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| Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames  Review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation  Kingston upon Thames  Final report  Prepared by LUC  April 2021 |  |
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| Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames  Review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation  Kingston upon Thames  Project Number  11119 |  |

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### Introduction

* + 1. LUC was appointed in May 2020 by the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames to undertake a review of existing and potential Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within the borough.
    2. This review will form part of the evidence base of the emerging Local Plan, which is being produced by the Council.

Background

* + 1. The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames supports a range of biodiversity assets, including:
* **11 Local Nature Reserves** – all LNRs overlap with the SINC sites present in the borough.
* **39 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)**;
* **Ancient Woodland** – small fragments of ancient woodland are present in three SINCs in the north-east and south of the borough;
* **Priority Habitats**, including deciduous woodland, good quality semi-improved grassland, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heathland and traditional orchard;
* **Green Corridors**; and
* **Blue Corridors**.
  + 1. The borough is also bordered by two SACs and three SSSIs, which are located at Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common to the north and Epsom and Ashstead Common to the south.
    2. A map of biodiversity assets within the borough is presented in **Figure 1.1** and **Figure 1.2** in **Appendix A**.

Planning Policy Context

National Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

* + 1. The NPPF promotes a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
    2. Paragraph 170 states that the role of the planning system should:
* Protect and enhance valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils;
* Recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services;
* Minimise impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity.
  + 1. Paragraph 171 requires that Plans should take a strategic approach to maintain and enhance networks of green infrastructure, and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
    2. Paragraph 174 states that Plans should:
* Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks;
* Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species;
* Identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment 2018

* + 1. DEFRA’s 25 Year Environment Plan sets ambitious long-term targets for environmental improvement to which Government will be legally bound. The Plan commits to embed the principle of ‘environmental net gain’ to development, such as housing and infrastructure, and calls for ‘nature recovery areas’ as important parts of developing Ecological Networks. A 'network' by its nature includes existing biodiversity assess features and potential features, which can be enhanced and restored to contribute the existing network, which enable the migration, dispersal and gene flow of species. Ambitions of the Plan include returning 75% of our designated sites to favourable condition and the creation or restoration of 500,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network.

Environment Bill 2020

* + 1. The Environment Bill sets out a mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) for development; under Schedule 7A, developers would need to submit a ‘biodiversity gain plan’ to the local authority before seeking planning permission. This comes is ahead of a future intention to "expand the net gain approaches used for biodiversity to include wider natural capital benefits, such as flood protection, recreation and improved water and air quality”. The Government’s ambition for the Bill is to mandate a 10% BNG for developments, with a legacy of 30 years.
    2. The Environment Bill also sets out the provisions of requiring the development of Local Nature Recovery (LNR) Strategies across England, which will set the trajectory for nature conservation, recovery actions and opportunities for enhancement at a sub-regional scale. An important aspect of LNRS is to deliver interventions that optimise benefits to biodiversity, alongside those of the wider environment, such as air and water quality, flood alleviation and carbon sequestration.
    3. In addition, the Environment Bill proposes to strengthen the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Section 40, which places a duty on public authorities to have regard to conserving biodiversity, to have a duty to consider enhancement as well. The Bill requires public authorities to undertake a strategic assessment of actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to provide on a five-yearly basis a report on these actions to show that they have complied with this duty. This will be an important drive to ensure the effective implementation of the LNR Strategies.

Regional Policy

The London Plan

* + 1. The adopted London Plan states that plans should use the procedures in the Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy to identify and secure the appropriate management of sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation. Areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites should be identified through plans and opportunities to address these issues should also be identified. The policy also states that green corridors of strategic importance should be identified, protected and enhanced.
    2. Policy G6 of the draft new London Plan states that Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be protected. SINCs and ecological corridors should be identified to contribute to coherent ecological networks. In addition, the London Plan states that Boroughs should “identify areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and seek opportunities to address them”,

Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (2002)

* + 1. The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy sets out the approach of identifying and addressing areas of deficiency in terms of access to nature and defines these as areas that are more than 1km walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC.

London Environment Strategy

* + 1. The London Environment Strategy provides details on how the Mayor of London will address the protection and improvement of the environment in London in the future. The Strategy contains the aim for London to be the world’s first National Park City, in which more than half of the city’s area is green. The vision of the city as a National City Park is one where new growth helps to improve the quality and function of London’s green infrastructure. This status was adopted on 22nd July 2019. This will allow for a greener, more connected, wildlife rich city with a high quality (and protected) core network of parks and green spaces. This approach is to help ensure the protection of the natural environment, and appropriate management of the network of green infrastructure to benefit all sectors of London’s population.

London National Park City

* + 1. In July 2019, London was declared the world’s first National Park City. The concept behind the National Park City movement is to encourage individuals and public bodies to contribute towards making London ‘greener, healthier and wilder’ as set out in the London National Park City Charter. Ambitions for London as a National Park City is that it will be:
* a city which is greener in the long-term than it is today and where people and nature are better connected;
* a city which protects the core network of parks and green spaces and where buildings and public spaces aren’t defined only by stone, brick, concrete, glass and steel;
* a city that is rich with wildlife where every child benefit from exploring, playing and learning outdoors; and
* a city where all can enjoy high-quality green spaces, clean air, clean waterways and where more people choose to walk and cycle[[1]](#footnote-1).
  + 1. In this environment all London residents will have opportunities to experience, enjoy and benefit from the city’s natural capital. Objective 5.2 is set out to conserve and enhance wildlife and natural habitat’s in the city.
    2. Policy 5.1.1 of the strategy sets out to “protect, enhance and increase green areas in the city to provide green infrastructure services and benefits London needs now and, in the future,”.
    3. The London Environment Strategy seeks the protection of a core network of nature conservation sites and promotion of net gain in biodiversity is required through Policy 5.2.1 of the strategy. Proposal 5.2.1.a refers to the London Plan’s policies on the protection of SINCs which will help to ensure that as many Londoners as possible can access wildlife-rich space.
    4. Proposal 5.2.1b states that the Mayor will develop a biodiversity net gain approach for London as well as promoting wildlife-friendly landscaping in new developments and regeneration projects. The Mayor will, furthermore, “provide guidance and support on the management and creation of priority habitats, the conservation of priority species, and the establishment of wildlife corridors” as stated through Proposal 5.2.1c.

Local Policy

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Core Strategy (Adopted 2012)

* + 1. One of the Core Strategy's objectives is to *"improve the natural and green environment and local biodiversity through active management and enhancement of local sites and protect natural resources by designating suitable land, requiring new development to increase access to open space and protect and promote biodiversity by tree planting and landscaping*". This is supported by Policy CS3: The Natural and Green Environment, which sets out the requirement to ensure the protection and improvement of valued natural and green environment in Kingston upon Thames.

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### Method

Site Selection

* + 1. The SINC review included the assessment of 37 existing SINCs within Kingston upon Thames and 10 potential SINC sites identified by the Council. Reference should be made to **Figure 2.1** in **Appendix B** which presents the locations of the sites reviewed as part of this assessment.

Desk Review

* + 1. To provide additional background and to highlight likely features or species groups of interest, a study of available biological records was undertaken within each site. This included statutory and non-statutory sites and existing records of protected[[2]](#footnote-2) and/or notable[[3]](#footnote-3) species of relevance to the site. The following resources were used:
* Data, including SINC boundaries and citations, species data, Areas of Deficiency and geodiversity sites in access to nature were provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GIGL);
* Previous ecological reporting conducted by third parties (where applicable);
* Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC);
* Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping; and
* Aerial photography.
  + 1. The findings of this review are presented in Figure 2.1 in **Appendix B** and summary table in **Appendix C**. Proformas presenting the raw data is provided in **Appendix D**.

Site Survey

* + 1. The sites were surveyed using the Greater London Authority’s (GLA) Open Space and Habitat Survey Methodology[[4]](#footnote-4) which has been specifically developed to enable the identification of SINCs and enables the collection of the key site Information. This involved the collection of data relating to a range of site attributes as detailed in **Table 2.1** below.
    2. Detailed plant species lists were only collected for species-rich or particularly notable habitats as per the GLA methodology.
    3. Surveys were completed by Rebecca Turner BSc MSc ACIEEM, Amy Coleman BSc ACIEEM and Tom Hicks BSc Qualifying Member of CIEEM between July and September during the flowering season to allow for optimal opportunities for floral identification, particularly for rare and notable species

Site Evaluation

* + 1. The sites were assessed against a consistent and well-established methodology and set of criteria which is set out in **Table 2.1** below. This will follow the methodology established by the London Wildlife Sites Board as published in 2019, which sets out the Mayor of London’s criteria on SINCs selection[[5]](#footnote-5).

Table . SINC Assessment Criteria

| Assessment Criteria | Guidance |
| --- | --- |
| Representation | The best examples of each major habitat type are selected. These include typical urban habitats such as abandoned land colonised by nature. Where a habitat is not extensive in the search area it will be appropriate to conserve all or most of it, whereas where it is more extensive a smaller percentage will be conserved. |
| Habitat Rarity | The presence of a rare habitat makes a site important, because the loss of, or damage to, only a few sites threatens the survival of the habitat in the search area. |
| Species Rarity | The presence of a rare species makes the site important in a way that parallels rare habitat. |
| Habitat Richness | Protecting a site with a rich selection of habitat types not only conserves those habitats, but also the wide range of organisms that live within them and the species that require more than one habitat type for their survival. Rich sites also afford more opportunities for enjoyment and educational use. |
| Species Richness | Generally, sites that are species rich are preferred, as this permits the conservation of a correspondingly large number of species (however, some habitats such as reed beds, heaths and acid woodlands, are intrinsically relatively species poor). |
| Size | Large sites are generally more important than small sites. They may allow for species with special area requirements. Larger sites may be less vulnerable to small scale disturbance, as recovery is sometimes possible from the undisturbed remainder. They are more able to withstand visitors. Size is also related to the richness of habitat and species. The evaluation of the site's size was based on professional judgement, which was informed by the information on the extent of the site relative to the local area. For those sites of notable size, these were considered to be of particular importance in the local area, for example a large site within an urban area is considered to be of notable size, and which due to its size provides a significant contribution to a strategic wildlife corridor. |
| Important Populations of Species | Some sites are important because they hold a large proportion of the population of a species for the search area. |
| Ancient Character | Some sites have valuable ecological characteristics derived from long periods of traditional management, or even continuity in time to woodlands and wetlands that occupied before agriculture. Ancient woodlands, old parkland trees and traditionally managed grasslands tend to have typical species that are rare elsewhere. These habitats deserve protection also because of the ease with which they are damaged by changes in management. |
| Recreatability | The more difficult it is to recreate a sites habitat the more important it is to retain it. (Ponds can be created from scratch within a few years – whereas woodlands take decades). Certain habitats cannot be recreated because of practical reasons such as land availability and cost. |
| Typical Urban Character | Features such as canals, walls, bridges, railway sidings colonised by nature often have a juxtaposition of artificial and wild features. Some of these habitats are particularly rich in species / have rare species / communities. Particular physical or chemical substrates may allow rare species to thrive. They may also have particular visual qualities. |
| Cultural and Historic Character | Sites such as historic gardens with semi-wild areas, garden suburbs, churchyards which have reverted to the wild may have a unique blend of cultural and natural history. |
| Geographic Position | Regarding areas of deficiency in access to nature. |
| Access | An important consideration – especially in areas where there are limited opportunities for large urban populations to enjoy the natural world. Some access is desirable to all but the most sensitive sites, but direct physical access to all parts of a site may not be desirable. |
| Use | The current use of the site, relating to how the site is used by people e.g. education, research, or quiet enjoyment of nature. |
| Potential | Where a site can be enhanced given modest changes in management practices gives it value. Opportunity exists where a site is likely to become available for nature conservation use, or where there is local enthusiasm. |
| Aesthetic Appeal | Factors which contribute to the enjoyment of the experience of visiting a site –seclusion/views/variety of landscape etc. |

* + 1. The assessment included a set of recommendations based on the following categories detailed below. This included:
* **Proposed upgrade and/or extension** – this category identified SINC sites, which were recommended for an upgrade in SINC designation and/or alteration of the site boundary to include additional habitats, which were considered to contribute to the value of the SINC.
* **Proposed New SINCs** – this category identified sites, which has not been previously designated as a SINC but were considered to support habitats of SINC quality and were therefore recommended to be designated as such.
* **At Risk** – this category identified sites, which were at risk of downgrade or de-designation due to a decline in ecological value. These sites should retain their existing SINC designation, however, it is recommended that action is taken to ensure that these sites retain their value as a SINC.
* **De-designation** – this category identified sites that had changed significantly and were therefore no longer considered to support habitats of SINC value, and which were not considered viable for restoration. This included changes to site boundaries to exclude areas where the site no longer supported habitats that contributed to the value of the SINC.
* **Opportunity** – this category identified sites, which have potential through further management and establishment of habitats to be recommended for upgrade in the future. At this stage, these sites were recommended to retain their SINC designation in this SINC review.
* **No change** – this category identified sites, which were not considered to have changed since the previous survey and continued to retain their value as a SINC. These sites were recommended to retain their SINC designation.
  + 1. The existing and potential SINC sites were considered in relation to the Areas of Deficiency (AoD) in Access to Nature, which was provided by GIGL. AoD in access to nature was modelled by GiGL as areas outside of 1km walking distance, along roads and paths, from access points to publicly accessible SINCs as presented in **Appendix A**.
    2. Given the nature of the assessment methodology and criteria, field-based assessments were necessarily subjective to a degree and based on the professional judgement of experienced ecologists. In addition, not all criteria are necessarily applicable to all Sites. Following completion of the surveys, a workshop was held with the Project Manager to develop recommendations and ensure consistency during the assessment

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

* + 1. A rapid Phase 1 Habitat survey was completed for potential SINCs and for existing SINCs, where there has been significant change since the previous review. This included the following sites, which were identified by the Council following consultation with local groups and natural history experts with an interest in nature conservation:
* Hogsmill Valley
* Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space
* Alexandra Millennium Green
* Beverley Park
* Beverley Park Allotments
* Bonesgate Open Space
* Canbury Gardens
* Hogsmill Community Garden and Kingston University Land
* Knollmead Allotments
* RAF Chessington
* Surbiton Cemetery
* Alric Avenue Allotments
  + 1. This involved the mapping of habitats present and note of any species-rich habitats and notable or priority species present.

Limitations and Constraints

* + 1. A survey was not completed for the Thames River and Tidal Estuary SINC. This designation is considered unlikely to change in designation given its unique value as a tidal estuary in London and its vast size, which extends across the width of the city.
    2. A survey was not completed for Wimbledon and Putney Heath Common SINC as the vast majority of the SINC lies outside of the borough. It was agreed that the Council would liaise with London Borough of Merton in relation to this site.
    3. No access was available in relation to Barwell Estate Lake SINC, The Grapsome and Hogsmill Sewage Works and Hogsmill River SINC. A desk-based review of the site was completed; however, it should be noted that existing conditions of the site could not obtained through a site survey.
    4. There were restricted views/access to some sections of to the following SINCs:
* Beverley Brook;
* Clayton Road Wood; and
* Hogsmill Valley
  + 1. This was however not considered a constraint to the survey findings, as sufficient data was able to be collected to assess the sites in line with the approach detailed above.

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### Summary of the SINC Assessment

* + 1. The findings of the SINC review are detailed below with a summary of the survey findings are presented in **Figure 2.1**, **Appendix B** and **Table 3.1**, found **Appendix C**. In addition, an updated Area of Deficiency in access to nature in line with recommendations detailed below is presented in **Figure 2.2, Appendix B**.
    2. Site survey proformas presenting the information recorded during the surveys, including the Phase 1 Habitat Survey maps (where applicable) and photos, are provided in **Appendix D**.

Summary

* + 1. In summary, a total of 47 sites were surveyed and reviewed as part of the project. This comprised:
* 37 SINCs previously designated SINCs, including:
  1. 2 Metropolitan sites
  2. 11 Borough Grade I sites
  3. 15 Borough Grade II sites
  4. 9 Local sites.
* 10 potential SINCs, which were identified through stakeholder engagement and development of mapping highlighting key biodiversity assets within the borough and areas of deficiency in access to nature.

Recommendations

* + 1. Following a review of existing and potential SINCs, the following recommendations were identified:

Sites to Upgrade and/or Extend

* + 1. The following sites were considered suitable for upgrade and/or extension:
* Kelvin Grove Allotments (extension only);
* Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space (extension only);
* Bonesgate Stream;
* Tolworth Court Farm Fields and Medieval Moated Manor;
* Kingston Cemetery;
* Hogsmill Valley; (extension only);
* Kingston University, Kingston Hill (extension only);
* Hogsmill River in Central Kingston; and
* Raeburn Open Space (extension only)
  + 1. These sites were considered to support habitats of higher quality, variety and value than previously identified and/or were if sufficient size to provide valuable opportunities for wildlife in an urban setting and to contribute to the strategic ecological corridors in the borough.

Proposed New SINCs

* + 1. The following previously undesignated sites were considered suitable to be recommended for designation as SINCs:
* Alexandra Millennium Green;
* Beverley Park and Beverley Park Allotments (combined as one SINC designation);
* Bonesgate Open Space (to be included as part of an extension to the existing Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space SINC);
* Hogsmill Community Garden and Kingston University Land;
* Knollmead Allotments;
* RAF Chessington; and
* Alric Avenue Allotments.
  + 1. All sites with exception to Knollmead Allotments and Bonesgate Open Space supported common and widespread habitats which offer some value for nature conservation. Although these sites may not be of particular value ecologically, they warrant designation as Local SINCs as they provided opportunities for the local community to access nature, particularly everyday wildlife.
    2. Knollmead Allotments was found to support habitats of greater ecological value for a wide range of species. This site is likely to represent an important resource for local populations of wildlife, as well as providing a place for the local community to access nature. This site is therefore recommended designation as a Borough Grade II SINC.
    3. Bonesgate.Open Space supports habitats that are not considered of unique value on its own. However, the site plays an important role in maintain habitat connectivity along the Bonesgate Stream wildlife corridor and is therefore considered an important extension to the Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space Borough Grade I SINC.

Sites at risk

* + 1. A small number of sites were identified at **risk** of de-designation as the ecological value of these sites has declined since the previous survey and would require management to maintain the sites at their current status. This included:
* The Leyfield (or Old Malden Common);
* Coombe Wood Golf Course;
* Jubilee Meadows (“Meadowlands”); and
* Seething Wells Filter Bed.
  + 1. The Leyfield (or Old Malden Common) was identified as being "at risk" as the neutral grassland habitat, which was previously highlighted as a reason for designation was no longer present due to a lack of management and the site as a whole was subject to anti-social behaviour, such as fly tipping, littering and dumping of garden waste, which detracts from the value of the site. To retain its current status the SINC, the grassland reinstated, the antisocial behaviour threats should be managed, and the woodland subject to active tree management.
    2. Coombe Wood Golf Course was identified as being "at risk" as the acid grassland habitat, which is a priority habitat for the borough and one of the primary interest features of the SINC, has significantly deteriorated due to intensive mowing. This will require appropriate management to re-instate the value of the habitat.
    3. Jubilee Meadows was identified as being 'at risk' as the grassland habitat, which was previously recorded to support a diverse range of species had deteriorated as a result of over grazing preventing wildflowers from flowering and seeding and the colonisation of more competitive plant species. To retain the current status of the SINC, the quality and diversity of the grassland should be improved through the change of management and where appropriate reseeding of wildflower seeds of local provenance.
    4. Seething Wells Filter Beds as identified as being 'at risk' due to the current management practices, which include the treatment and removal of vegetation and trees, being implemented, which has significantly altered the extent and value of the habitats present. This has included the loss of species-rich grassland habitat, which supported calcareous grassland species that are unique to the borough and quality of wetland habitats present. Given the nature of the site, which continues to support wetland habitats, as well as its relationship with the River Thames and its geological character, the site is considered to continue to be of notable value. Due to these factors and given that the site been subject to these changes in more recent years, it is expected that the potential to restore the site to its previous quality and value would be achievable through appropriate management of the site.

Sites Recommended for De-designation

* + 1. The following site boundaries were recommended to be updated to exclude areas, which support habitats that do not contribute to the quality of the SINC. This includes:
* Riverhill House supports habitats, which are of Borough Grade II quality and therefore the site should be designated as such. However, there have been changes in land use since the previous survey in the centre and north of the Site. It is recommended that the site boundary is updated to exclude areas that have been developed to incorporate a go-kart track in the centre of the site and residential housing in the north as these no longer support habitats of SINC quality.
* Kingston University, Kingston Hill supports habitats, which are of Borough Grade I quality and therefore should be designated as such. However, it is recommended that a small section of the existing SINC, which lies outside of the University campus and is not considered to support habitats that are if SINC quality is excluded from the SINC.

No change in designation

* + 1. The remaining 31 sites were considered to be unchanged. However, a further three were identified as **opportunity** Sites, which with further management and establishment of habitats could be considered for an **upgrade** in the future. This included:
* Mount Road Open Space;
* Manor Park; and
* Edith Gardens Allotments.

Summary of SINC Review

* + 1. It is the Council's duty to ensure that the conservation of biodiversity is considered as part of the plan-making process. The primary purpose of the SINC Review is to provide an up to date review of existing and potential SINCs within the borough to inform the development of the new Local Plan.
    2. The emerging Local Plan offers the opportunity to maximise the benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of priority and notable habitats and species and designated sites at an early stage of the plan making process. The SINC Review provides the evidence base to inform the requirements as outlined in the NPPF and the London Plan to protect, enhance and restore sites of biodiversity value and to promote a strategic approach to maintain and enhancing ecological networks so that they more resilient to current and future pressures.
    3. In addition to this, the SINC review provides a basis to inform and support the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and delivering biodiversity net gain required for proposed schemes through the Environment Bill by informing opportunities to protect nature conservation and enhance biodiversity within existing and potential SINC sites. This will be a key document in ensuring that the Council meets its legal obligations.

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#### Figure 1.1-1.3: Biodiversity Assets in the Borough

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#### Figure 2.1: Summary of SINC Review Recommendations and Figure 2.2: Area of Deficiency in Access to Nature – Updated Following SINC Review Recommendations 2020

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#### Summary of SINC Review

| LUC Site ID | SINC ID | Site Name | SINC Designation | SINC Citation | Key Survey Findings in 2020 | Recommendations of the 2020 SINC Review \* | Proposed SINC Designation |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | M101 | Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath | Metropolitan | A large common which includes the largest area of wet heath in London and one of the capital’s few bogs, providing a home for some rare plants and insects. | N/A | N/A | **Metropolitan** |
| 2 | M031 | River Thames and tidal tributaries | Metropolitan | The mudflats, shingle beach, inter-tidal vegetation, islands and river channel itself support many species from freshwater, estuarine and marine communities which are rare in London. The site is of particular importance for wildfowl and wading birds. | N/A | N/A | **Metropolitan** |
| 3 | KiBII07 | Coombe Wood | Borough Grade II | Two small woodlands either side of the A3, including a short section of the Beverley Brook. Although invaded by rhododendrons, the woods still support a range of birds, wild flowers and some uncommon shrubs | Coombe Wood is comprised of two linear blocks of woodland situated on either side of the A3 along the eastern boundary of the borough. The site can be access via public footpaths and informal pathways with and adjacent to the site.  The site is formed of two linear blocks of woodland with a section of Beverley Brook passing through the site. The woodland to the west appeared to be more established and was comprised of oak and ash with an understorey of hawthorn and hazel and ground cover with bramble and bracken. In addition to this, there was an area of the woodland in the west, which was dominated by rhododendron. This did not appear to be as extensive as previously identified within the SINC citation. Whilst the woodland to the east supported a small number of mature and semi-mature trees but appeared to be less established supporting oak. ash and willow in the canopy with an understorey of blackthorn, elm and snowberry amongst other species. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports woodland and river habitat, which is considered of Borough Grade II quality and therefore should be retained as such as a SINC. The site is important as it contributes on a small scale to the strategic network in the east of the borough and provides an important buffer between the A23 and habitats in the wider area.  **Management Recommendations**  There were no obvious signs of management at this site identified during the survey. To further improve the ecological value of the site, it is recommended that that the following measures are implemented:   * Removal of Himalayan balsam that was recorded on the banks of the stream, which passes through the site and if allowed to establish further will prevent native species from growing and undermine the structure of the bank. * Active management of the woodland to remove non-native species, in particular rhododendron, which has dominated sections of the woodland in the west and replace with native species. * Provision of log and brash piles to provide additional habitat for invertebrates.   In addition to this, there is opportunity to improve the access for people from the adjacent residential area by creating a more established circular walk and signage at the entrance. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 4 | KiL12 | Kelvin Grove Allotments | Local | The northern half of these allotments have been allowed to go wild. This has now developed into a rich mosaic of vegetation and is frequented by a variety of birds such as green woodpecker and goldfinch. It also favours invertebrates, particularly flying insects. | Kelvin Grove Allotments was comprised of a large area of privately owned allotments in the west of the site adjacent to the A3.  The alloments comprised a mosaic of habitats, such the nature of allotments. There were several trees including mature oak, willows, hazel, silver birch, lombardy poplar and orchard primarily comprising prunus species. Areas of tall ruderal were present comprising dock, rosebay willowherb, common hogweed and common nettle. Some giant hogweed was noted on site. | **Proposed Extension**  The site supports habitats, which are considered of Local SINC quality and should therefore retains its designation as such.  It is recommended the site is extended to include an area of allotments in the south currently not within the SINC boundary and which supports similar habitats that are considered to contribute to the value of the existing SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  There was no specific management of the allotments noted during the survey other than that undertaken by individual plot owners. To further improve the site for biodiversity, it is recommended that a management plan is put in place, which includes the following:   * Active tree management to control the presence of oak processionary moth, which is known to be present on site. * Management of scrub surrounding the pond to prevent encroachment and allow for open water habitat with suitable aquatic vegetation. | **Local** |
| 5 | KiBII14 | Bonesgate Stream | Borough Grade II | This site includes a naturally meandering section of the Bonesgate Stream, deep in the heart of London’s Green Belt. | Bonesgate Stream is located in the east of the borough and forms part of a wider strategic ecological corridor. A site provides a valuable opportunity for people to access nature.  The habitats comprised running water, naturalised river banks, grassland, scrub and woodland. The woodland was dominated by oak, ash and crack willow. The scrub and tall ruderal which lined the banks of the stream included rosebay willow herb, dog wood, hawthorn and blackthorn. The grassland present was dominated by perrenial rye and yorkshire fog. | **Proposed Upgrade**  The site supports priority habitats, including a river corridor and woodland. These habitats form part of an important strategic corridor, which runs along the eastern boundary of the site. Due to the importance of this site for habitat connectivity on a landscape scale, it is recommended that the site is upgraded to Borough Grade I SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site was noted to be managed occasionally with evidence of grassland management in places to produce a short sward height. To further improve the site for biodiversity, it is recommended that the following measures are considered:   * Woodland management to encourage greater structural diversity and increase species-richness. * Grassland management to allow more relaxed mowing regimes to be implemented. This will allow for greater structural diversity and species richness by allowing more diverse selection of grass and herb species to establish. * Creation of log and brash piles from arising produced through active tree management. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 6 | KiBII13 | Green Lane | Borough Grade II | An ancient cattle road, bounded on either side by hedgerows with many fine mature trees, supporting a range of common birds, insects and wild flowers, | Green lane is a large private road which has several houses with sizable gardens south of Chessington, east of the busy A243. In addition, there is an area of woodland adjacent to a section of the lane with agricultural fields  Habitat comprised of broadleaved deciduous woodland. The canopy was dominated by ash and oak, with the shrub layer including elm, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble. Some mature, possibly veteran trees were present adjacent to the path and are likely important hedgerows. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports woodland habitat which is of Borough Grade ll quality and therefore its designation should remain the same.  To ensure the continued value of the site it is recommended that management of the woodland is implemented to create a more diverse habitat in relation to species and structure.  **Management Recommendations**  The site was noted to be subject to occasional management. To further improve the site for biodiversity, it is recommended that a woodland management plan is implemented and includes the following:   * Active tree management through pruning, coppicing and planting of native trees to ensure the protection of trees significant ecological value, such as veterans and to allow a varied selection of native tree species and structural diversity. * The arisings produced from any tree management should be retained and used for the creation of log and brash piles, which create additional niche habitats for invertebrates.   In addition, efforts should be made to resolve anti-social behaviour, such as fly-tipping and littering. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 7 | KiL11 | Mount Road Open Space | Local | A naturalised open space in Chessington with a blackthorn hedge and some dense scrub. | Mount Road Open Space is a small, mostly natural greenspace in Chessington, to the west of Tolworth Court Farm Fields and Medieval Moated Manor. It is bordered by an industrial area to the north and residential housing to the south.  The site is comprised of amenity grassland in the south west, an immature woodland belt to the north and scrub/Scot's pine trees to the south east. The northern woodland appears to the be result of a planting project and has matured since the previous review. The site is likely popular with local people for short dog walks or relaxing but is unlikely to attract visitors from afar. Workers from the nearby industrial park may also visit during their lunch. It has limited ecological interest and is in need of increased litter removal efforts. Fly tipping is an issue at this site, due to a concealed alleyway on the eastern boundary. | **Opportunity**  The site supports habitats that are of local quality and should remain designated as a Local SINC.  There is an area of amenity grassland adjacent to the site which could be managed sympathetically for wildlife which long-term could provide an opportunity for an extension to the SINC. Recommended measure would include relaxing the mowing regime, planting trees/shrubs and pond creation.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to management of the amenity grassland through frequent mowing whilst the woodland appears unmanaged. The current condition of the site can be maintained though continuing these management tasks. However, it is recommended that the tree guards within the woodland should now be removed.  Recommended measures to enhance the site further include:   * Relaxation of the mowing regime in some areas of the site allow for more structural and species diversity. This will also provide additional opportunities for wildlife, such as invertebrates and small mammals to disperse and shelter. * Tree and shrub planting to provide additional resources for bird species to forage and shelter and to improve the functional connectivity within the site. * Wetland creation such as ponds to provide a wider range of species with resources to forage and shelter.   In addition, there is opportunity to provide educational signage to outline the ecological value of the site and to provide signage to encourage visitors to reduce littering. | **Local** |
| 8 | KiBII05 | The Leyfield (or Old Malden Common) | Borough Grade II | The remains of the former Old Malden Common, consisting of secondary woodland, scrub and a small area of relict neutral grassland which supports several locally uncommon plants. | The Leyfield (or Old Malden Common) is small area of woodland adjacent to the Hogsmill Valley on the eastern boundary of the borough. It has a single pathway along its eastern boundary and is likely to only be used as a walk through rather than a site a member of the public would solely visit.  The site comprises broadleaved woodland habitat with a scrub understory only, the relict neutral grassland glade described in the previous citation is no longer present. | **At risk**  The site supports woodland habitat, which is a priority habitat for the borough and is functionally linked to the Hogsmill Valley, a key strategic corridor in the borough.  However, due to a lack of management on site the relict grassland, which was previously identified and contributed to the designation of the SINC is no longer present. In addition, the site condition is deteriorating with fly-tipping, litter and garden waste identified as key threats.  It is recommended that the site retains its designation as a Borough Grade II SINC, however the threats to the site should be managed to avoid the risk of downgraded to a Local SINC site if appropriate management measures are not implemented.  **Management Recommendations**  At present there is lack of management on site, which is resulting in the loss of features, which contribute to the site and deterioration of the sites condition through anti-social behaviour. It is therefore recommended that the following management recommendations are implemented to restore, protect and enhance the ecological value of the site. This includes:   * Woodland management through active tree management and coppicing to create open glades to allow the re-establishment of woodland edge habitats and to improve woodland diversity and structure. * Grassland creation in-combination with the woodland management to create woodland glades should be implemented to restore the relict grassland that was previously recorded. This may require stripping and re-seeding with species of local provenance.   In addition to this, it is recommended that key issues, including fly-tipping, littering and garden waste are managed appropriately to improve the condition of the site. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 9 | KiBII04 | Riverhill House | Borough Grade II | A complex site consisting of woodland, pasture and various wetland habitats, where birds, insects and wildflowers abound. | This SINC is comprised of a broadleaved woodland in the north and riparian woodland along the Hogsmill river in the south. It located on the eastern boundary of the borough, adjacent to a go kart track.  There was lots of go-kart related waste within the woodland including tyres, scrap metal, spent oil and other litter. Yellow archangel was recorded in one section of the woodland, near the garden of the residential properties. Himalayan balsam was abundant along the Hogsmill river which is likely to increase erosion of the bank. | **No change to SINC with a small section recommended for de-designation**  The site supports woodland habitat associated with the Hogsmill Valley, which is considered of Borough Grade II quality and therefore should retain its designation.  Due to changes in land use in some areas of the site, it is recommended that the site boundary is changed to exclude areas, which cannot be restored and are now used as a go-kart track and residential housing.  **Management Recommendations**  No specific management or signs of use was recorded in relation to the woodland and the river corridor, which appeared to be natural was subject to minimal management. To further improve the site for biodiversity, the following measures are recommended:   * Active tree management to reduce sycamore cover and to encourage a more native tree canopy. * Control of invasive species, including Himalayan balsam and yellow archangel to prevent further spread of these species. * Wetland creation, such as ponds in the woodland would provide benefit to a range of species. This is considered a viable option given the size of the site.   In addition, efforts should be made to reduce the levels of waste produced by the go-kart, including old tyres, scrap metal and spent oil/fuel. | **Borough Grade II**  **Update the site boundary to exclude areas that do not support habitats that contribute to the SINC. Reference should be made to Proformas in Appendix D, which details changes.** |
| 10 | KiBI07 | Tolworth Court Farm Fields and Medieval Moated Manor | Borough Grade I | A large area of farmland, with a field system of pastures, hedgerows and woodland. The site also includes the remains of a medieval moated manor house, where there are important wetland habitats. | The site is very large in size, particularly for London. It primarily comprises areas of grassland, species rich and important hedgerows with several mature and/or veteran trees, woodland, scrub and tall ruderal habitats.  The site is primarily comprised of areas of grassland varying in quality and diversity with small areas of woodland and scrub. The grassland is segmented by species rich, important hedgerows with several mature and/or veteran trees.  The site is partially fragmented to the north, where an area inaccessible to the public lies north of the A240 / Kingston Road. This part of the site is undisturbed by recreation, it has a diverse mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland habitat, and also has a small pond within it. The Hogsmill River lies partially adjacent to the site along the north eastern boundary and is bounded by Bonesgate Stream along the remainder of the eastern boundary of the site.  The site supports a range of rare, notable and protected species, and is particularly important for invertebrates and birds, supporting important populations of both. Furthermore, the site supports rich diversity of habitats, including nationally important and irreplaceable habitats such as important hedgerows and veteran trees. | **Proposed Upgrade**  The site supports a range of valuable habitats, which have distinct value within the borough and London. Since the previous survey, the site was noted to support a greater quality and richness of habitats and species, particularly in relation to the grassland in the north, which was not accessible during the survey in 2016 and which supported a diverse range of species. This area was also found to support wetland and wet woodland habitat, which was not previously identified and which contributes to the habitat richness of the site. The desk study also noted to support one of the most diverse butterfly populations in Greater London. Given the size, quality and diversity of the habitats and species present, this site is considered to be of strategic importance in the borough and wider area and support habitats and species of Metropolitan SINC quality. It is recommended that this site is upgraded to a Metropolitan SINC  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to management with a specific existing management plan in place for Tolworth Medieval Moated Manor. The management of the site is deemed appropriate and should continue to be implemented. However, it is understood that there are proposals to alter the mowing regime of the grassland at Tolworth Medieval Moated Manor from using a mechanical mower to using scythes to minimise any impacts to yellow meadow ant hills in this section of the site. It is recommended that the management in place is reviewed periodically to ensure that they continue to be effective and are appropriate to the site.  In addition, there was no Giant Hogweed present recorded during the survey, which indicates that this invasive species is being appropriately managed. | **Metropolitan** |
| 11 | KiL03 | Old Malden Pond | Local | Urban pond with a variety of aquatic vegetation and bankside planting. Invertebrate interest includes the hoverfly Anasimyia lineata, giant pond skater (Aquarius paludum) and blue-tailed damselfly (Ischnura elegans). | Old Malden Pond is small isolated pond which lies adjacent to a road and public house. The site is not publicly accessible but can be easily viewed from the adjacent footpath or from within the seating area of the public house.  The site is comprised almost entirely of the pond and marginal vegetation. The pond is permanently wet and has marginal vegetation comprising reeds and herbaceous species. The pond generally appears to have reasonable water quality with macrophytes noted. However, the road is very close, making the pond vulnerable to pollution events. Additionally, non-native fish species were recorded within the pond. | **No change to SINC**  The site is importance for local people to access views of more natural habitat in an urban setting and is considered to have more limited value for nature due to its isolated setting in an urban area. The site is therefore considered to support habitat of local quality. The site should remain at a Local SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently subject to a management plan, which is considered appropriate and it is recommended that this plan continues to be followed. In addition to the management plan, it is recommended that enhancements also include the removal of non-native species, which were noted in abundance, to allow native species to thrive and that a wooden viewing platform is installed so that the public can easily enjoy the pond. | **Local** |
| 12 | KiBII02 | Oakhill, ‘The Woods’ and Richard Jefferies Bird Sanctuary | Borough Grade II | A small suburban park including a fenced bird sanctuary, managed as a nature reserve. The accessible part is a pleasant place to relax amidst the planted trees and shrubs. The bird sanctuary is largely wooded and supports a range of common birds. | The site is a small suburban park located in Surbiton in the west of the borough. The site is bound by urban development and is likely to provide a valuable resource for common and widespread species, as well as for people to access nature.  The site is dominated by mature woodland including a canopy dominated by sycamore, oak, ash, horse chestnut, with occasional lime and conifer. The shrub layer comprises elder, holly and willow. Some areas of grassland were present, these were dominated by perrenial rye grass and subject to an intense mowing regime. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports habitats of Borough Grade II quality in an area that is densely populated area of the borough. The site is likely to provide valuable opportunities for wildlife and people to access nature. The site should therefore remain as a Borough grade II SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site was subject to regular management. To further improve the site for biodiversity, it is recommended that minor changes are made to the regular mowing regime by allowing specific areas to be relaxed to encourage a more diverse grassland structure and species-richness. This would provide additional opportunities for invertebrates and small mammals. In addition, there is potential to create glades in the existing woodland habitat, which would encourage a more diverse range of species in the ground flora and create structural diversity through more open and woodland edge habitat. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 13 | KiBI01 | Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works and Hogsmill River | Borough Grade I | This site includes an active sewage works and the adjacent River Hogsmill, part of which is managed by Thames Water as a nature reserve. It is an important site for birds, which use it for breeding, passage and wintering. The site is also important for foraging bats and is one of the few known sites in the area supporting slow worms. | N/A | No access was available for this site due to COVID-19 restrictions and as a result it is not possible to provide recommendations in relation to this site. In this instance, we suggest that the there is no change to the SINC designation until a site survey can be completed. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 14 | KiBI08 | Seething Wells Filter Beds | Borough Grade I | The remains of the old Surbiton Water Works, next to the Thames, frequented by wintering wildfowl and other birds seeking refuge from the comparatively exposed river. Plant species usually associated with the North Downs grow on the chalk grassland atop the basin walls | Seething Wells Filter Beds was historically a waterworks located in the north of Kingston Upon Thames adjacent to the River Thames.  The site is comprised of filter beds with standing water and bare ground with ephemeral plant species and scattered trees. The site has significantly changed since the previous review with the entire site being subject to treatment and removal of vegetation and trees. The survey recorded no evidence of emergent vegetation within the filter beds and little evidence of species-rich grassland supporting species typically found in chalk grassland in the North Downs identified along the basin walls. A review of the aerial imagery indicates that changes in extent and types of habitats in the site have occurred in more recent years with most significant changes recorded between 2018 and 2020. | **At Risk**  Due to the current management practices, which include the treatment and removal of vegetation, being implemented, the site is at risk of de-designation unless urgent action is taken to implement remedial measures to restore the site.  The site has significantly changed since the previous survey due to current management approach, which has reduced the extent and value of the habitats present. The site is now primarily comprised of standing water and bare ground with tall ruderal vegetation and ephemeral/short perennial plant species. The remains of some value to breeding birds and winter waterfowl species using the River Thames, however this could be further improved through appropriate management of the site.  Given the nature of the site, which continues to support wetland habitats, as well as its relationship with the River Thames and its geological character, the site is considered to continue to be of notable value. Due to these factors and given that the site been subject to these changes in more recent years, it is expected that the potential to restore the site to its previous quality and value would be achievable through appropriate management of the site.  To support this assessment, it is recommended that an additional survey is conducted in spring to further understand the ecological value of the site.  It is recommended that the SINC site retains its designation as a Borough Grade I SINC, however action is required otherwise it is at risk of being downgraded or de-designated in the future if management does not improve.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently subject to regular management each month. This includes the treatment and removal of vegetation. The site offers a significant opportunity to sensitively manage the site to restore the wetland habitat present. Given that a large proportion of the site supports wetland habitat and due to the existing relationship with the River Thames, the site continues to be of notable value. Due to this and given that the site been subject to these changes in more recent years, it is expected that the potential to restore the site to its previous quality and value would be achievable through appropriate management of the site. In addition to this, there is the opportunity to re-establish the species-rich calcareous grassland, which despite existing levels of disturbance and treatment from current management of the site is likely to retain its previous geological character and retain notable value to support rare and notable species that are unique to the site. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 15 | KiBII01 | Raeburn Open Space | Borough Grade II | A linear public open space centred around the lower Tolworth Brook. A mosaic of secondary woodland, scrub, old hedgerows and grassland, supporting many common birds and insects. | A linear public park alongside the lower Tolworth Brook. A variety of habitats are present including woodland, scrub, hedgerows, grassland, a brook and a pond. The site is essentially an extension of the Hogsmill Valley, to which it is connected through a series of footpaths.  The site is linear and comprises a mosaic of woodland, grassland, scrub and ruderal centred around the lower Tolworth brook. A wildlife pond and hibernacula has recently been constructed, the pond is well designed had and had frogs and newts (unknown eft) at the time survey. The brook is mostly canalised with concrete banks. Recent restoration works have included installing deflectors and removing some concrete, which has been effective in naturalising the brook. | **Proposed Extension**  The site has seen significant improvements since the last assessment with sections of the brook restored and a new wildlife pond constructed. The brook combined with the woodland is an important wildlife corridor and an extension of the Hogsmill Valley. If the site is further improved through the provision of another wildlife pond and the further naturalisation of the brook there is the potential for the site to be upgraded to a Borough Grade I SINC in the future.  It is recommended that the site boundary is extended to include an additional area south of the current designation, which is a continuation of the site. The area comprises an impressive area of oak woodland with hazel coppice understory adjacent to the brook.  **Management Recommendations**  As a whole the site was in a very good condition. One area was subject to flytipping and various waste was noted including corrugated asbestos. Dog fouling was minimal but still present. Oak processionary moth was noted on one oak tree (this has already been identified by park rangers).  There is scope to further naturalise the brook by removing more of the concrete bank and installing further deflectors. The newly constructed wildlife pond has been well built and has already been successfully colonised, there is a further opportunity to build another pond. The grassland habitats at the site are largely amenity with rough margins. The areas of amenity grassland are very open and exposed, this could be improved for both people and wildlife by creating 'islands' of trees and/or shrubs amongst the amenity grassland.  If the site is further improved through the provision of another wildlife pond and the further naturalisation of the brook there is the potential for the site to be upgraded to a Borough Grade I SINC in the future. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 16 | KiBI02 | Hogsmill Valley | Borough Grade I | This premier Local Nature Reserve encompasses the entire Hogsmill river corridor from Berrylands railway station south to London’s border with Surrey and comprises a varied mosaic of floodplain habitats. | The site includes the Hogsmill river corridor from Berrylands rail station south to Malden Lane on the edge of the borough. The site is mostly a Local Nature Reserve and the majority of the site can be viewed through a network of public footpaths.  The site is comprised of a complex mosaic of habitats centred around the Hogsmill river. The river itself is generally shallow and narrow, with some sections canalised. The river bank varies throughout its length but is generally vegetated, mostly by woodland but in some areas scrub. Rarely the river bank was bare, sparse and open. Shingle was recorded throughout the river, which will likely be an important habitat for fish, invertebrates and birds. Much of the site is broadleaved woodland which was varied in age, structure and species composition. Grassland was also a common habitat with semi-improved neutral grassland, unimproved neutral grassland and amenity recorded. There were large areas of scrub and ruderal present across the site, generally at habitat interfaces such as between grassland and the river bank. Tree lines, hedgerows and scattered trees were also noted across the site. Himalayan balsam was noted frequently within all habitat types but especially along the river bank and woodland. | **Proposed Extension**  The site supports river habitat which is important corridor across the centre of the borough. Whilst there are threats from Himalayan balsam, litter and dog fouling, due to the strategic ecological importance of this river corridor through the centre of the borough it is considered be of Borough Grade I quality.  A priority of management efforts should be to control the Himalayan balsam which has been rapidly spreading across the entire site. It is out competing native species and causing erosion of river bank.  Three small areas are recommended for extension. These areas are a continuation of habitats on-site and therefore likely to contribute to the value of the site.  **Management Recommendations**  As a whole the site is well managed for people and wildlife although there is an extensive Himalayan balsam issue. Other threats were minimal but included dog fouling, litter, flytipping and redevelopment.  A priority of management efforts should be to control the Himalayan balsam which has been rapidly spreading across the entire site. It is out competing native species and causing erosion of river bank. Sycamore is also prevalent in the woodland area; the selective thinning of sycamore specimens would enable native species to thrive. There is already a project aiming to reintroduce water voles to the river, this would be highly beneficial and would greatly increase the overall value of the site. Canalised sections of the river could be restored to their natural state where possible. An area of board walk over a floodplain is damaged and currently inaccessible, this area should be restored. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 17 | KiL05 | Edith Gardens Allotments | Local | Abandoned allotments alongside the Tolworth Brook. The allotments consist of dense scrub, scattered trees, rough grassland and tall herbs. A belt of trees follows the stream bank. The brook is enclosed in a box-section channel with no aquatic vegetation, but just upstream has natural banks. Kingfisher has been recorded here. | Edith Garden Allotments is a small linear local nature reserve situated in an area of residential housing units in the centre of the borough. Since the previous survey, the site, which was an abandoned allotment has been subject to management by a local volunteer group to create a wheelchair accessible local nature reserve for residents to access.  The site supports woodland-scrub habitat, which is interspersed in the east with a mosaic of tall ruderal vegetation, newly created ponds and bare sandy ground. In addition to this, there is a newly planted hedgerow, which has yet to establish and dead hedge along the northern boundary of the site. The Tolworth Brook, a culvert which runs east to west was also recorded along the southern boundary of the site. These habitats provide a wide range of resources for invertebrates, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and bird species. | **Opportunity**  The site supports habitats that are important locally and have been enhanced through the recent management of the site by a local volunteer group. The site should therefore remain as a Local SINC. However, there is potential as the site establishes and continues to be managed for the site to be considered as a Borough Grade II in the future.  **Management Recommendations**  The site, which was previously an abandoned allotments has recently be subject to management by a local volunteer group who have implemented a range of ecological enhancements, including the provision of wetland habitat, such as ponds, as well as bare sandy ground, hedgerow and dead hedges, which provide additional resources for birds, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals. In addition to this the volunteer group have improved the sites access for residents in the local area. The current management is considered appropriate, however there is potential to improve the site further with the following measures:   * Active management of the trees present on site. * Management of ponds on site to allow for the establishment of open water and establishment of aquatic and emergent plant species where appropriate. * Meadow creation to encourage the colonisation of more diverse grassland and herb species and to reduce the coarser, more ruderal species, which currently dominates the habitat present. * Control and removal of Himalayan balsam, which was recorded along the Tolworth Brook to prevent this species outcompeting native species and from damaging the structure of the bank. | **Local** |
| 18 | KiL04 | Kingston Cemetery | Local | A well-tended cemetery with one side bordering the Hogsmill River. Habitats present include a narrow strip of woodland, scrub, tall herb and ruderal. Bats, birds and invertebrates have been recorded from the area. | Kingston Cemetery, which was opened during the Victorian era in 1855 is situated in the centre of Kingston surrounded by residential housing and bordered by Hogsmill Valley in the south.  The site is comprised of short amenity grassland with scattered trees, including veteran trees and rough areas of grassland, particularly in the north-east. | **Proposed Upgrade**  The site supports deciduous woodland habitat and veteran trees, which are considered priority habitats for the borough. The site is known to support a breeding slow worm population, which is a priority species and has significant mycological interest. There are also a number of protected and notable species recorded identified from GIGL data, which are likely to use the site and adjacent Hogsmill river corridor. In addition to this, the site is of significant size in an urban area and is well connected and likely to contribute to the value of the Hogsmill river corridor, which is a key strategic corridor in the borough. Due to these factors, it is recommended that this site is upgraded to a Borough Grade II SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The nature conservation interest features are currently managed by a local volunteer group. To further improve the site for biodiversity it is recommended that the following measures are considered:   * Grassland management to improve the species diversity of grassland, particularly in areas to the north-east, which are subject to a more relaxed mowing regime. * Provision of tree planting to improve connectivity and provide additional habitat opportunities for wildlife within the site and to replace trees that have been recently felled. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 19 | KiL09 | Hogsmill River in Central Kingston | Local | The final stretch of the River Hogsmill before it flows into the River Thames. At the Thames confluence a series of rafts provide nesting and roosting sites for variety of birds, while exposed shingle upstream is frequented by grey wagtail and dunnock. | This site is the westernmost section of the Hogsmill River, which runs through the centre of Kingston from Villiers Road to the River Thames. The majority of the site can be viewed along the London Loop, which runs parallel to the site.  The site is comprised entirely of the river. The river supports vegetated banks and aquatic vegetation upstream in the east whilst there were concrete banks along the part of the river, which runs through the centre of the town in the east and low levels of vegetation in the west. There were however signs of shingle, which can become exposed in places and two floating rafts with vegetation, including Himalayan balsam. The site is likely to provide important habitat for fish, invertebrates and birds. | **Proposed Upgrade**  The site supports river habitat, which contributes to the Hogsmill Valley and connects the river to the River Thames. The site is therefore considered of greater value than at a local level as it provides a valuable wildlife corridor for a range of species to disperse into the wider area. It is therefore recommended that the site is upgraded to a Borough Grade II SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  No specific signs of management were noted during the site survey. There are limited opportunities to improve the site for biodiversity due to the man-made structure of the river of this section of the river and location in the town centre. To further enhancement the site for biodiversity, there is potential to implement the following measures:   * Control the spread of invasive species present, including Himalayan balsam, which was noted in the floating rafts. * Improve the quality of the water by removing litter and waste from flytipping. * Active tree management along the banks, which over hang the river to prevent structural damage to the concrete banks. * Aquatic vegetation planting through additional floating rafts to develop reedbeds. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 20 | KiBI09 | Kingston University, Kingston Hill | Borough Grade I | This site, including part of Kingston University’s grounds, contains a diverse range of plants growing under the canopy of the largely ancient woodland, as well as grassland and wetland areas housing the locally rare palmate newt. | This site is located at Kingston University as the Kingston Hill campus in the north of the borough.  The site is comprised of semi-natural woodland, which was largely comprised of oak with less frequent sycamore, false acacia, sweet chestnut and beech. The understorey was dominated in places by rhododendron, which was being managed at the time of survey and replaced by a range of native species. A small area of grassland was recorded in the west, which was comprised of semi-improved neutral grassland supporting a diverse range of species and semi-improved acid grassland, which is typically known to be species poor. A single pond was recorded also within the site. | **No change to SINC with a small section recommended for de-designation and two additional recommended for extension.**  The site supports habitat that are of principle importance within London and the borough. These habitats provide significant opportunities for a wide range of species, including bats, birds, badger, amphibian and invertebrates. The site is considered to support habitats of Borough Grade I quality and therefore its designation should remain the same.  It is recommended that the site boundary is updated to exclude a small section of the existing SINC in the south, which lies outside of the University campus and is not considered to support habitats that are of SINC quality and include two additional areas of woodland, which contribute to the value of the woodland habitat on site  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to regular management by the University. This includes the management of invasive species, such as Japanese knotweed, rhododendron, bamboo and yellow archangel, which are known to be present on the site and are being replaced by native woodland species. The current management practices on site are considered appropriate and should continue to be implemented. | **Borough Grade I**  **Update the site boundary to exclude areas that do not support habitats that contribute to the SINC and include two areas, which contribute to the value to the SINC. Reference should be made to Proformas in Appendix D, which details changes.** |
| 21 | KiBII11 | Coombe Wood Golf Course | Borough Grade II | A golf course with acid grassland and scrub of gorse and broom, reflecting the area’s past as a heathland common. | Coombe Wood Golf Course is large intensively managed golf course located in the north of the borough, the site is private with access available to golf course members only. The surrounding area is mostly residential housing.  The site predominately an intensively managed golf course. Towards the fringes of the site and in between some holes there are some small area of young woodland. The woodland is mostly comprised of native species including oak and yew. The understory has frequent introduced species due to most of the woodland bordering residential gardens. Japanese knotweed, laurel and rhododendron were noted.  The majority of the grassland at the site is amenity grassland due to the very intensive mowing regime. Grassland in the north has soil typical of acid grassland yet lack diversity and would be better described as amenity grassland. There are no real 'roughs' compared to other golf courses.  In the south of the site there is a network of drainage ditches but all sparse and intensively mown resulting in unfavourable habitat.  The site has lots of scattered trees, many of which are notably mature. Most trees are either oak or yew. | **At Risk**  A large golf course with acid grassland, scrub, mature trees and woodland. The combination of the sites size, location and habitats are of importance to the borough.  The primary habitats of interest according the previous SINC citation are acid grassland and scrub. The acid grassland has significantly deteriorated due to an intensive mowing regime. Whilst the site is still considered of Borough Grade II quality, it is at risk of being downgraded to a Local SINC if management does not improve.  **Management Recommendations**  At present, the site is managed very intensively with only small fragments of woodland and scrub subject to more relaxed management. It is not recommended that this practice continues, as it is degrading the quality of the site. Invasive species were relatively infrequent but included Japanese knotweed, rhododendron, Turkey oak, bamboo and various garden escapees. These species should be managed to prevent further spread.  There are many opportunities to restore and improve the site. The priority should be the restoration of the acid grassland, which has deteriorated due to excessive mowing and likely application of fertiliser. There are no longer any 'roughs' at the golf course, with all grassland cut very short. All grassland could be restored through relaxing the mowing regime where possible, especially around the golf course margins. Further opportunities exist to create a new wildlife pond(s). The ditches in the south of the site are currently of limited ecological value due to intense mowing activities, their value could be much improved by simply relaxing the mowing regime around the ditches. The site lacks many mature trees in the northern parcel, the provision of bird and bat boxes would therefore be highly beneficial. Dead wood is relatively scarce across the site, with most dead wood collected and stored in a yard, there is an opportunity to spread this wood out creating improved opportunities for species such as stag beetle.  The optimal management to promote the features may conflict with the requirements and preferences of the golf course management but it is likely that a balance can be achieved. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 22 | M100 | Coombe Hill Golf Course | Metropolitan | The roughs of this golf course contain some important areas of heathland, while strips of ancient woodland and wet ditches provide an environment for some rare plants. | Combe Hill Golf Course is located in the north-east of the borough. The site forms part of a series of designated SINC sites in this area of the borough and lies in close proximity to Richmond Park SSSI, SAC and National Nature Reserve and Wimbledon Common SSSI and SAC. Access to the site is restricted to users of the golf course only.  The site supports semi-natural acid grassland, which is subject to a varied management regime to creates areas of short grassland on the fairways and green and longer areas of grassland in the roughs. This habitat is interspersed with lowland heath habitat supporting heather and bell heather in the north-west of the site and linear belts of semi-natural ancient oak woodland with groundcover supporting bluebells across the site. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports rare and uncommon habitats and species, which are considered of Borough Grade 1 quality and therefore the site should remain as previously designated. This site is likely to provide an important contribution to the strategic network which runs through the borough in the east and into the wider area.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to regular management by the golf course. The current management approach is appropriate; however, it is recommended that the following management recommendations are considered to further improve the site:   * Increase the geographic range of lowland heath across the site, which is currently restricted to the north-east corner. * Improve water retention of ditches in the site. * Manage levels of rhododendron in woodland habitat and replace with native species. | **Metropolitan** |
| 23 | KiL10 | Royal Park Gate Open Space | Local | A public park next to the River Thames and continuing northwards as Ham Lands. It consists of scrub, trees and a significant area of semi-improved neutral grassland, where patches of rough grassland are interspersed with frequently mown grass paths. | Royal Park Gate Open Space is a public park situated next to the River Thames in the north of the borough.  The site was comprised of amenity and rough semi-improved grassland with areas of ornamental planting and woodland-scrub. The grassland supported a range of common and widespread species typically found as part of a meadow seed mix. The woodland-scrub supported a range of native tree species with an understorey of dense bramble scrub. There was evidence of active tree management in the site with a number of trees pollarded in the south. | **No change to SINC**  The site supported common and widespread habitats, which lie adjacent to the River Thames and Ham Lands Metropolitan SINC site. The habitats within the site are likely to contribute to the network of habitats and provide a corridor for wildlife to disperse to valuable habitats in the wider area. In addition to this, the site is an important resource for local people to access and enjoy nature. The site is considered of local SINC quality and was therefore considered that the designation for the site should remain the same.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently subject to regular management. However, to further improve the site for biodiversity, it is recommended that the following measures are implemented:   * Grassland management through varied mowing regimes to improve the structure and diversity species of the habitat present. * Woodland management including coppicing and creation of open glades and woodland edge habitat to improve the structural diversity and species richness of this habitat. * Provision of log and brash piles from arising produce from woodland management. | **Local** |
| 24 | KiBI03 | Chessington Wood | Borough Grade I | An ancient woodland consisting of oak, ash and birch over London Clay, with interesting plants growing among the trees, and a good range of breeding birds. | Chessington Wood is an area of ancient woodland situated in the south of the borough. The site is accessible to the public via a public foot path, which runs through the site between the A423 and Rushett Lane.  The site is entirely comprised of ancient woodland habitat consisting of oak, ash and birch developed over London Clay. A greenway supporting mature blackthorn hedgerow and oak and ash trees was recorded in the south of the site and the Bonesgate Stream was recorded running north-east to south-west through the site. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports woodland habitat which is of Borough Grade I quality and therefore should be retained as such as a SINC. The site contributes to the strategic habitat network, which runs along the eastern boundary towards the Hogsmill Valley and forms stepping stone habitat to woodland habitat in the wider area in the south of the borough.  **Management Recommendations**  The current management of the site was considered to be appropriate for the site. A key opportunity to maintain and protect the ecological value of the site is to ensure that active tree management is implemented to ensure the continued structural and species diversity of the woodland and hedgerow habitat. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 25 | KiBII03 | Rushett Farm, Rushett Common & Telegraph Hill | Borough Grade II | This site includes two tracts of woodland alongside the A243 from Malden Rushett south to London’s boundary with Surrey, providing a leafy backdrop to motorists heading into or out of the capital. | The site comprises a mature woodland belt either side of the busy A243 in the south of the borough.  The site comprised mature woodland dominated by oak, with several large specimens and a relatively sparse shrub layer. The shrub layer included hawthorn and bramble. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports mature woodland habitat, which is a priority habitat and is of Borough Grade II value. The site should there retain its designation as a Borough Grade II SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently subject to occasional management. To further enhance the site, it is recommended that woodland management is implemented to ensure the continued value of the woodland by management structural and species diversity. In addition, the site would benefit from the creation of niche habitats, such as piles of deadwood arising from any active tree management to create additional resources for invertebrates. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 26 | KiBI12 | World’s End | Borough Grade I | A small area of old plantation woodland over London Clay, composed of oak (Quercus robur), ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and coppiced hazel (Corylus avellana), and supporting a wealth of woodland wildflowers and mosses. | The lies in the far south corner of the borough and supports a small area of woodland dominated by oak and ash, with several stands of hazel coppice. The site lies adjacent to a very large area of woodland in the neighbouring borough.  The site comprised semi-natural broadleaved woodland on the edge of the borough boundary. The canopy was dominated by ash and oak, and the understorey dominated by hazel coppice. There was evidence of management including coppice and dead wood left in-situ. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports woodland habitat, which is considered of Borough Grade l quality and is likely to contribute to the value of woodland habitat in the wider area. The site is therefore recommended to retain its existing designation.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to occasional management. To further improve the site, it is recommended that the existing management of the woodland is reviewed to ensure that it is effective. In addition, it is recommended that the creation of niche habitats, such as piles of deadwood arising from any active tree management to create additional resources for invertebrates is implemented. There is also opportunity to improve the access of the site for people to enjoy and learn about nature. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 27 | KiBII17 | Jubilee Meadows (“Meadowlands”) | Borough Grade II | Two large meadows of neutral grassland over London Clay, adjacent to the Metropolitan site of Jubilee Wood. The northern field features a pond which has been rapidly colonised by a range of common dragonflies. At the edge of the other field is a Second World War pillbox that has been converted for use by bats as a winter hibernaculum. | Jubilee meadows is situated in the south of the borough and lies immediately adjacent to Jubilee Woods, which a Metropolitan SINC site. The northmost meadow can be accessed by the public via Jubilee Woods whilst the easternmost meadow can be viewed from the adjacent road and is primarily used as a horse paddock.  The site was comprised of two meadows supporting a range of common and widespread plant species. The northern meadow was comprised of rough grassland with an area of dense scrub and emergent vegetation where a dry pond was recorded in the north. Whilst the eastern meadow was grazed resulting in a short sward height comprising of more ruderal species with patches of dense scrub across the site. Both meadows were noted to support a less diverse range of species than previously recorded in the citation. This was particularly evident in relation to the eastern meadow, which seems to have deteriorated in condition. A redundant pillbox used in WWII was present in the west of the eastern meadow, which is being used as a bat hibernaculum. | **At Risk**  The site supports grassland habitats, which have deteriorated since the previous citation. This may be due to impacts from overgrazing preventing wildflowers from flowering and seeding and the colonisation of more competitive plant species. Therefore, it is recommended that the site retains its designation as a Grade II Borough SINC. However, tis I at risk of being downgraded to a Local SINC if management is not implemented to improve the quality and diversity of the habitats present.  **Management Recommendations**  As described above, existing management of the site is considered likely to have resulted in the deterioration of the SINCs quality and therefore that management is implemented to improve the quality and diversity of the site through changes to the existing grazing and cutting regimes, management of more competitive plant species and where appropriate re-seeding of grassland with wildflower seeds of local provenance. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 28 | KiBI11 | The Meadowlands | Borough Grade I | A small area of species-rich grassland preserved within a housing estate, with several locally uncommon species including bee and pyramidal orchids. | The site comprised a very small section of grassland in a densely populated residential area in the south of the borough, it is the only area of green space in the immediate area. The site was fenced off to prevent people accessing the site.  The grassland has some diversity including lady’s bedstraw, sweet vernal grass, red clover, goats' beard, birdsfoot trefoil and knapweed. However, some areas had locally dominant ruderal species including common nettle and common hogweed, and locally frequent coarse grass species including perennial rye grass and Yorkshire fog. Given the small area of grassland, it is important it is managed properly to maintain its diversity and ensure coarse grass species do not dominate. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports chalk grassland habitat, which a priority habitat for the borough. This habitat is considered of Borough Grade l SINC quality.  **Management Recommendations**  To ensure this is maintained for the future, it is recommended a review of management is undertaken to ensure management of grassland continues to be appropriate and effective. This is likely to comprise two cuts a year with all arisings removed. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 29 | KiBI04 | Barwell Estate Lake | Borough Grade I | A large lake created as mitigation for the construction of the Esher bypass, which is now an important place for breeding and wintering birds. | N/A | No access was available for this site and as a result it is not possible to provide recommendations in relation to this site. In this instance, we suggest that the there is no change to the SINC designation until a site survey can be completed. | Borough Grade I |
| 30 | KiBII09 | Winey Hill | Borough Grade II | This hilltop site includes horse-grazed pastures, dense scrub, a large stock pond and some old boundary hedgerows, where several nationally declining birds breed. | Winey Hill is a hilltop site located in the south of the borough. The site is accessible via a public footpath, known as the 'Chessington Countryside Walk'. It is adjacent west of Chessington World of Adventures.  The site is currently over-grazed by horses which reducing the grasslands value. The horses also have access to the woodland which has added interest by creating areas of bare ground. The site is popular with walkers and has impressive views.  Opportunities to improve to site include restoring the central pond. This could be achieved by fencing off the majority of the pond from the horses so that they can drink from it but avoid trampling all of the vegetation. Ideally, the pond would be better connected to the woodland by creating some scrub habitat between the two habitats so that the pond is less isolated. The pond also requires desilting. Additional opportunities include reducing grazing pressure and rotational management of scrub to encourage structural diversity. | **No change to SINC**  The grassland has lost some value since the last assessment and the pond is in poor condition, but these could easily be restored. The woodland and hedgerows are in a good condition. Overall, the site is considered to support habitats of Borough Grade II quality, therefore no changes to this SINC's status are recommended.  **Management Recommendations**  The site was subject is currently subject to management measures, such as grazing, which is deteriorating the condition of the grassland habitat. To further improve and restore the site for biodiversity, it is recommended that measures are implemented including:   * Restoration of the central pond. This could be achieved by fencing off the majority of the pond from the horses so that they can drink from it but avoid trampling all of the vegetation. Ideally, the pond would be better connected to the woodland by creating some scrub habitat between the two habitats. The pond also requires desilting. * Reducing grazing pressure and rotational management of scrub to encourage structural diversity. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 31 | KiBII10 | Fishponds | Borough Grade II | A small municipal park in Surbiton featuring ponds, a short stream and an area of rich neutral grassland managed as a hay meadow. | Fishponds is a small park in Surbiton in the centre of the borough. The site is primarily a recreational park, valued by the local community for its amenity value.  Much of the site comprised amenity grassland which is mown intensely for amenity purposes. There was broadleaved woodland along the eastern boundary and within the centre of the site. The woodland is well managed has some notably mature trees. Scattered trees and hedgerows were recorded across the site. Several ponds and a short stream were present. An area of the grassland is managed as a hay meadow, with notably higher sward and diversity than grassland elsewhere on site. A small community orchard has recently been planted. Considerable effort has been made to enhance the site for wildlife, including an insect hotel and dead wood piles.  The primary concern is excessive duckweed within the ponds which should be managed. Additionally, the meadow lacks diversity and could be improved through better management. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports a diverse range of natural and amenity habitats offering an attractive greenspace for people to enjoy. It unlikely to be valued by people across the entire borough but is likely to be valued by more than just local residents, therefore it is recommended that this site is retained as Borough Grade II.  **Management Recommendations**  Currently much of the park is managed intensively for amenity purposes. Areas such as the hay meadow and woodland are managed less frequently. Levels of litter and dog fouling was low during the survey but still present. The current management is sufficient to maintain the park as a Borough Grade II SINC.  The primary concern is excessive duckweed within the ponds which should be managed. Additionally, the meadow lacks diversity and could be improved through better management.  There is an opportunity for better education signs, especially near the ponds which are popular with children. The scale of the amenity grassland seems excessive for the number of visitors, there is an opportunity to relax the mowing regime in more areas, possibly also incorporating loggeries and wildlife friendly planting. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 32 | KiBII16 | Clayton Road Wood | Borough Grade II | A fragment of a once much larger ancient woodland, consisting of oak, hawthorn, hazel and holly. A remarkable diversity of woodland flowers is also present. | Clayton Road Wood is an area of ancient woodland situated in the west of the borough, adjacent to the A3 and Clayton Road. The site is private with no access the public permitted, it can be partially viewed from the roadside  The site is entirely comprised of ancient woodland habitat consisting of oak with and understory of hawthorn, hazel and holly. The previous SINC citation details a silted pond present on eastern margin of the site, due to access restrictions the pond could not be viewed during the survey. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports ancient woodland habitat, which is of Borough Grade II quality and therefore should be retained as such as a SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  Due to restricted access it was difficult to comment on the existing management of the site. However, it is clear that woodland would benefit from active tree management to ensure the continued structural and species diversity. In addition, the previous SINC citation details a silted pond present on eastern margin of the site, due to access restrictions the pond could not be viewed during the survey but may require de-silting as per previous citation. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 33 | KiBII18 | The Grapsome | Borough Grade II | Part of a formerly much larger ancient woodland, which has been repeatedly reduced over the centuries to result in the meagre area it occupies today. The diversity of trees, shrubs and hedgerow plants still present bears witness to this legacy from the past. | The site was located in the south of the borough and was bound by the A3 to the west, residential housing to the east and fields in the north and south. There was no public access to the site.  The site was previously described as supporting ancient woodland and hedgerow habitat. Due to restricted access, it was not possible to undertake a detailed site survey of this site. | **No change to SINC**  The site supports ancient woodland habitat, which is of Borough Grade ll quality and should therefore retain its designation as such.  **Management Recommendations**  Due to restricted access it was not possible to comment on the existing management in the site and to provide recommendations of the management of the site. However, there may be opportunity to manage and strengthen the value of the site, which is currently isolated by re-establishing connectivity to similar habitats in the wider area. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 34 | KiBI05 | Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space | Borough Grade I | A small, long-established woodland, associated with the site of a former medieval hunting lodge, and the largely natural Bonesgate Stream, providing habitats important for their diverse woodland birds and wildflowers. | The site is located in the east of the borough, which was associated with a former medieval hunting lodge. The site is accessible to the public.  The site is comprised of broadleaved deciduous woodland, dominated by oak and ash with a shrub layer dominated by hazel coppice. Ground flora was diverse including wood anemone and bluebell. The Bonegate stream was also recorded along the western boundary of the wood. | **Proposed Extension**  The site supports priority habitats, including woodland and river habitat, which are of Borough Grade 1 quality. In addition to this, the site is considered to contribute to the strategic ecological corridor, which runs along the eastern boundary of the site.  To further improve the strategic corridor and to increase resilience to changes from development in the local area, it is recommended that the site is recommend for extension. Detail of this is provided below under 'Potential SINC Sites'.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently subject to frequent management, which is considered appropriate and should continue to be implemented. There is potential to improve the site through the provision of educational resources to inform people of the importance of the site. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 35 | KiL02 | Causeway Copse | Local | Woodland on a prominent hill in Chessington. The woodland is largely composed of pedunculate oaks (Quercus robur) which, though mature, are not of great age. | Causeway Copse is a partially wooded hillside near to Chessington. The Site is small, surrounded by houses on all aspects and can be accessed by the public through three entrance points.  The site is broadly comprised of semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the north and amenity grassland in the south. The woodland habitat consisted of oak, ash and sycamore with a bramble and hazel understory. Grassland habitat was typical of amenity grassland, with a short sward and limited diversity noted. The southern boundary has an impressive hedgerow comprised of hazel, dogwood and hawthorn. At least two oak trees were considered notable due their age and condition, both are likely to have bat roosting potential. The bramble was in flower at the time of the survey, resulting in an abundance of pollinators being recorded. Given the geographic location of the site and surrounding urban landscape, the site may be considered a stepping stone habitat for species (in particular birds). | **No change to SINC**  The site supports priority habitats, including woodland and park and urban greenspaces. However, given the extent and conditions of these habitats, these were considered to be of local SINC quality. This site should be retained as a Local SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The amenity grassland has been subject to frequent mowing whilst the grassland margins have been left relatively rough. The woodland has some well used footpaths but generally appears to be subject to minimal management. This management is sufficient to maintain the site as Local SINC. The site is surrounded on all aspect by residential housing, as such there will be some pressure to redevelop the site.  The woodland, hedgerows and scrub would benefit from some active management, including sycamore control and rotational clearance of scrub. The provision of bird and bat boxes would be valuable. The grassland margins are rough but lacking in diversity, there is potential to strip the soil and create a wildflower margin. Given the topography of the site, there is potential to construct a seasonal pond towards to lower part of the amenity grassland. There is the opportunity to provide an educational board describing some of the species which may frequent the site. Given the records of stag beetle, a loggery could also be constructed. | **Local** |
| 36 | M113 | Sixty Acre Wood and Jubilee Wood | Metropolitan | Perhaps London’s most botanically diverse woodland, with many regionally rare species. The wood is also important for mammals and birds and is probably London’s best site for woodland butterflies. | This SINC is comprised of two blocks of woodland, including Sixty Acre Woods and Jubilee Woods, which are in the south of the borough adjacent to Chessington World of Adventures Resort.  The SINC is comprised entirely of woodland. Sixty Acre Woods is listed as an ancient woodland and supports a diverse range of species, including a canopy of sweet chestnut in the east on higher ground and ash-alder woodland throughout the rest of the site with and understorey of hawthorn, elm, hazel and holly. The ground flora supported bramble, scaly male fern, pendulous sedge, false brome and Euphorbia sp. Jubilee Woods was comprised of mature oaks, ash and conifer sp with understorey of hawthorn and elm. The ground flora was dense and comprised of bramble, pendulous sedge, mint, soft rush and hairy brome. The woodland has been subject to wetter conditions in more recent years, which has led to the loss of some of the oak trees on site. | **No change to SINC**  The Site supports ancient woodland and priority habitat, which are botanically diverse and of key importance to a wide range of wildlife. Due to changes in the ground conditions at Jubilee Wood, a number of mature oak trees have been lost. This should be managed to ensure that this area of the site retains its Metropolitan importance as an important woodland in London. At the moment, the site is considered of Metropolitan SINC quality and should therefore retain its designation.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to varied management with the majority of Sixty Acre Wood subject to occasional management whilst more active is undertaken in the immediate surround of the Go Ape centre in the east of the site. In addition to this, Jubilee Woods is management by a local volunteer group.  To protect and further improve the site for biodiversity it is recommended that the following measures are implemented:   * Active tree management to ensure the continued structural diversity and species-richness for which the woodland habitat is designated for. * Removal of bamboo in Jubilee Woods to prevent this species from dominating the understorey habitat. * Management of drainage at Jubilee woods, which in more recent years has caused wetter conditions and resulted in the loss of oak trees. * Creation of deadwood features arising from active tree management. | **Metropolitan** |
| 37 | KiL01 | Manor Park | Local | An interesting park with old hedgerows and a strip of woodland alongside the railway. | Manor Park is large linear site adjacent to railway line on eastern edge of the borough. The site if fully accessible to the public with footpaths across the site and a car park off Malden Road. The site forms the more natural half of a larger park area used mainly for amenity purposes.  Habitats at the site comprised a mosaic of woodland, grassland, scrub and ruderal. A seasonally wet pond, seasonally wet ditch and numerous hedgerows were also recorded.  The woodland area was relatively immature, with a canopy of oak, birch, ash and elm. The scrub layer included hawthorn and bramble whilst the ground layer was sparse. The grassland lacked diversity, likely due to prolonged periods of intense mowing previous to current cutting regime.  There has been a clear effort to manage the site for wildlife through the relaxation of mowing in certain areas, provision of bird and bats boxes, and positive woodland management. Over time, the habitats on the site should mature and become more valuable. | **Opportunity**  The site has been subject to positive management of its habitats and has an active friends' group. Whilst the management is having positive results, it will take time for the grassland and woodland to mature and so at present the site is considered to still be of local important. There is high potential for this site as it forms an important stepping stone between the Hogsmill river and Beverley brook.  Given time to mature or the provision of a wetland by the friends group, this site has the potential to become a Borough Grade II SINC by the next review.  **Management Recommendations**  There has been a clear effort to manage the site for wildlife through the relaxation of mowing in certain areas, provision of bird and bats boxes, and positive woodland management. The site is subject to high levels of use by the public which has resulted in frequent litter, dog fouling, fly tipping and vandalism.  The site is in need of increased litter picking as at present litter is frequent across the entire site. A permanently wet pond(s) would be very beneficial and would complement the existing seasonally wet pond. A hibernaculum could be created near to the pond features to provide opportunities for amphibians. Grassland diversity could be increased through stripping and reseeding areas of rough grass. There are opportunities to install invertebrate hotels within rough grass.  It is understood that the friends of Manor Park have been raising funds for a new wetland area. This would be an excellent opportunity to improve the site, providing excellent opportunities for a variety of species which would likely quickly colonise a wetland feature given the adjacent railway corridor which connects the site to other wetland habitats near the Hogsmill Valley and Beverley Brook. | **Local** |
| 38 | KiBI10 | Malden Golf Course and Thames Water Pipe Track (Kingston) | Borough Grade I | A large golf course including a short stretch of the Beverley Brook. Small areas of species-rich grassland between the fairways support plants characteristic of both acid and neutral soils. | The site is formed of a large golf course, which spans across the administrative boundaries of Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames and London Borough of Merton, and a new Sustrans cycle route, which was previously recorded as the Thames Water Pipe Track.  The site is predominately comprised of a golf course which supports a mosaic of different habitats, including woodland, amenity grassland, semi-improved grassland with some areas of acid tendencies and waterbodies, including ornamental ponds and Beverley Brook. The previous citation recorded the Thames Pipe Track with wet grassland habitat in the south of the site. This has since been replaced by a new Sustrans route, which is bordered by a woodland corridor with veteran trees, which offer valuable opportunities for wildlife. | **No change to SINC**  Given the notable size of the site and the range of habitats present, which span across two administrative boundaries, the site is of borough importance. The quality of the habitats present is of Borough Grade I value and therefore the designation should remain the same.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently subject to regular management by the golf course and Thames Water. To further improve the site for biodiversity, the following measures are recommended:   * Control of Himalayan balsam recorded along the banks of the brook. * Installation of bird and bat boxes. * Provision of log and brash piles in areas of woodland to provide additional opportunities for invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians. | **Borough Grade 1** |
| 39 | KiBII15 | Beverley Brook in Kingston | Borough Grade II | A section of the Beverley Brook, an important tributary of the River Thames. Natural banks support woodland and scrub providing important habitats for water-loving birds and invertebrates. | The site comprises the majority of the of length of the Beverley Brook which runs along the eastern boundary of the borough. Access was limited to much of its length, with much of the brook fenced off and only visible from a distance.  The brook is an important wildlife corridor, connecting many of the SINCs across the east of the borough, including Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath; Coombe Wood; Malden Golf Course and Thames Water Pipe Track (Kingston). The majority of the site is comprised of the brook, which in areas it could be viewed, was largely canalised with woodland and/or scrub on either bank.  A large area of broadleaved woodland and an allotment is also included within the site to the south. This woodland was fenced off but appeared to be relatively undisturbed. Noted risks to the site included invasive species introduced by residents throwing garden waste into the SINC near the allotments and pollution resulting from the outflow of the Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works. Identified opportunities included renaturalising the brook by removing the concrete and active tree management.  The site is likely to provide important habitat for a variety of species. | **No change to SINC**  Whilst access was limited to much of the site, the site is an important wildlife corridor connecting many SINCs in the east of the borough. Its value is limited due to large sections of it being canalised and the impact from the outflow from Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works This site is considered of Borough Grade II quality and should be retain its designation as such.  **Management Recommendations**  The areas that could be viewed seem to be subject to minimal maintenance. Much of the brook is canalised and likely cleared occasionally. Invasive species are a threat to the brook with Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam recorded adjacent to the brook in Beverley Park and Coombe Wood SINC respectively. These species should be controlled to prevent further spread. The brook may also be adversely impacted by pollution from outflow of the Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works.  Active tree management along the riparian zone would prevent the corridor becoming too dense and shaded. There is the potential to undertake infill planting where necessary along the brook corridor. There is an additional opportunity to create ponds within woodland near the gas storage area.  The most valuable opportunity would be to decanalise the brook and provide access to the public. There is the potential the decanalise the brook in sections which would be beneficial to a variety of species. Access to the brook could be improved, especially in Beverly Park, which would be an ideal place to decanalise (there may be issues regarding the sewage outflow further upstream). | **Borough Grade II** |
| 40 | N/A | Alexandra Millennium Green | N/A | N/A | Alexandra Millennium Green is situated to the east of Alexandra Park in the centre of the borough. The site is primarily used as green space for the local community to use and enjoy.  The site was predominantly comprised of grassland habitat, which supported a diverse range of common and widespread species. The grassland was regularly mown in the centre to accommodate community events with a more relaxed mowing regime around the rest of the site allowing rough grassland to develop. A number of scattered trees were recorded in the areas of rough grassland within the site and a single densely vegetated pond was recorded in the north of the site. In addition to this, the grassland was bound by dense scrub and hedgerows and Tolworth Brook outside of the site in the north. | **Proposed SINC**  The site supports a range of habitats, which provide an important resource for wildlife in an urban area of the borough. In addition to this, the site is of key importance for the local community providing a valuable semi-natural greenspace for people to enjoy nature and to get involved in community events held at the site. The site is considered of Local SINC quality and is therefore recommended to be designated as a Local SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to regular management by the Alexandra Millennium Green Trust who have altered the site from an allotment to an open space for people to use. This has included a range of ecological enhancements, including tree planting, grassland creation and management and pond creation. To further improve the site for biodiversity, it is recommended that the following enhancements are considered:   * Grassland management to improve the range of species present in the grassland to include finer grasses and more herb species, which at present is dominated by coarser species. * Wetland management to reduce levels of vegetation which are currently dominating the pond to allow areas of more open water. | **Local** |
| 41 | N/A | Beverley Park | N/A | N/A | Beverley Park is situated in the eats of the borough, adjacent Beverley brook and south of Malden Golf Course and Thames Water Pipe Track (Kingston). The site is park with rose gardens, tennis courts, community orchard and children's play facility.  The site was predominantly comprised of amenity grassland, which had a short sward due to frequent mowing. Amenity grassland was dominated by perennial rye grass, with frequent barley and white clover, and occasional dandelion and ribwort plantain. An avenue of mature lime trees bisects to the park east to west, creating two parcels. Ornamental planting beds frequented the park, all were well kept and supported a mix of native and non-native species. There was a rose garden in the south west corner of the site. Scattered of varying maturity were noted across the park and included species such as alder, lime, oak, horse chestnut, London plane, yew, cherry, red oak and weeping willow. A narrow-wooded belt is present along the northern boundary, adjacent to a railway corridor. The woodland was immature and had a sparse understory due to high recreational pressures. Canopy comprised: abundant ash and birch; frequent oak; and occasional field maple and weeping willow. Scrub comprised frequent hawthorn and occasional bramble. Ground flora included occasional ivy and hogweed. Recently a community orchard has been planted near the woodland with abundant plum and pear trees. | **Proposed SINC**  The site is an attractive and popular park for local people to experience nature. It has existing ecological interest and importantly has high potential given the adjacent wildlife corridors. There is an active friends' group which may make improving the park more achievable whilst also engaging the local community. It is recommended that this site is combined with the adjacent Beverley Allotments to form a new Local SINC. In combination, these sites would offer a range of habitats and species. It is recommended that this site is designated as a proposed Local SINC.  To further enhance the site, it is also recommended that the enhancements outlined in **Appendix D** are implemented to ensure the long-term success of the site.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is high levels of use and management. The rose gardens and ornamental planting beds across the site are managed frequently, as is the amenity grassland which mown short. The woodland seems subject to less management but has signs indicative of heavy recreational use. Japanese knotweed was recorded adjacent to Beverley brook, this species should be controlled to prevent further spread.  A simple measure which would improve the ecological value of amenity grassland habitat would be let the margins grow rough by relaxing the mowing intensity. If possible, it would preferable if the margins of the amenity grassland could have the top soil stripped and seeded with a native wildflower mix. This would result in a much more diverse plant community. Additional tree planting is also possible across the site, especially within the amenity grassland and near the existing woodland, this would bring benefits for both people and wildlife. There an opportunity to hugely increase the parks interest by providing access to Beverley brook through opening up the fence line on the eastern boundary. Furthermore, there is scope to remove the concrete banks of the brook and create a more natural environment for visitors to enjoy, possibly with reedbeds and a seating area. Pond creation could also be considered, the adjacent allotment supports frogs, toads and newts which would quickly colonise any new ponds. There should be focus on strengthening the Beverley brook corridor, as present it is sparse, comprising mostly a steel palisade fence with occasional trees.  To further enhance the site, it is also recommended that the enhancements outlined in Appendix D are implemented to ensure the long-term success of the site. | **Local** |
| 42 | N/A | Beverley Park Allotments | N/A | N/A | Beverley Park Allotments is situated in the east of the borough, adjacent to Beverley brook and Beverley Park. The site a private allotment with no public access.  The site is predominately allotments, most of which are reasonably well kept. Other habitats include small areas of amenity grassland, orchard and scrub. The site is bound on its north by hedgerow with trees dominated by hornbeam with occasional oak and ash. The eastern boundary is formed of steel fence adjacent to Beverley brook. The Sites southern boundary has treeline comprised of: abundant sycamore; frequent horse chestnut; and rarely London plane and oak. There is small bushy hedgerow with tall trees in the entrance to the allotments. This hedge comprised: frequent sycamore, lime, ivy and bramble; occasional snowberry, yew and holly; and rarely cherry and oak. At least two plots have small wildlife ponds, in which frogs, toads and newts (unknown species) have been recorded by allotment users. | **Proposed SINC**  The site provides ecological benefits to a variety of species, in particular birds, bats and pollinating invertebrates. Given Beverley brook is adjacent it is likely that many species access the site via this corridor. Whilst the site is not accessible to the public, enough of the local community use the allotments that it is still valuable locally. It is recommended that this site is combined with the adjacent Beverley Park to form a new Local SINC. In combination, this new Local SINC will support a range of habitats and species.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently intensively managed as allotments with areas of scrub and hedgerow less well managed.  Whilst the current habitats have some ecological value, the active nature of the allotment users provides an opportunity for further improvement. Opportunities exist to create a large communal wildlife pond and to encourage plot owners to create small ponds (there is an allotment plot which is too damp to use/rent, so that could be possible location for a larger pond). Areas which are not part of plots could be sown with native wildflowers, providing opportunities for pollinating invertebrates to forage. Towards the site boundaries, such as within scrub and hedgerow, dead wood habitat could be installed creating benefiting many species, including stag beetle. Bird and bat boxes could be installed on existing trees, providing valuable opportunities for species which are otherwise limited locally. | **Local** |
| 43 | N/A | Bonesgate Open Space | N/A | N/A | The site is located in the east of the borough adjacent to the Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space SINC. The site supports a section of the Bonesgate Stream, which is surrounded by grassland and trees and is considered to contribute to the strategic corridor in the east.  The site supports a section of the Bonesgate Stream, which was recorded with naturally vegetated banks, including oak, ash, willow, elder, hawthorn and blackthorn. The remainder of the site was comprised of amenity grassland with dominant perennial rye grass. | **Proposed SINC**  The site supports river habitat, which is a priority habitat within the borough and London. This habitat forms part of a larger blue/green corridor, which is strategically important in the east of the borough. Due to the strategic importance of this site, it is recommended that this site is designated as an extension of the Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space Borough Grade I SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The grassland in the site is currently subject to regular management. There is potential to improve the ecological value of the grassland through more relaxed management of sections of the grassland and at the margins to encourage a more diverse sward height and range of species. | **Borough Grade I** |
| 44 | N/A | Canbury Gardens | N/A | N/A | Canbury Gardens is located along the western boundary of the borough in the north and bordered by the River Thames. The site is a park and gardens with tennis courts, MUGA and children's playground facility.  The site is comprised of amenity grassland with shrub planting, defunct hedgerow, scattered trees and treelines. There are also large areas of hardstanding associated with the tennis and MUGA facility and footpaths which run through the site. The habitats within the site supported native and non-native species, which were considered to have limited in diversity in structure and richness. | **Not Recommended for Designation**  The site lies immediately adjacent to the River Thames and is likely to provide a buffer habitat between urban development and this strategic corridor. However, due to the high numbers of visitors to the site to play sport, walk and/or relax, there is very limited ecological value within the site. This is with exception to the mature and semi-mature trees present.  Due to the limited ecological value and given the site does not specifically provide access for people to enjoy nature, this site was not considered of local SINC quality and was therefore not recommended to be designated as a SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to regular management. There are limited opportunities to improve the site for biodiversity, however there is potential to make minor changes including:   * Wildlife friendly planting of shrub borders with native and non-native species with known benefits for wildlife. * Relaxed mowing regime in selected areas to create a more diverse sward and species-richness. * Provision of bug hotels and deadwood features such as loggeries. * Provision of bird and bat boxes installed on trees. |  |
| 45 | N/A | Hogsmill Community Garden and Kingston University Land | N/A | N/A | This site comprises of the Hogsmill Community Garden (western parcel) and an area of non-publicly accessible land owned by Kingston University (eastern parcel). The site is located in the west of the borough, it is adjacent north of the Hogsmill River in central Kingston. The Community Garden project aims too addresses the need for more outdoor community spaces, it provides opportunities for the local community to improve their health and gain practical skills in environmental practices.  The Community Garden is open the public three days a week, where anybody is able to enjoy the space. Ecologically the garden is of moderate interest but for people the site is an important place to relax, learn and engage with nature.  The site is small and split into two parcels. The western parcel is the community garden where habitats included amenity grassland, hedgerow, pond, planting beds, a polytunnel, hardstanding, sheds and a seating area. The eastern parcel is private land owned by Kingston University and is not part of the community garden facility and comprised an area of bramble scrub which has been overgrown with bindweed. Japanese knotweed was present in this parcel. | **Proposed SINC**  Despite Community Garden's small size, it provides an invaluable service to local community. It enables people to visit and enjoy a well-designed garden. For people without their own gardens, this community garden enables them to enjoy a garden in a way that is very different from visiting park or local nature reserve.  The Community Garden also have projects that teach local people practical gardening skills, empowering them to improve their own personal greenspace at home, whether that be in an actual garden or simply a balcony. By giving people the skills to improve their own personal spaces, the project indirectly improving greenspaces across the local area. Encouraging people to take stewardship of their own gardens and balconies is a highly important, it enable a unique form of engagement with nature, ultimately improving attitudes to wildlife.  Although the site is small and supports common and widespread habitats, which are not considered of distinct ecological value on their own, it is considered to be of key importance for people in the local area to access and learn about nature. It is therefore recommended that this site is designated as a Local SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  Currently the western parcel is managed used as a community garden whilst the eastern parcel is unmanaged scrub owned by Kingston University.  The eastern parcel which is currently dominated by scrub could be managed to encourage more structural and species diversity or at the very least to control the Japanese knotweed and buddleia.  There is an opportunity to provide dead wood habitat, such as a loggery, within the 'woodland' area of the community garden. Whilst there is only a small amount of amenity grassland at the site, there is scope to relax its mowing regime. | **Local** |
| 46 | N/A | Knollmead Allotments | N/A | N/A | Knollmead Allotments over 100 years old and is located near the eastern boundary of the borough. It is private with members only access. It comprises mostly allotments, including an orchard, but has some natural habitats including woodland, ponds, scrub, hedgerows and trees.  To majority of the site comprised well-kept allotment plots with amenity grassland pathways. Several plots have dug small wildlife ponds and a small orchard is also present in the south. South of the orchard there is a woodland which is largely managed for permaculture, resulting in an unusually high number of fruit trees. Some areas of the woodland have been left relatively unmanaged, resulting in some species dominating the understory. The canopy species were generally semi-mature and the result of relatively recent planting. There were two oaks noted as being mature, originating far before the rest of the planting.  Within the woodland there were also two ponds (one wet, one dry) and swales which fill over winter.  Additional natural habitats noted included scrub, hedgerows and trees around the site boundaries. | **Proposed SINC**  The site is an allotment with woodland and ponds that are considered to have important ecological value for a range of wildlife. This includes breeding frogs, toads and smooth newts using the woodland pond and birds, bats and slow worm using the woodland habitat. In addition, the permaculture areas have an abundance of fruit trees which will provide excellent foraging opportunities for birds. There is also an abundance of plant and habitat diversity across the site which will likely support a good variety of invertebrates, especially pollinators.  In addition to this the site provides opportunities for the local school and scout group to enjoy and learn about nature. Such trips should be further encouraged, providing children access to nature and which might not otherwise be possible.  The site supports habitats of Borough Grade quality and is therefore recoemmended that the site is designated a Borough Grade II SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  At present the allotments are highly managed and the permaculture is reasonably managed. The woodlands are wilder and lacks any management at present. Duckweed was present in two of the ponds, this invasive species should be controlled.  The main opportunity for the site would be the improve the woodland management so that benefits for wildlife are maximised. A woodland management plan is recommended, including measures for active tree management and pond/swale restoration. Further opportunities exist to use the site for educational purposes, such as inviting local schools and scout groups to visit. | **Borough Grade II** |
| 47 | N/A | RAF Chessington | N/A | N/A | The site is located in the south-west of the borough and is bound by the A23 in the west and residential housing in the east. The site supports a relatively large area of grassland, with woodland and scrub mosaic habitat primarily around the boundary of the site. Due to the habitats present it likely supports invertebrates, birds, reptiles and amphibians.  The site supports a relatively large area of species poor neutral grassland, dominated by perrenial rye grass with frequent white clover and daisy. Woodland was present around the edge and was dominated by oak, ash and occasional poplar. An area of scrub mosaic habitat comprising was present in the north east comprising hawthorn, blackthorn, bramble and young oak and ash. | **Proposed SINC**  The site supports common and widespread habitats, which are considered of ecological value to a range of bird and invertebrate species. In addition to this, due to the size of the site and limited amount of greenspace in the immediate area, this site is considered to provide a valuable opportunity for people to access nature. It is therefore recommended that the site is designated as a Local SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is currently subject to frequent management. To further improve the site for biodiversity it is recommended that a more varied grassland management regime is implemented to create greater diversity in structure and species-richness. | **Local** |
| 48 | N/A | Surbiton Cemetery | N/A | N/A | Surbiton Cemetery is situated in an urban location in the centre of the borough. The site lies in close proximity to the Hogsmill Valley and is situated immediately north of a green corridor, which runs along the railway line from east to west.  The site is largely comprised of amenity grassland with a number of treelines, including a number of mature trees and species-poor hedgerows. | **Not Recommended for Designation**  The site supports common and widespread urban habitats, which have limited ecological value with exception to the trees and the limited value the site has for local people to enjoy nature, this site was not recommended to be designated as a SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The site is subject to frequent management. There is limited opportunity to improve the site for biodiversity, however there is potential to make minor changes through the management of the grassland to encourage a more diverse structure and range of species. There is also potential to provide additional opportunities for bats and birds through the provision of bat and bird boxes. | **Not Applicable** |
| 49 | N/A | Alric Avenue Allotments | N/A | N/A | Alric Avenue Allotments is an allotment with small nature area situated in the north east of the borough adjacent west of Malden Golf Course and Thames Water Pipe Track (Kingston) SINC. It is accessible to allotment owners only with the main ecological interest the nature area in the north west of the site.  The site is comprised mostly of allotments. A small immature broad-leaved woodland is present in the north east of the site, it is perhaps 20 years old and is comprised of an ash canopy with occasional cherry whilst the scrub layer is blackthorn scrub with occasional hawthorn. The woodland has been subjected to much work by volunteers with native wildflower woodland species recently planted. Two small ponds are present near the woodland, rare native species have also been planted in one of these ponds. Other habitats include a native hedgerow of bramble and hawthorn along the southern boundary, a native hedgerow of hawthorn along the northern boundary and a seasonally wet ditch. | **Proposed SINC**  The site supports habitats, such as native hedgerow, woodland and ponds, which provide value for local populations of species, including slow worm. In addition to this the site provides a valuable place for local people to enjoy and engage with the natural world.  Overall, the site meets the criteria for a local SINC. To further increase the value of the site the management team should aim to improve the ecological value of the site by implementing the discussed measures and inviting further local groups to participate in events at the allotments. It is recommended that the site is designated as a Local SINC.  **Management Recommendations**  The allotment plots are all well-kept with only a few exceptions. The woodland is well managed for its size as are the two ponds and hedgerows. The site is surrounded on its north, south and western aspects by residential housing, resulting in high development pressure.  The site is already used by some school groups but there is an opportunity to extend this to other groups including local scouts' groups and vulnerable groups. Ecologically there are limited opportunities given the scale of the site and the limited space available. Loggeries and/or dead would habitat near the ponds would be beneficial. The ditch could be seeded with native species, as at present it is quite sparse. There is currently an owl box within the woodland, bird and bat boxes designed for common and widespread species are most likely to be used so there are opportunity to install these onto mature trees. Whilst not an opportunity, the woodland is mostly ash making it very vulnerable to ash dieback, planting additional tree species would ensure the long-term success of this woodland. | **Local** |

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#### Proformas

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Protected species are those which are listed within conservation designation and afforded protection under national and international

   legislation. JNCC create and maintain the list of conservation designations. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Notable species are those which have been listed as rare, endangered or a priority species of conservation concern. JNCC create and

   maintain the list of conservation designations. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Greater London Authority, Open space and habitat survey for Greater London [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The London Wildlife Site Board (LWSB0) Advice Note – April 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)