



Wild Wandsworth Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 - 2031

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What is Wild Wandsworth?

Wild Wandsworth is the borough's Biodiversity Action Plan - an essential blueprint that transforms the vision of the Biodiversity Strategy 2020 into tangible action. Its development was a key commitment outlined in that strategy, setting out a practical framework to safeguard and enhance Wandsworth's unique natural environment. By putting strategy into practice, Wild Wandsworth guides efforts to protect wildlife, conserve habitats, and inspire community stewardship across the borough.

This Action Plan is closely aligned with the Wandsworth Corporate Plan, adopted in 2022, drawing on its core themes of fairness, compassion, and sustainability. Wild Wandsworth supports these priorities by strengthening connections between people and nature, ensuring equitable access to nature, and championing a sustainable future for all residents and local wildlife.

Through its wide-ranging projects and collaborative approach, Wild Wandsworth not only fulfils the ambitions of the Biodiversity Strategy 2020 but also advances the council's vision for the borough beyond nature conservation - creating a thriving, resilient, and nature-rich Wandsworth for generations to come.



Nature in Wandsworth

Wandsworth is home to:

- Over 4,000 recorded species;
- 14 distinct habitats such as heathland, mudflats, rivers, lakes, woodlands, and grasslands;
- 31 designated biodiversity sites;
- Built environment that provides important homes for wildlife such as brownfield sites, bridges, buildings with nesting and roosting features;
- Ecological connectivity provided by street trees, railway lines, rivers, private gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and pocket parks.



What is biodiversity?

- Biodiversity, or biological diversity, refers to the variety of life on Earth in all its forms, including plants, animals, fungi, bacteria, archaea, and protists. It encompasses the living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities in which they exist.
- Biodiversity is essential for the processes that support all life, including humans. It provides benefits to us all through the production of air, food, water, timber, medicines, and the regulation of floods. Spending time in nature is also increasingly understood to lead to improvements in people's physical and mental health. Biodiversity, including the wider ecological and green infrastructure networks, also plays a crucial role helping us to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- Biodiversity also matters, in and of itself. Many people argue that humans have a moral duty to protect the other species with which they share this planet and to maintain diversity and genetic variety.

What are the challenges for biodiversity?

The UK faces significant environmental challenges:

- **Species decline:** Since 1970, species studied have declined by an average of 19%. Furthermore 1 in 6 species in the UK are at risk of extinction.
- **Declining habitat condition:** Many important habitats are in poor condition.
- **Land use and climate change:** Increasing pressures on land use and the impacts of climate change exacerbate these issues.

Addressing these challenges is more critical than ever and, here in Wandsworth, together, we can make a difference. Wild Wandsworth outlines actions for the next five years that will not only support nature but also increase opportunities for people to connect with local wildlife and green spaces, thereby improving access to the benefits of interacting with nature.



Evidence and co-design

Wandsworth's Biodiversity Action Plan is built on a strong foundation of evidence and community collaboration. By harnessing ecological data and listening to the voices and experiences of local residents and stakeholders, we are ensuring that our approach to biodiversity is both informed and inclusive.

This plan is based on strong and current evidence. Much of this comes from Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL), which serves as London's Local Environment Records Centre. GiGL gathers detailed information about important sites, habitats, and species from throughout the city, drawing together records shared by land managers, professional ecologists, and committed volunteers from every London borough.

Wandsworth Council integrates GiGL's data into its mapping and decision-making systems, ensuring that our approach is informed by the latest and most reliable ecological evidence. Regular and systematic data collection by GiGL enables us to monitor changes in local wildlife, identify opportunities for habitat creation, and guide effective land management and policy development throughout the borough. GiGL's latest Wandsworth Borough Factsheet provides a summary of nature data relating to Wandsworth. The priorities within this Biodiversity Action Plan have been informed by GiGL's comprehensive datasets and will continue to be refined as new records and insights emerge, ensuring an evidence-led approach to biodiversity management in Wandsworth.

Alongside this robust evidence base, the priorities in the Biodiversity Action Plan have also been shaped by the views of local residents and stakeholders.

Between August and October 2025, we engaged with residents from across the borough, collecting 246 responses that demonstrated enthusiastic backing for practical, local action and strong community participation. This survey was further backed up by a series of workshops and drop-in sessions, which provided valuable opportunities for residents to share their ideas, ask questions, and help shape the direction of the Biodiversity Action Plan. The collective input from these events has laid a robust foundation for collaborative action and lasting environmental benefits in Wandsworth.

Key Community Priorities

- Creating and maintaining habitats in parks, estates, and schools – the top priority.
- Enhancing connectivity between habitats through green corridors, highway verges and street greening.
- Encouraging community involvement in habitat management, learning, and citizen science.

Other Community Needs

- Guidance on wildlife-friendly homes and gardens.
- Opportunities for community gardening and biodiversity walks.
- Improved education and communication, especially in schools.

Further suggestions included more resources for tree planting and maintenance, expanding wildflower meadows, reducing pesticide

use, and protecting mature trees. Wandsworth Common, Tooting Common, Battersea Park, the River Wandle, and allotments were especially valued green spaces.

By combining GiGL's comprehensive ecological data with these community insights, the Action Plan reflects both scientific evidence and local priorities, ensuring a collaborative and informed approach to biodiversity in Wandsworth.



Building a wilder future together – the next five years

Reversing biodiversity decline and building a greener, more resilient future requires collective effort. Wild Wandsworth champions a collaborative approach to nature recovery, recognising that by working together – residents, local organisations, businesses, land managers, and community groups – we can achieve far more for wildlife and people than any one body alone. By pooling knowledge, resources, and enthusiasm, we can create a borough where biodiversity thrives and everyone benefits from a healthier environment.

This shared vision is structured around three core themes:

- Action for nature that is fairer for all
- Action for nature that is compassionate and responds to our community
- Action for nature that is evidence-based and delivers meaningful results

These themes underline the need for both collaboration within organisations and partnerships throughout the wider community. By adopting these guiding principles, we can achieve genuine and lasting benefits for nature, health, and climate resilience in Wandsworth, securing a thriving natural environment for present and future generations.

THEME 1: Action for nature that is fairer for all

Nature conservation is fundamentally about fairness and equity because everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the benefits that a healthy environment provides.

Access to clean air, fresh water, green spaces, and thriving ecosystems should not be determined by where someone lives, their income, or their background. Ensuring that conservation efforts reach all communities, especially those historically underrepresented or disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, helps close gaps in health, well-being, and quality of life.

Furthermore, fairness in nature conservation means recognising and respecting the unique relationships different cultures and communities have with the natural world. By involving local residents and valuing their knowledge and perspectives, conservation initiatives become more inclusive and effective. This approach not only protects biodiversity but also empowers people to care for and benefit from their local environment, fostering stewardship that is shared by all.

Our commitments

- We will share information with you about your local habitats and species and explain what actions are being taken to support them to flourish.
- We will improve access to nature on your doorstep wherever you are in the borough.
- We will provide opportunities for you to participate in activities that improve health and well-being through work to improve and enhance biodiversity.
- We will support you to take affordable, meaningful action at home.



THEME 2: Action for nature that is compassionate and responds to our community

Compassion in nature conservation means recognising the diverse needs, experiences, and aspirations of our residents and responding thoughtfully to them. By listening to our community and understanding the challenges people face, whether related to accessibility, health, or the pressures of daily life, we can design initiatives that are truly supportive and responsive.

This approach emphasises openness, empathy, and collaboration, ensuring every voice is valued in shaping local solutions.

Responding to residents is about building trust and strong relationships, being transparent about decisions, and acting on feedback. It ensures our work reflects what matters most to our community, from making green spaces welcoming and safe for everyone to supporting activities that promote well-being and connection.

Our commitments

- We are ambitious in our aims and will use nature-based solutions and co-designed approaches to ensure the maximum benefits for biodiversity.
- We will celebrate how people make things “better for biodiversity” as part of the Wandsworth In Bloom awards.
- We will provide greater clarity for allotment tenants on ways they can garden to benefit biodiversity.
- We will support the development of skills and careers in biodiversity and the wider green economy.
- We will provide clarity on the impacts of artificial lighting on biodiversity and how to balance different needs effectively.



THEME 3: Action for nature that is effective and delivers meaningful results

Sustainable action for nature is essential because it directly shapes the future resilience, health, and prosperity of Wandsworth and its residents. Nature is not only a source of beauty and biodiversity, but also our strongest ally in addressing urgent challenges like climate change, air quality, and wellbeing.

When we act sustainably, we enable nature to absorb carbon and mitigate extreme weather, while also enhancing the everyday lives of those who live and work here.

Investing in and supporting others to embrace sustainable practices ensures that the borough's natural assets - its rivers, parks, trees, and habitats - continue to provide vital services for generations to come. A sustainable approach supports cleaner air and water, reduces flood risk through solutions like sustainable drainage (SuDS), creates shading and cooling to mitigate urban heat, and offers safe, inclusive spaces for recreation and connection.

Our commitments

- We will maximise the biodiversity benefits of green infrastructure, including SuDS, parklets, pocket parks and community gardens by providing priority habitats and features for priority species and embedding more sustainable

management practices.

- We will manage priority places and habitats in parks, open spaces and commons to ensure they capture and store carbon through improving habitat quality and species diversity.
- We will share information about the actions we are taking for biodiversity in parks, open spaces and commons.
- We will secure the delivery of ecological enhancements and Biodiversity Net Gain onsite wherever possible through the planning process.
- We will ensure our understanding of the baseline habitats is up-to-date to inform our decisions and actions.
- We will strengthen existing and develop new partnerships with landowners and managers across Wandsworth along with organisations offering biodiversity expertise.



What we've achieved since 2020

Creating, maintaining, and enhancing habitats

Since 2020, the Council and its partners have worked to protect and improve biodiversity across Wandsworth:

- Over 2.2 hectares of new habitats - including grassland, scrub, wetlands, and deadwood - have been created within Council-managed greenspaces.
- Over £600,000 invested specifically into habitat management and maintenance across Council-managed greenspaces from existing maintenance budgets.
- 61 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) secured since 2020 to safeguard important trees.
- Veteranisation and habitat creation begun in tree management contracts starting in Wandsworth Common (a borough-grade Local Wildlife Site), creating valuable deadwood and crevice habitats for bats and invertebrates.

Monitoring and research

Efforts have also focused on better understanding existing habitats and species within Wandsworth:

- Increased grassland and meadow monitoring, with new sites added through the No Mow May campaign. In 2025 alone, 24 sites were surveyed for biodiversity gains.

- Important data on species such as bats, amphibians and reptiles collected through Enable's Citizen Science Programme.
- Supporting a PhD student from King's College to record bats in Battersea Park for a project looking at 'Distribution mapping and habitat suitability modelling of bats in London as urbanised habitat'.
- Wandsworth participated in Butterfly Conservation's Big City Butterflies project.
- Twice-yearly water quality monitoring for all shallow urban lakes, including biochemical, invertebrate, and vegetation surveys.
- Woodland habitat condition surveys completed for Wandsworth Common (borough-grade Local Wildlife Site) and Tooting Common (Site of Metropolitan Importance for Wildlife).

Positive management and recognition

- As of September 2025, 74% of Wandsworth's Local Wildlife Sites are in positive management for biodiversity, a 13% increase since 2021.
- Twelve Council-managed parks and commons achieved Green Flag status in 2025, where biodiversity is a key assessment criterion.
- Parks for London 2024 saw Wandsworth Parks rise from 21st ranked in 2022 to 8th Ranked in 2024 across London with supporting nature a key criterion. Including composition of the Parks for London Greenspace Quality Manual sections detailing scrub, acid grassland, broadleaf woodland and ephemeral ponds management. Currently the quality standard for 24 London council GM contracts.

These actions are essential to maintain and enhance both the extent and ecological quality of habitats. Larger, better-connected, and higher-quality habitats are more resilient to adverse impacts, supporting a stronger and more diverse natural environment.

Created, maintained and enhanced connections between habitats

Many species rely on habitats beyond our priority habitats and key locations. For example, bats and some bird species can be harmed or displaced through changes to buildings and the introduction or alteration of external lighting.

The Council has already taken a number of actions to support wildlife movement through our urban landscape. Since 2020, over 2,600 street trees have been planted, six Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) have been or are scheduled to be installed, a Parklets Opportunity map has been created and numerous green roofs, green walls, bird and bat boxes and other ecological features have been secured on new private and Council developments through planning conditions. Many of these measures also help to provide shade, reduce flood risk, and improve air quality and are therefore also essential to improving the lives of local residents.

Supported local people to take action and connect with nature.

Local residents play an essential role in helping the Council achieve its nature recovery goals. Actions must also ensure that residents can enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits provided by local nature. Over recent years, the Council and its partners have taken steps to create opportunities and support initiatives that help

residents connect with and benefit from nature:

- Citizen Science Programme: Since 2024, Enable has delivered over 25 training sessions, supporting more than 250 individuals in monitoring local fauna and flora.
- Conservation Volunteering: Regular sessions led by Enable since 2022 have made a vital contribution to managing and expanding wildlife habitats on Wandsworth and Tooting Commons.
- Heavy horse grassland management community engagement (2025): 7 nurseries, 12 primary schools and 6 secondary schools attending the sessions; 2 schools integrating the heavy horses management into their curriculum; 41 people volunteering and providing a total of 103 volunteer hours.
- Enable supported local community groups to deliver Bioblitz events.
- Over 800 residents participated in the On Your Street survey, sharing habitat and species information.
- The housing team collaborated with the SW15 Hedgehogs conservation group to plant 80m of new hedges to support hedgehogs on the Dover House estate.
- First Wandsworth in Bloom competition held in June 2025.

Strengthened policy and governance for biodiversity

Local Authorities have access to a wide range of tools - legislation, policy frameworks, and technical guidance - to support them in their statutory duties to protect habitats and species. The Environment Act 2021 has significantly strengthened these statutory duties. Between 2020 and 2026, Wandsworth Council

has taken significant steps to embed biodiversity into its policies and operations. The adoption of the Biodiversity Strategy, updates to the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, development of Biodiversity and Tree Supplementary Planning Documents and the integration of robust biodiversity policies into the Local Plan have provided a strong policy foundation.

Furthermore, the in-housing of ecological expertise in April 2025 was a pivotal step and has enabled the process to begin of embedding biodiversity considerations across all departments. This structural change provides the foundation for more consistent decision-making and better integration of biodiversity into everyday operations.

Driving change through collaboration

Since 2021, the Council has worked with a wide range of partners to deliver biodiversity and habitat improvements across Wandsworth. Key partners include Enable, Krinkels UK, GiGL, Friends of parks and commons groups, Management Advisory Committees, community gardens and local food growing sites, river catchment partnerships, South East Rivers Trust, Butterfly Conservation, The Wimbledon Foundation, Groundwork London, The Mayor of London, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Conservators, Environment Agency, Citizen Zoo, ZSL, Beautify Balham, Good Gym, Katherine Low Settlement, Paradise Co-op and Thrive – to name just a few.

In addition, Wandsworth has actively represented biodiversity interests on several local and London-wide forums:

- **London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum** – chaired by Wandsworth since 2024
- **River Wandle Catchment Management Partnership** – member since 2013
- **Beverley Brook Catchment Partnership** – member since 2016
- **Service Level Agreement holder with GiGL** – since 2013
- **London Rewilding Action Group** – representing all boroughs (2024–2025)
- **London Invasive Species Initiative Steering Group** – member (2010–2024)
- **London SINC Review Scrutiny Panel** – representing all boroughs (2024– 2025)



Appendix 1

Priority habitats overview

A habitat is the physical environment that sustains living things, such as rivers, woodland, or grassland. 'Habitat' includes both living and non-living elements of the environment. The GiGL data identifies 14 different habitats within the borough. The London Environment Strategy identified London's ten priority habitats which are the most threatened and in need of restoration. We used this priority list and the GiGL data to guide our habitat priorities for this action plan. These are:

- Heathland and acid grassland
- Neutral (wildflower) grassland
- Rivers, including the Tidal Thames
- Lakes, ponds and reedbeds
- Woodland and scrub (including veteran trees and dead wood)



Appendix 2

Priority species overview

GiGL data identifies that over 4,252 different species have been recorded in Wandsworth. 11.7% of these records are for

“designated” species. These are species which have legal protections, or which are identified as nationally rare, scarce or notable, or those which have been identified by species experts as being of particular concern in London. A London-wide Biodiversity Action Plan was incorporated into the Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy for London in 2002, and this identified over 200 priority species considered to be under particular threat in London. We have used this priority list along with the information in designated species in Wandsworth held by GiGL to identify priority species that require urgent action in Wandsworth.

The priority and target species identified in Wandsworth are:

- Bats (all species)
- Hedgehog
- Black redstart
- House sparrow
- Brown trout
- Peregrine falcon
- Starling
- Swift
- Stag beetle
- Tawny owl
- Pollinators including hoverflies, wild bees, soldier flies and wasps

These are all species that will benefit from a raised profile, and a specific focus on measures to protect them and conserve and enhance the habitats they rely on. This action plan will also ensure that the surrounding landscapes, including built features, are protected and enhanced to ensure the long-term success of these species.



Appendix 3

Priority places overview

The best examples of key habitats and green spaces which are critical to biodiversity are identified as Local Wildlife Sites (sometimes called Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs). These are non-statutory designated sites and in London, they are categorised of importance at a Metropolitan, Borough and Local level.

The London Plan 2021 and London Environment Strategy states that these Local Wildlife Sites should be protected. GiGL is the official custodian of information on London's more than 1,600 Local Wildlife Sites, their citations and boundary information.

Currently there are 31 Local Wildlife Sites in Wandsworth which were selected in 2000 based on survey data from 1999. Of these 15 are owned and managed by Wandsworth Council, with ownership of the remainder falling to other local authorities, Network Rail, educational bodies and commercial and private sectors. The following sites have been identified in Wandsworth:

Sites of Metropolitan Importance:

- Battersea Park
- River Thames and its tidal tributaries
- Tooting Common
- Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath

Sites of Borough Importance:

- Wandsworth Common
- Putney Lower Common
- University of Surrey, Roehampton
- Earlsfield Railway cutting

- River Wandle
- Beverley Brook
- Battersea Power Station
- Streatham Cemetery
- Wimbledon Park
- Roehampton Club Golf Course
- St Nicholas churchyard
- Richard Evans Memorial Playing Fields and Stag Lane
- Bank of England Sports Club Grounds
- Lambeth Cemetery
- Wandsworth Cemetery
- King Georges Park
- Clapham Common
- Rail side land not included within other sites (incl. rear 129-135 Granville Rd)
- Putney Vale Cemetery

Sites of Local Importance

- Wandsworth Park
- York Gardens
- Putney Old Burial Ground
- Putney Park Lane and The Pleasance
- Falcon Park and Shillington Park
- Edgecombe Hall Estate
- St Mary's Cemetery, Battersea Rise
- Spencer Park

Appendix 4

Themes and Objectives

Objective	Theme
THEME 1: Action for nature that is fairer for all	
1	We will share information with you about your local habitats and species and explain what actions are being taken to support them to flourish.
2	We will improve access to nature on your doorstep wherever you are in the borough.
3	We will provide opportunities for you to participate in activities that improve health and well-being through work to improve and enhance biodiversity.
4	We will support you to take affordable, meaningful action at home.
THEME 2: Action for nature that is compassionate and responds to our community	
5	We are ambitious in our aims and will use nature-based solutions and co-designed approaches to ensure the maximum benefits for biodiversity.
6	We will celebrate how people make things “better for biodiversity” as part of the Wandsworth In Bloom awards.
7	We will provide greater clarity for allotment tenants on ways they can garden to benefit biodiversity.
8	We will support the development of skills and careers in biodiversity and the wider green economy.
9	We will provide clarity on the impacts of artificial lighting on biodiversity and how to balance different needs effectively.
THEME 3: Action for nature that is evidence based and delivers meaningful results	
10	We will maximise the biodiversity benefits of green infrastructure, including SUDs, parklets, pocket parks and community gardens through the provision of priority habitats and features for priority species as well as embedding more sustainable management practices.
11	We will manage priority places and habitats in parks, open spaces and commons to ensure they capture and store carbon through improving habitat quality and species diversity.
12	We will share information about the actions we are taking for biodiversity in parks, open spaces and commons.
13	We will secure the delivery of ecological enhancements and Biodiversity Net Gain onsite wherever possible through the planning process.
14	We will ensure our understanding of the baseline habitats is up-to-date to inform our decisions and actions.
15	We will strengthen existing and develop new partnerships with landowners and managers across Wandsworth along with organisations offering biodiversity expertise.

Theme 1: Action for nature that is fairer for all

Objective	Action	When	Who	Strategy link
1	Produce an annual Biodiversity Report for the borough.	2027-2031	Biodiversity, GiGL	Evidence
1	Establish a regular spot in Brightside to promote Wandsworth biodiversity updates, inform residents how they can support local biodiversity and help residents understand biodiversity-related rules and processes—such as bird nesting and bat roosting protections, and when planning permission is required for paving.	2026-2027	Biodiversity, Communications	Participate
1	Provide information to residents locally explaining the species and habitats in their area	2027-28	Biodiversity, Housing, GiGL, Communications	Evidence
1	Develop and promote new non-statutory guidance documents and webpages that are produced to direct developers to enhance sites for protected and priority species.	2026 -28	Planners, Biodiversity	Participate
2	Explore more robust and feasible enforcement mechanisms within planning to secure long-term ecological benefits and prevent biodiversity loss through non-compliance.	2027-31	Planners, Biodiversity	Habitat
2	Use biodiversity data to guide habitat enhancement and creation projects where there is space to do so on Housing land.	2028-31	Housing, Biodiversity	Habitat
2	Habitat enhancement and creation projects on Housing land will be prioritised in areas where they will reduce areas of deficiency in Access to Nature (AoDAN) and create ecological connectivity.	2026-31	Housing, Biodiversity	Places
2	Council schemes will prioritise the delivery of onsite Biodiversity Net Gain and will seek to maximise the enhancements provided for relevant priority habitats and species.	2026-31	Housing, Planning, Biodiversity	BNG
2	Create a Green Corridors GIS which will help identify priority nature recovery projects where these will improve connectivity for nature whilst also providing other benefits relating to climate change adaptation and resilience and health and wellbeing.	2026-28	LLFA, GiGL, Biodiversity	LNRS
2	Look at developing a Dark Corridors GIS to map and prioritise areas for maintaining, enhancing or creating dark corridors, supporting bat movement along with the wellbeing of other species in planning and development.	2026-28	GiGL, Biodiversity, Highways, Planning	LNRS

Objective	Action	When	Who	Strategy link
2	Provide opportunities for employees of the Ground Maintenance Contractor to improve biodiversity knowledge and skills.	2026-31	Krinkles, Enable, Biodiversity	Habitat
2	Implementation of Parklets to improve access to nature for the most vulnerable communities in the borough.	2026-28	Climate Change & Sustainability, Biodiversity, Highways, Schools	LNRS
3	Work with NHS Trusts, ICS and other wellbeing and healthcare providers to deliver biodiversity improvements and provide opportunities for workforce volunteering and participation in biodiversity action.	2026-31	Biodiversity, NHS trusts, ICS	Participate
3	Provide volunteering opportunities for residents to participate in habitat management and maintenance tasks at priority biodiversity sites.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkles	Participate
3	Provide volunteering opportunities for residents to participate in citizen science projects to improve our knowledge of species and habitats.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable	Participate
4	Create an online hub to support residents to take affordable, meaningful action at home for priority species and habitats and to help link residents to existing community gardening projects.	2026-27	Biodiversity, Enable, Communications	Participate
4	Work with residents and community groups in identified connectivity gaps to support priority species and link fragmented habitats.	2027-2031	Biodiversity, Enable	Participate

Theme 2: Action for nature that is compassionate and responds to our community

Objective	Action	When	Who	Strategy link
5	Increase resilience to climate change at Tooting Commons through the implementation of nature-based solutions including wetland creation subject to successfully securing funding.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Climate Change & Sustainability	Places
5	Through engagement with other statutory bodies, devise proposals to safeguard and enhance semi natural habitats alongside key transport corridors, red routes and railway lines.	2026-28	Biodiversity, Highways	LNRS
5	Provide advice to residents on tree pit planting for wildlife where this can be done safely and with no detriment to the trees	2026-27	Trees	Participate
5	Where it is safe to do so and not detrimental to existing biodiversity value, accelerate and expand the delivery of wildflower verges.	2027-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Highways	LNRS

Objective	Action	When	Who	Strategy link
5	Use the London Nature Recovery Strategy to identify priority locations for improvements to habitat connectivity which can be delivered in partnership with key landowners and neighboring boroughs.	2026-27	LLFA, GiGL, Biodiversity	LNRS
6	Through the Wandsworth In Bloom Awards we will recognise and celebrate work by schools and communities to deliver "better for biodiversity" through categories such as Best Front Garden, Best Balcony or Container Garden and Best Business in Bloom.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Education	Participate
7	Produce an Allotment Biodiversity data report for each site explaining the priority species in the locality.	2026-27	Biodiversity, GiGL, Enable	Evidence
7	Produce an Allotments Handbook ensuring that clear information is provided to allotment tenants on how to garden in ways that actively support priority species.	2026-27	Biodiversity, Enable	Participate
8	Provide training for staff in order to improve biodiversity knowledge and practical skills in-house.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Planning, Trees	Participate
8	Provide "lunch and learn" sessions to those wishing to learn more about careers in biodiversity.	2027-31	Biodiversity, Enable	Participate
8	Provide volunteer work-shadowing opportunities for those wishing to develop careers in biodiversity.	2027-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels	Participate
8	Seek to work with schools, HEFE establishments in the borough to provide skills, applied learning opportunities and routes into employment.	2026-31	Biodiversity, HEFE bodies, Krinkles, SLP, Economic Development	Participate
8	Seek to work with schools and HEFE to establish long-term monitoring of certain species and habitats.	2026-31	Education, HEFE bodies, Biodiversity, Enable	Evidence
9	Produce clear guidance on public locations where alterations to lighting will be detrimental to biodiversity to allow alternative routes to be promoted.	2027-28	Biodiversity, GiGL	Evidence

Theme 3: Action for nature that is evidence based and delivers meaningful results

Objective	Action	When	Who	Strategy link
10	As a SuDS approval body we will produce guidance to encourage the inclusion of habitats and features for wildlife.	Once schedule 3 Flood & Water Management Act is enacted	LLFA, Biodiversity	LNRS
10	Embed more sustainable management practices within Highways, in particular relating to work around trees and weed removal.	2027-29	Highways, Trees, Biodiversity	Habitat
10	Develop new and promote existing guidance on topics like urban greening, lighting design for nocturnal species, and biodiversity-friendly landscaping to empower Council teams, partners, businesses and residents to take practical steps that support nature.	2026-31	Planning, Biodiversity, Climate Change & Sustainability	Participate
10	Develop better ways to measure the impacts of policies and actions relating to biodiversity.	2026-31	Biodiversity	Evidence
10	Develop a more sustainable approach to tree planting, to prioritise long-term success of trees planted.	2026-28	Trees	Habitat
11	Ensure all council departments integrate biodiversity considerations into their work and decision-making, for example through the Infrastructure Board.	2026-31	Infrastructure Board, Climate Change & Sustainability, Biodiversity	LNRS
11	Deliver projects to improve the habitat quality of the Local Wildlife Site at Edgecombe Hall, Ackroydon West pond and Argyle Limpsfield pond, in particular through funding to restore the aquatic habitats.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Housing	Habitat
11	Deliver projects to improve and maintain the habitat quality of Battersea Park Local Nature Reserve in line with Management Plans.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	Habitat
11	Deliver projects to improve and maintain the habitat quality of Wandsworth Common Local Wildlife Site in line with Management Plans.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	Habitat
11	Deliver projects to improve and maintain the habitat quality of Tooting Commons Local Wildlife Site in line with Management Plans.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	Habitat
11	Improve and maintain the habitat quality of the River Wandle and Beverley Brook as Sites of Borough Importance for Wildlife in collaboration with wider catchment partnerships and partners.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	Habitat

Objective	Action	When	Who	Strategy link
11	Deliver habitat management and creation work on council-owned land and water in line with agreed Management and Maintenance Plans and Biodiversity Strategy principals to improve habitat quality and species diversity.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	Habitat
11	Develop species specific action plans.	2027-31	Biodiversity, Enable	Species
11	Contribute to the review & reset of the Winstanley / York Road Regeneration Area Masterplan to secure increased long term (10-15yr) gains for biodiversity	2027-31	Place, Biodiversity	Places
11	Undertake an engagement programme to inform and include residents in the development of strategies to deliver biodiversity gains (including but not limited to statutory BNG) through regeneration at Alton and Winstanley estates	2027-31	Place, Biodiversity, Communication	Participate
12	Produce an annual biodiversity review to share the actions taken for priority habitats and species across to share specific actions taken across parks, open spaces and commons.	2025-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels	Evidence
12	Produce user friendly Parks Biodiversity Plans for local parks (2ha or smaller) as part of Management and Maintenance Plans	2026-31	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels	LNRS
13	Council schemes will prioritise the delivery of onsite Biodiversity Net Gain and will seek to maximise the enhancements provided for relevant priority habitats and species.	2026-31	Housing, Planning, Biodiversity	BNG
14	Survey and evaluate existing woodland and other habitats within Council owned parks and commons to provide a comprehensive understanding and action survey findings.	2026-31	Biodiversity, Trees, Enable	Evidence
14	Resurvey SINCS and update baseline habitat data for whole of borough.	2026-2028	Biodiversity	Evidence
14	Survey potential new SINC sites within the borough following update to baseline habitat data.	2028-2031	Biodiversity	Evidence
15	Establish a Wandsworth Nature Recovery Forum that will bring together key stakeholders to improve information sharing and create more opportunities for collaboration.	2027-2028	Biodiversity, Enable	Evidence

Year One SMART Targets

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
THEME 1: Action for nature that is fairer for all				
1	Establish a regular spot in Brightside to promote Wandsworth biodiversity updates, inform residents how they can support local biodiversity and help residents understand biodiversity-related rules and processes—such as bird nesting and bat roosting protections, and when planning permission is required for paving.	Q2 2026 - Brightside feature to be established and continue to regularly feature within the publication.	Biodiversity, Communications	2026-27
1	Develop and promote new non-statutory guidance documents and webpages that are produced to direct developers to enhance sites for protected and priority species.	Q4 2026 - Establish online hub for biodiversity which includes the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document.	Planners, Biodiversity	2026-28
2	Habitat enhancement and creation projects on Housing land will be prioritized in areas where they will reduce areas of deficiency in Access to Nature (AoDAN) and create ecological connectivity.	Q1 2027 - Ecological connectivity to be mapped as part of Green Corridor GIS and layered with Access to Nature (AoDAN) to inform future projects.	Housing, Biodiversity	2026-31
2	Council schemes will prioritise the delivery of onsite Biodiversity Net Gain and will seek to maximise the enhancements provided for relevant priority habitats and species.	Q1 2026 - Biodiversity team to prioritise net gain delivery onsite for current and future council schemes within the planning process. Q3 2026 - Deliver training to planning stage council colleagues to reinforce Biodiversity Net Gain understanding across the organisation.	Housing, Planning, Biodiversity	2026-31

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
2	Create a Green Corridor GIS which will help identify priority nature recovery projects where these will improve connectivity for nature whilst also providing other benefits relating to climate change adaptation and resilience and health and wellbeing.	Q4 2026 - Green Corridor GIS to be mapped to inform future projects.	LLFA, GiGL, Biodiversity	2026-28
2	Look at developing a Dark Corridors GIS to map and prioritise areas for maintaining, enhancing or creating dark corridors, supporting bat movement along with the wellbeing of other species in planning and development.	Q1 2027 - Investigate Dark Corridors GIS possibilities alongside the mapping of Green Corridors.	GiGL, Biodiversity, Highways, Planning	2026-28
2	Provide opportunities for employees of the Ground Maintenance Contractor to improve biodiversity knowledge and skills.	Q3 2026 - Deliver training for ground maintenance colleagues relating to grassland habitat maintenance. Q4 2026 - Deliver training for ground maintenance colleagues relating to scrubland and woodland management.	Krinkles, Enable, Biodiversity	2026-31
2	Implementation of Parklets to improve access to nature for the most vulnerable communities in the borough.	Q4 2026 - Deliver Swaffield Pocket Park and explore further opportunities across the borough.	Climate Change & Sustainability, Biodiversity, Highways, Schools	2026-28
3	Work with NHS Trusts, ICS and other wellbeing and healthcare providers to deliver biodiversity improvements and provide opportunities for workforce volunteering and participation in biodiversity action.	Q4 2027 - Establish connections with NHS Trusts, ICS and other wellbeing and healthcare providers to understand opportunities for volunteering and delivery of biodiversity improvements.	Biodiversity, NHS trusts, ICS	2026-31
3	Provide volunteering opportunities for residents to participate in habitat management and maintenance tasks at priority biodiversity sites.	Q4 2026 - Use the biodiversity hub, Brightside feature and further comms to inform residents of volunteer opportunities. Q2 2027 - Provide 15 habitat management volunteering sessions across priority biodiversity sites.	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkles	2026-31

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
3	Provide volunteering opportunities for residents to participate in citizen science projects to improve our knowledge of species and habitats.	Q2 2027 - Provide 10 citizen science volunteering sessions across priority biodiversity sites. Q4 2026 - Provide opportunities for citizen science relating to the Cascade project in Battersea Park. Q4 2026 - Provide opportunities for citizen science to educate habitat management within parks and open spaces.	Biodiversity, Enable	2026-31
4	Create an online hub to support residents to take affordable, meaningful action at home for priority species and habitats and to help link residents to existing community gardening projects.	Q4 2026 - Establish online hub for biodiversity which includes guidance and links to community projects in the borough.	Biodiversity, Enable, Communications	2026-27

THEME 2: Action for nature that is compassionate and responds to our community

5	Increase resilience to climate change at Tooting Commons through the implementation of nature-based solutions including wetland creation subject to successfully securing funding.	Q1 2027 - Implement phase 1 wetland works at capital ring path and Tooting Common Triangle field.	Biodiversity, Enable, Climate Change & Sustainability	2026-31
5	Through engagement with other statutory bodies, devise proposals to safeguard and enhance semi natural habitats alongside key transport corridors, red routes and railway lines.	Q3 2027 - Ecological connectivity to be mapped as part of Green Corridor GIS. Q4 2027 - Present findings to other statutory bodies to devise collaborative safeguarding and enhancement projects."	Biodiversity, Highways	2026-28
5	Provide advice to residents on tree pit planting for wildlife where this can be done safely and with no detriment to the trees	Q4 2026 - Release guidance on species recommendations for planting in tree pits for residents.	Trees	2026-27

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
5	Use the London Nature Recovery Strategy to identify priority locations for improvements to habitat connectivity which can be delivered in partnership with key landowners and neighboring boroughs.	Q4 2026 - London Nature Recovery Strategy to be assessed once published for Green Corridor GIS mapped to inform future projects.	LLFA, GiGL, Biodiversity	2026-27
6	Through the Wandsworth In Bloom Awards we will recognize and celebrate work by schools and communities to deliver "better for biodiversity" through categories such as Best Front Garden, Best Balcony or Container Garden and Best Business in Bloom.	Q3 2026 - Deliver Wandsworth In Bloom Awards 2026.	Biodiversity, Education	2026-31
7	Produce an Allotment Biodiversity data report for each site explaining the priority species in the locality.	Q4 2026 - Produce an Allotment Biodiversity data report.	Biodiversity, GiGL, Enable	2026-27
7	Produce an Allotments Handbook ensuring that clear information is provided to allotment tenants on how to garden in ways that actively support priority species.	Q4 2026 - Produce an Allotment Handbook providing clear information to support priority species.	Biodiversity, Enable	2026-27
8	Provide training for staff in order to improve biodiversity knowledge and practical skills in-house.	Q3 2026 - Deliver training to planning stage council colleagues to reinforce Biodiversity Net Gain understanding across the organisation.	Biodiversity, Planning, Trees	2026-31
8	Seek to work with schools, HEFE establishments in the borough to provide skills, applied learning opportunities and routes into employment.	Q2 2026 - Establish priorities with University of Roehampton and plan delivery of valuable projects.	Biodiversity, HEFE bodies, Krinkles, SLP, Economic Development	2026-31
8	Seek to work with schools and HEFE to establish long-term monitoring of certain species and habitats.	Q2 2026 - Establish priorities with University of Roehampton and plan delivery of valuable projects.	Education, HEFE bodies, Biodiversity, Enable	2026-31

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
THEME 3: Action for nature that is effective and delivers meaningful results				
10	Develop new and promote existing guidance on topics like urban greening, lighting design for nocturnal species, and biodiversity-friendly landscaping to empower Council teams, partners, businesses and residents to take practical steps that support nature.	Q3 2026 - Provide guidance in training with planning stage council colleagues to reinforce Biodiversity Net Gain understanding across the organisation. Q2 2027 - Produce guidance information on the Online hub for biodiversity topics for a range of audiences.	Planning, Biodiversity, Climate Change & Sustainability	2026-31
10	Develop better ways to measure the impacts of policies and actions relating to biodiversity.	Q4 2026 - Agree further measurables to present in annual Biodiversity Report for the borough	Biodiversity	2026-31
10	Develop a more sustainable approach to tree planting, to prioritise long-term success of trees planted.	Q4 2026 - Publish a new Tree Strategy	Trees	2026-28
11	Ensure all council departments integrate biodiversity considerations into their work and decision-making, for example through the Infrastructure Board.	Q3 2026 - Deliver training to planning stage council colleagues to reinforce Biodiversity Net Gain understanding across the organisation.	Infrastructure Board, Climate Change & Sustainability, Biodiversity	2026-31
11	Deliver projects to improve the habitat quality of the Local Wildlife Site at Edgcombe Hall, Ackroydon West pond and Argyle Limpsfield pond, in particular through funding to restore the aquatic habitats.	Q3 2026 - Create specification for required works and seek funding to deliver Q4 2026 - Arrange ecological baseline survey for existing SINC's.	Housing, Biodiversity	2026-31

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
11	Deliver projects to improve and maintain the habitat quality of Battersea Park Local Nature Reserve in line with Management Plans.	<p>Q3 2026 - Install Owl boxes to support Tawny Owl nesting sites recently affected by windfall trees.</p> <p>Q3 2026 - Regrade woodland glade meadows and sow with native wildflower.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Explore woodland management trials in preparation for survey findings.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Arrange ecological baseline survey for Battersea Park SINC.</p>	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	2026-31
11	Deliver projects to improve and maintain the habitat quality of Wandsworth Common Local Wildlife Site in line with Management Plans.	<p>Q1 2026 - Carry out reed maintenance and species management in Wandsworth Common ponds.</p> <p>Q1 2026 - Improve meadow quality using heavy horse drawn management and native wildflower seeding.</p> <p>Q3 2026 - Increase marginal planting in ponds and replant with further species to improve habitat.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Arrange ecological baseline survey for Wandsworth Common SINC.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Explore woodland management trials in preparation for survey findings.</p> <p>Q1 2027 - Create butterfly banks on grassland through scrapes to improve quality of meadow species to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain for Lady Allen development.</p>	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	2026-31
11	Deliver projects to improve and maintain the habitat quality of Tooting Commons Local Wildlife Site in line with Management Plans.	<p>Q1 2026 - Improve meadow quality using heavy horse drawn management and native wildflower seeding.</p> <p>Q3 2026 - Improve water retention of ephemeral pond areas through clay lining and vegetation management.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Arrange ecological baseline survey for Tooting Common SINC.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Explore woodland management trials in preparation for survey findings.</p> <p>Q1 2027 - Implement phase 1 wetland works at Lido field and Tooting Common Triangle field.</p>	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	2026-31

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
11	Improve and maintain the habitat quality of the River Wandle and Beverley Brook as Sites of Borough Importance for Wildlife in collaboration with wider catchment partnerships and partners.	<p>Q2 2026 - Engage with catchment Partnerships and stakeholders to establish priorities.</p> <p>Q2 2026 - Explore possibilities for backchannel and habitat creation in stretches of the Wandle for priority species.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Arrange surveys to existing SINC's.</p>	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	2026-31
11	Deliver habitat management and creation work on council-owned land and water in line with agreed Management and Maintenance Plans and Biodiversity Strategy principals to improve habitat quality and species diversity.	<p>Q1 2026 - Carry out reed maintenance and species management in King Georges Park.</p> <p>Q3 2026 - Continue to maintain amenity grass as No Mow May and Let it Bloom June where appropriate.</p> <p>Q3 2026 - Improve meadow quality using heavy horse drawn management and native wildflower seeding in Wandsworth Park, Morden Cemetery and King Georges Park.</p> <p>Q3 2026 - Establish butterfly banks in Wandsworth Park.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Carry out fish stock surveys and management for stocked waterbodies in parks.</p> <p>Q3 2026 - Maintain and expand grassland habitat quality in the borough through cut and collect management.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Maintain and enhance Putney Park Lane habitat to preserve green corridor between Barnes Common & Putney Heath.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Explore woodland management trials in preparation for survey findings.</p> <p>Q4 2026 - Carry out selective winter bramble control to prevent dominance and maintain a varied mosaic of open ground, low scrub, and woodland habitats.</p>	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels, Trees	2026-31
12	Produce an annual biodiversity review to share the actions taken for priority habitats and species across to share specific actions taken across parks, open spaces and commons.	Q1 2027 - Produce an annual biodiversity review	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels	2026-31

Objective	Action	2026 -27 Specific	Teams or Partners	Timeframe
12	Produce user friendly Parks Biodiversity Plans for local parks (2ha or smaller) as part of Management and Maintenance Plans	Q4 2026 - All new parks management plans to include a biodiversity plan for site.	Biodiversity, Enable, Krinkels	2026-31
14	Survey and evaluate existing woodland and other habitats within Council owned parks and commons to provide a comprehensive understanding and action survey findings.	Q3 2026 - Woodlands and other habitats to be surveyed by trained council staff, partners and citizen science to educate management in following years. Q4 2026 - Publish a new tree strategy.	Biodiversity, Trees, Enable	2026-31
14	Resurvey SINC's and update baseline habitat data for whole of borough.	Q4 2026 - Arrange surveys to existing SINC's.	Biodiversity	2026-28

