Claylands Green
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

For the London Borough of Lambeth
October 2022

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Executive summary

- Salix Ecology was commissioned by the London Borough of Lambeth to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of of Claylands Green SW8 1PH. The survey was carried out to inform a plan to enhance the site for the benefit of the local community and wildlife.
- Information regarding the recent and historical ecological interest within a 1km radius of the site was requested from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL).
- A habitat survey of the site was carried out on the 24 August 2022. Habitats were described following the UK Habitat Classification method (Butcher et al, 2020). The survey was conducted by Paul Losse MCIEEM.
- Within the 1km search radius there are 7 non-statutory sites: one Site of Metropolitan Importance, one Site of Borough Grade 1 Importance and five sites of Local Importance. There are no statutory sites within the search area.
- The data search reported five species of bats, hedgehog, 29 species of breeding birds of note, two amphibian species and 4 invertebrates within the area of search.
- The following habitats were recorded at the site: modified (amenity) grassland, horticultural areas (planted shrubberies) and scattered trees. A number of mature trees were recorded including holm oak, pedunculate oak, red oak, false acacia and common lime. There were also a few, recently planted, saplings present.
- Protected species which have potential to use the site included bats (low likelihood), hedgehog (low likelihood) and breeding birds (moderate likelihood).
- The following non-native invasive species were recorded on site: green alkanet, butterfly-bush and holm oak.
- Recommendations include:
    - Control of butterfly-bush and green alkanet
    - Enhancement of grassland areas with species which are common in species-rich lawns.
    - Relaxing mowing across approximately half of the site with the other half managed as a species-rich amenity grassland.
    - Removing all grass cuttings to reduce fertility of grassland areas and enhance species-richness
    - Incorporation of a native species hedgerow along at least one side of the site

- Reduction in light spill from street lighting onto the site.
- Reduce dog fouling through signage and provision of dog bins.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Salix Ecology was commissioned by the London Borough of Lambeth to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of Claylands Green SW8 1PH. The survey was carried out to inform a plan to enhance the site for the benefit of the local community and wildlife.

1.2 Scope of report

1.2.1 This report is based on a desktop study, and field survey using the UK Habitat Classification Method (Butcher et al, 2020). This approach is designed to identify broad habitat types at a site, to identify the potential of habitats to support protected species, and to assist in providing an overview of the ecological interest of the site.

1.2.2 The assessment follows guidelines produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM 2017 & 2018). It is generally the most widely used and professionally recognised method for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

1.3 Site context and status

1.3.1 This site is located within the London Borough of Lambeth at national grid reference TQ309775. The green is bounded by Claylands Rd to the east, Trigon Rd to the south and residential housing to the east. A site location plan is shown in figure 1 below.

1.3.2 The site does not have any nature conservation designations. The site is designated as Public Open Space under Policy EN1 (Lambeth Local Plan, 2021).

1.4 Site proposals

1.4.1 The Project proposals include biodiversity enhancements as well as improving the space for the local community. Possible enhancements include:

- Including unmown areas to create a wildflower area
- Incorporation of a diverse lawn area
- Bulb planting
- Provision of a new footpath and benches
- Extension of ornamental planting beds
- Installation of new signage and notice boards
- New tree planting

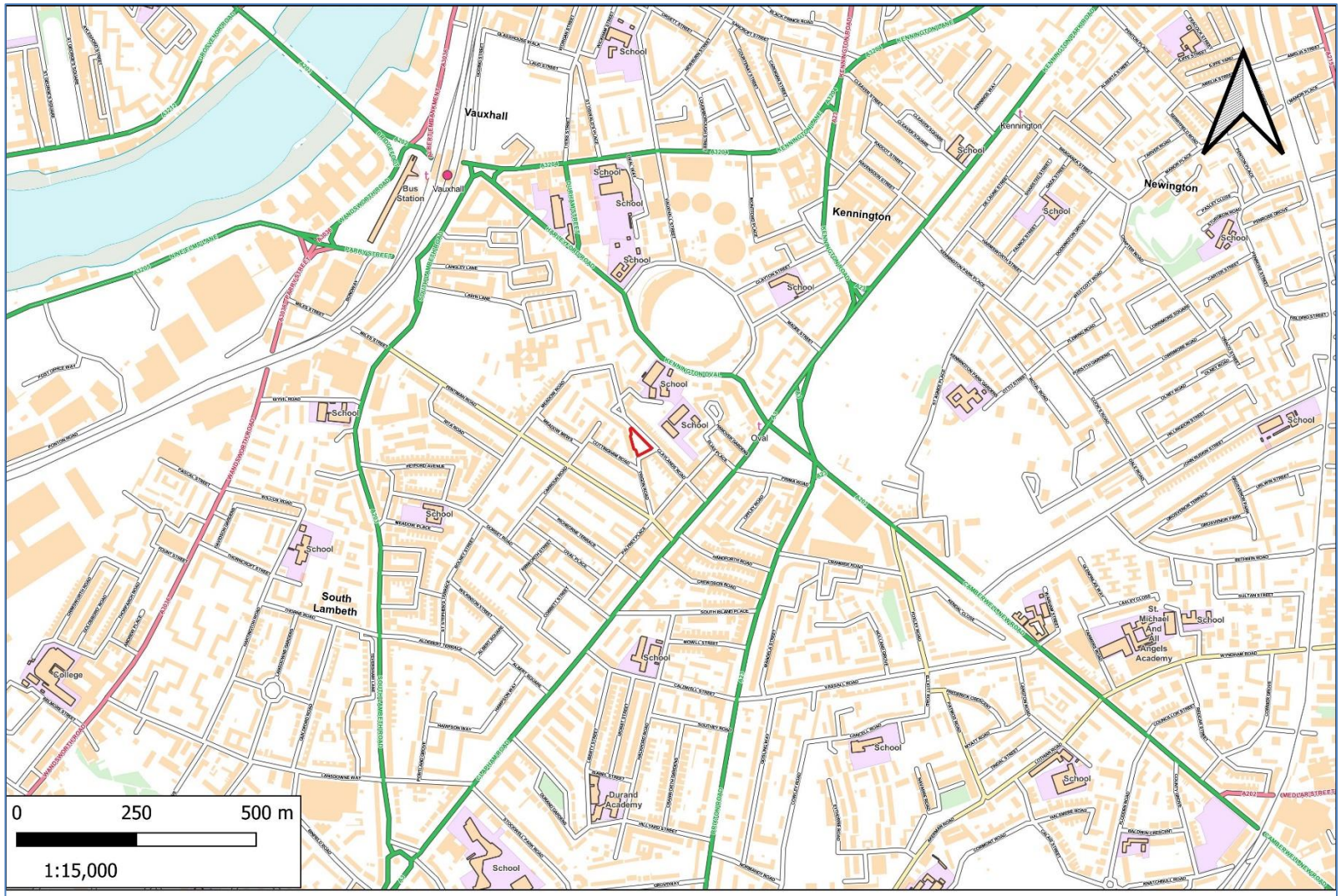

Figure 1: Site location

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desktop study

2.1.1 Information regarding the recent and historical ecological interest within a 1km radius of the site was requested from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL).

2.1.2 In addition, a search was completed of an online mapping service (www.magic.gov.uk) for statutory designated sites.

2.1.3 Consideration was given to Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in England listed under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and those covered by The London Biodiversity Action Plan (http://www.gigl.org.uk/londons-biodiversity-action-plan/) and other priority habitats or species (as defined by CIEEM, 2017) that were confirmed to be, or are potentially, present at the site.

2.2 Habitat survey

2.2.1 A habitat survey of the site was carried out on the 24 August 2022. Habitats were described following the UK Habitat Classification method (Butcher et al, 2020). The survey was conducted by Paul Losse MCIEEM.

2.2.1 Scientific names are given after the first mention of a vascular plant species; thereafter common names only are used. Nomenclature follows Stace (2019) for vascular plant species. The DAFOR scale (Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional and Rare) was used as a measure of relative abundance.

2.3 Preliminary protected species assessment

2.3.1 The potential of the site to provide habitat for protected and other priority species was assessed from field observations carried out at the same time as the habitat survey, combined with the results of the desktop study.

2.3.2 The site was inspected for indications of the presence of protected species, Species of Principal Importance and otherwise notable species as follows:

- Bats - the presence of trees with cracks or holes (such as woodpecker holes), splits or flaking bark and ivy staining around a feature e.g. cracks, caused by natural oils in bat fur;
  - Scratch marks around a feature, caused by bat claws;
  - Bat droppings beneath a hole;
  - Urine stains below the entrance to a hole.
- Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) - the presence of scats, runs, diggings and/or nests was searched for and any evidence reported.
- Breeding birds – holes in trees and nests from the previous year; male birds in song holding territories; active nest sites and juvenile birds.

2.3.3 These species were selected for further consideration because potentially suitable habitat is present on site (or nearby in the locality) and/or species records retrieved from data trawl were relatively frequent. The likelihood of occurrence is ranked as follows and relies on the current survey and evaluation of existing data:

- NEGLIGIBLE: while presence cannot be absolutely discounted, the site includes very limited or poor-quality habitat for a particular species or species group. No local returns from a data search, surrounding habitat considered unlikely to support wider populations of a species/species group. The site may also be outside or peripheral to known national range for a species,
- LOW: on-site habitat of poor to moderate quality for a given species/species group. Few or no returns from data search, but presence cannot be discounted on the basis of national distribution, nature of surrounding habitats, habitat fragmentation, recent on-site disturbance etc.
- MODERATE: on-site habitat of moderate quality, providing most or all of the known key requirements of given species/species group. Has local returns from the data search, within the national distribution and with suitable surrounding habitat. Factors limiting the likelihood of occurrence may include small habitat area, habitat severance, and disturbance.
- HIGH: on-site habitat of high quality for given a species/species group. Local records provided by desk-top study. Site within/peripheral to a national or regional stronghold. Good quality surrounding habitat and good connectivity.
- PRESENT: presence confirmed from the current survey or by recent, confirmed records.

The purpose of this assessment is to identify whether more comprehensive Phase 2 surveys for protected species should be recommended.

2.4 Site evaluation

2.4.1 The site has been evaluated broadly as recommended by standard guidelines (CIEEM 2017). In particular, the assessment of ecological value is made with reference to criteria such as the following, placed in geographical context (significance from an international level through to site level):

- Any designated sites or features, such as Sites of Local Importance for Conservation, protected trees or important hedgerows.
- Biodiversity value of the habitats, assessed by considering the distribution and status of habitats and species, including issues such as:
  - habitat diversity and connectivity; and
  - plant communities and/or animal groups that are considered typical of valuable natural or semi-natural vegetation;
  - especially species-rich plant or animal communities; and
  - animal populations that are notably large in a wider context
- Presence of animal or plant species that are rare or threatened or in decline in a national, regional or local context.
- Habitats and species of Principal Importance for Biodiversity under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006.

- Habitats and species included on local Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Habitats that are a material consideration in the planning process under NPPF (e.g. ancient woodland and limestone pavement) and Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006.
- Presence of protected species.

2.5 Limitations

2.5.1 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.

2.5.2 The habitat survey was undertaken during a period of drought in the UK. Therefore, components of vegetation may have been missed or absent at the time of the survey or otherwise under recorded. However, this is not considered to be a significant constraint to habitat assessment. This habitat survey does not constitute a full botanical survey.

2.5.3 No instances Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 invasive species were noted on site. However, a number of these species can lie dormant in the soil and may occur in a variety of locations. Thus, although not recorded at the time of survey there can be no guarantee that issues with invasive species will not arise at some point in the future.

2.5.4 The protected species assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species occurring on the site, based on the suitability of the habitat, known distribution of the species in the local area provided in response to our enquiries and any direct evidence on the site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group. It is only valid at the time the survey was carried out. Additional surveys may be recommended if, on the basis of the preliminary assessment or during subsequent surveys, it is considered reasonably likely that other protected species may be present.

3.0 Results

3.1 Desktop study

3.1.1 Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) supplied the following records and information from within a 1km radius of the site centroid regarding more recent and historical ecological interest:

3.2 Sites of importance for nature conservation

3.2.1 Statutory sites of European or national significance: The site is not subject to any nature conservation designations in this category, such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

3.2.2 There are 7 non-statutory sites within the 1km search radius: one Site of Metropolitan Importance, one Site of Borough Grade 1 Importance and five sites of Local Importance.

Table 1: SINCs within 1 km radius of centre of Claylands Green

Site ref	Site Name & area	Summary description	Approx. distance	Bearing
Mo31	River Thames and tidal tributaries Area 2312.70 ha	The site includes a number of valuable habitats not found elsewhere in London. The mud-flats, shingle beach, inter-tidal vegetation, islands and river channel itself support many species from freshwater, estuarine and marine communities which are rare in London.	840 m	NW
LaB06	Harleyford Road Community Garden Area 0.23ha	The site includes a children's play area, picnic facilities, small enclosed lawns, numerous shrubberies and a small allotment.	300m	NW
LaL30	Kennington Park Area 12.50ha	There are mature trees scattered across the park and consist of London plane, Norway maple sycamore, evergreen oak and tree-of-heaven.	300m	E

Site ref	Site Name & area	Summary description	Approx. distance	Bearing
LaL40	St. Marks Church of England Primary School Area 0.17ha	The wildlife area is a mix of amenity and semi-improved neutral grasslands with some tall herbs and ruderals and scattered young willow trees. Amongst the commoner grassland plants within this mosaic can be found monkeyflower, corn marigold, meadow cranesbill, lady's bedstraw and wild carrot. A well vegetated pond has a variety of marginals, emergents and floating plants that include brooklime white water lily water mint and toad, smooth and hard rushes	300m	N
LaL36	Land at Spring Gardens (Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens) Area 3.35HA	Spring Gardens contains several paddocks, used by the City Farm, which are composed of grassland where a number of wild flowers can be seen including red dead-nettle, cow parsley, creeping cinquefoil, bluebell and common mallow	600m	NNE
LaL44	Vauxhall City Farm Area 0.26ha	The farm has little biodiversity value except for a small ecology garden which includes a hedge, educational composting area, bug house, wildlife pond and wildflower area consisting of a variety of native meadow species. A community garden with raised growing beds, has a range of herbaceous plants, shrubs and small trees which are likely to provide some value to	600m	NNE

Site ref	Site Name & area	Summary description	Approx. distance	Bearing
		foraging invertebrates and widespread species of birds.		
LaL26	Durand Gardens, Stockwell Area 0.2ha	The site has a number of mature trees that have all been planted at one time or another including common lime, horse- chestnut, pedunculate oak and tree-of-heaven. Beneath the trees, daffodils and bluebells are seen in the early spring, followed by cow parsley in May and June.	700m	S

3.2.3 Geological sites: None present within search area

3.3 Protected and notable species

3.3.1 The following data were supplied by GiGL. It is important to note that, even where data are held, a lack of records for a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is no ecological interest; the area may be simply under-recorded.

Bats

3.3.2 Five species of bats were specifically noted by GiGL i.e. Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*, noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*, common pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus,* Nathusius's pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*. The most recent of these records is from 2019 and the closest to the site is immediately adjacent.

Other mammals

3.3.3 GiGL reports three occurrences of Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* from the recording area, the nearest record is 311m west. The most recent recording was 2019.

Breeding birds

3.3.4 There were 29 species of birds recorded in the data search area (all birds in this category are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (see Appendix 4). This includes the following Red List species (as well as a number of London Biodiversity Action Plan – BAP species and Local Species of Conservation Concern).

- Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
- Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

- Dunnock *Prunella modularis*
- Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*
- Gadwall *Mareca strepera*
- Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
- Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*
- Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
- Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
- House Martin *Delichon urbicum*
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
- Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
- Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*
- Linnet *Linaria cannabina*
- Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*
- Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
- Redwing *Turdus iliacus*
- Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
- Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*
- Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
- Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
- Swift *Apus apus*
- Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*
- Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Amphibia

3.3.5 GiGL cites four occurrences of common toad *Bufo bufo* within the data search area, the nearest record to the site centroid is 1km to the south. The most recent record is dated 2020. There were seven occurrences of common frog *Rana temporaria* within the data search area with the closest record to the site centroid at 449m and the most recent record dating from 2020.

Invertebrates

3.3.6 GiGL reports 21 occurrences of stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* from with the data search area. The nearest record came from 300m to the west and the most recent from 2021. Other invertebrates recorded include the large skipper *Ochlodes sylvanus* butterfly, Jersey tiger moth *Euplagia quadripunctaria* and common darter *Sympetrum striolatum* dragonfly. These records were all 500m or further from the site.

Higher plants

3.3.7 There were a few higher plant records of note within the area of search, however these are not of relevance to the site. Species include:

- Box *Buxus sempervirens* (likely to have been planted)
- Sea-buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*
- Tasteless Water-pepper *Persicaria mitis*
- Large leaved Lime *Tilia platyphyllos* (likely to have been planted)

3.4 UK Habitat Classification survey

3.4.1 This section should be read with reference to Appendix 1: Habitat Map, Appendix 2: Vascular plant species list and Appendix 3: Site photographs.

3.4.2 The site comprises the following habitats (not listed in ecological importance):

Modified grassland:

3.4.3 The bulk of the site was species-poor modified grassland (amenity grassland). The grassland was regularly cut and, at the time of survey, severely desiccated due to the drought of summer 2022.

3.4.4 Perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* was the most abundant of the grasses present with frequent wall barley *Hordeum murinum.* Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* was rare in the sward. The most frequent forbs were yarrow *Achillea millefolium* and common storks-bill *Erodium cicutarium (*a London notable species) with occasional dandelion *Taraxacum officinale agg.* and knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare.* The non-native invasive species green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens* was frequent at the edge of the grassland with Hedge mustard *Sisymbrium officinale* occasional. Most other species which included dove's-foot crane's-bill *Geranium molle,* common mallow *Malva sylvestris*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* were rare.

Horticulture

3.4.5 There were two areas of planted shrubbery, one at the northern end of the site and the other, smaller planted area at the south-eastern boundary. These comprised a number of horticultural species including Sawara cypress *Chamaecyparis pisifera,* Montpelier rock rose *Cistus monspeliensis, spindle 'emerald 'n' gold Euonymus fotunei,* willow-leaved speedwell *Hebe salicifolia,* European red elder *Sambucus racemose* and Japanese skimmia *Skimmia japonica.*

Scattered trees

3.4.6 There were a number mature trees around the perimeter of the site including common lime *Tilia x europaea,* evergreen oak *Quercus ilex,* false acacia *Robinia pseudacacia,* and *red oak Quercus rubra.* Saplings included sweet gum *Liquidambar styraciflua,* common lime, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and red oak.

4.0 Species assessment

4.1 The habitats at the site were evaluated as to their likelihood to provide sheltering, roosting, nesting and foraging habitat for the following animals

- Bats
- Hedgehog
- Breeding birds

4.1.2 These species were selected for further consideration because the species/species group is present or potentially suitable habitat is present on site (or nearby in the locality) and/or species records retrieved from the data search were relatively frequent. The results of the field survey, combined with information from the desktop study, are presented in Table 2 below for protected species. Table 3 lists non-native invasive species recorded at the site.

Table 2: Assessment of potential presence of protected and BAP priority species and habitats at Claylands Green

Species	Main legislation (see Appendix 4)	Areas where presence should be considered	Reasons for consideration	Likelihood of occurrence
Bats	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Schedule 5. Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Mature trees	Historic records in area of search. Mature trees on site	LOW: Few trees supporting suitable roosting opportunities. Site isolated from other greenspace
Hedgehog	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, S41, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 6, Local Species of Conservation Concern	Grassland	Historic records in area of search.	LOW: Little suitable habitat Site isolated from other greenspace except local gardens
Breeding birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Some species also Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, S41, Red/Amber listed	Trees with suitable nest sites and areas of dense scrub	Numerous records of birds returned by GiGL	Moderate: Some nesting opportunities in mature trees on site and nearby gardens.

Table 3: Assessment of presence of invasive species at Claylands Green

Species	Main legislation (see Appendix 4)	Areas where presence should be considered	Reason for consideration	Likelihood of occurrence
Invasive species	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9	Whole site	No records of schedule 9 species returned from GiGL and no incidences noted on site however, invasive species can occur in a variety of locations and might lie dormant in the soil.	LOW
Butterfly-bush (3), Holm oak (5), Green alkanet (6)	London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI) INNS Categories in brackets in column to the left (non-statutory classification)	Across site		PRESENT

5.0 Site evaluation

5.1 Introduction

5.1 The value or potential value of an ecological resource or feature on site (i.e. habitats and species) is evaluated following standard guidance on ecological impact assessment published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2016).

5.2 Geographical frame of reference

5.2.1 The following geographical frame of reference is used:

- International
- National (England)
- County (Greater London)
- District (L B Lambeth)

5.3 Ecological features on site:

Features of International Value:

5.3.1 Primarily these are sites covered by international legislation or conventions, such as those sites designated under the Habitats Regulations which implements the Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EC) (Habitats Directive). Examples include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites which are designated for habitats and / or important populations of species.

5.3.2 There are no sites of international importance for nature conservation within a 1km radius of the site centroid, nor does the site meet any of the criteria for designation at this scale.

Features of National value:

5.3.3 These include statutory sites such as SSSIs which are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

5.3.4 The site does not form part of a site of national importance for nature conservation.

5.3.5 None of the habitats or populations or assemblages of species present, or likely to be present, would necessitate designation at the national level using appropriate criteria e.g.: Guidelines for selection of biological SSSIs (JNCC, 1989 (rev. 1998)).

5.3.6 National legislation provides protection to a number of species (in addition to those covered by international legislation) e.g. bats and breeding birds. While such species may be present, the population of any one species is unlikely to be of national importance in terms of diversity, size or rarity.

Features of County (i.e. Greater London) Value:

5.3.7 The site does is not designated for its nature conservation value however the site would be covered by the Parks and Urban Greenspaces Action Plan which recognizes the importance of parks and open spaces in supporting biodiversity and in providing a point of contact with the natural world for city dwellers (London Parks and Green Spaces Habitat Action Plan, 2006). There is some potential for the mature trees to support bats and the house sparrow which are London BAP species although suitable nest holes/roost sites were not observed.

Features of District (London Borough of Lambeth) Value:

5.3.8 Parks and Open Spaces feature in the London Borough of Lambeth's Biodiversity Action Plan. Lambeth Priority Species which may be supported by the site include a range of pollinators, the song thrush and bat species (Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024).

6.0 Conclusions and recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 The site is currently of relatively low ecological value. The modified grassland is species-poor although it does support a few flowering plants which will provide a nectar source for pollinators.

6.1.2 The most valuable ecological features on site are the mature trees around the boundary of the site which have intrinsic value and have potential to provide nesting sites for birds. However, two of the mature trees present, holm oak and false-acacia are non-native invasive species listed by the London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI). Holm oak is listed as a category 5 species: Species for which insufficient data or evidence was available from those present to be able to prioritise and false-acacia as a category 4 species: Species which are widespread for which eradication is not feasible but where avoiding spread to other sites may be required.

6.1.3 Green alkanet, recorded within the grassland is also a non-native invasive species listed by LISI as a category 6 species: Species that were not currently considered to pose a threat or have the potential to cause problems in London. However, in the author's opinion this species is an increasing problem, particularly in urban green spaces and should be controlled.

6.1.4 The butterfly-bush *Buddleja davidii* is listed as a category 3 species: Species of high impact or concern which are widespread in London and require concerted, coordinated and extensive action to control/eradicate.

6.2 Recommendations

5.3.1 Although the site currently has limited value for biodiversity, there are opportunities for enhancement for wildlife and people. A concept design for the site has been proposed (Turkington Martin, 2022). This includes an enhanced lawn area, an unmown area improved with native plug planting, an area of bulb planting and possible orchard tree planting, a new footpath, benches, bins and signage, an extension of the ornamental planting beds and new tree planting (The concept design is in appendix 4).

6.2.1 The author supports the overall plan and site layout in principle; however, a number of modifications are recommended to maximise the benefit of the site for wildlife:

Grassland

6.2.2 The species diversity of the grassland could be enhanced as suggested; however, it is recommended that only native species of known UK provenance are used. Species should be selected that are common in species-rich lawns and short grazed turf. Cornfield mixtures or other exotic species should not be used as these are unlikely to persist. A standard flowering lawn mixture such as EL1F from Emorsgate Seeds could be used: https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/wild-flower-only-mixtures/wild-flowers-for-lawns/ Ground preparation should follow Emorsgate Seed's recommendations.

6.2.3 Some areas should be managed as a lawn and mown as regularly as required for the benefit of local residents (central lawn area 1 appendix 4). It is recommended that other areas of grassland (area 3 appendix 4) are managed for biodiversity. These 'wildflower' areas should not just be restricted to the edges of the site as proposed in the concept

design. Here mowing should be relaxed during the summer months i.e. mowing should stop in May, June and July to allow grassland species to flower and set seed. The sward should then be cut in August and again before Christmas once there has been sufficient growth.

6.2.4 Grass cuttings from all areas should be removed soon after cutting and, ideally, composted.

Hedgerow

6.2.5 In addition to the enhancements suggested in the concept plan, it is suggested that a native hedgerow could be planted at least one boundary e.g. along the Claylands Road boundary. This will provide additional shelter and forage opportunities for birds, especially London and Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan species such as the house sparrow and song thrush.

6.2.6 Hedgerow planting should be with native species of known UK provenance, not cultivated varieties. Recommended species include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, holly *Ilex aquifolium,* field maple *Acer campestre,* hornbeam *Carpinus betulus,* guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and dog rose *Rosa canina.*

6.2.7 A mix of species should be planted using 60-90cm whips in dense blocks of approximately 5 per metre. Plant between November and March, i.e. not during the drier months, in weed free soil, incorporating suitable compost. The base of the developing hedge should be protected from competing weeds using a hedgeline mulch. The aim should be to develop a dense hedge which is lightly trimmed only occasionally i.e. once every three years.

Tree planting

6.2.8 No further tree planting is recommended as additional trees will cause excessive shading of grassland areas. However, if tree planting is desired, only native species of UK provenance should be planted.

Non-native invasive species

6.2.9 The non-native green alkanet has the potential to spread and dominate the ground flora over parts of the site. This species should therefore be removed. Careful application of an approved herbicide is likely to be the most effective method of eradication as the plant has deep tap roots and is difficult to dig out.

6.2.10 The butter-fly bush should also be removed. This can be carried out by cutting as close to the ground as possible followed by the careful application of an approved herbicide to the remaining plant.

General recommendations

6.2.11 No fertilisers pesticides or herbicides should be used except in areas of ornamental planting and for establishing the new hedgerow. Herbicides may, however, be used to control non-native invasive species. Mulching is an alternative solution.

6.2.12 Modification of street lighting. If possible, street lighting should be modified so that Claylands Green is not directly or indirectly lit. Street lighting is known to adversely affect species groups including bats and breeding birds. The following mitigation should be considered:

- Reducing the hours of illumination to provide some dark periods
- Maintaining the brightness as low as legally possible
- Directing the lighting where it is needed to avoid light spillage
- Fitting hoods which direct the light below the horizontal plane, preferably at an angle of less than seventy degrees.

- Limit the height of lighting columns to eight metres to direct light at a low level

6.2.13 Take action to reduce dog fouling through installation of dog bins and signage. Dog fouling has a negative impact on grassland species diversity by increasing fertility and is also unpleasant for visitors.

7.0 References

Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmunds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J (2020) *The UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 1.1 at https://ukhab.org/*

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Appendix 1: Habitat map

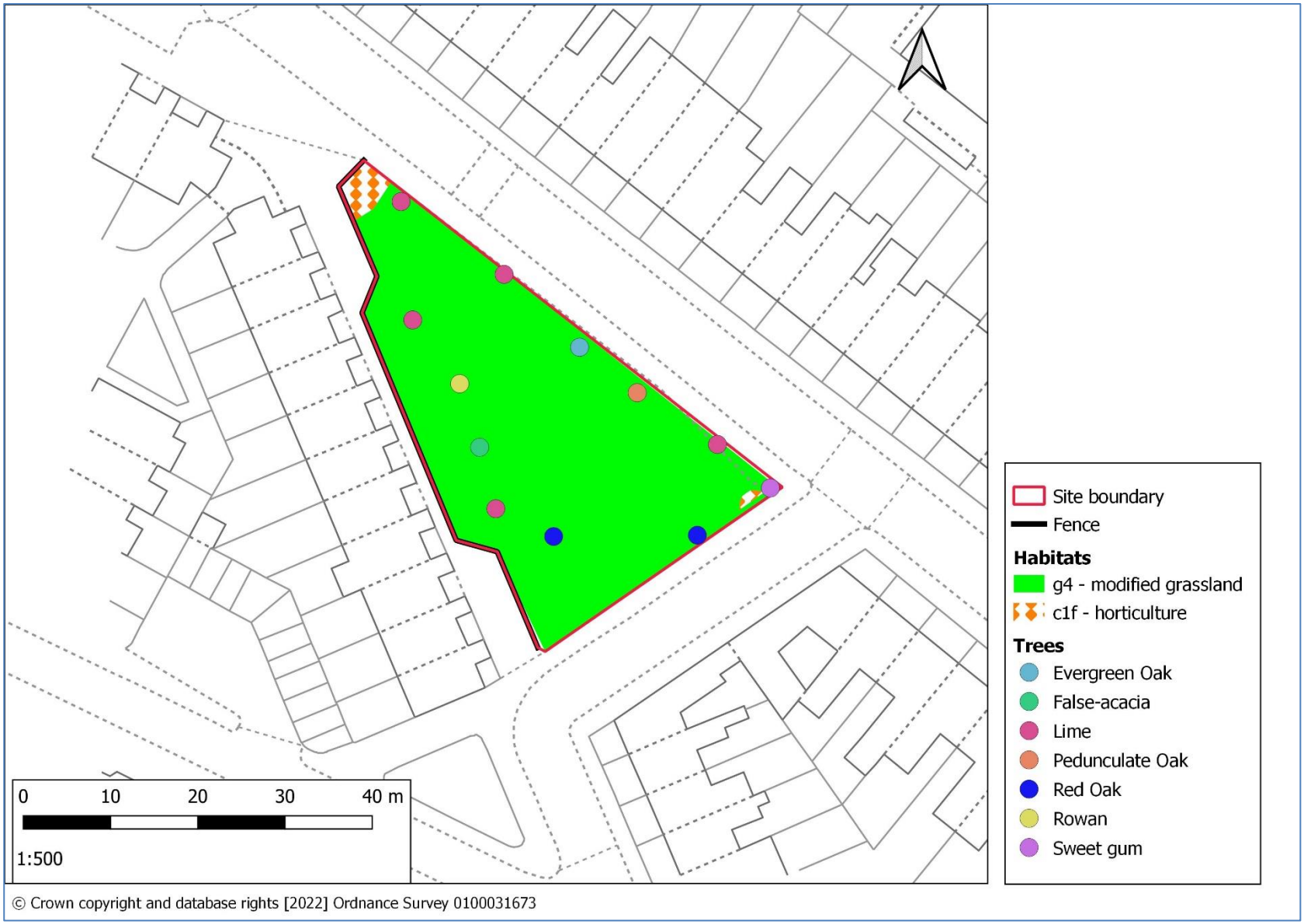

Figure 2: Claylands Green habitat map

Appendix 2: Vascular plant species list

Taxon	**Vernacular**	**Abundance**	**Notes**
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Frequent	Grassland
Berberis	Barberry	Occasional	Planted shrubbery
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly-bush	Rare	Grassland
Calystegia silvatica	Large Bindweed	Rare	Grassland
Chamaecyparis pisifera	Sawara cypress	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Cistus monspelinsis	Montpelier rock rose	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	Rare	Grassland
Cornus alba	Siberian dogwood	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Cornus sp	A dogwood	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Rare	Grassland
Erodium cicutarium	Common storks-bill	Frequent	
Euonymus fotunei	spindle 'Emerald 'n' Gold'	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Euphorbia amygaloides	Wood spurge	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Rare	Grassland
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	Rare	Grassland
Hebe salicifolia	willow-leaved speedwell	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Helleborus viridis	bastard hellebore	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Hordeum murinum	Wall Barley	Frequent	Grassland
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet gum	Rare	Young tree
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	Abundant	Grassland
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow	Rare	Grassland
Pentaglottis sempervirens	Green Alkanet	Frequent	Grassland
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Rare	Grassland
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass	Occasional	Grassland
Polypodium vulgare	common polypody	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil	Rare	Grassland
Quercus ilex	Holm oak	Occasional	mature tree
Quercus robur	Pedunculate oak	Rare	mature tree
Quercus rubra	Red oak	Occasional	young tree/ mature tree
Robinia pseudoacacia	False acacia	Rare	mature tree
Salvia rosmarius	Rosemary	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Sambucus racemosa	European red elder	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard	Occasional	Grassland
Skimmia japonica	Japanese skimmia	Rare	Planted shrubbery
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Rare	young tree
Taraxacum officinale agg.	Dandelion	Occasional	Grassland
Tilia x europaea	Common lime	Occasional	mature tree/ young tree

Taxon	**Vernacular**	**Abundance**	**Notes**
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	Rare	Grassland

Appendix 3: Site Photographs

Photo 1: *Main grassland area*

Photo 2: *Small planted shrubbery at the southern boundary*

Photo 3: *Planted shrubbery at the northern end of the site*

Photo 4: *Mature lime at northern end of site*

Photo 5: *Mature evergreen oak alongside Claylands Road*

Photo 6: *Old false-acacia*

Photo 7: *Rowan sapling*

Photo 8: *Mature red oak*

Photo 9: *Young sweet gum at the southern end of the site*

Appendix 4: Concept design

CONCEPT DESIGN

KEY

1. Central lawn improved with imported topsoil / sand to level and improve drainage, overseeded with high quality seed or turf
2. Areas to be left unmown and improved with native plug planting to create wildflower area. Possible temporary low level protection fencing and signage to assist establishment.
3. Bold swathes of bulb planting and possible additional orchard tree planting provides structure and more intimate glade spaces away from open central lawn
4. New footpath with two new benches facing south onto the green. Shade tolerant wildflower under holm oak, New bin centrally located.
5. Modest extension of existing ornamental planting beds to enclose the corners of the green. New planting to be developed with residents.
6. New individual seats located apart to provide seating without attracting groups and antisocial behaviour
7. Existing low fence retained but sections removed to allow access from houses south of the Green
8. Rearrange and improve existing planters to create better barrier to cycle movement
9. New signage and notice board
10. New tree planting as part of long term replanting strategy

Claylands Green

turkington martin

Appendix 5: Relevant Legislation

Important notice: *This section contains details of legislation appropriate in England only (i.e. it may not be relevant to the other home nations, Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands) and is provided for general guidance only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this section should not be relied upon as a definitive statement of the law.*

Wildlife in Britain receives protection under various legislation including:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Protection of Badgers Act (1992)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

Habitats of regional or national importance are designated as statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Other statutory designations applied for sites of international importance include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Such sites are by definition also designated as SSSIs.

In addition to statutorily protected sites, there are ranges of non-statutory designations applied at a local level by local planning authorities. These are called Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs), Sites of Nature of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) or similar.

Species that are protected or otherwise regulated under this legislation include:

- amphibians and reptiles
- great crested newt
- bats
- hazel dormouse
- badger
- birds
- stag beetle
- European eel
- bluebell (native)
- plants: invasive plant species

Bats

All species of bat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion in Schedule 5. All bats are also included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The Act and Regulations make it illegal to:

- intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture (take) bats;
- deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not);
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts;
- possess or transport a bat or any other part of a bat, unless acquired legally; or
- sell, barter or exchange bats or parts of bats.

If a bat roost is to be affected by development activities, a licence from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will need to be obtained to mitigate any detrimental effects.

Birds

All birds, their eggs and nests are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird, or to take or destroy their eggs. It is also an offence to take damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Certain species including black redstart receive additional special protection under Schedule 1 of the Act and under Annex 1 of the European Community Directive on the conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

European hedgehog

Hedgehogs are protected, in England, Scotland and Wales, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 6 and in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985, Schedules 6&7. What this means is they are:

“protected from being killed or taken by certain methods under Section 11(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The methods listed are: self-locking snares, bows, crossbows, explosives (other than ammunition for a firearm), or live decoys. The species listed are also protected from the following activities: trap, snare or net, electrical device for killing or stunning, poisonous, poisoned or stupefying substances or any other gas or smoke, automatic or semi-automatic weapon, device for illuminating a target or sighting device for night shooting, artificial light, mirror or other dazzling device, sound recording, and mechanically propelled vehicle in immediate pursuit.”

Hedgehogs are also list under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 – see below.

Stag Beetle

The stag beetle is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended) but only to prevent trade. A major threat to stag beetles, especially in Europe, has been from private collectors and the legislation aims to stop the species from being collected for sale at entomological fairs. It is also listed on Appendix 111 of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979 and Appendix 2 of the Habitats Directive. The latter requires the UK to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) specifically to protect the stag beetle.

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 200

Provides a list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England (S41 list). This list was compiled to act as a guide to decision-makers such as public bodies in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 “to have regard” to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions. In particular Local Planning Authorities will use it to identify the species and habitats that require specific consideration in dealing with planning and development control. There are 56 habitats and 943 species included on the S41 list. These are all habitats and species that have been identified as requiring action in the UK BAP.

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)

The BoCC lists provide the status of the birds that occur regularly in the UK. They are produced by the UK's leading bird conservation organisations. Red-listed species are those that are Globally Threatened according to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years, and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery. Amber-listed species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years, those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery, rare breeders, and those with internationally important or localised populations.

Plants: Invasive plant species

Certain species of plant, including Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, are included in Section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 making it an offence for them to be planted in the wild or otherwise caused to grow or spread in the wild.