



London Wildlife Trust

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Our purpose

Nature recovery for a thriving city

Our vision

**A London alive with wildlife,
nature in everyone's neighbourhood**

London Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

- 1 Birdbrook 
- 2 Braeburn Park
- 3 Bramley Bank
- 4 Camley Street Natural Park 
- 5 Centre for Wildlife Gardening 
- 6 Chapel Bank
- 7 Couldson Coppice
- 8 Crane Park Island
- 9 Danham Lock Wood
- 10 Daws Farm Sandpits
- 11 Farm Bog
- 12 Frays Farm Meadows
- 13 Frays Island and Mabey's Meadow
- 14 Gunnersbury Triangle 
- 15 Gutteridge Wood and Meadows
- 16 Huckerby's Meadows
- 17 Hutchinson's Bank
- 18 Ickenham Marsh
- 19 Isleworth Alt 
- 20 New Cross Gate Cutting 
- 21 Oak Hill Wood
- 22 Park Road Pond
- 23 Riddlesdown
- 24 Saltbox Hill
- 25 Spencer Road Wetlands 
- 26 Sydenham Hill Wood and Cox's Walk
- 27 Ten Acre Wood and Meadows
- 28 The Warren
- 29 Threecorner Grove
- 30 Totteridge Fields
- 31 Uxbridge Grove
- 32 Walthamstow Wetlands 
- 33 West Kent Golf Course
- 34 Wilderness Island
- 35 Woodberry Wetlands 
- 36 Yeading Brook Meadows

Key

-  Staffed
-  Restricted access



London Wildlife Trust Project and Activity Sites

- 1 All England Lawn Tennis Club (Wimbledon)
- 2 Beckton Creekside Nature Reserve
- 3 Butts Canal
- 4 Cator Park
- 5 Cranford Park
- 6 Cuckold's Haven
- 7 Dulwich Village Orchard
- 8 Dulwich Wood
- 9 Grosvenor Square Gardens
- 10 Kidbrook Village
- 11 Minet Country Park
- 12 Parsloes Park

Our vision, mission and aims



Inspire



Influence



Transform

Nature Recovery



Make existing nature reserves bigger.



Create more nature reserves.

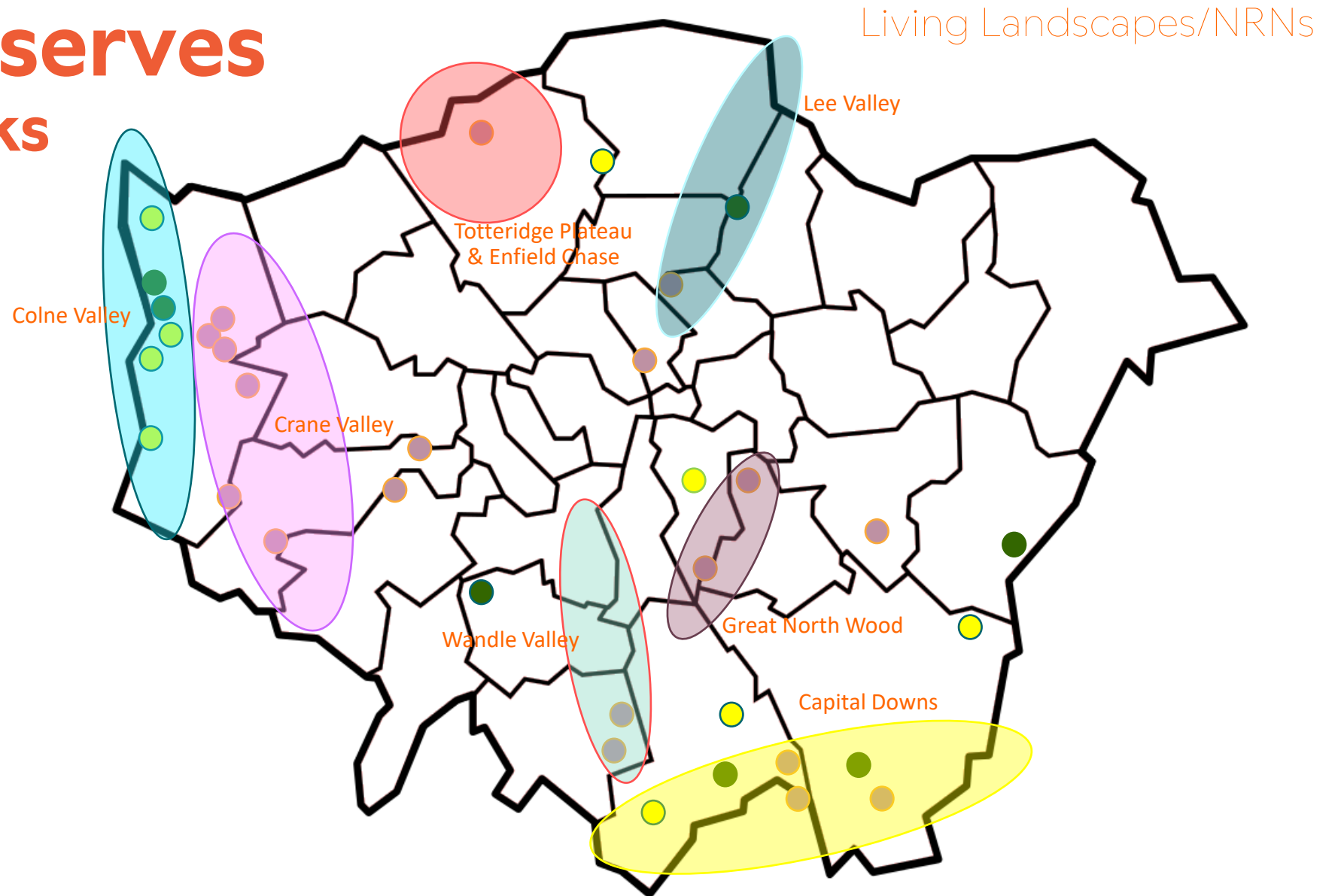


Make greenspaces better for wildlife.

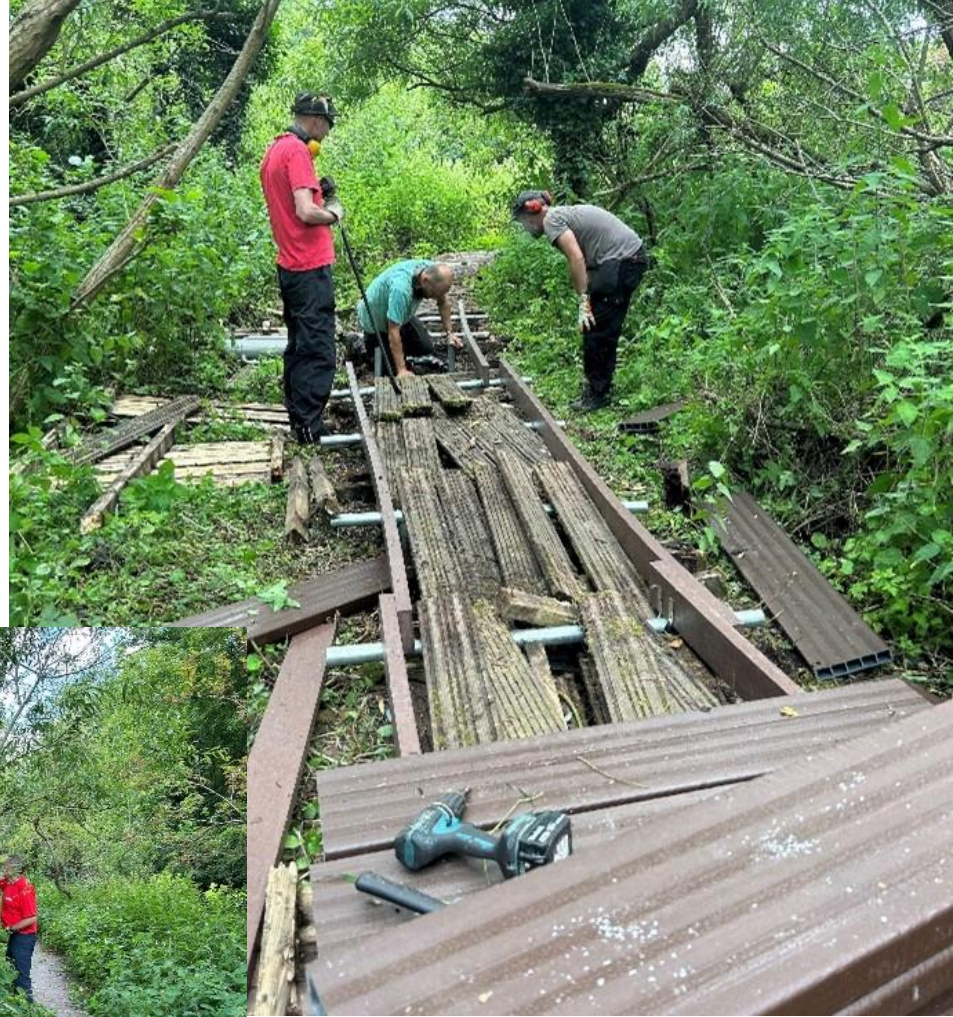


Connect these places and spaces with wildlife corridors and stepping stones.

Nature reserves Strategic Links



Denham Lock Woods





Frays Farm Meadows
(well, the track to it...)





Uxbridge Grove



Frays Island & Mabey's Meadow



“Rewilding” opportunities

Rewilding spectrum

Read the London Taskforce report

Zone 10 includes the Colne Valley



London
Wildlife
Trust

Local Plan system



Key aims

1. Outline of Local Plan system
2. Tips on engaging effectively with the system
3. Key issues to address – planning reform (Q and A discussion)

National context

Planning Acts 1990
(as amended)

Other Acts of
Parliament,
Regulations etc.

NATIONAL PLANNING
POLICY FRAMEWORK (INC.
TESTS OF SOUNDNESS)

Written Ministerial
Statements etc

Planning Practice
Guidance



Reasons to prepare a new Local Plan

- Statutory duty – 5 yearly reviews
- Set out vision for area
- Guide investment and new development
- Legal framework for planning applications
- Reflect up to date circumstances e.g. national policy; evidence base



Current progress and implications

- Just 39% of Councils have adopted Plan in last 5 years (Levelling Up White Paper – Jan 2022)
- Average 7 years to prepare Plan
- Out of date Plan = less weight (the *“tilted balance”* – NPPF para 11d)
- For housing, Plan is out of date if no 5 year *“deliverable”* supply of sites or Council failed *“Housing Delivery Test”*

Types of Plan

- STRATEGIC



- LOCAL

- London Plan
- Some areas – joint Local Plans
- Spatial Development Strategies
- Joint waste and/or minerals plans
- Local Plans
- Area Action Plans
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Master plans, regeneration frameworks etc.
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)



Typical Plan contents

- Written statement – vision and objectives, policies, supporting text
- Policies Map
- Supporting documents e.g.
 - housing and economic needs assessments
 - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)
 - Site selection studies
 - Flood risk assessments
 - Town centre studies
 - Nature Recovery Networks/ecology/green infrastructure
 - Green Belt reviews
 - Socio- economic/deprivation statistics etc.
 - Infrastructure delivery plan
 - Transport studies
 - Viability study

Key stages in preparing a Local Plan

- Evidence base
- Reg 18 consultation (e.g. “Issues and Options”; “Preferred Options”)
- Reg 20 publication/consultation
- Submission to Secretary of State
- Examination in public by Inspector(s) – inc. initial assessment, hearings, modifications
- Inspectors Report
- Adoption



Legal tests

- Duty to cooperate (with neighbouring authorities etc.) e.g. to meet development needs which can not be met in one Borough
- Sustainability appraisal – must also assess reasonable alternatives
- Habitats Regulation Assessment – for European sites
- Community engagement/consultation process

NPPF ‘soundness’ tests

NPPF para. 35 – Plans must (in summary) be:

- a) Positively prepared i.e. seek to ***at least*** meet needs for development (***NB for housing “needs” defined by national algorithm***)
- b) Justified – taking into account alternatives and based on “proportionate” evidence
- c) Effective – e.g. deliverable over Plan period
- d) Consistent with national policy



Some common things to look out for (1)

- Vision/objectives – *do these properly and consistently reflect ambition eg net zero; reversing decline of nature?*
- Overall level of new development (e.g. housing, employment) – *are these justified based on needs and environmental constraints?*
- Site selection process – *does this properly reflect environmental designations/constraints?*
- Site allocations (and also SHLAA sites, regeneration areas etc.) – *impact of these eg on biodiversity*
- Evidence base – *does the Plan properly link to the relevant evidence eg NRNs; NRSs; Local Wildlife Sites?*
- Developer contributions – *does the Plan effectively focus these eg on site specific and/or strategic enhancements?*



Some common things to look out for (2)

- Biodiversity/Green Infrastructure policies – do these:
 - properly summarise the ecological network for the area?
 - accurately reflect and/or cross refer to national policy/legislation eg biodiversity harm avoidance/mitigation; net biodiversity gain; European sites; SSSIs etc.?
- Policies Map – does this accurately set out key features/designated sites?
- Does further detail need to be set out eg in a nature conservation SPD?
- Search for your key words – may come up in other sections

Some tips on engaging effectively

- Use any opportunities to input to the evidence base e.g. biodiversity, NRNs/NRSs
- Raise any concerns (particularly about sites) as early as possible
- Ensure reps are punchy, well structured and evidence based
- Frame reps in terms of NPPF policy/soundness tests if possible
- Policy wording – consider suggesting specific alternative wording
- Consider identifying any proposals/policies which you support
- Work with groups/bodies with similar concerns *where appropriate*

The indicative timetable for the next London Plan

- High level document – *Towards a London Plan*, published on Friday, available at www.london.gov.uk/towards-new-london-plan for responses by 22 June.
- Draft London Plan consultation (2026)
- Examination process (2026 – 2027)
- Adoption expected 2027/8

London's Green Belt...

Press release on Friday, the Mayor:

- “will actively explore releasing parts of London’s green belt to help end the housing crisis”
- “wants to forge a new consensus on planning to build the affordable housing Londoners need - including on parts of the green belt - at the same time as boosting biodiversity and increasing public access to genuinely green spaces”
- believes “Developing some green belt close to transport links in a strategic way could deliver hundreds of thousands of new affordable homes for Londoners”

Current Policy 7.1 Biodiversity and **access to nature**

In their LDFs, Boroughs should:

- identify areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and seek opportunities to address them

Hillingdon's LP has no policy; last year's "Call for Views" notes:

- *Access to nature and open space is unequal in the borough, with some areas enjoying good access while others are deficient.*

Further information – sources

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>
- <https://www.local.gov.uk/latest-news-pas> (Local Government Association – planning advisory service)
- www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf (Current (2021) London Plan)
- www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/uploads-access-to-nature.pdf (Areas of Deficiency – London)

Planning & Infrastructure Bill

Bill passage



Bill started in the House of Commons



1st reading



2nd reading



Committee stage



Report stage



3rd reading

Too much to say in a few slides!

Look here www.wildlifetrusts.org/planning-and-infrastructure-bill and sign the open letter (delivery next week!)

Ask your MP to sign the chalk streams amendments:

- Labour (Chris Hinchliff MP):
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3946/stages/19795/amendments/10020839>
- LibDem (Gideon Amos MP):
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3946/stages/19795/amendments/10021380>



Talking of chalk streams....

Second reading of *Chalk Streams (Protection) Bill* tomorrow!!!

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0065/240065.pdf>

Ask your MP to support the chalk stream
Early Day Motion

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/63450>

A man and a young child are outdoors in a natural setting, possibly a park or a field with some brush. The man, on the right, is wearing a dark beanie, glasses, a dark jacket, and a bright yellow high-visibility vest. The vest has a logo that says "London Wildlife Trust". He is looking down at something in his hands. The child, on the left, is wearing a green parka, green gloves with orange stripes, and a black and white patterned hat with a red fur trim. The child is also looking down at the man's hands. The background shows some trees and a building in the distance.

Q and A / Discussion