breeding sites which have led to their significant decline in the UK.</p>
4.15	<p>Amended text:</p> <p>For house sparrows, installing appropriate nesting bricks or boxes on new and existing buildings is similarly a high priority. House sparrow 'terraces', which are boxes with two or three separate chambers and entrances are considered most effective. House sparrows are also known to use swift boxes.</p>
Box after 4.15	<p>Amended text:</p> <p>For more details, please see:</p> <p>Installing house sparrow nest boxes, British Trust for Ornithology.</p> <p>Swift box instructions, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.</p> <p>https://www.actionforswifts.com/</p> <p>https://www.swift-conservation.org/</p>
4.22	<p>Amended text:</p> <p>Badger mitigation licencing</p> <p>A badger licence may be required if a proposed development would impact badgers through activities which would otherwise be illegal. Licence applications must include a method statement which clearly describes how the development will interfere with the badger setts and how mitigation work will be carried out. A badger licence can only be applied for once planning permission has been approved.</p> <p>A Badger Mitigation Licence may be required if a proposed development would impact badgers through activities which would otherwise be illegal. In order for a Mitigation Licence</p>

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	<p>to be issued, your licence application must pass three legal tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal is in the overriding public interest; • There is no satisfactory alternative; and • The action authorised will not be detrimental to the favourable conservation status of the species concerned.
4.29	<p>Amended text:</p> <p>The peregrine falcon's natural habitat consists primarily of cliff ledges. These birds are attracted to the built environment where tall buildings and other structures mimic this habitat. The species also act as a natural predator of pigeons, and parakeets. <u>It is important that the nesting sites of these birds are protected, that artificial nests are installed at appropriate locations and building managers and occupiers are made aware of their significance and protected status. Please see section on tall buildings</u></p>
4.45	<p>New paragraph inserted after 4.45:</p> <p><u>Sections of watercourse have been buried underground in culverts, causing adverse impacts for flood risk, ecology, maintenance, and health and safety. Where an existing culvert is present at a development site, priority should be given to 'daylighting' the culvert to restore a naturalised open river channel, as well as avoiding construction over existing culverts, in line with Environment Agency policy.</u></p>
4.48	<p>New paragraphs inserted after 4.48:</p> <p><u>It must be ensured that any new trees do not damage the structural integrity of, or detrimentally impact the access to, flood defences. Where trees are located adjacent to flood defences, tree root protection measures are required to ensure the roots do not damage the flood defence structure. The location of trees should be considered in vehicular/plant tracking diagrams to ensure they do not preclude access to the flood defences.</u></p> <p><u>Trees close to flood risk management infrastructure should consider root containment and have a significant offset relative to their mature canopy spread extent. This is to preserve operational setback access and recognises that tree removal can be difficult due to strong opposition to the loss of established trees.</u></p>

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4.52	<p>Amended text:</p> <p><u>Ecological terracing</u> <u>Naturalised setback of flood defences and restoration of saltmarsh habitat with regraded river banks should be considered</u> to provide fish refuge and wading bird forage should be considered. <u>Where regrading banks to at least a 1 in 7 gradient is not feasible, intertidal terracing should be considered. Various restoration techniques can be explored in line with Estuary Edges Guidance.</u> Improved fish/eel refuges are encouraged with new pontoons or structures within the watercourse.</p>
4.60	<p>New paragraph inserted after 4.60:</p> <p><u>Development should seek to maximise the restoration and enhancement of aquatic habitats, including taking account of the implementation of opportunities identified in existing plans and datasets. For instance, the Environment Agency's Catchment Planning System and the GiGL River Restoration Opportunity Map, which contain spatially referenced measures.</u></p>
Paragraph 5.21	<p>Inserted text at the end of paragraph 5.21:</p> <p>5.21 Developments in conservation areas, or those which could affect other designated and non-designated heritage assets including their settings, need to carefully consider how biodiversity can be incorporated without adversely impacting on the character, function and preservation of a specific area or asset. There is no one-size-fits-all approach or solution to encouraging biodiversity in the historic environment. Applicants should not presume that a viable and sustainable solution cannot be found or be provided. Ultimately, the merits of a proposal and any potential harm to a heritage asset will need to be considered and assessed on a case-by case basis, as it will depend on site specific circumstances and the significance of the heritage asset/s affected.</p> <p><u>When managing the relationship between nature enhancements and the historic environment a holistic approach should be taken which accommodates awareness of historic environment sensitivities. Schemes should:</u></p>

Paragraph or Figure Number	Modification Made
	<p>1. Consider the historic environment from the outset</p> <p>2. Maximise environmental benefits including for the historic environment</p> <p>3. Abide by legal, policy and guidance requirements for the protection and management of the historic environment</p> <p>4. Avoid damage to the historic environment wherever possible, minimise harm where necessary and mitigate appropriately.</p>
Paragraph 5.21	<p>New section added following paragraph 5.21:</p> <p><u>Tall Buildings</u></p> <p>5.22 Tall buildings offer a unique opportunity in the borough to bring forward specific kinds of biodiversity benefits which are not possible for medium or low-rise developments. Many tall buildings will not have significant space at ground level to create biodiverse rich landscapes, however, the potential does exist for extensive green walls and roofs that make the most of the development's height. The following considerations should be discussed from the initial stages of the development process when a tall building is being planned.</p> <p>5.23 The peregrine falcon's natural habitat consists primarily of cliff ledges. These birds are attracted to the built environment where tall buildings and other structures mimic this habitat. The species also act as a natural predator of pigeons, and parakeets. It is important that the nesting sites of peregrine falcons are protected, that artificial nests are installed at appropriate locations and building managers and occupiers are made aware of their significance and protected status. Peregrine falcons are also known to be</p>

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	<p><u>territorial and artificial nests should not be installed close to any existing nests.</u></p> <p><u>5.24 Tall buildings can pose a threat to birds if there is not the correct type of glass or materials in place to deter bird strike. Considering these impacts at the earliest stages of development can avoid issues of bird strike from the outset.</u></p> <p><u>5.25 The roofs of tall buildings offer uniquely dark environments when not adjacent to even taller buildings or sources of light. These present opportunities for biodiversity which naturally thrives in particularly dark environments.</u></p>
5.37	<p>Amended text: The Wandsworth Biodiversity Action Plan (link to be provided when available) contains a wealth of further information on how nature recovery can be supported in private gardens. As a starting point, measures to enhance and encourage biodiversity in private gardens should target priority and protected species, including: Birds: Song thrush, house sparrow, swift Mammals: Hedgehogs, badgers, bats Plants and trees: Native bluebell, elm Invertebrates: Stag beetle, bees (all species), butterflies (all species) Amphibians: Common frog, common toad, smooth and palmate newt Reptiles: slow worm and common lizard</p>
Table 10	<p>Amended text in row 3: Swift and house sparrow <u>bricks and</u> boxes</p>
Glossary	<p>Additional terms added to glossary: <u>Kelvin – a measure of the colour temperature of light sources.</u> <u>Lumen – A measure of luminous flux which indicates how much light is perceived by the human eye.</u> <u>Lux – Unit of measurement for light level intensity-illuminance.</u> <u>Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL) - GiGL is London's environmental records centre. GiGL mobilises, curates and shares data via services that enable their stakeholders to make informed decisions about London's natural environment in policy and practice.</u></p>

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Appendix 3	<p>Additional text added to the end of Appendix 3:</p> <p><u>Habitats Management & Monitoring Plan (HMMP)</u></p> <p><u>A habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP) is a detailed plan that outlines how the land will be managed over at least 30 years to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• create and enhance habitats for biodiversity net gain (BNG)</u> <u>• manage and monitor the BNG</u> <p><u>Natural England have created templates for HMMPs and supporting documents.</u></p>
Appendix 5	<p>Amended text in row 4:</p> <p>If necessary implement a sensitive vegetation removal method which may also require supervision by the <u>Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)</u>.</p>