London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham 2026 Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report

Long-tailed tit, *Aegithalos caudatus* (credit: Nathalie Mahieu)

Prepared December 2025

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List of tables and figures:

Glossary:

- **ACB – Areas of Conservation Benefit:** A forthcoming LNRS mapping category identifying areas where interventions provide the greatest benefit for nature recovery.
- **Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt):** Natural England's benchmark for access to natural greenspace (e.g., 1 ha within 300 metres of home).
- **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG):** A statutory requirement under the Environment Act 2021 requiring developers to deliver a minimum 10% measurable improvement in biodiversity compared with the pre-development baseline.
- **Biodiversity Gain Plan:** A legally required document for developments subject to BNG, demonstrating how the 10% uplift will be achieved and secured for 30 years.
- **Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy:** A sequence developers must follow: avoid biodiversity loss → minimise impacts → restore habitats → compensate via offsite gains or credits.
- **BNG Credits (Statutory Credits):** Government-issued biodiversity units purchased as a last resort when gains cannot be achieved onsite or offsite.
- **Blue Infrastructure:** Natural and semi-natural water features such as rivers, canals, ponds and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** A charge applied to new developments to fund local infrastructure including parks, green spaces and environmental improvements.
- **Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23):** The government's statutory plan for environmental recovery, including the national goal to halt biodiversity decline by 2030.
- **Friends of Parks Groups:** Volunteer community groups that help manage, improve and champion local parks and green spaces.
- **GiGL – Greenspace Information for Greater London:** London's environmental records centre providing species, habitats, open space, and conservation data used throughout the EBD report.
- **Green Infrastructure:** A strategic network of natural and semi-natural features—including parks, gardens, woodland, street trees and SuDS—that supports biodiversity, climate resilience and wellbeing.
- **Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS):** Plant or animal species introduced outside their natural range that can cause ecological or economic harm.
- **Local Nature Reserve (LNR):** A statutory designation for wildlife-rich local sites managed for biodiversity and community access.
- **Local Plan:** The statutory land-use planning document that sets out policies guiding development and environmental protection in the borough.
- **S106 (Section 106) Agreement:** A legal agreement with a developer to provide mitigation, infrastructure or biodiversity enhancements linked to planning applications.
- **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs):** Non-statutory designated sites identified for their importance for nature.
- **SuDS – Sustainable Drainage Systems:** Drainage that mimics natural processes through rain gardens, swales, permeable surfaces and ponds, contributing to flood mitigation.
- **Tiny Forest:** A compact, densely planted woodland using the Miyawaki method, containing around 600 native trees and shrubs in a tennis-court-sized plot.
- **Tree Canopy Cover:** The percentage of land shaded by tree crowns when viewed from above; a key indicator of ecosystem services and urban cooling.
- **Tree Equity Score:** A nationwide mapping tool indicating where tree planting is most needed to address disparities in shade, health, climate exposure and socioeconomic factors.
- **Urban Greening Factor (UGF):** A London Plan policy metric that quantifies the amount and quality of green infrastructure required in new developments.
- **Urban Heat Island Effect:** Higher temperatures in urban areas compared to surrounding regions due to built surfaces and lack of vegetation.
- **UKHab – UK Habitat Classification:** A national framework used for habitat mapping, biodiversity metrics and environmental assessments, aligned with BNG requirements.

This report sets out how Hammersmith and Fulham Council (H&F) is meeting its statutory duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended) to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It highlights the council's governance, policies, projects, and partnerships that contribute to nature recovery, climate resilience, and community wellbeing across the borough. LUC has provided guidance in the structure, and some content and data sourcing and analysis for the preparation of the report.

Executive Summary

The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (EBD), introduced by the Environment Act 2021, strengthens the legal requirement for public authorities to consider, plan and act to conserve and enhance biodiversity across all their functions. It requires councils to set objectives, integrate biodiversity into decision-making and to report progress every five years. This report is H&F's first EBD report covering January 2024 to January 2026.

Key findings:

- H&F has embedded biodiversity into planning through the Climate Change SPD (2023) and Local Plan, requiring 10% Biodiversity Net Gain and applying Urban Greening Factor standards to all eligible developments.
- Delivery highlights include six Tiny Forests, over 46,000m^2 of SuDS and greening on highways, new meadow areas and ponds, and £3.25 million raised via the Green Investment Fund for green projects.
- Strong governance is in place, with dedicated ecology officers, the Parks Forum and partnership with HCGA, Groundwork and Urbanwise.
- Community engagement is thriving through Friends of Parks groups, Nature Champions, and initiatives like No Mow May.

Looking ahead, the council will focus on expanding habitat provision, maintenance and monitoring, and embedding the upcoming London Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will be finalised and published in 2026.

Fig 1: H&F Rewilding Raves campaign 2025

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter sets out why biodiversity matters for Hammersmith and Fulham (H&F) and how the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty shapes our approach. It outlines the legislation, local context and strategic commitments that guide our work. Together, these foundations explain the council's responsibility to protect nature and create a fairer, greener borough for our residents.

Purpose of this report:

This report fulfils H&F's statutory requirement to report on its actions under the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (EBD), as set out in the Environment Act 2021. It covers the first reporting period from January 2024 to January 2026, in line with DEFRA's guidance.

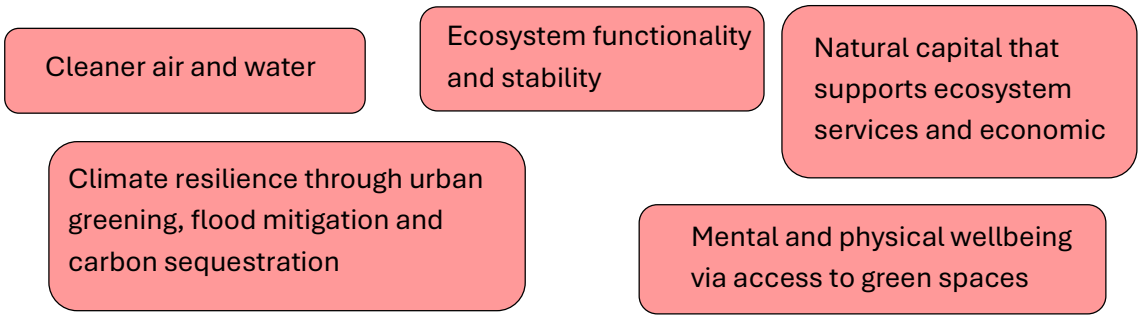
The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

The legal basis for the biodiversity duty stems from Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, as amended by the Environment Act 2021. The enhanced duty requires public authorities to consider what action they can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and to agree and implement policies and objectives accordingly. This report also serves to communicate progress to residents, stakeholders, and government bodies, and to support future planning and delivery of biodiversity outcomes.

The duty is supported by the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23), which sets out national targets to halt biodiversity decline by 2030 and restore nature by 2042. Additionally, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 introduces a requirement for authorities to "take account" of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) when making decisions affecting biodiversity.

Why Nature Matters:

Nature underpins the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of our communities. In H&F biodiversity contributes to:



The borough's commitment to nature is reflected in its declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019, and the ambition to become the greenest borough in the UK.

Hammersmith and Fulham:

H&F is a densely populated inner London borough, bordered by the River Thames to the south and the Willesden Junction north London line railway tracks to the north. The borough combines historic neighbourhoods, vibrant commercial centres, and a variety of green and blue

spaces. It hosts major institutions including Imperial College London and Westfield London and is served by 15 underground stations.

H&F Council is the local authority responsible for delivering public services and for shaping policy across the borough. The council operates under a Leader and Cabinet model, with 50 elected councillors representing 21 wards. The council provides services in housing, planning, education, social care, transport, environmental management, and leads on the delivery of the Climate and Ecology Strategy.

Governance is supported by a formal constitution, senior officers, and resident-led commissions. The council's vision is to be compassionate, resident-led, and financially efficient, with a focus on sustainability, inclusion and innovation.

How Chapter 1 supports the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

- Sets out the statutory basis for the EBD and explains the council's responsibilities under the Environment Act 2021
- Establishes the purpose, scope, and reporting timeframe for H&F's first EBD report.
- Provides essential context connecting the duty to the borough's Climate and Ecology Strategy and wider corporate commitments.

Fig 2: Peregrine Falcon and chicks on Charing Cross hospital captured by a webcam maintained by local resident Nathalie Mahieu as seen on Wild London, BBC 1, Dec 2025

Chapter 2: Meeting the Biodiversity Duty

This chapter shows how H&F is embedding biodiversity in planning, land management and service delivery. It highlights the relevant local, London-wide and national policy frameworks.

The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty introduced by the Environment Act 2021 requires public authorities to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity across all functions. It supports national goals to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and restore nature by 2042 and aligns with Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Reporting Requirements: Under DEFRA's guidance, public authorities must:

- Complete a first consideration by 1 January 2024
- Publish a biodiversity report by 1 January 2026 covering actions taken and future plans.
- Continue reporting at least every five years thereafter.

This report covers the period January 2024 to January 2026 and builds on H&Fs first consideration, which identified opportunities to embed biodiversity across planning, land management, infrastructure and community engagement. The Climate and Ecology Strategy and the commitment to become the greenest borough provide a strong foundation for delivering the duty.

Local Context and Progress

H&F has made commitments to nature as part of its pledge to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies. Key headlines include:

- **Expanding Canopy Cover**: The H&F Tree Strategy 2024-2030 sets out the ambition to increase tree canopy coverage to 16.5% by 2030 and 23% by 2050 which will contribute to improving air quality, cooling urban spaces and expanding habitat provision. Suitable locations will be selected to complement existing habitats and create ecological corridors.
- **Creating Tiny Forests**: Six dense, fast-growing woodlands have been planted across the borough, each with 600 native trees, enhancing biodiversity in small urban spaces. H&F has committed to planting a total of 10 Tiny Forests by 2030.
- **Investing in Green Infrastructure**: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are an important way to tackle the issue of surface water flooding and provide an opportunity to implement planting and greening in highways, housing estates and parks. As of 2024, 46,102 m^2 of highway land consists of green spaces including SuDS.

H&F Climate and Ecology Strategy

The Climate and Ecology Strategy sets out H&F's key aims for conserving and enhancing biodiversity. The strategy's overarching vision is for a clean and sustainable future where human activity benefits both people and the environment. It commits to creating a safe climate for future generations, restoring rich ecosystems and supporting a thriving green economy.

Key biodiversity targets include:

- Enhancing green spaces and ecological connectivity

- Protecting and expanding habitats through planning and land management
- Embedding nature-based solutions into climate resilience efforts
- Engaging communities in ecological restoration and stewardship

Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

The H&F Local Plan 2018 sets out the borough's spatial vision and planning policies up to 2035. It includes a strong emphasis on creating an environmentally sustainable borough. Strategic Objectives 10-14 commit to:

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- Improving access to nature
- Greening the borough
- Promoting sustainable design and construction

Table 1: Key Local Plan biodiversity related policies

Policy	Detail
OS1 – Parks and Green Spaces	Protects and enhances open spaces for recreation and biodiversity
OS4 – Nature Conservation	Safeguards designated sites and supports habitat creation and species protection
OS5 – Greening the Borough	Promotes green roofs, walls and urban greening in new developments
RCT1 – River Thames	Encourages biodiversity enhancement along the river corridor
CC2 & CC4	Require sustainable design and SuDS to support ecological resilience
CC12	Reduce light pollution through thoughtful design
INFRA1	Ensures planning contribution support green infrastructure and biodiversity
WCRA1 – White City East	Strategic site policy includes specific biodiversity enhancement measures

The Local Plan is currently under review and is intended to provide for the development needs of the borough for the period from 2026 to 2040-41. The new Local Plan completed regulation 18 consultation in October 2025 and is expected to be followed by regulation 19 consultation in late summer 2026 with an adoption date for the final plan expected at the end of 2027.

The Climate Change SPD, adopted in October 2023, supplements the Local Plan and supports the borough's net zero by 2030 ambition. It incorporates references to new greening policies including the London Plan's Urban Greening Factor (UGF) and Environment Act's Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). It provides detailed guidance on integrating biodiversity into development. Key Principles include:

- Urban greening must be a fundamental element of site and building design.
    - Greening measures must include high-quality landscaping, green roofs, green walls and nature-based SuDS.
- Protection of existing trees.

- Riverside developments must enhance river-related biodiversity and mitigate adverse impacts.
- Prioritise planting of native and climate resilient plants and aim to attract pollinators and other species.

Local Plan and SPD policies have provided a legal basis for the protection and enhancement of nature and biodiversity in H&F. These requirements have resulted in:

Refusal of planning applications for encroachment on SINC sites. Developments that include SINC land has only been allowed where developers submit strong material evidence that they will increase the sites value to biodiversity.

Retention of trees as applications to remove them are rejected where there are not strong material considerations for their removal

Control of light pollution to limit negative impacts on local wildlife.

Increased native species planting and habitat provision such as log piles, bird/bat boxes.

In 2024 27,957m^2 of green roofs were secured through planning conditions.

Key biodiversity commitments across other H&F strategies

H&F Plan 2023-2026 (Corporate Plan)

- One of six core values is “Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency”.
- Commits to net zero by 2030 and to enhance biodiversity through green infrastructure planning and community engagement.
- Supports clean air, green spaces and ecological resilience as part of a fairer, healthier borough.

H&F Food Plan 2025-2030

- Vision includes protecting the environment through sustainable food systems.
- Priority D: Sustainable Food Systems aims to reduce food-related carbon emissions and waste, and to promote local food growing and regenerative practices.
- Encourages community gardening and food education to reconnect residents with nature.

Air Quality Action Plan 2025-2030

- Recognises that air pollution harms biodiversity and that nature-based solutions (e.g. tree planting, SuDS) improve air quality and ecological health.
- Commits to:
    - Clean Air Neighbourhoods with tree planting and green infrastructure
    - Green barriers with SuDS around schools
    - Meeting WHO air quality standards by 2030

Tree Strategy 2024-2030

- Commits to increasing tree canopy cover to 16.5% by 2030 and 23% by 2050.
- Prioritises native species, urban greening and community involvement (e.g. Tiny Forests, Forest Schools)
- Trees are recognised as vital for carbon sequestration, biodiversity and public health.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2029

- While not directly focussed on biodiversity, it acknowledges the importance of access to green spaces for mental and physical health.
- Supports a joined-up approach to health that includes environmental determinants like clean air and nature access.

Regional Context and Progress

London Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

The London Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a statutory requirement under the Environment Act 2021, led by the Greater London Authority (GLA). It is due to be published in early 2026 by the Greater London Authority (GLA). It aims to create a spatial biodiversity strategy for London, identifying priority habitats and opportunities for nature recovery across the capital. The LNRS will include:

- A statement of strategic biodiversity priorities
- A spatial habitat map showing existing and potential nature recovery areas.
- H&F has actively participated in LNRS development through officer engagement, data sharing (via GiGL) and alignment of local strategies.
- The borough's 33 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)s and green infrastructure projects contribute to the LNRS goal of bigger, better and more connected ecological networks.

The London Plan 2021

The London Plan 2021 sets the regional policy framework guiding how London boroughs must protect, enhance and expand biodiversity and green infrastructure.

Table 2: Key London Plan biodiversity related policies

Policy	Detail
G1 – Green Infrastructure	Green infrastructure should be planned, designed and managed strategically by boroughs and developments.
G3 – Metropolitan Open Land	MOL is afforded same status and protection as Green Belt and extension of designations should be supported.
G4 – Open Space	Development plans should assess needs to inform policy, include appropriate designations and promote creation of new public open space.
G5 – Urban Greening	Urban greening is a fundamental element of all major developments, and they must meet minimum UGF scores.
G6 – Biodiversity and Access to Nature	SINCs should be protected. Development plans should manage impacts on biodiversity and aim to secure BNG. Boroughs must plan strategically to improve access to nature.

G7 – Trees and Woodlands	London's urban forest and woodlands should be protected and maintained, and new planting encouraged where appropriate. Developments should retain trees where possible.
G8 – Food Growing	Boroughs should protect allotments and identify new opportunities and sites for food production.

The London Plan is reviewed every five years. The Mayor is starting to prepare the next London Plan with a draft London Plan consultation expected in the summer of 2026.

London Environment Strategy

The Mayor's Environment Strategy sets out London-wide goals for biodiversity including:

- Protecting priority habitats and species
- Creating new areas of habitat
- Embedding biodiversity into planning and development
- Increasing tree canopy cover and access to nature

National Context

The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 is the UK Government's statutory plan for restoring nature, building on the 25-Year Environment Plan. It sets out 10 environmental goals, including:

- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030 (30x30)
- Creating or restoring 500,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat
- Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Improving access to nature and green spaces

H&F contributes to national biodiversity targets through multiple strategies and actions including:

- Delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Habitat creation including Tiny Forests, ponds, meadows and others
- Development and delivery of strategies including the Tree Strategy and Climate and Ecology Strategy.
- Supporting the adoption of nature-based solutions and expansion of green infrastructure through SuDS, green walls and other interventions
- Community engagement initiatives such as No Mow May, Rewilding Raves and citizen science projects

How Chapter 2 supports the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

- Demonstrates how H&F has integrated the duty into policies, strategies and planning guidance.
- Shows alignment between local actions and regional/national frameworks.
- Evidences the completion of the "first consideration" and outlines how biodiversity is embedded across council functions.

Chapter 3: State of nature

This chapter establishes a baseline for the future reporting cycles. It presents evidence of the borough's natural assets and evaluates progress against national, regional and local biodiversity targets.

Overview of Biodiversity in H&F:

H&F is a densely populated inner London borough with a rich but pressured natural environment. Despite its urban character, the borough supports a variety of habitats and species, contributing to London-wide and national biodiversity goals.

- **Green and blue space:** 368.4 ha of open space (21.5% of borough), including 264.5 ha of public open space.
- **Gardens:** 276.6 ha (16.1% of borough)
- **Trees and canopy cover:**
    - Count of street trees in the borough: 9,353 (GiGL/GLA Public Realm Tree map 2025)
    - Canopy cover area within open spaces: 77.31 hectares (within 336.78 ha of open space = 22.96%)
- **Priority habitats:** The River Thames is the only priority habitat in the borough and runs for 4.5 miles (7.3km) along the boundary of the borough.

Species Data:

Table 3: Data provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, October 2025.

Species	Total no of records for all time	Records since 2023 (dated 2023-25)	% increase since 2023	Number of INNS	Regular monitoring surveys/programmes taking place in the LPA
Bats	388	64	20	N/A	LBG Surveys, BCT Surveys, RSPB Wormwood Scrubs
Reptiles	359	94	35	N/A	HCT survey, ARC Trust, RSPB Wormwood Scrubs
Swift	349	32	10	N/A	LNHS Bird survey and RSPB Wormwood Scrubs
House Sparrow	400	20	5	N/A	
Stag Beetle	308	21	7	N/A	PTES Great Stag Beetle Hunt, LWT Survey
Mistletoe	4	0	0	N/A	LNHS plant survey
Peregrine	214	5	2	N/A	LNHS Bird survey and RSPB Wormwood Scrubs
Black Redstart	19	0	0	N/A	
Meadow Pipit	244	28	13	N/A	
Brown Hairstreak	6	1	20	N/A	Butterfly Conservation Survey
London Priority Species	3,772	457	14	N/A	Those listed above, additionally, Bird Brain UK Breeding Bird Survey,

					PTES big Hedgehog Map, ZSL Hogwatch
All Records	44,123	11,507	35	1,057	Those listed above, additionally, Ancient Tree Inventory, LNHS Moth survey

It should be noted that species recording effort varies across sites and species throughout the borough which can account for variety in numbers and types of records. It is also possible that there might be monitoring surveys and/or programmes taking place in the LPA where records aren't shared with GiGL and/or it might not be obvious that the records were submitted as part of a regular survey.

Designated Sites:

H&F contains:

- **33 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)** covering 260.9 ha (15.2% of borough)
- **Local Nature Reserves (LNRs):** 2 LNRs both located in Wormwood Scrubs. The Meadow area in Wormwood Scrubs was designated as the second LNR in the area in April 2025.
- **Public Open Space (POS):** GiGL reports 43 POS (264.5ha or 15.4% of the borough)
- **National Indicator SDL160**: 63% of local sites were reported as being in positive conservation management in 2024. This compares to 39% in England.

Green Infrastructure:

- **97 open spaces** across the borough
- **Community gardening plots and allotments:** 495 allotments over 2 sites. There are various community gardening projects throughout the borough including those managed by HCGA (Phoenix Farm, Ravenscourt Park, Frank Banfield and more), Charing Cross Hospital Pop-Up Garden, Sand End Community Centre, West Kensington Estate and more.
- **Private gardens**: 276.6 ha

Nature based solutions – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- The H&F Healthy Streets team have a strategic programme in place to deliver greening along the highway, including the provision of SuDS.
- Currently 46,102 m^2 of highway land has been designated as green space.

Access to Nature and Open Space:

- **Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature:** 429.1 ha (25% of borough)
    - 13% of the population of H&F is estimated to be living within an area of deficiency in access to nature.
    - 14 local grade SINCs could help alleviate AoD if management is improved and they are upgraded to metropolitan grade.

- **Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards target of 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 residents**: H&F's provision falls short of this benchmark at around 26.4 ha of LNR for approximately 186,000 residents (~7,000 residents per ha of LNR)
- **Areas of Deficiency in Access to Public Open Space (POS):** split by grade of site and in line with H&F open spaces audit completed in 2025 unless otherwise stated.
    - Local, small and pocket parks: 35% (according to GiGL data)
    - District parks: 41%
    - Metropolitan parks: 8%
    - Regional parks: 5%
- **Private gardens that are unpaved:**
    - Back gardens – 41% (GiGL and GLA data (2024))
    - Front and back garden analysis completed by Gentian in 2024: 39% vegetated, 17% canopy cover and 43% paved.
- **Tree Equity Score:** 89 (composite score for H&F) Tree Equity Score is a nationwide, neighbourhood-level score ranging from 0 to 100 that highlights inequitable access to trees. The score is calculated based on tree canopy cover, climate, health and socioeconomic data. The lower the score the greater priority for tree planting.
    - N.B. this does not consider other habitat types.

Identifying the cause of changes in AoD (areas of deficiency). Changes could be down to updates in the highway network, site boundaries or access points. POS site grades and AoD thresholds are taken from the London Plan and modelled by GiGL.

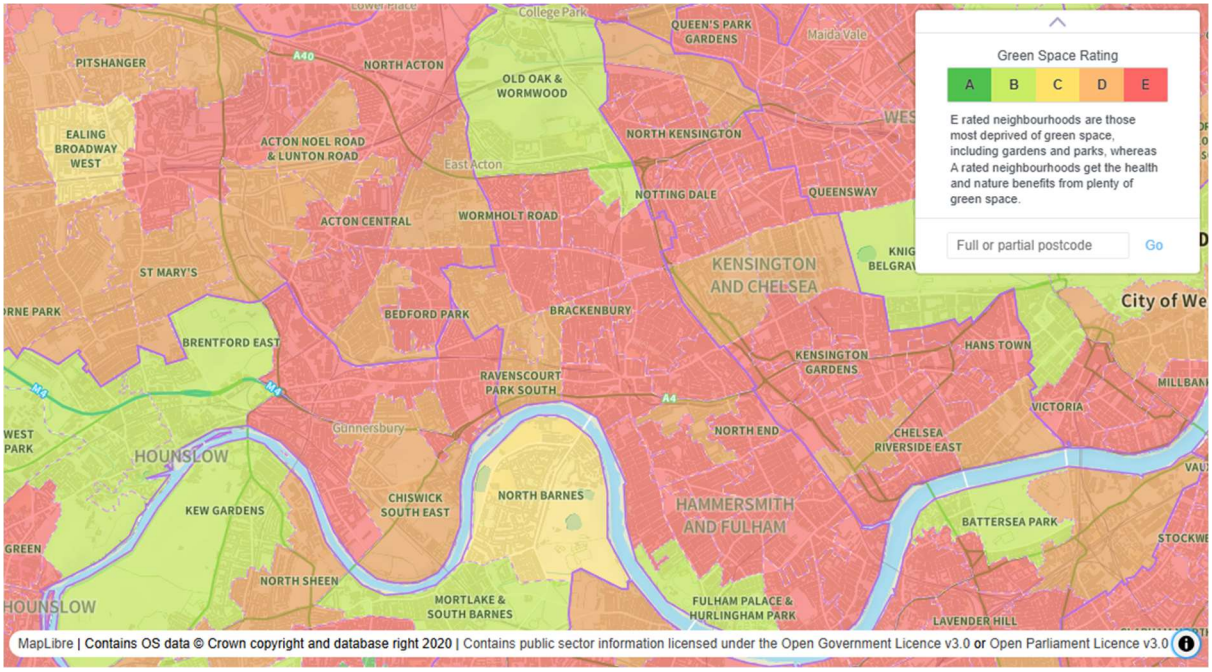


Fig 3: Map displaying the "Green Space Gap" sourced from Friends of the Earth UK

Friends of the Earth reported on the "Green Space Gap" in England using official data to map the availability of green space for people living in neighbourhoods across England (Access to green space in England | Friends of the Earth). The data reveals a disparity in access to green space and a strong correlation between green space deprivation and ethnicity and income.

The map above shows that 20 of the 25 neighbourhoods in H&F are rated E, 3 are rated D and 2 are rated B. E rated neighbourhoods are the areas most deprived of green space. From a national perspective it is clear that there is a strong correlation between deprivation in access to green space and ethnic minorities. The creation of new green space is particularly challenging in H&F and other urban boroughs, but it is something that needs to be prioritised.

Habitats

UKHab is a standard UK habitat classification system the uses consistent, hierarchical codes for mapping and assessing terrestrial and freshwater habitats. It is used in surveys, planning and BNG providing comparable habitat data aligned with UK and EU frameworks.

Tiny Forests, ponds and meadow sites throughout the borough (note there are additional areas of woodland, long grass, wildflower sites and blue spaces that aren't marked on this map).

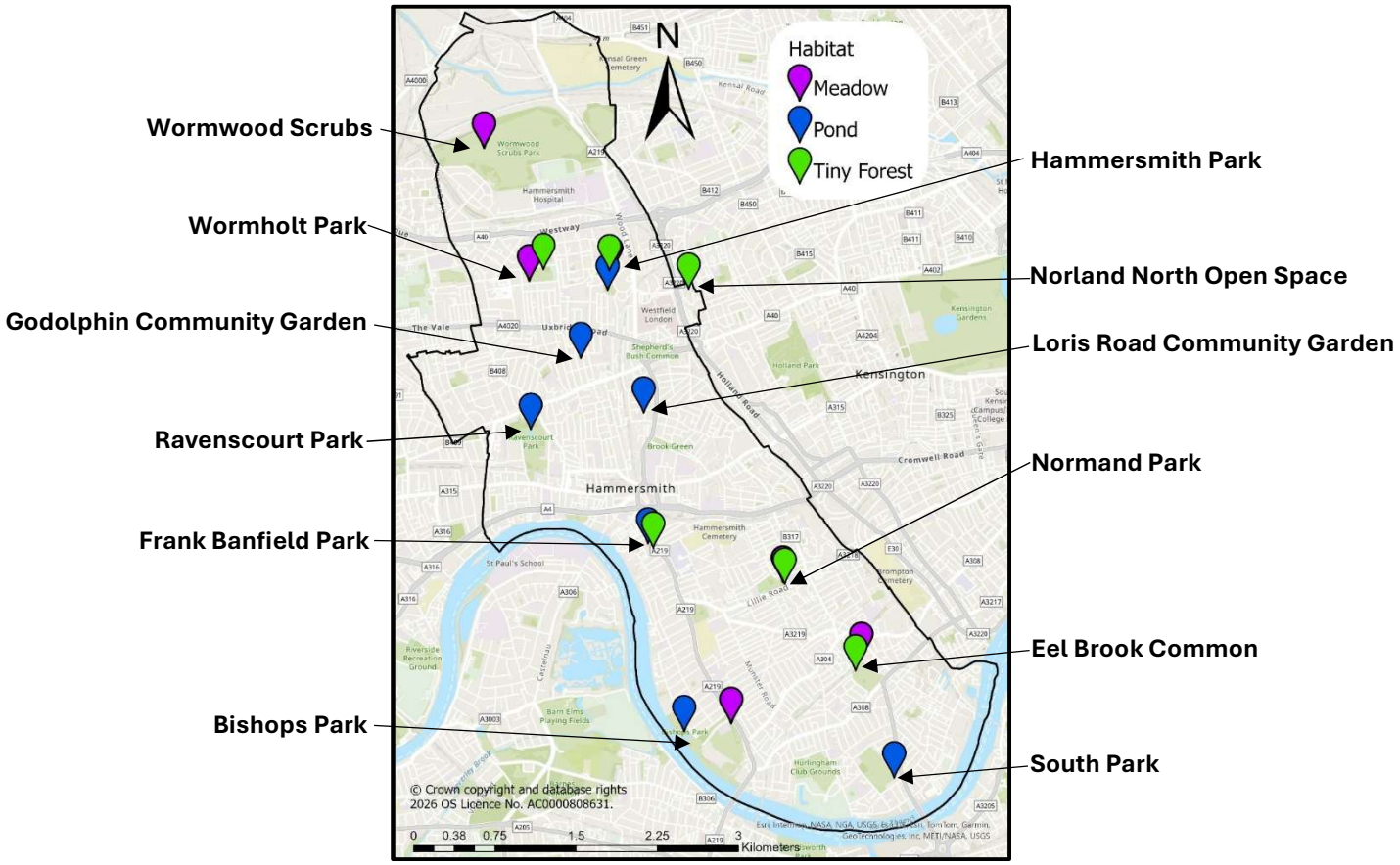


Fig 4: Map showing locations of Tiny Forests, meadows and ponds throughout the borough.

Table 4: UK Hab codes related to habitats mentioned in this section

UK Hab Code	Description	H&F habitat
g3c	Other neutral grassland	Meadow sites
g1	Modified grassland	Long grass areas
w1	Broadleaved woodland	Broadleaved woodland
r1	Standing open water & canals	Ponds and canal
r2	Rivers and streams	River Thames
h3	Dense scrub	Scrub

Trees

- Tiny Forests – 600 whips per Tiny Forest
    1. Hammersmith Park (2021)
    2. Normand Park (2022)
    3. Eel Brook Common (2022)
    4. Frank Banfield Park (2024)
    5. Wormholt Park (2024)
    6. Norland North Open Space (2025)
- Free Tree giveaways: tree whips given to residents to plant in their own gardens or community spaces, all native species. 1273 given away in total.
    - 2021/22 – 110 trees
    - 2022/23 – 360 trees
    - 2023/24 – 323 trees
    - 2024/25 – 480 trees
- Hedgerow planting has recently taken place in Ravenscourt Park, Furnivall Gardens, Frank Banfield Park and many more locations throughout the borough.
- Other tree planting
    - Wormwood Scrubs: a total of 2100 whips were planted in 2023/24.
    - All Other Parks: a total of 601 trees (525 whips + 76 standard trees) were planted in 2023/24 and 1025 trees (920 whips + 105 standard trees) were planted in 2024/25. These totals don't include Tiny Forest planting.
    - Street Trees: 551 standard trees were planted in the 2023/24 (313) and 2024/25 (238) planting seasons.
    - Housing land: 17 standard trees were planted in 2024/25.

Meadows

- No Mow May
    - Campaign by charity Plantlife to allow amenity grassland areas to grow long during May each year to allow wildflowers to grow and support invertebrates at the start of summer.
    - First started in H&F in 2021 and has happened across parks and housing estates every year since then.
- There are 4 small native meadow areas that have been seeded with native wildflowers and managed traditionally through scything since 2024. There are ambitions to increase the number of meadow sites where possible. The sites are in the following parks:
    1. Eel Brook Common
    2. Wormholt Park
    3. Normand Park
    4. Hammersmith Park
- Wormwood Scrubs
    - The central meadow area of Wormwood Scrubs is now designated as a Local Nature Reserve (since 2025)
    - The main section is primarily managed by scything with volunteers.
    - The northern stretch of meadow has used shire horses to prepare and cut the meadow grass in 2025.
- Long Grass Areas
    - There are designated 'Long grass areas' throughout the borough which are left to grow long to support wildlife and provide year-round habitat.

Blue Spaces

H&F is home to a section of the River Thames, the Grand Union Canal and several ponds in between. Ponds and waterways provide breeding grounds for amphibians, feeding areas for birds and refuge for pollinators. Many of the ponds are in community gardens and are championed by members of the Friends Groups and local community.

Some of the key blue spaces in H&F include:

- River Thames
- Grand Union Canal
- Ravenscourt Park Ponds
- South Park Pond
- Bishops Park Pond
- Hammersmith Park Japanese Garden
- Frank Banfield Community Garden Pond
- Godolphin Community Garden Pond
- Loris Road Community Garden Pond

Climate Change and Biodiversity

The effects of climate change are already apparent in H&F. The borough has experienced record-breaking heatwaves, severe flooding and droughts which have stressed infrastructure and public health systems in addition to threatening already vulnerable ecosystems. Projections indicate these events will continue to become more frequent and intense.

By the 2050s it is predicted for London that there will be:

- Around 7,000 heat-related deaths per year
- 34% increase in short, intense rainfall events
- 18% reduction in summer rainfall

Green infrastructure in the borough contributes to climate resilience through urban cooling, flood mitigation and carbon sequestration. The Climate and Ecology Strategy integrates nature-based solutions including expansion of green infrastructure, protection and enhancement of existing habitats and community-led greening initiatives.

How Chapter 3 supports the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

- Provides the ecological baseline needed to measure future progress against the duty.
- Demonstrates how the council gathers, uses and maintains biodiversity evidence in line with EBD expectations.
- Identifies priority habitats, species, pressures and gaps that inform objectives and actions for the next reporting cycle.

Fig 5: Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) in the Thames at Hammersmith (credit: Nathalie Mahieu)

Chapter 4: Integrated Action

This chapter sets out the actions the council and partners are taking to protect and enhance nature across H&F. These include designating conservation areas, creating new habitats and community-led initiatives as well as management practices and strategic work.

Management and Strategic Work

- GiGL SLA: H&F Council has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) providing access to ecological data, mapping and support for SINC reviews and habitat monitoring.
    - 8 Years of SLAs between GiGL and H&F
    - Continuous SLAs since 2020/2021
- Strategic Reviews: The Biodiversity Commission (2017) and Parks Commission (2021) both recommended enhancing biodiversity and improving SINC management through community involvement and planning policy alignment.
- H&F Council have a formal partnership with *id*verde to manage and enhance the borough's parks, open spaces and housing estates.
    - *idverde* was awarded the contract in February 2022 for five years with a total value exceeding £17 million.
    - Objectives of the contract include maintaining high-quality green spaces to Green Flag standard, supporting biodiversity enhancement, climate resilience and community engagement.
    - Volunteers from the community and corporate groups can engage in practical sessions led by *id*verde employees at sites throughout the borough.
    - 12,472 volunteer hours were logged between 27 Feb 2024 and 30 Oct 2025 (11,255 hours corporate volunteering and remainder were community groups).
- H&F provides free planning advice for residents considering green roofs via the Duty Planning Service. H&F planning policies encourage the inclusion of green roofs wherever possible, and green roofs generally do not require planning permission.
- H&F has a planning ecologist employed full time to assess planning applications and ensure they are meeting legislative requirements around biodiversity. This includes protected species and habitats, urban greening factor (UGF) and biodiversity net gain (BNG).

Site Designations

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs):

- 33 SINCs
- Total area of 260.9 ha covering 15.2% of the borough.
- All SINC habitat descriptions follow the UKHab classification system.
- Common SINC habitats in H&F include:
    - Other neutral grassland (UKHab category: g3c)
    - Dense scrub (UKHab category: h3)
    - Broadleaved and mixed woodland (UKHab category: w1)
    - Standing open water and canals (UKHab category: r1)

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

- Wormwood Scrubs is the largest open space and includes Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and SINC designations. A strategic Alternative Ecological Mitigation (AEM) Masterplan has been developed proposing habitat creation, ecological enhancements and long-term management as mitigation for HS2 station being built at Old Oak Common.

Green Flag Parks:

- The Green Flag Award is a non-profit international accreditation programme that recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces.
- Parks are judged on multiple criteria including "Environmental Management" and "Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage".
- A total of 25 parks and green spaces in H&F have been awarded Green Flag awards (out of a total of 55 parks and open green spaces).

Engagement & Community Led Action

Friends of Parks Groups & Nature Champions

H&F has a vibrant network of "Friends of Parks" groups, many of which are actively involved in habitat management, litter picking, planting and community engagement. Active groups include:

- Wormwood Scrubs
- Fulham Cemetery
- Bishops Park
- Ravenscourt Park
- Margravine Cemetery
- South Park
- Brook Green
- Furnivall Gardens
- Shepherds Bush Green
- Hammersmith Park
- Eel Brook Common
- Frank Banfield Park
- Wendell Park

In addition to the 'official' Friends groups, a network of Nature Champions was set up with support from the H&F Climate Champions programme. The council ran the Climate Champions programme in collaboration with Groundwork London, from January to March 2025

to develop the skills, confidence and capacity of existing local community leaders to be able to lead climate and nature action projects. The programme was designed based on the interests of the community leaders involved, including workshops, networking and training, with a strong focus on biodiversity and greening, due to the requests of the cohort.

During the spring and summer of 2025 an independent community nature consultant was hired by the council to provide additional advice and support to local groups and individuals, including Friends Groups, residents' associations and Nature Champions. Meetings at local sites would result in recommendations of actions that could be taken with approval from the land managers (housing or parks officers if on council land). Citizen science survey techniques were shared so that sites can be monitored over time. These include a simplified rapid grassland assessment, pollinator counts and butterfly monitoring.

Allotments

The council manages two public allotment sites that support local food growing, community wellbeing and biodiversity. Both sites are on council-owned land and managed by community associations. Allotments contribute to the borough's biodiversity and climate goals by supporting pollinators, soil health and sustainable food systems.

1. Fulham Palace Meadows Allotments:
    a. 409 plots – typical waiting list time is 5-7 years.
    b. Operated by the Fulham Palace Meadows Allotments Association (FPMAA) on behalf of the council.
2. Emlyn Gardens Estate Allotments
    a. 86 plots – typical waiting list time is up to 2 years.
    b. Run by the Emlyn Leisure Gardens Association

Climate Microgrants

From 2023 to 2025 H&F have made available Climate Microgrants, through which residents and organisations can apply for small grants (up to £500) to support their climate action. Out of forty funded projects, twenty-six have been related to ecological sustainability and enhancement, with example projects including neighbourhood tree pit planting, community vegetable gardens, and the creation of a biodiverse sensory garden within a sheltered housing project.

Climate Connects:

The Climate Connects newsletter is H&F's regular e-newsletter showcasing actions to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies. The newsletter shares council initiatives, community projects and opportunities for residents to get involved.

Highlights of biodiversity related stories include:

- Campaigns to rewild areas of the borough including "No Mow May" and "Rewilding Raves".
- Calls for volunteers to help plant trees, join biodiversity walks and participate in local greening projects.
- Celebrating installation of Rain Gardens and SuDS on highways land

This newsletter reaches over 1000 residents each month.

Climate Alliance:

The H&F Climate Alliance is a network facilitated by H&F Council to bring together businesses and community organisations to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies collectively.

- Purpose: To create a borough-wide partnership to share knowledge, resources and best practice, and to provide a platform for co-designing and delivering local climate and nature projects
- The alliance is open to business and community groups and members receive access to training and workshops, networking opportunities and updates on funding and volunteering.

Table 5: Local organisations that support nature and biodiversity in H&F

Name	Summary
Hammersmith Community Gardens Association HCGA	HCGA is a local environmental charity set up in 1984. They operate greening and growing projects in the London boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster.
Hammersmith BID	Hammersmith BID is an independent, not-for-profit, business led company setup with the aim of improving Hammersmith town centre as a place to work, live and visit.
Fulham Broadway BID	Fulham Broadway BID provides services for local businesses to create a better business environment and to help the area prosper.
Fulham Palace	Historic house and botanic garden
Urbanwise.London	Urbanwise.London exists to develop the hearts and minds of young people and adults, inspiring them to become active citizens who can make positive changes in their local community and wider environment.
Groundwork London	Groundwork provides a community landscape service with a broad range of activities including environmental volunteering, workshops and events. Funded by H&F, it works to improve communal areas on estates and in public open spaces.
Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust	The trust seeks to encourage sporting and recreational use of Wormwood Scrubs through the provision and maintenance of an environment that is conducive to its objective.

How Chapter 4 supports the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

- Shows how the council is acting across services to conserve and enhance biodiversity in line with the EBD.
- Demonstrates partnership working, community involvement and cross departmental delivery.
- Evidences practical on-the-ground actions responding directly to local ecological needs identified in Chapter 3

Chapter 5: Biodiversity Net Gain & Urban Greening Factor

This chapter reports on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Urban Greening Factor (UGF) obligations. It includes data on progress to date and sets out plans for continued compliance.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a statutory requirement in England under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). This policy mandates that any eligible development must deliver a minimum 10% measurable improvement for nature compared to the pre-development state. To achieve this, developers must follow the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy and aim to create or enhance habitats on-site, and where this is not possible then deliver gains off-site or through the purchase of national biodiversity credits as a last resort. The aim of this policy is to leave the natural environment in a measurably better condition, addressing the loss of habitats and supporting the recovery of nature.

Hammersmith and Fulham's obligations

The primary BNG responsibility of a Local Planning Authority (LPA) is to ensure that all eligible developments within their boundary meets the legal requirements of BNG. This includes reviewing metric tool calculations, ensuring that 10% is met and the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy is appropriately followed, monitor and enforce any gains under planning obligations and report relevant findings as part of the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty. All pre- and post- development habitats are assessed using the statutory biodiversity metric which is underpinned by the UKHab classification system.

Summary of BNG in H&F

H&F currently requires 10% BNG for all eligible developments. Local Planning Authorities can increase this as required and based on available data. Only 2% of planning applications received have needed to meet BNG, likely a result of H&F being a highly developed inner-city borough, with 'householder' and 'de minimis' being the most common exemptions. For similar reasons, H&F does not anticipate creating any biodiversity gain sites, though remains open to the idea if the opportunity arises. The majority of BNG applications meet their requirements through habitat creation onsite, though a minority has not and will need to follow the steps of the biodiversity gain hierarchy.

Validation, Planning and Development Management staff have received BNG training, and one ecologist is employed within the council who provides advice on planning applications. External software has been procured to assist the assessment and recording of BNG applications. Only one Gain Plan has been approved to date, and 6 gain plan conditions have been set.

BNG Policy Framework and SPDs

H&F has introduced local planning guidance to facilitate the implementation of BNG.

Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Adopted October 2023

This SPD provides guidance on the BNG requirement in H&F, and details:

- A minimum of 10% must be achieved by all relevant developments as aligned with the Environment Act 2021,
- BNG must be secured for 30 years,
- Developers must follow the biodiversity gain hierarchy: avoid, mitigate, compensate.
- Developers should maximise BNG, as opposed to just meeting the minimum 10%, and
- Outlines additional actions that can be taken to benefit biodiversity, such as encouraging native species planting and avoiding damage to protected areas.

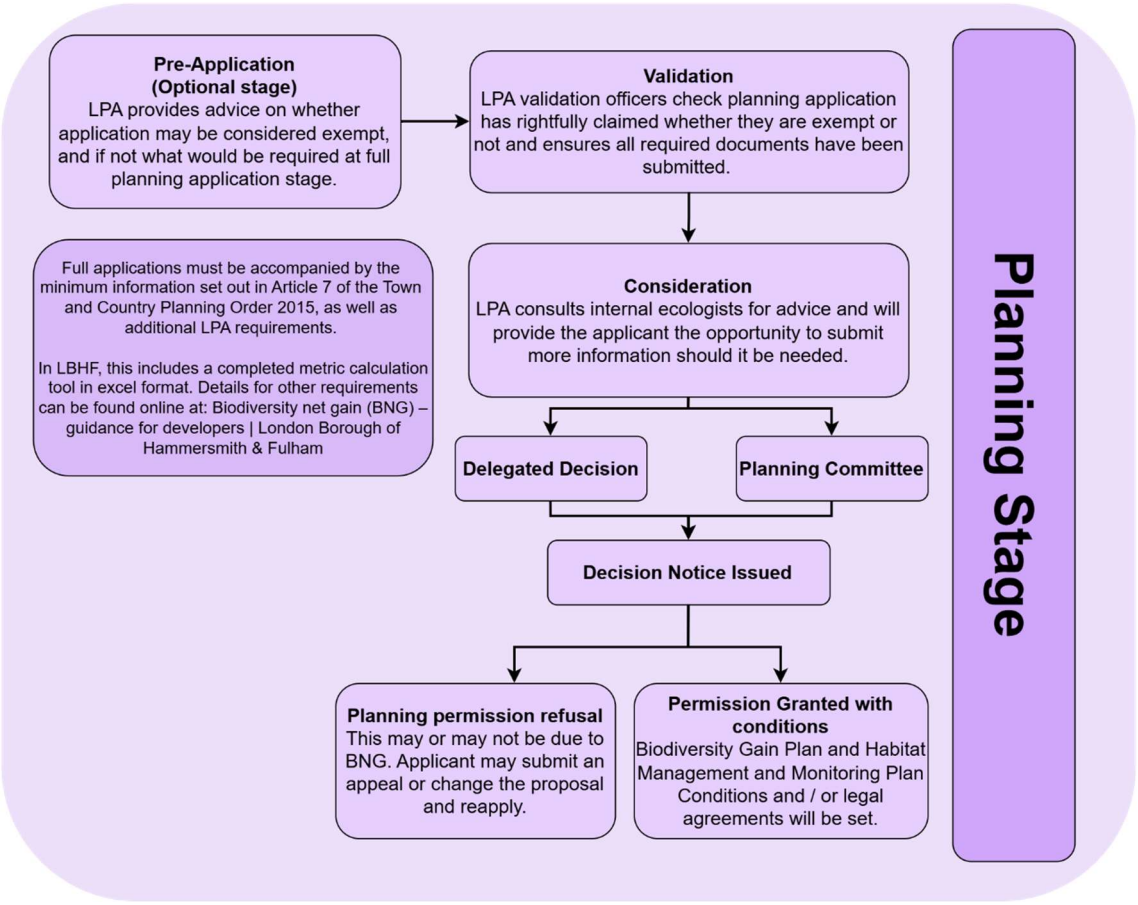
Planning Guidance SPD – Adopted February 2018

- This SPD offers broader planning guidance, including ecological considerations, to support Local Plan policies.

Local Plan – in progress

- At time of writing, H&F's next local has completed regulation 18.
- This next edition of H&F's local plan sees Biodiversity Net Gain included a new 'Biodiversity' policy, providing detailed guidance on BNG requirements, as aligned with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

Planning Processes for BNG



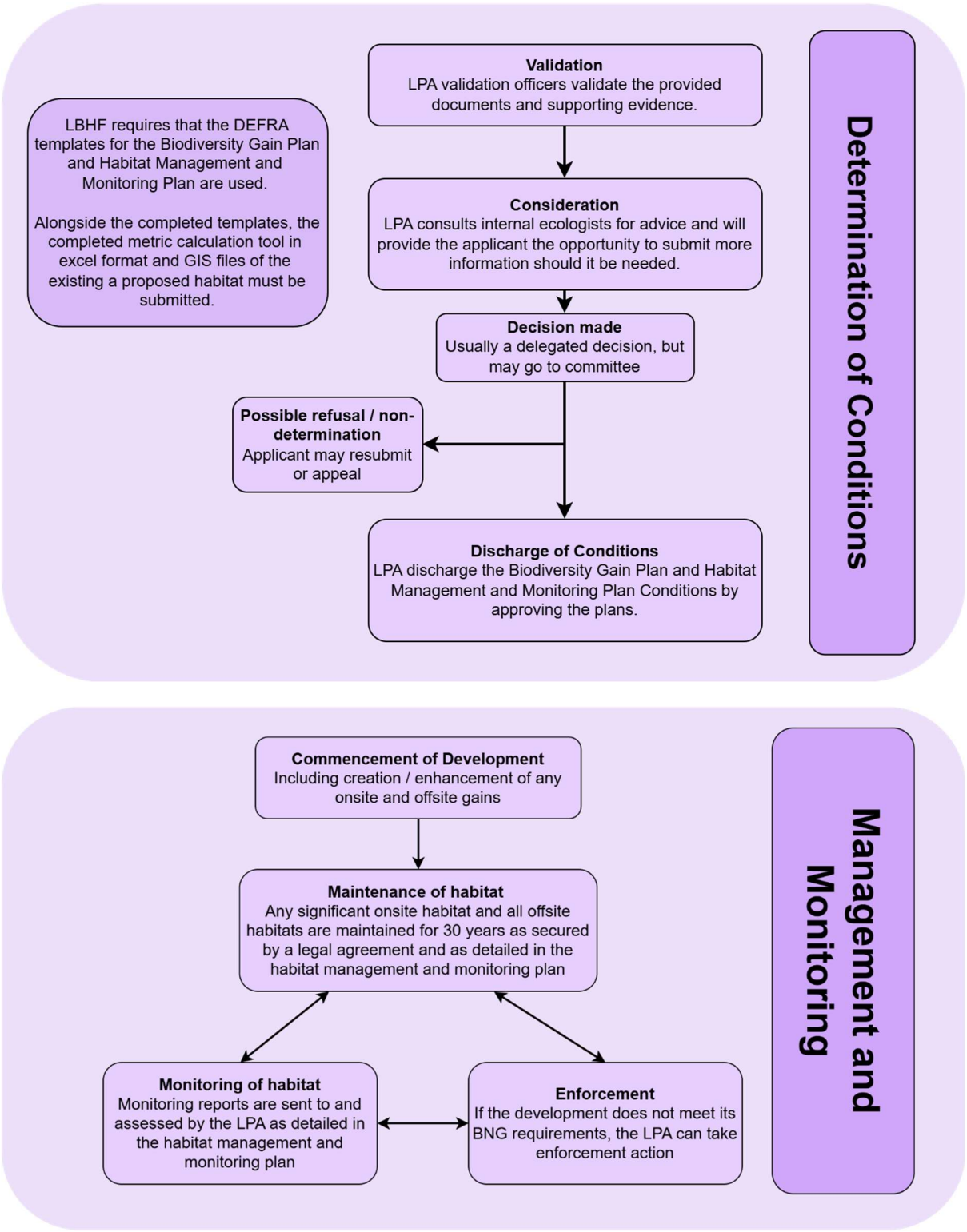


Fig 6: Simplified planning process for Biodiversity Net Gain.

Table 6: Summary of BNG data in H&F

Criteria	Measure
Number of full and outline applications that are required to meet BNG. This does not include pre-application or condition determinations, or any applications received after the 5th of November 2025.	27
Percentage of full and outline applications received that are required to meet BNG. This includes all applications received between February the 14th, 2024 and November the 5th, 2025. This excludes pre-applications and condition determinations.	2%
Average, Median, Highest and Lowest Biodiversity Net Gain Achieved (Habitat) at full planning application stage. Please note that some have submitted a score below 10%, as they intend to achieve 10% using other means such as habitat bank credits	Average: 118.08% Median: 34.34% Highest: 938.18% Lowest: -33.54%
Status of full and outline applications that are required to meet BNG. This does not include any applications received after the 5th of November 2025.	Approved: 6 Refused: 0 Pending decision: 7 Pending consideration:13
Number of biodiversity gain plans approved (and pending consideration)	1 (2)
Of the biodiversity gain plan approved:	
How was BNG met	Entirely onsite
How many included statutory credits	0
Average % uplift in biodiversity	Habitat: 11.24% Hedgerow: 14.55% Watercourse: N/A
Number affecting irreplaceable habitats	0
Number of legal agreements / conditions secured. This does not include any applications received after the 5th of November 2025.	5 Biodiversity Gain Plans 1 Overall Biodiversity Gain Plan 1 Phase Biodiversity Gain Plans 5 Habitat Monitoring and Management Plans
Officer capacity required to meet obligations	1 full time ecologist acts as internal consultee. Validation and planning staff have attended basic BNG training

The Next Five Years

H&F plan to continue to meet its BNG obligations by ensuring that all developments within its administrative boundary meet the minimum requirements set out in the Environment Act or the next edition of the Local Plan (whichever is higher). Biodiversity Gain Plans and, where appropriate, habitat management and monitoring plans will be legally secured. Any significant onsite gains and all offsite gains will be managed and monitored as agreed in habitat management and monitoring plans.

Urban Greening Factor

Urban Greening is a requirement in London under Policy G5 in the 2021 London Plan. This policy introduces a way to quantify Urban Greening through a metric called the Urban Greening Factor (UGF). UGF is a tool that evaluates the quality and quantity of green spaces proposed in new urban developments. It assigns a score to different greening elements (such as green roofs, trees and gardens) based on their quality and function and then multiplies this by the area they occupy, calculating a total score as a ratio against the total site area. The aim is to ensure that all major developments incorporate substantial urban greening to meet policy targets and enhance a city's overall green infrastructure.

Summary of UGF in H&F

UGF is consistently assessed and is proving to contribute to urban greening, with qualitative assessments showing that green roofs and tree planting are popular options to increase the score. H&F may approve a lower UGF score where there is clear evidence that the applicant has made every effort to increase UGF, but on the condition that a financial contribution to greening is secured.

It is noted that UGF appears to be complementing BNG well, both by providing quantifiable greening where BNG is not applicable due to exemptions and where sites have very low baseline habitat units.

UGF Policy Framework and SPDs

Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Adopted October 2023

This SPD provides guidance on the UGF requirement in H&F, and details:

- The requirement for all major developments to achieve 0.4 in residential developments, and 0.3 in commercial developments.
- encourages developers to incorporate green roofs, rain gardens, tree planting and other greening measures.
- Encourages developers to exceed the minimum requirements for UGF.
- Provides some basic advice on what measures would help developers achieve UGF.

Local Plan – In Progress

- At time of writing, H&F's next local has completed regulation 18.
- This next edition of H&F's local plan sees Biodiversity Net Gain included and a revised 'Urban Greening' policy, providing a detailed guidance of UGF's requirements.

- If approved, this policy increases the requirements for commercial buildings to match residential ones with a UGF score of 0.4.
- The policy also aims to protect existing trees, garden space and other habitats which contribute to biodiversity.

UGF Implementation Processes

- Developers are expected to calculate UGF scores using the London Plan UGF calculator and demonstrate how their proposals meet or exceed the borough's expectations.
- The council promotes nature-based solutions such as:
  - Green roofs and walls
  - Rain gardens and SuDS
  - Tree planting and biodiverse verges
- Planning officers assess UGF contributions during application review, ensuring alignment with borough wide climate and ecology goals.
- In the rare situation where the developer is unable to meet UGF, though has clearly made every effort to do so, the council may accept the proposals but require a financial contribution to 'achieve UGF offsite', for example by planting street trees.

Table 7: Summary of research into UGF in H&F using data between 2020 and Jan 2025 (n.b. UGF became a mandatory requirement in March 2021)

Criteria	Measure
Number of major applications that were required to meet UGF	21
Number of major applications that submitted UGF documentation	12
Number of major applications that submitted UGF documentation and met the required levels	7
Average UGF score including applications that did not meet required level	0.35
Average UGF score excluding applications that did not meet required level	0.43
Average UGF score for residential applications (0.4 target score)	0.38
Average UGF score for commercial applications (0.3 target score)	0.37
Average UGF score for mixed use applications (0.3 target score)	0.38

How Chapter 5 supports the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

- Demonstrates how planning tools secure measurable biodiversity improvements, fulfilling statutory EBD expectations for development control.
- Evidence compliance monitoring, officer capacity and governance needed to uphold BNG and UGF requirements
- Shows how planning policy contributes to long-term biodiversity enhancement and aligns with national legislation

Chapter 6: Investment in Nature

This chapter details funding for nature-related activities and outlines governance structures supporting biodiversity in the borough.

How are we delivering projects to support nature & biodiversity?

H&F Green Investment Fund

- The fund is a £5 million community municipal investment which aims to; finance green infrastructure and climate adaptation projects; engage residents and businesses in local climate actions and offer a low-risk, fixed return investment opportunity.
- As of Dec 2025, £3.25 million has been raised from over 1,100 investors and Tranche 5 was open to new investors with a target of £1 million and will close 2 March 2026.
- The fund supports a range of green projects including biodiversity and nature-based solutions. These include the community garden at Frank Banfield Park, the nature area in Ravenscourt Park, King Street SuDS and meadow areas throughout the borough.

Fig 7: Green Investment funded projects from L-R; Scything at Eel Brook Common Meadow; King Street Rain Gardens; Downpipe Planters installed at Flora Gardens Primary School

Wormwood Scrubs

H&F Council and the Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust have worked with partners and the local community to complete an Ecological Masterplan which will implement a range of ecological improvements to Wormwood Scrubs. HS2 has contributed £3.8 million to support these works, which are scheduled to begin in 2026 and will include:

- Woodland management
- Tree planting to support connectivity for wildlife throughout the site.
- Scrub management
- Wildflower and grassland management
- Wetland habitat and water management using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- Hedgerows.
- Signage improvements.

Fig 8: Shire horses on Wormwood Scrubs (credit: Kate McVay)

Fig 9: Wildlife on Wormwood Scrubs from L-R; Little owl (*Athene noctua*), slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*), two-banded wasp hoverfly (*Chrysotoxum bicinctum*) (credit: Kate McVay)

The Nourish Project

- The Nourish Project, delivered with Groundwork London in the White City and Edward Woods estates, enhances local green spaces to boost biodiversity, improve air quality and support greener living.
- Through food-growing, education and resident volunteering, the initiative strengthens community connection to nature.
- The project is backed by £3.4 million in combined funding from H&F Council and the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund.

Planning-related mechanisms for funding

1. Section 106 (s106) Agreements
    a. Purpose: Legally binding agreements between the council and developers to mitigate the impacts of new developments.
    b. Used to secure on-site biodiversity enhancements and off-site habitat creation and/or provision of green infrastructure.
    c. Over £310 million has been secured through S106 since 2014 – not all funds are invested in environmental projects.
2. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
    a. Purpose: A charge on new developments based on floor area to fund borough-wide infrastructure.
    b. Supports improvements in parks and open spaces, climate adaptation projects and habitat creation.
3. Social Value Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs)
    a. TOMs are applied to contracts over £100,000 ensuring that suppliers deliver additional value to complement the core works including improving and maintaining open spaces and habitats in the borough.

H&F Committees

- Climate and Ecology Policy & Accountability Committee (PAC) and Community Safety, Environment and Residents Services PAC
    - Scrutiny committees that review environmental policy
- Cabinet

- Makes key decisions on funding and strategy adoption (e.g. Tree Strategy, Climate SPD)

H&F officers and teams directly involved in delivering for nature in the borough:

1. Ecology officers: The council employs an Ecology & Adaptation Lead and an Ecology Officer who are responsible for integrating ecological priorities into planning, development and policy.
    a. These roles actively participate in the London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum (LBBF) which allows council ecologists throughout London to share information and good practice.
2. Parks team: Parks managers and project officers manage and improve more than 50 parks and green spaces throughout the borough and are governed by the Parks Forum and a dedicated project manager to implement the Wormwood Scrubs Ecological Masterplan.
3. Tree officers: There are six arboriculture officers who deliver the tree strategy through council land on streets, in parks and on housing sites.
4. Healthy Streets: Flood risk officers in the H&F Healthy Streets team are responsible for delivering interventions to tackle flooding in the borough which includes nature-based solutions including green SuDS projects.
5. Regeneration and development officers: Colleagues throughout the council work to integrate nature into major development and regeneration schemes through the delivery of BNG and UGF.

External Recognition and Performance

H&F is recognised as a national leader in climate action. The borough has achieved CDPs top "A" rating for two consecutive years which reflect investment in high-quality green spaces. This includes 25 Green Flag parks and six Tiny Forests that enhance habitats, improve air quality, and support urban cooling. In the Climate Emergency UK Scorecards, H&F achieved 69% overall, with a 46% biodiversity score, highlighting active progress in ecological management, land-use planning and green infrastructure delivery.

Fig 10: Tree planting at Frank Banfield Tiny Forest

Enabling Action

Council-Led Grant Funding Supporting Biodiversity

1. Climate Action Microgrants
    a. Amount: up to £250 (or up to £500 in exceptional circumstances)
    b. Purpose: Supports small-scale community projects that promote biodiversity, environmental education, repair and reuse, and climate adaptation.
    c. Eligibility: Open to individuals and community groups in H&F
    d. Since 2022 a total of 25 projects funded by Climate Action Microgrants have been related to ecology. This equates to over £10,100 invested in community-led greening and/or biodiversity related project.
    e. Status: Currently on hold and under review

2. Small Grants Programme
    a. Amount: £100 to £10,000
    b. Purpose: Funds voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver services or activities, including biodiversity-related events, planting schemes, and nature-based education.
    c. Rolling programme: Applications accepted year-round with decisions typically within 8 weeks.

3. Community Environmental Rejuvenation Programme (CERP)
    a. Amount: Up to £75,000 per project
    b. Purpose: Funds environmental improvements on council housing estates including:
        i. Landscaping and planting
        ii. Green roofs and SuDS
        iii. Biodiversity and wildlife features
        iv. Food growing projects.
    c. Eligibility: Council housing residents via TRAs or informal resident groups

4. Third Sector Investment Fund (3SIF)
    a. Amount depends on which tier of funding is applied for:
        i. Tier 1: < £10,000
        ii. Tier 2: £10,000-£34,999
        iii. Tier 3: £35,000+
    b. Purpose: Support local voluntary organisations to deliver social, environmental and community outcomes
    c. Environmental Organisations supported through 3SIF:
        i. HCGA – Community gardening & education
        ii. Urbanwise.London – Outdoor learning & nature walks
        iii. Groundwork London – Estate greening & SuDS

H&F Partnerships:

- H&F Food Partnership
    - Food for All partnership was established in 2021, and a dedicated Food Partnership Coordinator was appointed in December 2023, supported by the council and the Mayor of London.
- Better Air Better Health
    - A partnership between H&F Council, Imperial College London, and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. It brings together expertise and knowledge from the council, academics, and healthcare professionals, with a goal of utilising each other's strengths to improve air quality across H&F.
- H&F Climate Alliance
    - A network of 60+ local organisations and businesses scaling up the impact of sustainable practices by facilitating the sharing of expertise and collaborative working.

Governance

These governance structures are in place to guide how decisions are made and monitored.

- Climate Implications
    - Requires all key decision reports to include an assessment of impacts of proposed projects on climate and ecology. It is supported by a dedicated toolkit to assist officers in determining these impacts.
- Biodiversity Commission
    - Resident-led advisory body established to examine ways of maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of the borough and making more space for nature.
- H&F Parks Forum
    - Resident-led advisory group established to support the improvement and inclusive management of the borough's parks and green spaces – created in response to recommendations from the 2020 Independent Parks Commission.

How Chapter 6 supports the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

- Shows how the council allocates resources to deliver biodiversity objectives, meeting expectations for resourcing and accountability.
- Demonstrates clear governance structures and partnerships that underpin effective implementation of the duty.
- Provides transparency on funding mechanisms supporting biodiversity, a key component of robust EBD reporting.

Chapter 7: Looking ahead to the future

This chapter sets out H&F's approach to fulfilling the biodiversity duty until 2030. It identifies next steps, monitoring arrangements and challenges, including pre-existing and newly approved commitments.

H&F aims to be the greenest borough, with a vision of:

- A net zero carbon borough by 2030
- Rich ecosystems that support people and nature
- A thriving green economy
- Healthier, greener neighbourhoods for all

Local and Regional Challenges & Strategies

- Urban density and limited space for habitat creation
- Competing land use pressures (e.g. housing, infrastructure)
- Funding constraints and short-term political cycles
- Climate impacts: heatwaves, flooding, pests, and diseases
- The 2019 Review of London's Parks and Green Spaces highlights:
    - Fragmented governance
    - Underinvestment in green space
    - Difficulty demonstrating value for biodiversity investment.

Policies and Strategies due for renewal or development:

- Future Parks Strategy (informed by the Parks Commission)
- Playing Pitch Strategy (linked to multifunctional green space)
- Street Smart Guide (to include biodiversity-friendly design)
- Local Plan (under review; will embed biodiversity policies and LNRS)
- Corporate Plan (current iteration is 2023-2026)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

- A final LNRS for London is expected to be published by the Greater London Authority (GLA) by early 2026.
- H&F must:
    - Provide local ecological data, identify priority sites for restoration and greening, and engage landowners, TRAs and community groups for co-designing actions.
    - Embed LNRS priorities into Local Plans, SPDs and planning decisions.
    - Monitor and report on biodiversity outcomes and support future LNRS updates.

Table 8: Future LNRS metrics to record:

Indicator
Number & proportion of biodiversity priorities identified within the borough
ACB areas: Include area and % cover of each priority, in the overall borough ACB
APIB areas: Include area and percentage cover of each priority, in the overall borough APIB
List where (site/project names), priorities delivered and area (ha) of nature recovery taken place

H&F Monitoring and Gap Analysis

Priorities & Actions

- Deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on all qualifying developments.
- Expand habitat provision including via tree planting, meadow and long grass management, creation of ponds and community engagement.
- Improve upon monitoring and maintenance of current and future habitats.
- Increase tree canopy cover to 16.5% by 2030.
- Support community greening via grants and partnerships.
- Expand the provision of nature-based solutions on highways, in parks and housing estates, including SuDS and green verges.
- Embed nature-based climate adaptation measures into council led regeneration and development schemes.
- Habitat monitoring and mapping will use UKHab codes to ensure compatibility with the London LNRS and GiGL datasets.

Table 9: Metrics for monitoring and evaluation:

Category	Metric	Unit / Indicator	Data Source
Habitat Maintenance & Creation	Area of existing habitat maintained	m^2	GIS mapping, Parks, Housing & Highways data
	Area of new/enhanced habitat	m^2	GIS mapping, Parks, Housing & Highways data
	Number of biodiversity-friendly features	Count (green roofs, rain gardens, etc.)	Planning records, site audits
Species Indicators	Urban pollinator counts	Number per transect	Citizen science surveys, ecology team
	Bird species diversity	Species richness index	Bird monitoring programs e.g. RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
	Invasive species management	% reduction in invasive plant cover	Grounds maintenance records
	Bat walk results	Number and species of bats	Community surveys
	Butterfly transect results	Number and species of butterfly	Community surveys
Tree & Vegetation	Tree canopy cover	% of borough area	Aerial imagery, GIS
	Number of new street trees planted annually	Count	Highways/Parks records
	Survival rate of planted trees after 3 years	% survival	Tree maintenance reports
	Tiny Forests	Number planted (up to 10)	Planting records

Connectivity & Access	Length of green corridors created or improved	km	GIS mapping and grounds maintenance records
	Residents within 300m of biodiverse green space	% of population	GIS + demographic data
Community Engagement	Community-led biodiversity projects	Count	Community team records
	Volunteer hours dedicated to habitat management	Hours	Volunteer logs
	Citizen science participation	Number of participants	Event records
Policy & Planning	Eligible planning applications achieving required BNG and UGF	% of applications	Planning system
	Developments with green roofs/walls approved	Count	Planning approvals
Climate & Resilience	Urban cooling effect	°C reduction in greened areas	Environmental sensors
	Surface water attenuation capacity	m^3 retained	SuDS design data

Gap analysis helps to assess current performance against statutory requirements, identify shortfalls in policy, data and delivery capacity, and to prioritise actions for the next reporting cycle.

Table 10: Gap Analysis

Area	Current Status	Requirement / Best Practice	Gap Identified	Action Needed
Policy Framework	Climate & Ecology Strategy in place	Explicit Biodiversity Duty objectives	Duty not fully embedded in all service plans	Update corporate strategies and service plans
Species Monitoring borough-wide	Ad hoc reporting	Strategic and borough-wide species surveys	Lack of capacity to lead surveys	Increase engagement or commission surveys
Planning Integration	Net gain considered in major schemes	Biodiversity net gain in all developments	Limited enforcement and tracking	Strengthen planning conditions and audits
Community Engagement	Active Friends groups	Borough-wide citizen science participation	Low engagement in biodiversity monitoring	Launch community

				biodiversity programmes
Resources & Capacity	Limited dedicated ecology staff	Adequate staffing for statutory duties	Insufficient capacity for delivery	Secure funding and recruit specialist roles

Additional Gap Analysis Considerations:

- **Legal Compliance:** Are all statutory deadlines met (e.g., objectives agreed, report published)?
- **Cross-Service Integration:** Are Housing, Highways, and Regeneration teams embedding biodiversity?
- **Urban Constraints:** Identify gaps in green infrastructure opportunities (e.g., rooftops, streetscapes).
- **Climate Co-benefits:** Are biodiversity actions linked to flood risk and urban cooling strategies?

How Chapter 7 supports the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty:

- Sets out future biodiversity objectives in line with the requirement to plan for ongoing delivery.
- Identifies monitoring indicators and data improvements needed to meet future reporting expectations.
- Demonstrates preparedness for the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy and alignment with evolving statutory duties.

Chapter 8: Summary and Conclusions

This chapter brings together the key achievements, insights, and actions from the report. It reflects on how far H&F has come since the duty came into force and sets out the direction for the next stage of nature recovery.

Between January 2024 and January 2026 H&F has made progress in meeting its Enhanced Biodiversity Duty. This first reporting period reflects a borough-wide commitment to restoring nature, embedding biodiversity into planning and development, and empowering communities to take action.

The borough's landscape has been enriched through the creation of six Tiny Forests, the greening of over 46,000 square metres of highway land through Sustainable Drainage Systems, and the establishment of new meadows, ponds, and long grass areas. More than 3,500 trees have been planted across parks, streets, and housing estates, supported by a Tree Strategy that sets ambitious canopy cover targets for 2030 and beyond.

Friends of Parks groups and Nature Champions have played a vital role in habitat management and citizen science surveys, while initiatives like No Mow May and Rewilding Raves have helped foster a culture of ecological stewardship. Planning advice and grant programmes have enabled residents to lead their own greening projects, supported by strategic partnerships with organisations such as HCGA, Groundwork London and Urbanwise.London.

Biodiversity has been embedded into planning policy and additional guidance provided through the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document, which highlights the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain and Urban Greening Factor standards for major developments. These requirements are now part of the borough's development process, supported by ecology officers.

Financial investment has matched strategic ambition. The Green Investment Fund has raised £3.25 million to support nature-based projects, while additional funding has enabled delivery of the Nourish Project and ecological enhancements at Wormwood Scrubs.

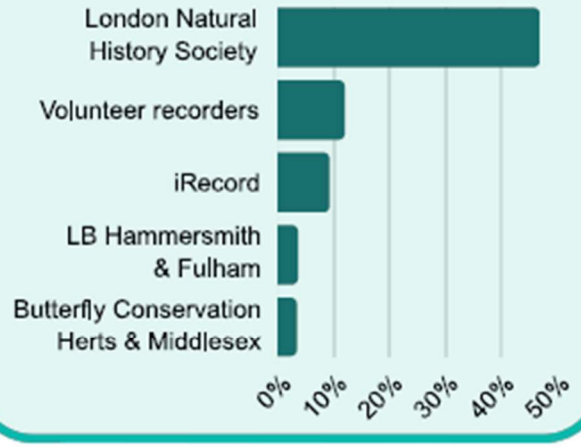
Looking ahead to 2030, the council will continue expanding habitat provision, planting four more Tiny Forests, increasing canopy cover, improving meadows and creating more ponds. Monitoring and evaluation will be strengthened, with improved data collection on species, habitat condition, and community engagement. Biodiversity will remain central to planning and regeneration guided by the forthcoming London Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

This report outlines how H&F is making space for nature through policy, investment and community action. The next five years will build on this foundation, ensuring that nature continues to flourish for the benefit of people and planet.

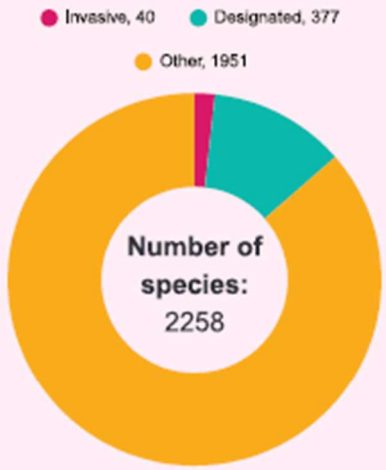
Appendix 1: GiGL H&F Factsheet

GiGL's Hammersmith & Fulham Data

Top 5 Contributors of Wildlife Records:



Wildlife Records



Taxon Group	Count
Amphibians	132
Birds	17244
Fish	5
Fungi	243
Invertebrates	9592
Mammals	1553
Other (*bacteria, diatoms, etc.*)	142
Plants	31824
Reptiles	223
Total records	**58995**

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

Number of SINCs: 33
SINC area: 260,9 ha, 15,2% of borough

Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature:
429.1 ha, 25% of borough

Habitats

Category	Hectares	% of borough area
Gardens	276.6	16.1%
Natural Habitat	350.2	20.4%
Woodland	73.8	4.3%
Grassland	146.6	8.5%
Priority habitats	0,0	0,0%

Open Space

Number of open spaces: 97
Open space area: 368,4 ha, 21,5% of borough

Number of Public Open Spaces: 43
POS area: 264.5 ha, 15.4% of borough

Click the links to find out more...

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation | Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature
Species | London Invasive Species | Habitats | Priority Habitats | Open Spaces and POS

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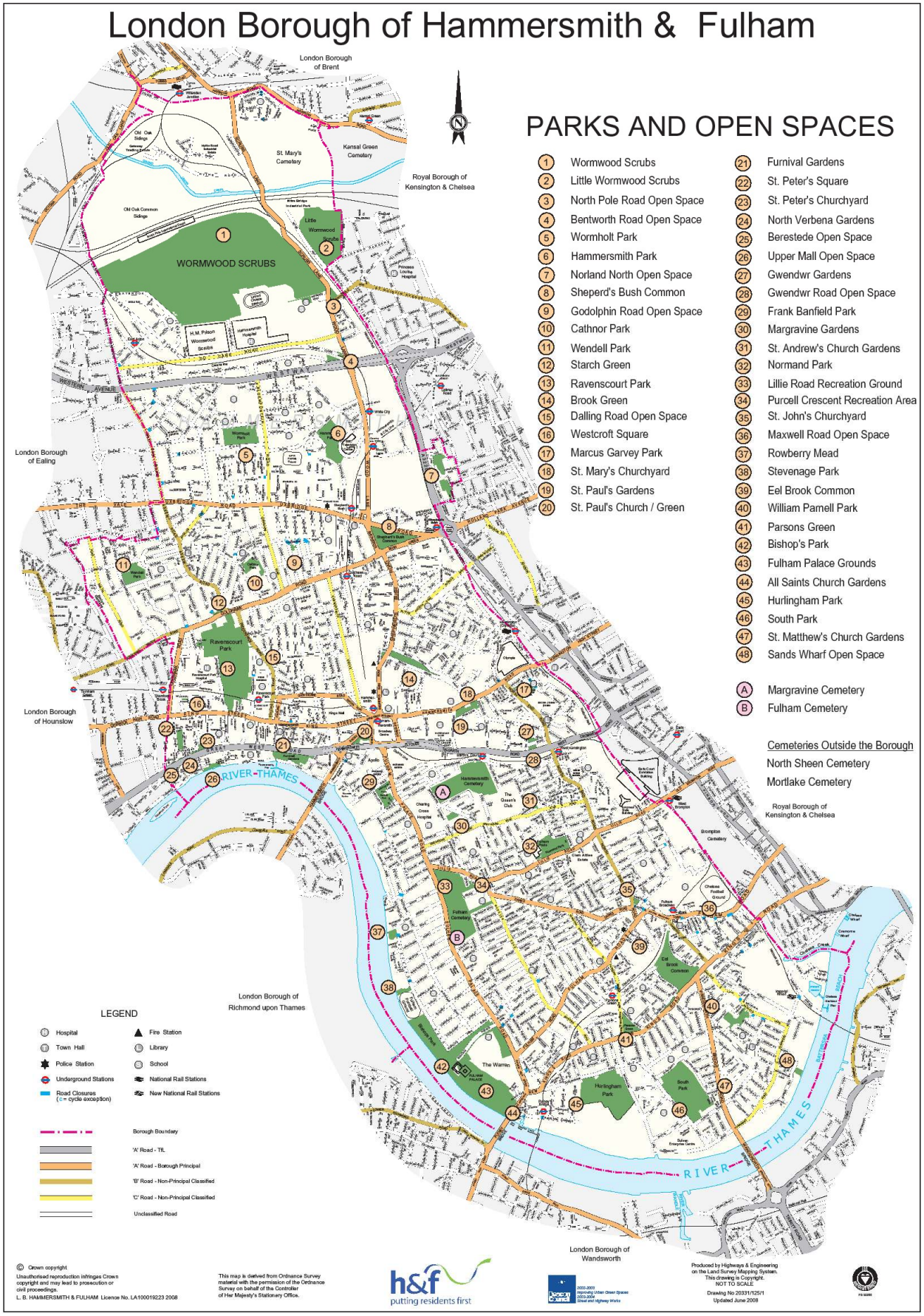
Appendix 2: Map of Park Sites in H&F



Appendix 3: Meadow site soil testing 2025

Soil Analysis Report

Meadow name	Soil pH	Index			mg/l (Available)		
		P	K	Mg	P	K	Mg
Wormholt Park	6.8	3	3	3	43.4	303	136
Normand Park	7.4	3	3	2	38.2	315	92
Eel Brook Common	7.5	3	4	3	43.4	481	149
Hammersmith Park	7.5	3	3	3	39.4	353	121

Table 1: Soil Analysis Results (P = Phosphorus; K = Potassium; Mg = Magnesium)

Interpretation of Results

Traffic light system:

- GREEN: everything's going well
- AMBER: issues need addressing, monitor regularly to assess effects of management
- RED: major problems need action (e.g. scrub encroachment, no cut and removal)

All sites assessed are currently in the AMBER zone due to their P results.

Suitability for meadow habitat	Index			mg/l (Available)		
	P	K	Mg	P	K	Mg
Ideal	0	0	0	0-9	<40	0-25
Satisfactory	1	1	1	10-15	40-75	26-50
Marginal	2	2	2	16-25	76-200	51-100
Unsuitable	3+	3+	3	26-45	>200	101-175

Table 2: Results in the ideal range for meadow habitat

In general, when attempting to create species-rich grassland the P (Phosphorus) index is an important consideration:

1. The **phosphorus index (P)** is 3 for all of the meadow areas.
2. The finer level of detail shown as **P mg/l (Available)** measures Wormholt Park as 43.4, Eel Brook Common as 43.4, Hammersmith Park as 39.4 and Normand Park as 38.2. All of these are at the top end of the range for index 3, which is 25 - 45 mg/l
3. For restoration to species-rich grassland, we need the index to be 0 - 2. This is 0.5 - 25 mg/l
4. When soil nutrients are high, restoration to species-rich grassland is more difficult because more vigorous species grow fast and out-compete wildflowers and meadow grasses.
5. Nutrient levels can be reduced over time by taking one or two cycles of cut and collect when the peak of nutrients are in the stem and leaf, therefore an early cut in June. If a second cut is possible, this can be taken in August - September when there is sufficient regrowth and suitable conditions for machinery or work.
6. This will be less favourable to invertebrates, but they will benefit in future years from increased species richness as soil fertility decreases.
7. When meadow areas with high fertility are cut later in the season (late July onwards), the plants will be dying back and have transferred nutrients to the roots and soil. Meadow areas cut and raked off later in the summer every year will see a rise in fertility and a reduction in wildflower diversity.

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8. Semi-improved grassland indicators such as black medick, sorrel, wild carrot and yarrow will tolerate these conditions.
9. Less competitive species, such as bird's foot trefoil, field scabious, lady's bedstraw and yellow rattle will struggle and be lost from the meadow areas.
10. High nutrient loving species such as nettle, thistle and fast-growing grasses will begin to dominate.
11. The introduction of seed can be attempted, but on meadow areas with higher fertility only the more nutrient tolerant species of semi-improved grassland are likely to establish at rates of 8-15 species per m2.
12. Yellow rattle, a hemiparasite, that reduces the vigour of grasses, can help by reducing the dominance of grasses and assist with the establishment of other wildflowers. But it will not reduce soil nutrients so more sensitive wildflowers will struggle to establish. Yellow rattle is an annual, and meadows must be short early in the season for germination to be successful.
13. **Potassium levels (K)** at index 1 are recommended for species-rich grassland restoration.
14. Wormholt Park, Normand Park and Hammersmith Park have **K index** of 3 which is high. Eel Brook Common is **K index** 4, very high.
15. Wildflowers may struggle to compete with more competitive grasses and weeds in soils with higher potassium levels, but potassium is a less important nutrient for species rich restoration, compared with **Phosphorus (P)**.
16. Suitable donor sources of seed should be based on a similar **soil pH**, 7 (slightly alkaline)

The important outcome for the future of the sites is to monitor the fertility on yearly basis via soil testing and condition assessments. Fertility can be reduced by taking two cuts during the peak of the growing season. This would mean a total of four cycles of cut and collect annually.

Further information can be found in Natural England Technical Information Note TIN036, Soil and agri-environment schemes: interpretation of soil analysis

P2 of the Natural England Technical Information Note TIN036 Soils and agri-environment schemes: interpretation of soil analysis explains how the soil nutrients affect the meadow:

"Soil phosphorus (P) Phosphorus is a major plant nutrient, although it is taken up in relatively small amounts compared with K and N. It has a major influence on grass growth, directly favouring grasses over broad leaved species. Soils in the UK are naturally low in P and the main input is from fertilisers and animal dung [in a city context leaf litter, dog fouling and run off will be forms of input]. P is a very insoluble and rather immobile element in soil, and is only leached out once it reaches excessive levels (index 5 or more). Once its status is raised it declines only very slowly, even in the absence of fertiliser additions. The effects of basic slag and superphosphate applied to land in the 1950s and 1960s, for example, may still be in evidence today. Where the main objective is the development of botanical diversity, the site should have a low soil P status (Index 0 or 1). The exception is where the soil or slope imposes high stress on plants by drought (indicated by very shallow soil or extreme stoniness) or water logging, some level of botanical diversity may be attained even if the P status is high. The P status of semi-natural, species-rich grassland is typically low (Index 0). P is considered to be the most important nutrient influencing sward diversity."

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