

Biodiversity Action Plan Review November 2024

Camden's Biodiversity Action Plan (the Plan) was adopted in January 2022 alongside the Biodiversity Strategy '*Creating space for nature in Camden*¹' (the Strategy). The actions within the Plan contribute to the delivery of the objectives within the Strategy.

Unlike the Strategy, which is reported against and revised every five years, the Action Plan is a live project list. As such it is subject to occasional revision within the strategy period (January 2022 - December 2026). The revision adds new actions, updates actions in progress, revises actions as necessary, and identifies where an action has been completed and removed from the live Plan. Removing a completed action from the live Plan keeps that list manageable and as accessible as possible, as the live Plan is hosted on the Council's website². The original action wording and target dates are maintained in these review documents in the interests of full transparency.

The table on the following pages provides the list of actions and notes to provide an explanation on each action's relationship to the live Plan.

To learn more, get involved or suggest an action, contact:

NatureConservation@Camden.gov.uk

Note on the November 2024 Review

Several of the actions on the original Plan had been identified via the thematic objectives, the Strategy narrative, or other council priorities. During the review process it became evident that these actions would be delivered as a single piece of work. For example, there were three actions for identifying areas for urban greening for biodiversity, and three actions relating to engagement and participation in nature conservation. Where this is the case, these actions have been combined to simplify the Plan while still keeping the deliverables of the actions.

A number of actions have been converted to annual actions with a target date set at an appropriate point in the year. Some target dates have been re-worded to more accurately reflect where they sit within the Biodiversity Strategy period.

Some actions are behind schedule due to internal resource constraints. To reach beyond 'business as usual' the Plan was and is ambitious, but since its adoption in January 2022 work has increased (for E.G. from the Environment Act) which has put additional pressure on existing resources. As other opportunities have arisen that would result in more immediate delivery against the objectives (I.E. new actions) these have also been prioritised. Some actions have been delayed deliberately so they are better able to reflect either London or Camden processes, the timetables for which were not available at the time of the original setting of the target date. We are actively seeking ways to accelerate delivery of the actions that are behind schedule, either through partnership working, external contractors and identifying additional internal resources wherever possible. New target dates for these actions based on current prioritisation levels, and these will be revised as and when this changes.

¹ <https://www.camden.gov.uk/wildlife-areas#cjmw>

² <https://www.camden.gov.uk/wildlife-areas#lgnl>

Objective	Action	Original Target Date	Notes	New Date	Review outcome
Species	Undertake monthly moth trapping (April-Sept) at Camden Reserves	Ongoing	<u>New action</u> arising from Butterfly Conservation's Big City Butterflies Project, which included joint events and the gift of a moth trap.		Added
Species	Run a species related event at a Camden site	2025 (annual action)	<u>New action</u> added as a result of the success of events run with Butterfly Conservation as part of their Big City Butterflies project. Minimum one per year unless and until additional resources are identified, at which point the action will be revised.		Added
Species	Provide guide/advice/case studies on delivering biodiversity enhancements for property	Autumn 2025	<u>New action</u> arising from swift boxes installed at Lissenden Gardens Estate, and opportunity that arose from repairs work being undertaken by the Council.		Added
Species	Develop bird and bat box policy for Council-owned trees		<u>New action</u> added and completed within the current strategy period to enable the council to respond positively to requests for bird and bat boxes whilst addressing health and safety concerns.		Remove (completed)
Species	Install Swift boxes on Lissenden Gardens Estate during repair works	Summer 2025	<u>New action</u> added as a result of an opportunity arising from Council repair works. Three double-chamber boxes installed on Clevedon Mansions in July 2024. Six double-chamber boxes to be installed on Clevedon Mansions in late 2024. A further six double-chamber boxes intended for Parliament Hill Mansions in early 2025.		Added
Trees	Increase Council Tree Canopy Cover	2026		End of Plan Period (December 2026)	No change
Camden Nature Recovery Network	Develop the Camden Nature Recovery Network: identify core areas, corridors and stepping stones.	Autumn 2023	Development postponed to better align with London Local Nature Recovery Strategy being developed by the Greater London Authority.	Summer 2026	Revise
Communication	Develop and communication plan and calendar	Spring 2022	Now an annual action, and action revised to reflect this. Action also combined with Citizen Science Action.	New Action	Remove (completed)
Communication	Develop Annual Comms plan and calendar to include citizen science	Winter 24/25 (annual)	<u>New action</u> combining the Communications and Citizen Science Actions, to reflect how these have been primarily been delivered, and reflect yearly target.	Winter 24/25	Added
Communication	Get Biodiversity Action Map and Action submission form online	Spring 2022	Form online but technical and consensual issues with layers. It is believed this issue is now addressed.	Spring 2025	Revise

Designated Sites	Undertake a review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and potential SINCs	Autumn 2022			Remove (completed)
Species	Develop hedgehog awareness and connectivity project linking core populations and Council green spaces	Spring 2023	Hedgehog conservation work is being undertaken by other organisations with support from NCO and the action has been revised to reflect this.		Remove and add new action
Species	Support local communities and organisations in linking hedgehog populations across Camden	Ongoing	New Action added to reflect change in delivery of the hedgehog actions		Added
Species	Develop and promote a programme of citizen science activities and support submission of biological records	Spring 2023	Now an annual action combined with the communication plan		Remove (completed)
Greening the Grey	Produced revised Camden Planning Guidance: Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain	Winter 22/23	This has been postponed until after Local Plan Review so it can properly align with and respond.	End 2026	Revise
Access to Nature	Revise Outdoor Classroom system	Spring 2022	Initial revision undertaken, which identified further revision necessary, including changes to potential charges and fees.	April 2026	Revise
Access to Nature	Review signage and interpretation in Local Nature Reserves, nature reserves, and nature conservation elements in Parks and other green spaces	Autumn 2022	New signage for Nature Reserves action generated. Within-site interpretation to be revised and renewed as current signs come to the end of their life.		Remove (completed)
Access to Nature	Produce and Install new signage on Nature Reserve gates		New action completed within review period		Remove (completed)
Camden Nature Partnership	Establish a Memorandum of Understanding for the Camden Nature Partnership	Autumn 2021	No interest in such a formal partnership from potential members. Partnership working is being taken forward on a more informal basis generally, and more formally on a project basis.		Remove
Designated Sites	Increase proportion of SINCs in positive management for biodiversity	End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)		End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)	No change
Species	Review borough-wide monitoring of hedgehogs and develop project	Spring 2023	Action being taken forward in another form by other organisations with support from NCO		Remove and add new action

Habitats	Identify areas for creation of new flower-rich meadows	Ongoing			No change
Habitats	Increase the area of Flower-rich meadows	End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)			No change
Habitats	Identify areas for creation of new reedbeds	Ongoing	A number of locations for potential 'floating ecosystems' on the Regent's Canal have been identified and we are engaging with Canal and Rivers Trust regarding these.		No change
Habitats	Increase the area of reedbed habitats	End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)			No change
Habitats	Increase the area of species-rich woodland through management changes and planting	End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)			No change
Habitats	Resurvey area of priority habitats	Autumn 2022	Funding currently being sought for this.	Autumn 2026	Revise
Trees	Promote Tree Planting on Private Land	Ongoing			No change
Greening the Grey	Ensure developments in Camden result in increased biodiversity	Ongoing	The revision of the Local Plan is seen as an opportunity to strengthen biodiversity policy, including highlighting indirect impacts from development and addressing gaps in Biodiversity Net Gain legislation.		No change
Parks & Green Spaces	Increase the area of meadows and relaxed mowing in parks and green spaces	End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)			No change
Parks & Green Spaces	Increase the length of conservation hedgerows across Parks and Green Spaces	End of Plan Period			No change

		(Jan 2027)			
Parks & Green Spaces	New and replaced areas of planting to include species of benefit to pollinators	Ongoing			No change
Parks & Green Spaces	Provide a point of contact and promotion between park users and Council Nature Conservation initiatives	Ongoing			No change
Trees	Increase Council tree species diversity	End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)			No change
Access to Nature	Develop a Participation Plan to engage residents in taking action and decision making	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over other core work and projects. It will be merged with other similar actions to simplify the BAP and a new target date set.		Combine with Similar Actions
Access to Nature	Develop a Participation Plan to engage residents in nature conservation and access to nature, including measures to engage with Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, and those in areas of deprivation.		New action added combining multiple similar actions.	Autumn 2026	Added
Designated Sites	Revise Management Plans for Local Nature Reserves	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects.	Spring 2026	Revise
Designated Sites	Review management of Council-owned Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects.	Autumn 2025	Revise
Designated Sites	Review Local Nature Reserve Designations and identify potential new sites for designation	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over other core work and projects. It will now be taken forward alongside the SINC management plan revision Action and designation of Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve.	Winter 25/26	Revise
Species	Review species records for the borough to determine likely status	Autumn 2022	Work on this is ongoing but we have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects so it is behind schedule. London-wide work on species is expected to contribute to our approach.	Spring 2026	Revise

Species	Produce a 'State of Camden's Nature' Report from the review of species and habitats evidence	Spring 2023	Delayed owing to need to complete habitat survey action first. Species work unable to be prioritised over core work and other projects.	End of Plan Period (January 2027)	Revise
Species	Develop Bat Monitoring project for the Regent's Canal	Spring 2023	Project outline identified, potential funding sources and partners being sought.	Autumn 2025	Revise
Species	Produce guidance for the public about how to help nature in Camden	Spring 2023	Webpage 'How to help nature in Camden' created.		remove
Habitats	Review management of Council-owned woodland to increase species diversity	Autumn 2023	We have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects.	Autumn 2025	Revise
Habitats	Identify areas for planting of new species rich woodland	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects.	Autumn 2026	Revise
Habitats	Determine potential to restore and create access to Medley Road Orchard	Autumn 2023	Currently not feasible as we have no access that would allow the level of work necessary.		Remove
Habitats	Produce wildlife gardening advice	Spring 2023	We have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects.	Spring 2026	Revise
Habitats	Produce advice for allotment holders on encouraging wildlife	Spring 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects.	Spring 2026	Revise
Trees	Create tree species and biodiversity guidance	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over core work and other projects.	Spring 2026	Revise
Greening the Grey	Produce developer guidance for delivering Biodiversity Net Gain in Camden	Autumn 2023	Postponed until after Local Plan Review Reg 19, combine with Camden Planning Guidance action		Combined with Camden Planning Guidance action
Greening the Grey	Integrate the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy with Council approaches to Sustainable Urban Drainage and other nature based solutions	Ongoing	A Green Infrastructure Strategy is an opportunity to achieve this on a strategic basis, and the Council is considering this.		No change

Greening the Grey	Ensure all Green Space Development projects include planting for biodiversity	Ongoing	The Nature Conservation Officer works with the Green Space Improvements Projects team.		No change
Parks & Green Spaces	Produce guidance for 'Friends of' Groups about how to help nature	Spring 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over other core work and projects.	Spring 2026	revise
Access to Nature	Increase number of Camden Green Gym sessions	End of Plan Period (Jan 2027)	Seeking funding for this.		no change
Access to Nature	Review opening times of Local Nature Reserves and similar sites	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over other core work and projects.	Autumn 2026	revise
Access to Nature	Include information on what wildlife can be seen where on Council website	Spring 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over other core work and projects.	Summer 2025	Revise
Access to Nature	Develop (a) project(s) to better engage Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in nature conservation	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over other core work and projects. This action will be combined with the participation plan action.		Combine with Similar Actions
Access to Nature	Develop a project to better engage those from deprived areas in nature conservation	Autumn 2022	We have been unable to prioritise this over other core work and projects. This action will be combined with the participation plan action.		Combine with Similar Actions
Greening the Grey	Identify project opportunities for urban greening for biodiversity in areas with deficiency in green space	Autumn 2022, then Ongoing	Urban greening and open space improvements that benefit biodiversity taken forward in various areas of the borough (e.g. Alfred Place). This action will be combined with two other similarly worded actions going forward.		Combine with similar actions
Greening the Grey	Identify project opportunities for urban greening for biodiversity in areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature	Autumn 2022, then Ongoing	Urban greening and open space improvements that benefit biodiversity taken forward in various areas of the borough (e.g. Alfred Place). This action will be combined with two other similarly worded actions going forward.		Combine with similar actions

Greening the Grey	Identify project opportunities for urban greening for biodiversity in areas of deprivation	Autumn 2022, then Ongoing	Urban greening and open space improvements that benefit biodiversity taken forward in various areas of the borough (e.g. Alfred Place). This action will be combined with two other similarly worded actions going forward.		Combine with similar actions
Greening the Grey	Identify project opportunities for urban greening for biodiversity, prioritising Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature, areas of deficiency in access to green space, and areas of deprivation	Ongoing		Ongoing	Added