

# Ecological Impact Assessment for Streatham Common

July 2020 Update



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# Identification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas of Streatham Common, London Borough of Lambeth

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1.1 A number of public events involving large numbers of people are planned for selected parks and open spaces in Lambeth over each summer period including in Streatham Common. Although these events were unfortunately cancelled in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 Coronavirus lockdown restrictions, they will take place in 2021 and subsequent years. In order to safeguard the ecology of these particular event sites, the London Borough of Lambeth commissioned Salix Ecology to establish which areas of Brockwell Park are likely to be particularly sensitive in ecological terms and thus could be potentially adversely affected by such public events or activities associated with them
- 1.1.2 A walkover ecological survey of Streatham Common was undertaken by Salix Ecology on 10th July 2018. The surveyor was ██████████ MCIEEM, an experienced ecologist. The purpose of the survey was to identify areas / features of the park which might be particularly susceptible to public use and where a corresponding reduction in ecological value might be anticipated. Decisions regarding which areas might be particularly sensitive and the degree of impact expected, was arbitrary and heavily dependent on the experience of the surveyor.
- 1.1.3 The survey was repeated on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to establish if there had been any gross changes to previously identified sensitive areas.

## 2.0 Methodology

- 2.1.1 Ecologically sensitive areas of the common were identified using a combination of a Greenspace Information for Greater London data search, aerial photography and field study. These sensitive areas generally had attributes which support / probably support breeding birds, have potential to harbour bat roosts and / or are particularly susceptible to disturbance or trampling. In the light of this, particular features and habitat types were sifted into the following categories:
  - Low ecological sensitivity: little significant impact would be expected on these areas regarding the occasional large-scale public event.
  - Moderate ecological sensitivity: casual users of the common would have a limited impact on current biodiversity value. However large crowds should be discouraged from the area (particularly during the bird breeding season - March to August inclusive).
  - High ecological sensitivity: Public should not be allowed to enter these areas which should be fenced off during events (if no fencing is currently in place). Additionally, large public crowds should not be encouraged around the periphery of these areas.
- 2.1.2 Other land use categories depicted in Figure 10 are buildings, hardstanding and other areas of little or negligible ecological value.
- 2.1.3 Areas identified as being of moderate or high ecological sensitivity were re-visited in 2020. The 2020 survey focussed on those more sensitive habitats which were most likely to have been impacted by increased visitor pressure, particularly grassland habitats. Although increased disturbance in woodland areas may have had an impact on associated species, any impacts would not be measurable in the absence of detailed faunal surveys. In addition, the surveys were carried out in July on each

occasion. Although this is a suitable time for surveying grasslands, it is sub-optimal for woodlands as much of the ground flora is no longer evident.

## 3.0 Results

### 3.1 Data search

#### Statutory Sites and Local Nature Reserves

- 3.1.1 There are no statutory designated sites within the area of search.

#### Non- statutory designations

- 3.1.2 Streatham Common is a site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. The main habitats of note listed in the citation for the site are the woodlands which are the largest area of native woodland in the borough and an area of acid grassland.
- 3.1.3 The woodland almost certainly dates from the end of the 19th century when it was allowed to naturally replace the former heathland. It consists of pedunculate oak with some sycamore, beech, ash, hawthorn and English elm. On the southern, less disturbed, edge of the woodland there are pendulous and remote sedges (rare in inner London), as well as male-fern and common figwort. Here also are bracken, wood sage and gorse. North of the bridleway the woodland is denser and, in a localised damp area, contains the rare plants creeping yellow-cress and plicate sweet-grass.
- 3.1.4 Acid grassland on the higher slopes includes the characteristic plants early hair-grass, welshed thistle and hairy sedge. Damper areas contain soft rush. A single heather plant survives as a reminder of the common's more botanically diverse past, and yellow meadow ants can be found.
- 3.1.5 A ditch at the highest point of the Common is quite possibly ancient in origin. It follows the eastern boundary and growing near it are red campion, wavy bitter-cress, pendulous sedge, wood meadow-grass and soft shield-fern.

#### Protected species and Species of Principle Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity (in England)

- 3.1.6 The Greenspace Information for Greater London data search confirmed a number of records of rare species, protected species and Species of Principal Importance within 1km of the site. See appendix 1 for species status and relevant legislation.

#### Reptiles and amphibia

- 3.1.7 There are no records of reptiles within 1km of the site.
- 3.1.8 There are records of common frog *Rana temporaria*, palmate newt, great crested newt and common toad *Bufo bufo* within the area of search. Common frog, palmate newt and common toad are protected from selling and trade under the Wildlife and Countryside 1981(as amended). The great crested newt receives a high level of protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010). The great crested newt and common toad are also species of Principle Importance.
- 3.1.9 There are no suitable breeding ponds at Streatham Common although there is suitable terrestrial habitat within the woodland and grassland areas for amphibia. Although there are ponds nearby, the site is cut off from these ponds by roads. The potential for the site to support amphibia is therefore low, but cannot be discounted altogether.

### 3.1.10 Birds

3.1.11 There are numerous bird records within the area of search. Note that all species of wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981(as amended). Rare, London Biodiversity Action Plan species and Species of Principal Importance are listed in table 2 below. A number of mostly common bird species are likely breed within the woodland areas at the site.

**Table 1: Relevant bird records within 1km of the site**

Species	Status/protection
Lesser redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Species of Principal Importance Bird – red
Common redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	BAP Priority London
Kingfisher <i>Alcdo atthis</i>	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1
Lesser spotted woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	BAP Priority London Bird – red
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citronella</i>	Species of Principal Importance BAP Priority London Bird – red
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1
Herring Gull	BAP Priority London Bird – red
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	BAP Priority London Bird – red
Yellow wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	BAP Priority London Bird – red
Spotted flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	BAP Priority London Species of Principal Importance
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1
House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Bird – red BAP Priority London Species of Principal Importance
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Bird – red BAP Priority London
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 Bird – red
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 Bird – red
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Bird – Red BAP Priority London

### Mammals

3.1.12 Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, lesser noctule *Nyctalus leisleri* and noctule *Nyctalus* bats have been recorded in the area of search. All species of bat have a high level of protection under the Habitat regulations (2010) as well as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). There are some bat roosting opportunities, particularly within mature trees at the site.

- 3.1.13 Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* has also been recorded within the area of search. The species is a London BAP species and a Species of Principle Importance. There is potential for hedgehogs to use the less intensively managed areas of the site, especially woodlands, woodland edge and less intensively managed areas of grassland. They may also forage within the amenity grassland areas.

### Invertebrates

- 3.1.14 There are a number of invertebrate records within the area of search. Rare, London Biodiversity Action Plan species and Species of Principal Importance are listed in table 2 below.

**Table 2: Relevant invertebrate records within 1km of the site**

Species	Status/protection
Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Species of Principal Importance Nationally notable B BAP Priority London
<i>Calathus ambiguus</i> (a beetle)	Nationally notable B
<i>Deraeocoris olivaceus</i> (a true bug)	Nationally notable B
<i>Legnotus picipes</i> (a true bug)	Nationally notable B
<i>Scymnus limbatus</i> (a beetle)	Nationally notable B
<i>Stenus ater</i> (a beetle)	Nationally notable B
Buff ermine <i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	Species of Principal Importance BAP Priority London
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Species of Principal Importance BAP Priority London
<i>Volucella inanis</i> (a true fly)	Nationally notable
<i>Volucella zonaria</i> (a true fly)	Nationally notable

### Plants

- 3.1.15 Records of plant records which could be found at Streatham Common include bluebell (protected from sale under the Wildlife and Countryside act). This, and other components of the woodland ground flora, may be sensitive to excessive trampling during events within woodland areas. Mistletoe (London BAP priority) and large-leaved lime (Nationally scarce), also within the area of search, will not be affected by any events at Streatham Common.

## 3.2 Field survey

- 3.2.1 A description of each habitat is given below in one of three categories: High, Medium and low ecological sensitivity. Notes are provided for the 2018 survey as well as the 2020 survey where significant changes were noted. An ecological sensitivity map is shown in figure 10 below. Where there was a change in the area of a sensitive habitat, the 2020 extent of the habitat mapped is shown as a red dotted line.

### High ecological sensitivity

#### H1: Woodland

- 3.2.2 **2018 survey:** An area of young secondary woodland of hornbeam, pedunculate oak with occasional Turkey oak and field maple. The understory included abundant bramble some holly, yew, regenerating ash and sycamore. There is potential for this

area to support breeding birds and is likely to be sensitive to disturbance during the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive). Woodland, woodland edges and rough grassland are also likely to support foraging bats. The sensitive areas include paths and open areas within, and at, the woodland edge.

- 3.2.3 **2020 survey:** No obvious changes in the extent or structure of the woodland areas were noted during the 2020 survey.



Figure 1: Woodland with potential to support breeding birds

## H2: Acid grassland

- 3.2.4 **2018 survey:** There was a small area of acid grassland towards the centre of the site. The dominant grasses were red fescue and common bent with frequent smaller cat's-tail and Yorkshire fog. Acid grassland is becoming rare in London and is a habitat of Principle Importance (see appendix for definition). The grassland is likely to be sensitive to excessive trampling during events.

- 3.2.5 **2020 survey:** In 2020, common bent and red fescue were recorded as being co-dominant with Yorkshire fog a frequent associate. Common cat's ear and sheep's sorrel were frequent. Bird's foot trefoil was rare. There has been a clear reduction in the area of acid grassland with surrounding areas dominated by perennial rye grass (see map figure 10).



Figure 2: Area of acid grassland

### H3: Woodland

- 3.2.6 **2018 survey** This is a large area of mature woodland to the north of the main ride in the eastern sector of the site. The canopy comprised pedunculate oak, horse chestnut and hornbeam. The canopy trees included some notable oaks with bat roost potential. The understory was of field maple, young sycamore, horse chestnut, holly, hornbeam, yew, Norway maple and occasional holm oak. The ground flora was predominantly ivy and bramble. In addition to the possible presence of bat roosts, the woodland is very likely to support breeding birds and is therefore sensitive to disturbance, particularly in the summer months. The sensitive areas include paths and open areas within and at the woodland edge.
- 3.2.7 **2020 survey** No obvious changes in the extent or structure of the woodland areas were noted during the 2020 survey.



Figure 3: Example of mature oak with bat roost potential

### H4: Woodland

- 3.2.8 **2018 survey:** The largest woodland block of woodland at Streatham Common located to the south of the main ride. This is an area of mature woodland with a canopy of ash, sycamore, pedunculate oak and horse chestnut. The understory included hawthorn, English elm, holm oak, yew, holly and regenerating Norway maple. At the time of the survey the visible ground flora was poor and comprised mainly bramble and ivy. The sensitive areas include paths and open areas within and at the woodland edge.



3.2.9 **2020 survey** No obvious changes in the extent or structure of the woodland areas were noted during the 2020 survey.



Figure 4: Woodland at Streatham Common

#### H5: Veteran crack willow

3.2.10 **2018 survey** A veteran crack willow within amenity grassland to the west of the site

3.2.11 **2020 survey:** No changes in the condition of the tree were noted during the 2020 survey



Figure 5: Veteran crack willow

## H6: Veteran crack willow

3.2.12 **2018 survey:** A veteran crack willow to the north of the site immediately adjacent to the A214, Streatham Common North.

3.2.13 **2020 survey** No changes in the condition of the tree were noted during the 2020 survey



Figure 6: Veteran crack willow

## Moderate ecological sensitivity

### **M1: Semi-improved neutral grassland and planted saplings**

3.2.14 **2018 survey:** An area semi-improved neutral grassland. Grasses include perennial rye-grass, meadow foxtail, false oat-grass, common bent, red fescue and smaller cat's-tail. Herbs included lesser hawkbit, white clover and creeping buttercup. There was also an area of recently planted saplings including field maple, hawthorn, wild cherry, guelder rose, hazel, birch and horse chestnut. This area is sensitive to excessive trampling during events.

3.2.15 **2020 survey:** In 2020 this area was dominated by perennial rye-grass and common bent with frequent Yorkshire fog. False oat-grass was locally common. creeping buttercup, autumn hawkbit and white clover frequent. The mapped area of less frequently cut grassland was less extensive than in the 2018 survey.



Figure 7: Semi-improved neutral grassland

## **M2: Semi-improved neutral grassland**

- 3.2.16 2018 survey: An area of semi-improved irregularly mown neutral grassland. Grasses include abundant common bent with frequent perennial rye-grass, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, and smaller cat's-tail. Herbs included white clover, cat's-ear, red clover and autumn hawkbit. This area is sensitive to excessive trampling during events.
- 3.2.17 2020 survey: In 2020 this area was characterized by abundant common bent and perennial rye-grass. Red fescue was abundant in places, smaller cat's tail and Yorkshire fog were occasional. White clover and Common cat's ear were occasional. Dandelion and autumn hawkbit were rare. There was evidence of trampling to the south of the path. The grassland to the north of the path was similar but there was less evidence of trampling. Perennial rye grass was frequent but common bent more abundant. Yorkshire fog and white clover were also frequent. Common cat's-ear and Autumn hawkbit were locally frequent in some areas. The mapped area of semi-improved neutral grassland was significantly less extensive than in the 2018 survey. Much of the rest of the less frequently cut grassland can now be classified as improved grassland.



Figure 8: Semi-improved grassland

### **M3: Semi-improved neutral grassland**

- 3.2.18 **2018 survey:** An area of semi-improved neutral grassland. Species included frequent Yorkshire fog, smaller cat's-tail, timothy and meadow foxtail. Perennial rye-grass was occasional. Herbs included broad-leaved dock, white clover, curled-dock and stands of creeping thistle.
- 3.2.19 **2020 survey:** In 2020 this area was overwhelmingly dominated by perennial rye-grass. The grassland became a little more diverse further up the hill to the north. Although perennial rye grass was still frequent, common bent, red fescue and Yorkshire fog were much more evident. Forbs included ribwort plantain, creeping thistle and cat's ear. As much of this area was recorded as semi-improved neutral grassland in 2018, there has been a degradation of the grassland since the previous survey.

### **M4: Planted saplings**

- 3.2.20 **2018 survey:** An area of young trees and saplings including field maple and guelder rose.
- 3.2.21 **2020 survey:** No change was noted in this area in 2020.

### **M5: Acid grassland and planted saplings**

- 3.2.22 **2018 survey:** A small area of acid grassland. Species included creeping bent, red fescue, meadow foxtail, frequent smaller cat's-tail and occasional Yorkshire fog. The area has been recently planted with saplings including guelder rose, field maple, hawthorn and hazel.
- 3.2.23 **2020 survey:** In 2020 the area was dominated by common bent. Yorkshire fog, smaller cat's-tail and meadow foxtail were frequent with perennial rye-grass occasional. The area was planted with saplings of guelder rose, hazel, hawthorn. No change in area of acid grassland or planted saplings was noted.

### **M6: Planted saplings**

- 3.2.24 **2018 survey:** An area of planted saplings including field maple, hawthorn, beech and cherry.

3.2.25 **2020 survey:** In 2020, no changes in this habitat were noted.

**M7: Planted saplings**

3.2.26 **2018 survey** An area of planted saplings including hazel, hornbeam, field maple, English elm, hawthorn and guelder rose.

3.2.27 **2020 survey:** n 2020, no changes in this habitat were noted.



Figure 9: Planted saplings

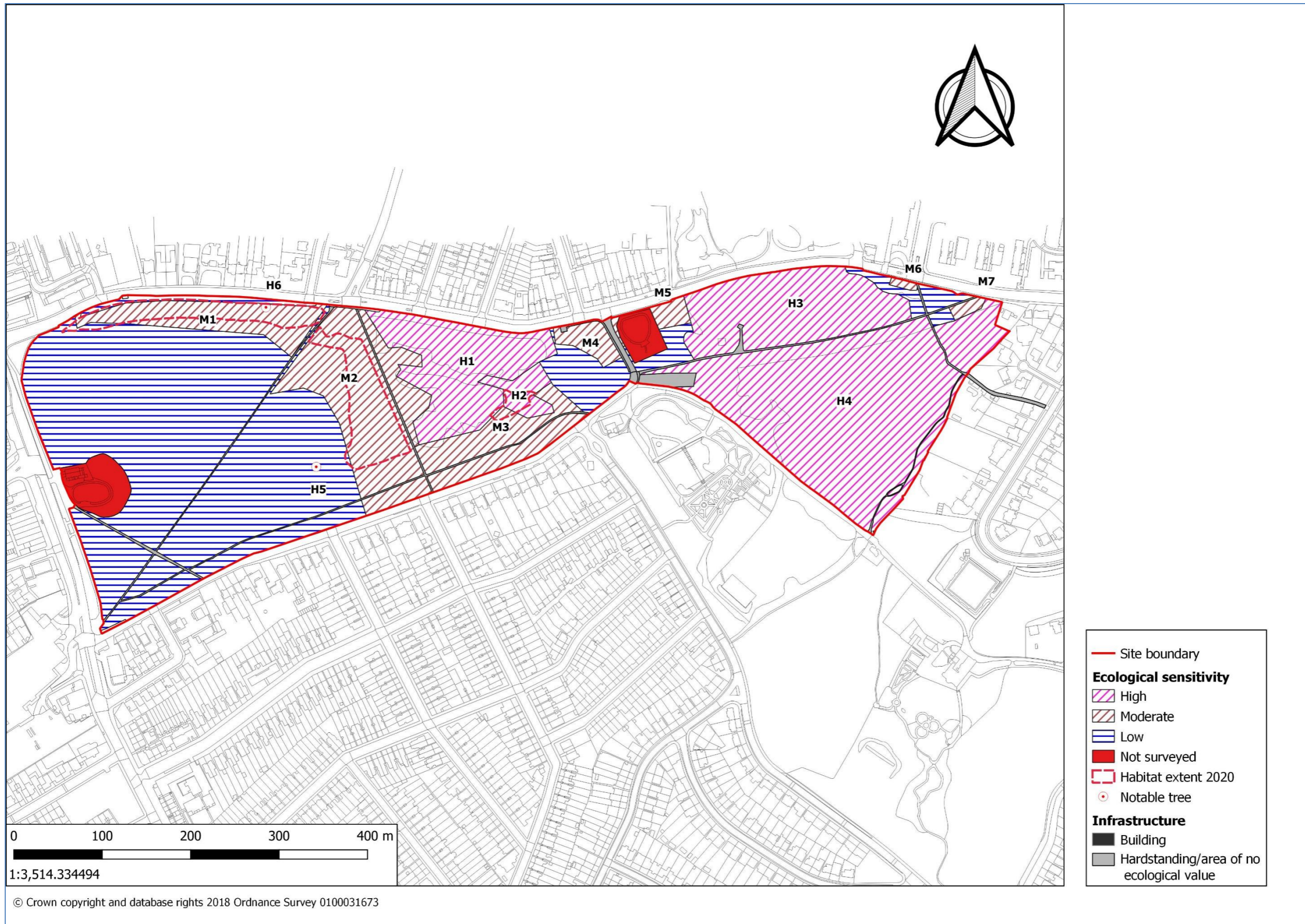


Figure 10: Ecological constraints for Streatham Common events

## **4.0 Discussion**

### **4.1 Areas of high sensitivity**

- 4.1.1 Areas H1-H6, including notable trees in the amenity grassland areas, were identified in the 2018 survey as highly sensitive ecological areas which should be avoided in planning large scale public events and remain closed-off to the public or fenced off during the events.
- 4.1.2 No gross changes in woodland composition or extent were noted between surveys, however disturbance affecting fauna including breeding birds and roosting bats cannot be ruled out.
- 4.1.3 Although the species composition of the acid grassland (H2) was similar between survey occasions, this grassland had reduced in extent between 2018 and 2020. These changes cannot be directly attributed to events held on the common but are likely to be related to greater visitor pressure generally.

### **4.2 Areas of medium sensitivity**

- 4.2.1 Areas M1- M7 were identified as moderately sensitive ecological areas which should be avoided in planning large scale public events unless appropriate ecological management measures are in place and present before, during and after the event, so as to avoid and/or mitigate for any potential ecological impacts.
- 4.2.2 The extent of area M1 had reduced between survey occasions, however this may simply be a result of an altered mowing regime, with regular cutting closer to the northern boundary of the site in 2020.
- 4.2.3 The area of semi-improved grassland in M2 had also reduced in extent, however this was due to an increased abundance of perennial rye-grass through much of the sward, particularly in the western portion of this area. The change in extent is shown in map figure 10. This change is most likely due to increased visitor use between surveys. Perennial rye-grass is particularly resistant to trampling and is likely to have out-competed other species of grass and has begun to dominate the sward.
- 4.2.4 The grassland in M3 showed considerable degradation between surveys. Much of the grassland, particularly towards the west can now be classified as 'improved' grassland rather than semi-improved grassland. Perennial rye-grass has become the most dominant species here. Again, it is not possible to attribute this change to events at the site, but is likely to result from an increase in visitor use and trampling.
- 4.2.5 There do not appear to have been any significant changes in the extent or species composition in the areas of sapling planting in M4, M5, M6 and M7.

### **4.3 Areas of low ecological sensitivity**

- 4.3.1 Areas identified as of low ecological sensitivity are likely to be robust to the occasional large-scale public event
- 4.3.2 licences will therefore not be required subject to the implementation of this precautionary approach.

## 5.0 Conclusions and recommendations

- 5.1 The walkover surveys carried out in 2018 and then again in 2020 were designed to assess the potential adverse impacts of large public events on sensitive areas of the site; they were not designed to detect specific or subtle changes in vegetation composition or habitat extent/quality over time. A different approach of survey methodology, and over an extended time period, would be required to provide the information necessary to answer these questions. In addition, these surveys were not designed to detect any potential adverse impacts of events on selected sensitive fauna using the habitats present on site. Such impacts therefore cannot be fully eliminated, and may require additional surveys, such as focusing on particular groups of fauna (e.g. bats or nesting birds), in order to fully quantify any potential effects and any appropriate mitigation strategies.
- 5.2 No obvious impacts resulting from the actual holding of events, or users associated with them, were detected in any of the areas of high ecological sensitivity.
- 5.3 However, some areas of grassland have clearly deteriorated, both in extent and species composition, which is likely to be attributable to increased visitor use of the site. It is therefore suggested that measures are taken to restore areas of grassland, manage these areas for biodiversity and protect them from over-use in future:
- 5.4 **Restore acid grassland.** A project is currently underway to restore acid grassland. Soil surveys will be used to identify areas with suitable phosphate, Nitrate and pH levels for restoration. A variety of options will be available for restoration including scraping, harrowing tree removal and seeding
- 5.5 **Reduce footfall** in the more sensitive areas of grassland. This may include restricting access to selected sensitive areas during events and/or the height of summer or creating desire lines through the regular mowing of paths
- 5.6 **Management** of all areas of extensively managed grassland through a modified mowing regime. One of the following grassland management options are recommended:
- **Summer and autumn cutting** Cut the majority of the sward between mid-July and September to mimic the pattern of hay meadow management. Randomly leave some areas (10-20% of the area) uncut to leave some flowering plants for pollinating. Cut the entire area again from October to December to remove late season growth. Ideally cut arisings should be left for three days and then removed. If this is not possible or is undesirable, arisings may be removed immediately after cutting.
  - **Late winter and autumn cutting** Cut the sward during February and March. This is before most plants flower and it will not disturb ground-nesting birds. Cut the again during September and October. Remove all cut arisings as above.
- 5.7 The sward should not be cut lower than 10 cm.
- 5.8 It is recommended that protection of the areas highlighted as being of high and medium ecological sensitivity is continued, including before and during any large events.



- 5.9 Tree root and canopy protection measures should be in place in all areas; any floodlights should be directed away from any trees, areas of shrubs or hedge lines, and only turned on during an event or when this is deemed essential for public safety or safe entry/egress – outside these times they should be turned off, especially where they are close to any of the more ecologically sensitive areas.
- 5.10 The above measures will minimise the risk of adverse impacts to species which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010). Natural England protected species licences will therefore not be required subject to the implementation of this precautionary approach.

## **Appendix 1: Relevant Legislation and species status**

## **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England**

Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.

### **National legislation afforded to species and habitats**

The objective of the EU Habitats Directive is to conserve the various species of plant and animal which are considered rare across Europe. The Directive is transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and is commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is a key piece of national legislation which implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Wild Birds Directive) in Great Britain. Since the passing of the Act, various amendments have been made, details of which can be found on [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk). Key amendments have been made through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000) and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

Other legislative Acts affording protection to wildlife and their habitats include:

- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000
- Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

### **Herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles)**

Species of herpetofauna which have the potential to occur at Streatham Common are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The common lizard and slow-worm are listed in respect to Section 9(1) & (5). For these species, it is prohibited to:

- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) kill or injure these species
- Sell, offer or expose for sale, possess or transport for purpose of sale these species, or any part thereof.

The common toad and palmate newt are protected by law from sale and trade only.

Great crested newts are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 from:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or taking (capture)
- Deliberate disturbance of any species in such a way as to be likely significantly to affect:
  - the ability of any significant group of bats to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young; or
  - the local distribution or abundance of that bat species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place
- Keeping, transporting, selling, exchanging or offering for sale whether live or dead or of any part thereof.

Great crested newts are also currently protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

### Mammals

All species of bat are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and have the same protection as great crested newts.

Badgers are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Protection of Badgers Act (1992). It is an offence:

- To willfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger;
- To attempt to do so; or
- To intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett.

### Birds

With certain exceptions, all birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Sections 1-8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Among other things, this makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) take, damage or destroy (or, in Scotland, otherwise interfere with) the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- Intentionally take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.
- Sell, offer or expose for sale, have in his possession or transport for the purpose of sale any wild bird (dead or alive) or bird egg or part thereof.

Certain species of bird, for example the barn owl, black redstart, hobby, bittern and kingfisher receive additional special protection under Schedule 1 of the Act and Annex 1 of the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC). This affords them protection against:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young.
- Intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young of such a bird

### Plants

With certain exceptions, all wild plants are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence for an 'unauthorised' person to intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) uproot wild plants. An authorised person can be the owner of the land on which the action is taken, or anybody authorised by them.

### Bird status

- **Red list** - High Conservation Concern. Red list species are those that meet any of the following criteria. A) Global Conservation Status. Species listed by BirdLife International as being Globally Threatened using IUCN criteria. B) Historical Decline. A severe decline in the UK between 1800 and 1995, without substantial recent recovery. C) Breeding Population Decline. Severe decline in the UK breeding population size, of more than 50%, over 25 years or the entire period used for assessments since the first BOCC review, starting in 1969 ("longer-term"). D) Non-breeding Population Decline. Severe decline in the UK non-breeding population size, of more than 50%, over 25 years or the longer term. E) Breeding Range Decline.

Severe decline in the UK range, of more than 50%, as measured by number of 10 km squares occupied by breeding birds, over 25 years or the longer-term.

- **Amber** - Medium Conservation Concern. Species meet any of the following criteria, but none of the red list criteria, are amber listed: A) European Conservation status. Categorised as a Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC 1, 2 or 3). B) Historical Decline – Recovery. Red listed for Historical Decline in a previous review but with substantial recent recovery (more than doubled in the last 25 years). C) Breeding Population Decline. As for red list criteria but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%). D) Non-breeding Population Decline. As for red list criteria but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%). E) Breeding Range Decline. As for red list criteria but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%). E) UK breeding population of less than 300 pairs or nonbreeding population of less than 900 individuals. F) Localisation. At least 50% of the UK breeding or non-breeding population found in 10 or fewer sites. G) International Importance. At least 20% of the European breeding or non-breeding population found in the UK.

### London BAP species

London Biodiversity Action Plan species are species which have been identified as a priority for conservation action in the capital. They include:

- Species that are globally threatened
- Species that are rapidly declining in the UK
- Nationally threatened species
- Species which are known to have undergone a decline in London