





SINC Review and Borough Ecological Survey of the London Borough of Southwark

Southwark Surveys 2014-2015

Report for London Borough of Southwark

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Appendix 1 – Greater London Authority Methodology

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Executive Summary

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned in June 2014 to undertake a review of Southwark's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) to provide up-to-date information on the condition of sites and to inform policies in the emerging New Southwark Plan. No survey of this kind had been undertaken since 1994/5, when a Southwark-wide survey was carried out by the London Ecology Unit. The aims of this project were:

- To re-survey 59 existing SINC's¹ to evaluate their current status, condition and wildlife value:
- To survey 50 Open Spaces identified by the Borough as candidate SINC's and to determine if they meet the Greater London Authority SINC criteria in the context of Southwark:
- To assess the extent and condition of wildlife habitats in Southwark and report changes in the amount or quality of these in comparison to the 1994/5 survey;
- To identify areas of habitat/features of biodiversity interest that have the potential for enhancement, including key linkages between the SINC sites and other habitats of importance; and
- Provide recommendations on the enhancement of sites and habitats to improve their biodiversity value.
- Seven SINC's were not surveyed as part of this project. These comprised, Deal Porter's Walk, Durand's Wharf, King Stairs Garden, Kirkwood Road Nature Garden (part of Nunhead Railway Cutting SINC), The River Thames, Surrey Canal Walk and Warwick Gardens. The majority of these sites had been surveyed in recent years. The River Thames was not included as only a small portion of the whole site is located in the borough.
- The remaining Open Spaces in the borough were below the minimum size (0.25ha), and or had limited habitat;

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¹ This comprised a total of 69 Open Spaces as some SINCs contained more than one Open Space

The key findings were:

- The most abundant habitat types (by area), were amenity grassland (including scattered trees), native broadleaved woodland and artificial habitat such as hardstanding.
- In the context of inner London, Southwark has a diverse range of habitats listed in the London and Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan. Of greatest significance are the areas of native woodland in the south, wetland habitats in the north and large areas of recently created herb-rich neutral grassland (a new category).
- These habitats support assemblages of woodland and wintering birds, common reptiles, hedgehogs, bats and common amphibians.
- As a result of habitat enhancements, there are marked gains in a new habitat category known as "other neutral grassland (herb rich)". Semi-improved neutral grassland, marginal vegetation and reed swamp have also seen significant gains, which recognise the enhancements that have been undertaken by the Council in years since the last survey was undertaken in 1994/1995.
- The largest declines in habitat were for acid grassland and 'roughland', potentially due to development, habitat succession and/or change in management.
- No major threats such as invading plants, safety or erosion were identified across
 the Open Spaces nor were there any significant or frequent disturbances such as
 vandalism or tipping.
- The key opportunity for enhancement was identified within the large areas of amenity grassland that are regularly mown to a uniform, short sward which limits value to wildlife. Reducing the mowing frequency below trees along site boundaries would provide additional habitat to invertebrates and birds. Other opportunities include diversifying grassland flora, wetland habitat creation and woodland management including hedge laying.

Recommendations were:

- Of the 59 SINC's surveyed, three have been assessed as exceeding the level of Local Importance designated in 1994/1995 and have been recommended to be designated at the Borough level. These are: Dog Kennel Hill Wood, Galleywall Nature Garden and Nairne Grove Nature Garden. This reflects the enhancements that have been undertaken in recent years.
- Apart from the existing Metropolitan SINC's comprising Nunhead Cemetery, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods, Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting and the River Thames, no existing SINC's or candidate sites are proposed at the Metropolitan level.

- Three candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Borough Importance comprising:
 Grove Park Allotments, Nursery Row Park and Greendale Playing Field.
- The designation of the three candidate sites and the upgrade from local importance of three SINC's to borough level would reduce the size of the two Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature in the north and central parts of the borough.
- 15 candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Local Importance comprising: Cherry Gardens, Redcross Gardens, Christchurch Gardens, Cossal Park, Long Meadow, Faraday Gardens, Grange Road Allotments (North), Grange Road Allotments (South), Holy Trinity Churchyard, Holly Grove Shrubbery, Mint Street Park, Nunhead Allotments, Salisbury Row Park, St James' Churchyard and St Peter's Churchyard.
- It is recommended that two candidate SINC's namely, Old Nursery Site and Surrey
 Docks Sports grounds (Pitch 1), will be combined with nearby existing SINC's:
 Southwark Park and Russia Docks Woodland respectively. This is partly due to
 their small size, contiguous habitat and boundaries.
- There is one proposed deletion to the SINC series, comprising SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden, which contained insufficient habitat to warrant SINC designation.
 All remaining SINC's are proposed to remain at the same level, as they retain the ecological interest for what they were designated for in 1994.
- The remaining candidate SINC's still support habitats of value to wildlife; however, these were either limited in extent or contained commonly occurring low-value habitats, or had no active management for nature conservation.
- Six SINC's were considered to have declined and are in need of active conservation. These were: Leathermarket Gardens and Community Park, Lucas Gardens, Surrey Gardens, Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf, Surrey Docks Farm and Geraldine Harmsworth Park. The current issues and proposals are provided in Section 4.
- Four SINC's are proposed to be separated by Open Space boundaries to ensure sufficient information is provided in SINC citations. These comprise: Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk, Albion Channel, Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak Crematorium and adjacent areas.
- Four SINC's (with multiple Open Spaces), are not to be separated so they retain their borough value. These comprise Dulwich Upper Woods, Greenland Dock & St. Georges Wharf, Nunhead Railway Embankments, and Russia Dock Woodland &

- Stave Hill. The latter SINC is unusually large and complicated requiring both retaining, separating and combining of Open Spaces to rationalise boundaries.
- The southern half of Cox's Walk runs through Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods SINC as a narrow fenced footpath and also falls within the Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Sydenham Hill Wood and Fern Bank boundary. It is proposed that this part of the footpath remains as part of Sydenham Hill Wood SINC site (OS 181), rather than altering the Open Space boundary to reflect the footpath alignment. As a result of the Open Space boundaries Cox's Walk (OS175), stands apart from the LNR.
- 23 boundary changes have been proposed to existing and candidate SINC's. The
 majority of changes will result in an increase in area, as a result of habitat creation.
 Only a small proportion is the result of development intruding on existing SINC's.
- 11 Open Spaces require minor amendments to their open space boundaries as a result of digitisation errors in original mapping (rather than actual boundary changes). Those affected are: Belair Park, Tabard Garden, Sunray Gardens, Benhill Road Nature Garden, Surrey Dock Farm, Lettsom Garden, Dickens Square (Rockingham Park), Consort Park, St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Galleywall Road Nature Garden and James Allen School playing fields.
- A number of existing SINC's and candidate SINC's are to be renamed. This
 reflects the separation of large SINC's by Open Space boundaries, changes in site
 use, or to better represent habitat present.
- Due to changes in the Greater London Authority (GLA), survey and assessment methodology, all Borough Grade I and Borough Grade II SINC's are being combined into one Borough category.
- The mapping of green corridors is recommended to provide protection to mature tree boundaries that currently have no ecological protection.
- Other open space that have undergone recent biodiversity enhancement (e.g. Crossbones in the Better Bankside area), and the Peckham Coal Line (in Peckham), should be surveyed in the near future as they could support wildlife habitats in areas of the borough that have limited open space and access to nature.
- New site numbers will need to be given to new SINC's and citations. We would recommend the Council use its service level agreement with GIGL, to make necessary updates.

Table 1: The table lists those SINC's and candidate SINC's surveyed for this project. The Open Space number and name are provided for each, as large SINC's often contained more than one Open Space. For large SINC's, there are habitat maps for each Open Space. Proposed recommendations are provided for boundary changes, SINC designation, SINC number and name. Details are given on citations that have been updated or new. Habitat maps are provided in Appendix 2 in a separate document. The boundary changes are provided in Appendix 3 and citations in Appendix 4.

	Existing	1		Proposed Recommendations								
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation					
Sites of Metropolita	Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)											
M050 Nunhead Cemetery	OS 126	Nunhead Cemetery LNR	53	No boundary changes	Metropolitan	M050 Nunhead Cemetery LNR	Updated					
M075 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods	OS 181	Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	101	Half of Cox's Walk is located within Sydenham Hill Woods and is to be retained in this SINC site.	Metropolitan	M075 Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	Updated					
M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	206 (Lewisham Reference)	Forest Hill to New Cross Railway Cutting	59	n/a (only a very small part is located within Southwark)	Metropolitan	M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	No change.					
Sites of Borough G	rade 1 Importance f	or Nature Conservation	n (Ordered	by SINC Reference)								
SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	OS 8	Lavender Pond (LNR)	47	Extension to north boundary	Borough	SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	Updated					
SoBI03 One Tree Hill	OS 150	One Tree Hill (LNR)	60	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI03 One Tree Hill (LNR)	Updated					
SoBI05 Russia Dock	OS 36	Stave Hill	39	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill Ecological Park (OS37).	Borough	SoBXX Stave Hill &	New citation					
Woodland & Stave Hill Nature	OS 37	Stave Hill Ecological Park	40	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill (OS 36).		Ecological Park						
Park	OS 38	Russia Dock Woodlands	89	Reduction (along east boundary), boundary	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock	Updated					

	Existing	9			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
				extension (along north-west) to include Surrey Docks Sports Ground Pitch 1 (OS6) and perimeter vegetation of OS7 (Pitch 2&3)		Woodland & Surrey Docks Park	
	OS 7	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitches 2&3)	88	Perimeter vegetation of sports fields to be retained as part of Russia Dock Woodland SINC.	Partly Borough Partly Open Space		
SoBl06 Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Course and	OS 173	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	103	No boundary changes Southern part of Cox's Walk is to remain within Sydenham Hill Woods SINC and LNR (OS 181).	Borough	SoBI06 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	Updated
Cox's Walk	OS 174	Cox's Walk	100	No Boundary changes	Borough	SoBXX Cox's Walk	New
SoBl07 Dulwich Upper	OS 187	Dulwich Upper Woods (LNR)	92	Retained as one SINC with two Open Spaces. Extension in southern and eastern corner	Borough	SoBI07 Dulwich Upper Wood (LNR) &	Updated
Woods	OS 188	College Road	93	Reduction along eastern boundary		College Road wood	
SoBl08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	OS 149	Camberwell Old Cemetery	38	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	Updated
SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park and Common	OS 124	Peckham Rye Park, Common & Piermont Green	52	Extensions to include Piermont Green (south-west corner) and line of trees (northern tip)	Borough	SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park, Common and Piermont Green	Updated
SoBI10 Dulwich Park	OS 159	Dulwich Park	106	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI10 Dulwich Park	Updated
SoBI11 Albion Channel	OS 35	Albion Channel	75	Extension along east and west boundary	Borough	SoBI11 Albion Channel	Updated

	Existin	1			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
	OS 55	Canada Water	102	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Canada Water	New
	OS 5	Surrey Water	42	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Surrey Water	New
SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	OS 121	London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening	82	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	Updated
Sites of Borough G	rade II Importance f	for Nature Conservatio	n (Ordered	by SINC reference)			
SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	OS 110	Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to North Dulwich Railsides	108	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	Updated
SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	OS 138	Sunray Gardens	07	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	Updated
SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak Crematorium	OS 145	Camberwell New Cemetery, Honour Oak Crematorium, Sports Ground.	58	Excluding OS151 Honor Oak Allotments	Borough	SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery and Surrounds	Updated
and adjacent areas	OS 151	Honor Oak Allotments	57	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Honor Oak Allotments	New
SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	OS 183	Countisbury House Lawns	17	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	Updated
SoBII08 Burgess Park	OS 91	Burgess Park	91	A small reduction along the eastern boundary and a small addition in the southern end.	Borough	SoBII08 Burgess Park	Updated

	Existine	9			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII09 Belair Park	OS 160	Belair Park	01	A small reduction along the northern boundary	Borough	SoBII09 Belair Park	Updated
SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	OS 156	Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides.	18	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	Updated
SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	OS 185	Carlton Place/ Hitherwood	15	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	Updated
SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	OS 135	James Allen's Girls School Playing Fields	81	Large reduction along western boundary. Minor reduction along northern boundary.	Part Borough SINC Part Open Space.	SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	Updated
SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	OS 143	Aquarius Golf Course	110	Large extension to include the majority of the Open Space / Golf Course.	Majority is Borough SINC, Northern tip is Open Space.	SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	Updated
SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	OS 164	Dulwich Mill Pond	80	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	Updated
SoBII15 Walworth City Farm	OS 81	Walworth Garden Farm	73	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII15 Walworth Garden	Updated
SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	OS 41	Surrey Docks Farm	77	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	Updated
SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	OS 186	Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	12	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	Updated
SoBII18 Greenland Dock	OS 64	Greenland Dock	45	Large extension to the north		SoBII18 Greenland Dock	
& St. George's Wharf	OS 65	South Dock	46	SINC to remain as one site with two Open Spaces.	Borough	& St. George's Wharf	Updated

	Existing	3			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	OS 114	Lettsom Gardens	107	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	Updated
SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawson's Hill)	OS 155	Dawson's Hill	02	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawson's Hill)	Updated
SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	OS 144	Brenchley Gardens	94	Small extensions to northwest boundary.	Borough	SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	Updated
SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	OS 80	South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	78	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	Updated
SoBII23 Southwark Park	OS 53	Southwark Park	43	Large extension along the north eastern boundary. To also include the nature area and Old Nursery Site (CW2)	Borough	SoBII23 Southwark Park	Updated
	OS 108	Nunhead Railway Embankments	86	No boundary changes			
SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	PN 6	Kirkwood Road Nature Garden	86	To be retained as part of Nunhead Railway Embankments	Borough	SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	Updated

Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (Ordered by SINC Reference)

	Existin	1		Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	OS 20	Leathermarket Gardens	11	No boundary changes	No change	SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	Updated
SoL02 Dickens Square Park (Rockingham Park)	OS 44	Dickens Square Park	95	No boundary changes	No change	SoL02 Dickens Square & Butterfly Walk	Updated
SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	OS 97	Benhill Road Nature Garden	34	Large reduction along northern boundary	No change	SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL07 Lucas Gardens	OS 105	Lucas Gardens	5	No boundary changes	No change	SoL07 Lucas Gardens	Updated
SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden	OS 68	Victory Community Park	27	No boundary changes	No change	SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Community Garden	Updated
SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	OS 103	Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	49	No boundary changes	No change	SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL14 Surrey Square	OS 77	Surrey Square Park	67	No boundary changes	No change	SoL14 Surrey Square	Updated
SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	OS 56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	104	Extension in southeast corner	Site of Local Importance	SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	Updated
SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	OS 95	Bird-in-Bush Park	54	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	Updated
SoL17 Consort Park	OS 116	Consort Park	96	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL17 Consort Park	Updated

	Existinç	9			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	OS 31	St Mary's Churchyard Gardens	64	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	Updated
SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey	OS 49	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey	24	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard Bermondsey	Updated
SoL21 Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	OS 106	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	72	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL21 Bellenden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood	OS 119	Dog Kennel Hill Open Space and Adventure Playground	105	Extension along the south- eastern boundary.	Upgrade to Borough	SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood and adventure playground	Updated
SoL23 Nairne Grove Nature Garden	OS 134	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	71	No boundary changes	Upgrade to Borough	SoL23 Bessemer Grange School Nature Garden	Updated
SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	OS 63	Aspinden Road Nature Garden	76	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	OS 74	Galleywall Nature Garden	85	No boundary changes	Upgrade to Borough	SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	Updated
SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	OS 115	McDermott Grove Nature Garden	51	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	Updated

	Existing	9			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	OS 89	Varcoe Road Nature Garden / Bramcote Nature Garden	35	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	Updated
SoL28 Surrey Gardens	OS 82	Surrey Gardens AKA Pasley Park	66	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	Parsley Park	Updated
SoL29 Tabard Gardens	OS 46	Tabard Gardens	04	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL29 Tabard Gardens	Updated
SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	OS 146	Herne Hill Cycle Stadium and Sports Ground	56	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	Updated
SoL32 Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden	OS 21	Snowsfield Nature Garden	63	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL32 Snowsfields Nature Garden	Updated
SoL33 Alleyne School	OS 140	Alleyn's School Playing Field (North of Townley Road)	n/a	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL33 Alleyne School	Not updated.
SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden	OS112	William Griggs Garden	98	No boundary changes	Downgrade	n/a	Not updated.
SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Garden	Unique Reference unknown OSXX2	Northfield House Wildlife Garden	90	Site not previously digitised, although central meadow listed as SoL18 on citation and listed in Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan, (BAP)	Site of Local Importance	SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Gardens	Updated
SoL 8 Plough Lane Pond	OS 148	Plough Lane Pond	n/a	No change	No change	n/a	Not updated

Candidate SINC's Open Spaces (Alphabetical Order)

	Existinç	3			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 163	Barclay Way	30	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 61	Bermondsey Spa Park	09	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 93	Bethwin Road Open Space	14	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 99	Brimmington Park	55	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS101	Brunswick Park	06	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 96	Caroline Gardens	69	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 25	Cherry Gardens	32	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Cherry Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 1	Christchurch Gardens	26	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Christchurch Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 107	Cossal Park	50	Extension along the northern boundary	Site of local importance	SoLXX Cossal Park	New citation
n/a	OS 175	Cox's Walk Allotments	68	None	No change	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 184	Long Meadow	08	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Long Meadow	New citation
n/a	OS 85	Faraday Gardens	79	Extension along north-east corner and minor addition and reduction in south-east part.	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Faraday Gardens	New citation
n/a	OS 152	Honor Oak Sports Ground	59	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden	36	None	None	n/a	n/a

	Existinç	9			Proposed Recommenda	tions	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 180	Grange Road Allotments (North)	112	No boundary changes	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments West	New citation
n/a	OS 178	Grange Road Allotments (South)	111	No boundary changes.	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments East	New citation
n/a	OS 128	Greendale Playing Field	03	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBXX Greendale Playing Field	New citation
n/a	OS 154	Dulwich Library Gardens	31	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 168	Dulwich Common Allotments	113	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	393	Grove Park Allotments	87	None	Borough	SoBXX Grove Park Allotments	New citation
n/a	OS 130	Dulwich Hamlet	70	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 39	Holy Trinity Churchyard	41	None	Site of local importance	SoLXX Holy Trinity Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 167	Honor Oak and Tulse Hill Playing	115	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 54	King George's Field Park	44	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 16	Little Dorrit Park	33	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 17	Marlborough Playground	16	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 113	Holly Grove Shrubbery	97	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Holly Grove Shrubbery	New citation

	Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation	
n/a	OS 14	Mint Street Park	22	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Mint Street Park	New citation	
n/a	OS 10	Nelson Square Gardens	29	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 42	Newington Gardens	10	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 133	Nunhead Allotments	116	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Nunhead Allotments	New citation	
n/a	OS 69	Paragon Gardens	25	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 9	Pearson Park	99	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 76	Nursery Row Park	13	Large addition along the northern boundary. Two small additions the along the western boundary	Borough	SoBXX Nursery Row Park	New citation	
n/a	CW 2	Old Nursery Site	84	Combined with Southwark Park	Borough	SoBII23 Southwark Park	Updated	
n/a	OS 84	Pelier Park	61	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 75	Pullens Gardens	62	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 15	Redcross Gardens	37	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Redcross Gardens	New citation	
n/a	OS 132	Ryehill Park (Waterworks)	109	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 70	Salisbury Row Park	19	Two additions proposed to join up disparate parts of the park	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Salisbury Row Park	New citation	

Existing				Proposed Recommendations			
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 104	St Giles' Churchyard	20	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 72	St James' Road Allotments	114	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 52	St James' Churchyard	23	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St James' Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 170	St Peter's Churchyard (Lordship Lane)	28	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 86	St Peter's Churchyard	65	Large extension along northern boundary	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St Peter's Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 120	St. Francis' Park	21	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 102	Sumner Park	48	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	CW 4	Surrey Docks Adventure	83	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 6	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitch 1)	88	To be combined with Russia Dock Woodland SINC Site	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Surrey Docks	Updated
n/a	400	Bonar Road Allotments	74	None	None	n/a	n/a

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by London Borough of Southwark to carry out a review and ecological survey of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's), during 2014 and 2015. The purpose of completing a SINC review for Southwark was to inform policies in the forthcoming New Southwark Plan. Southwark's current habitat records are from1994/5, where the original "Southwark Wildlife Survey" was undertaken by the London Ecology Unit. No subsequent survey of this scale has taken place. Due to the age of these records, Southwark requires an upto-date picture of its biodiversity assets.
- 1.2 This assessment provided up-to-date information on the status and condition of 59 SINC's (containing 69 Open Spaces), and 50 other Open Spaces identified as potential candidate SINC's. The survey, assessment and reporting uses the framework established by the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB), to ensure the SINC review and selection is consistent across London and with national, regional and local policy documents and current legislation.
- 1.3 Seven SINC's were not surveyed as part of this project. These comprised, Deal Porter's Walk, Durand's Wharf, King Stairs Garden, Kirkwood Road Nature Garden (part of Nunhead Railway Cutting SINC), The River Thames, Surrey Canal Walk and Warwick Gardens. The majority of these sites had been surveyed in recent years and did not need a re-survey. The River Thames was not included as only a small portion of the whole site was located within the borough.
 - 1.4 Of the 216 Open Spaces in Southwark, 183 contained some form of habitat. An analysis of these was undertaken by Southwark Council, with 64 deemed to have limited habitat, being dominated by amenity grassland (managed primary for sports use), and did not require surveying. The remaining 119 were surveyed as part of this project. Table 1 below lists the 64 sites not surveyed.

 Table 1: List of SINC's and Open Spaces not surveyed (Ordered Alphabetically)

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
1	n/a	OS147	Alleyne School Playing Pitch (Carlton Avenue)	Limited habitat - Playing fields
2	n/a	OS22	Bermondsey Playground	Limited habitat - Small local park
3	n/a	PN5	Brayards Green	Limited habitat - Amenity site within an estate
4	n/a	OS153	Burbage Road Playing Fields.	Limited habitat - Sports fields
5	n/a	377	Calypso Gardens	Limited habitat - Small local park
6	n/a	OS100	Camberwell Green	Limited habitat - Local park
7	n/a	375	Central Venture Park	Limited habitat - Adventure play park
8	n/a	376	Central Venture Park	Limited habitat - Children's playground
9	n/a	OS136	Charter School	Limited habitat - Playing field
10	n/a	OS177	College Sports Ground, South Grange Road.	Limited habitat - Playing fields
11	n/a	BB2	Crossbones Graveyard	Limited habitat – Development site
12	n/a	OS59	David Copperfield Gardens	Limited habitat -Linear open space
13	SoL37 Deal Porter's Walk	OS 34	Deal Porter's Walk	Surveyed and assessed in 2012
14	n/a	OS117	Dr Harold Moody Park	Limited habitat - Small park adjacent to OS116.

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
15	n/a	OS24	Dr Salter's Playground	Limited habitat -Playground
16	n/a	OS171	Dulwich College	Limited habitat - Formal playing fields with mature trees on boundaries and in centre
17	n/a	OS161	Dulwich College Playing Fields and Sports Ground (East Gallery Road).	Limited habitat - Playing fields
18	n/a	OS157	Dulwich College Playing Fields and Sports Grounds (Turney Road and West Galley Road)	Limited habitat - Several sports fields
19	n/a	OS172	Dulwich College Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Sports fields
20	n/a	OS169	Dulwich Common Sports Ground and Cricket Club	Limited habitat- Cricket pitch
21	n/a	OS158	Dulwich Picture Gallery Grounds	Limited habitat - Gardens with café
22	SoL35 Durand's Wharf	OS 40	Durand's Wharf	Surveyed and assessed in 2012
23	n/a	EC1	Elephant Road	Development site
24	n/a	OS90	Forsynth Gardens	Limited habitat - Small local park
25	n/a	OS122	Goose Green Common	Limited habitat - Small park
26	n/a	OS123	Goose Green Playground	Limited habitat - Playground area
27	n/a	OS129	Greendale Artificial Playing Pitch	Limited habitat - Artificial turf pitch
28	n/a	OS12	Grotto Open space	Limited habitat - Development site

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
29	n/a	OS19	Guy Street Park	Limited habitat - Small park
30	n/a	OS142	Homestall Road Playing Field	Limited habitat - Football ground
31	n/a	OS127	Ivydale Road Playing Field.	Limited habitat - School playing field
32	n/a	OS139	James Allen's Girls Schools Sports Club	Limited habitat - Sports ground
33	n/a	OS92	Kennington Open Space	Limited habitat - Small local park
34	n/a	OS27	King Edward III Manor House	Limited habitat - Manor house grounds
35	SoL36 King Stairs Garden	OS 28	King's Stairs Gardens	Surveyed and assessed in 2012
37	SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	PN 6	Kirkwood Road Nature Garden	Surveyed and assessed in 2012 – Not surveyed as part of this project.
38	n/a	OS94	Leyton Square	Limited habitat - Small local park
39	n/a	OS62	Lucey Way/Alexis Street	Limited habitat - Local park
40	n/a	OS176	Mary Datchelor Playing Field	Limited habitat - Playing field
41	n/a	PN2	Melon Road	Limited habitat - two low fenced green spaces
42	n/a	OS118	Nunhead Green	Limited habitat - Small greenspace
43	n/a	OS125	Nunhead Reservoir	Limited habitat - Reservoir
44	n/a	OS166	Old Alleynian's Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Rugby pitch/club house

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
45	n/a	OS78	Patterson Park (Western part)	Limited habitat Small park
46	n/a	OS4	Potter's Field Park	Limited habitat
47	n/a	OS165	Pynners Close	Limited habitat- Playing field
48	M031 River Thames	RT1	River Thames	Only a small proportion of the site is located in Southwark
49	n/a	OS73	Shuttleworth Park	Limited habitat -Small park
50	n/a	OS162	Southwark Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Football pitches and associated clubhouse
51	n/a	OS18	St George's Churchyard and Gardens	Limited habitat - Churchyard
52	n/a	OS23	St John's Churchyard	Limited habitat
53	n/a	OS30	St Mary's Churchyard	Limited habitat - Churchyard
54	n/a	OS67	St Mary's Churchyard	Limited habitat - Corner park with many historic trees/children's play area
55	n/a	CW1	St Pauls Sports Ground	Limited habitat - Artificial turf pitch
56	SINC reference unknown Surrey Canal Walk	OS 98	Surrey Canal Walk	Surveyed and assessed in 2012 – Not surveyed as part of this project. SINC not recorded in GIGL data but listed in Southwark BAP.
57	n/a	OS60	Swanmead	Limited habitat - Small local park
58	n/a	OS179	The Fort Camping Ground	Limited habitat - Camp site with car park and recreational green area
59	n/a	OS131	The Gardens Square	Limited habitat - Private gardens

No	SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Reasons / comments
60	n/a	OS79	The Stables	Limited habitat - Stables
61	SINC reference unknown Warwick Gardens	OS 111	Warwick Gardens	Surveyed and assessed in 2012 – Not surveyed as part of this project. SINC not recorded in GIGL data but listed in Southwark BAP.
62	n/a	OS137	Waverley School	Limited habitat- Play area and green space
63	n/a	OS57	West Square Garden	Limited habitat - Well maintained central garden

LEGISLATION

- 1.5 Important habitats and species are protected in the UK by legislation, and by the planning framework at both national and local levels. This section highlights legislation and policies that are relevant to the review of SINC's in Southwark.
- 1.6 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act), and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) are the major pieces of legislation protecting wildlife species and habitats in England.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended)

- 1.7 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (as amended), (WCA), provides for, inter alia, the protection of certain species of flora and fauna. All bats, reptiles and nesting bird species receive protection under the WCA, although the level of protection varies from species to species.
- 1.8 Nationally important areas of special scientific interest, by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features, are notified by the countryside agencies as statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and latterly the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

1.9 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), implement the Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EC), (Habitats Directive), in England and Wales. Amongst other things the Regulations give protection to certain species of flora and fauna including bats and great crested newts. The Regulations also provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000

1.10 Part III of the CRoW Act deals specifically with wildlife protection and nature conservation. It makes it an offence to "...recklessly disturb..." the sheltering places of wild animals designated under Schedule 5 of the WCA. Section 74 of the CRoW Act places a duty on all Government departments to have regard for the conservation of priority species and habitats listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), and on the Secretary of State to further, or promote others to further, the conservation of these

species and habitats. However, this has now been superseded by Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 – see below.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and the Biodiversity Duty

- 1.11 Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 states that 'every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity', otherwise known as the Biodiversity Duty. Guidance produced by Defra/Natural England makes it clear that biodiversity, as covered by the Section 40 duty, includes all biodiversity and not just the habitats and species of principal importance.
- 1.12 Under Section 41 of the Act, the Secretary of State must publish a list of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity. There is an expectation that public bodies would refer to the S41 list when complying with the Section 40 duty.

PLANNING POLICY

1.13 The principal planning guidance at the national level is the National Planning Policy Framework. This is used to inform planning policies that are included in regional and local plans.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.14 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), emphasises the need for sustainable development. In regard to biodiversity the Framework specifies the need for protection of designated sites and priority habitats and priority species. In determining planning applications, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from adverse harm; there is appropriate mitigation or compensation where significant harm cannot be avoided; opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments are encouraged and planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.
- 1.15 At the National scale, the Natural Environment is one of 13 Core Planning Principals outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012. Of particular relevance are paragraphs 114 and 117. Paragraph 114 states that LPAs should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and

green infrastructure. Paragraph 117 states the duties of the LPA are to plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale. This includes:

- Identifying and mapping components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of designated sites, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them to other local initiatives to enhance biodiversity; and
- Promoting the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats; ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets and identified in suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the Local Plan.
- 1.16 The priority habitats and species mentioned above refer to those which have been identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, (JNCC, 2015). Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011), and the UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012), which replaced the England Biodiversity Strategy and the UK BAP, have resulted in changes to the terminology. At the National Level priority habitats and species are now referred to as Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in England under the NERC Act 2006² (hereafter referred to as 'Species of Principal Importance' and 'Habitats of Principal Importance'). At regional and local levels the former are still in use.

The London Plan: The Mayor's Spatial Strategy for Greater London

1.17 The London Plan: The Mayor's Spatial Strategy for Greater London (GLA, 2011), including published Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan (REMA), (GLA, 2013), and Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP), (GLA, 2015), deal with matters of strategic importance for spatial development in London. Chapter 2 London's Places and Chapter 7 London's Living Places and Spaces sets out the policies that impact, amongst other factors, upon the quality and function of green infrastructure and biodiversity in London. The relevant policies are summarised below:

The Ecology Consultancy

^{2 56} Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity and 943 Species of Principal Importance for Biodiversity are included in the NERC Act. These are all the habitats and species in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

Policy 2.18 (Green Infrastructure) of the London Plan

- 1.18 Policy 2.18 commits the Mayor to develop a multifunctional network of green infrastructure that secures benefits to biodiversity and commits the Council to making planning decisions that ensure development incorporates green infrastructure links.
- 1.19 Paragraph "D" mentions SINC's in relation to development proposals stating that the appropriate protection should be provided to sites in relation to their importance and including metropolitan, borough and local sites. Paragraph "F" requires LPAs to consider four aspects to the biodiversity resource in relation preparing Local Development Frameworks. These are replicated in full below:
 - Identify and secure the appropriate management of sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation in consultant with the London Wildlife Sites Boards (LWSB);
 - Identify areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and seek opportunities to address them;
 - Include policies and proposals for the protection of protected³/ Habitats and Species of Principal Importance⁴ and the enhancement of their populations and their extent via appropriate regional and local BAP targets; and
 - Identify and protect and enhance corridors of movement, such as green corridors, that are of strategic importance in enabling species to colonise, re-colonise and move between sites.

Policy 7.19 (Biodiversity and Access to Nature) of the London Plan

- 1.20 This policy commits the Mayor to support The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy and commits the Council to making planning decisions to ensure development makes a positive contribution to biodiversity through achieving Biodiversity Action Plan targets and having due regard to European or nationally designated sites and protected species. This policy also commits the Council to making planning decisions to ensure 'strong protection' to SMIs, with due regard to the mitigation hierarchy.
- 1.21 The Mayor and London Biodiversity Partnership have identified targets for the recreation and restoration of priority habitats as recommended in the NPPF. Habitat

³Legally protected species include those listed in Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981; Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010; or in the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992.

⁴ Species of Principal Importance are those listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006.

opportunity maps created by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL), indicate the most appropriate areas where these habitats may be created. The following areas have been identified within Southwark:

- Acid grassland –potential in the southern corner;
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh potential in the northwest;
- Woodland potential across the whole borough;
- Reedbed potential in the northwest, central, and central west of the borough;
- Lowland meadow –potential in the northeast and northwest;
- Standing open water potential in the south and northeast;

The Southwark Plan (Open Space and Biodiversity)

1.22 Policy SP 15 Open space and biodiversity recognises that Open Spaces make a significant contribution to the landscape of Southwark, providing a valuable resource to those living, working and visiting the borough. It recognises the importance of providing and protecting a network of open spaces with natural areas providing important habitat for a wide variety of plant and animals, which must be preserved to ensure biodiversity is protected.

Southwark Core Strategy (Conserve and Protect Historic and Natural Places)

1.23 Policy Objective 2F Conserve and Protect Historic and Natural Places states that Southwark's heritage assets and wider historic environment will be conserved and enhanced. Open spaces and biodiversity will be protected and made more accessible and improved.

Southwark's Biodiversity Action Plan

- 1.24 Southwark's Biodiversity Action Plan (2013-2018), has a number of national or regional priority habitats that are present in Southwark. Baseline data on the types and amounts of these habitats are found in Table 1 below.
- 1.25 Access to nature is increasingly seen as a key component of living in an urban environment. The London Plan policies 7.18 and 7.19 are the drivers for addressing access to nature. Southwark has good access to green spaces; however, in some parts of the borough people do not enjoy easy access to green spaces with significant wildlife value.
- 1.26 Localities where people are further than 1km walking distance from a publicly accessible site of Metropolitan or Borough level of significance for nature conservation

are defined by the GLA as 'Areas of Natural Deficiency (AoND), in Access to Nature'. Southwark has two AoND's covering 23.37% of the borough. One is located in the northwest covering an area from Bermondsey in the east to Elephant and Castle in the south to the border with Lambeth in the west. The second AoND is located diagonally across from Queen's Road Peckham in the east to East Dulwich in the south.

Single Data List and the Council Plan

1.27 The single data list is a catalogue of all the datasets that local government must submit to central government in a given year. Improved local biodiversity is one of those data sets. Southwark Council set a target for the council plan in 2010. This was to increase the number of SINC's in positive management. This target was originally known as National Indicator 197. Table 2 below lists key management targets.

Table 2: SINC Management Targets 2012-2014

2010	2011/2012	2013/2014	2013/2014
Baseline	Target	Target	Target
72.88%	76.27%	81.35%	83.30%

1.28 Southwark contains a number of habitats of national value known as Habitats of Principal Importance and regional value, known as Priority Habitats. In 2012, habitats (e.g. woodland, standing water), and land – use types (green corridors, parks and open spaces), were mapped within Southwark to provide baseline information on area (in hectares), to inform the borough's Biodiversity Action Plan. The types mapped are listed in Table 3 below. It is unknown how this data was generated.

Table 3: Southwark's broad habitat baseline 2012 (Biodiversity Action Plan)

Habitat type	Area (Ha)
Woodland incl. wet woodland	54
Orchard	0.50
Hedgerows	0.83
Meadows / grassland incl. acid grassland	6.77
Reed beds	2.58
Rivers	11.15
Ponds	7
Parks and Open Spaces	363
Green Corridors	125.62
Standing water	62

1.29 It is unknown how these figures have been generated and are given here as a guide only.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Services

- 1.30 Southwark has identified a number of actions for the conservation and enhancement of wildlife. This is one of five theme actions which replace the individual habitats and species action plans that have traditionally been produced. Ecosystem services are goods and services provided for free by the natural environment such as cleaning the water and air of pollutants, decomposition of waste materials and pollinating food crops by insects. Below lists the relevant actions to this project.
 - Achieve a target for 5% of grassland in parks to be managed for biodiversity through management plans – target of 65,000m²;
 - Retain dead wood and retain standing dead wood in situ in parks and green spaces. Install new invertebrate loggeries across parks;
 - Identify and map potential new green corridors and link to existing strategies;
 - Review baseline of current biodiversity value of wildlife habitats including areas of woodland, reedbed, rivers and streams, standing water, meadow, wildlife corridors; green roof, open mosaic habitat on previously developed land;
 - Maintain the extent of wildlife habitat from the 2012 baseline with aim of no net loss of biodiversity;
 - Create one hectare of new reedbed;
 - Create one hectare of new wildflower meadow. Species mix to be selected to provide biodiversity habitat and visual interest;
 - Plant nectar and pollen-rich plants in border and beds in parks and open spaces.
 Target 30% of new planting to meet these criteria target;
 - Restore Benhill Road Nature Garden local SINC:
 - Install four new clay lined ponds across the borough;
 - Create 1km of native hedgerow in parks and green spaces including replacement of existing low value biodiversity hedges where appropriate;
 - Build one reptile refuge for common lizards on all sites where lizards or slow worms are recorded; and
 - Restore Dulwich Mill Pond Borough SINC to favourable ecological condition.

Southwark's land-uses & habitats - An Overview

1.31 The nature of Southwark's biodiversity is the result of past land-uses, density of residential areas and more recent regeneration. The north of the borough forms part of the Central Activity Zone, part of London's central business, tourist and cultural centre

as well as including some residential areas. The east, formally industrial docklands and closely connected to the River Thames, has undergone large-scale regeneration with new habitats created in the former docks, including woodland and some of Southwark's most diverse and species-rich wetland habitats. The southern part of Southwark contains significantly more open space than elsewhere, and supports the borough's only areas of ancient woodland (remnants of the Great North Wood), with mature trees and fragments of former open countryside. The middle areas of the borough around Elephant and Castle, Peckham, Denmark Hill and Herne Hill are densely residential and natural and semi-natural habitats are few and isolated. Many wildlife sites are associated with privately owned land including churches and school gardens. The railway lines that cross the borough form habitat corridors. The regeneration of large areas in recent years, including Burgess Park and Russia Dock Woodlands, are providing wildlife habitat in the heart of the borough.

Southwark's Growing Population and Access to Greenspace Deficiency

1.32 Southwark is one of the most densely built up inner city boroughs, being the ninth most populated London borough with 9,988 residents per square kilometre (km²), significantly higher than the London average of 5,199 residents per km². The population is expected to increase to 349,000 by 2027 (ONS, 2014), which will result in additional pressure on existing services and facilities in the borough. Southwark Planning Authority aims to provide 1ha of Local Nature Reserves (SINC's), per 1,000 residents to improve residents' access to natural space. This will require the provision of at least 269.2ha more open space to meet the needs of the 2016 population level (Southwark Council, 2013).

2. Methodology

OVERVIEW

2.1 The habitat survey was carried out in accordance with the revised Survey Specification devised by the Greater London Authority (GLA), in 2004 and the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (2002) which has been updated from the original survey method developed in 1984/85 by the London Wildlife Trust. The GLA methodology and survey form is provided in Appendix 1 at the back of this report Key elements are reproduced below including amendments to survey methodology.

Habitat Survey Method

- 2.2 The smallest unit of area is the "habitat polygon" generated in GIS from the Phase 1 habitat survey (JNCC) methodology⁵ as adapted by the GLA's revised survey specification (2004). A hand-drawn map was produced by the ecologist and later digitised in the GIS environment. Linear habitats such as hedges and vegetated wall/tombstones were mapped as lines in a separate layer. Target notes were mapped as point features as a separate layer.
- 2.3 One or more habitat polygons form a larger area of land termed a "parcel". A parcel was as homogenous as possible in terms of habitat, ownership and public access. Each parcel has a written record of one or more standard A4 forms. A separate plant recording form was used for the more interesting or diverse parcels.
- 2.4 The term "site" was used to refer to either a registered Open Space or SINC. The distinction will be necessary in each case due to some Open Spaces not containing SINC's, whilst others do. Furthermore, some SINC's contain more than one Open Space, or only a portion of one, depending on the reasons for designation and context. If the Open Space or SINC has been surveyed as part of this project, it will contain one or more parcels and at least one habitat polygon.

Amendments to Survey Methodology

- 2.5 A number of amendments have been made to the methodology as a result of recent approaches to amenity horticulture to record habitat enhancements (e.g. wildflower grassland) and habitats under scattered trees and to enable the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to calculate habitat areas.
- 2.6 Three additional habitat types have been added to the list to accommodate recently created vegetation types in Southwark. These include recent approaches to amenity horticulture such as 'pictorial meadows' and 'prairie style planting' which were grouped under the new category of "herbaceous planting".
- 2.7 The existing GLA category neutral grassland (herb-rich) has a very restrictive species criteria, to the extent that very few areas of the borough would be assessed as supporting this habitat. For this reason a new category referred to as "other neutral grassland (herb-rich)" was created to enable grassland with an abundance of more

⁵ JNCC (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit. JNCC. Peterborough

commonly occurring wildflower species to be recorded where habitat enhancements/ or wildlife management had taken place in the borough. Good abundances of the following species were included in the new category and comprised ox--eye daisy, common or greater bird's-foot-trefoil, common knapweed, ladies bedstraw, wild carrot, cowslip, primrose, agrimony, salad burnet and field scabious.

2.8 Scattered trees were recorded on the survey forms as a percentage over and above the ground-level habitat (e.g. amenity grassland 100%, scattered trees 40%). This was to ensure ground level habitat was comprehensively surveyed. The Phase 1 maps do not record tree canopy. Further information on tree cover was recorded in the survey form notes and SINC citations. Aerial photography was used to indicate particularly prominent tree canopy corridors to inform the section on habitat linkages.

SURVEY PREPARATION

Desk study

2.9 Information regarding the present and historical ecological interest of Southwark was obtained primarily from The Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL, 2014). This comprised the following ecological datasets:

Habitat Data

- Site boundaries of existing SINC's and open spaces;
- Habitat parcel boundaries for existing SINC's recorded in 1994; and
- Habitat percentages attributed to parcels (in Excel format) for SINC's recorded in 1994.

Species Data

• Species data for the London Borough of Southwark, including confidential species, point and area records for protected, rare or notable species.

Other GIS Data

- Areas of Natural Deficiency (AoND), for Southwark; and
- South east London green chain route.
- 2.10 Information on habitat maintenance was provided by Southwark Council, where possible, to allow the surveys of grassland habitat prior to scheduled cutting times

Site Access Protocol

2.11 The London Borough of Southwark provided a list of owners of sites on private land in MS Excel format. A letter was sent and followed by up to three phone calls when contact could not be established. If after these measures were exhausted and a land owner could not be contacted, the site was surveyed from its boundaries as recommended by the GLA guidance. Access was particularly difficult for allotment sites and some school nature areas, of which half of these sites were not surveyed in full (refer to the Limitations Section, Table 3 (page 21), for the list of SINC's / Open Spaces where access was not possible).

Field Survey Protocol

- 2.12 The fieldwork was undertaken from June to October 2014, with woodland surveys undertaken in late March 2015 to enable the recording of as much vernal flora as possible. Field survey information was recorded on A4 survey forms provided by the GLA (Appendix 1), which required data collection under 10 headings. These were:
 - Open Space typology and facilities;
 - Threats and disturbances;
 - Interests / potential for enhancements;
 - Changes since last survey;
 - Habitats and qualifiers;
 - Interests:
 - Nature conservation value; and
 - Target Notes / sketch map.

Open Space Typology and Facilities

2.13 Brief information was provided on the type of Open Space (e.g. park, nature reserve or allotment), planning status (e.g. SSSI, SINC or Metropolitan Open Land), ownership, public access, accessibility, maintenance and management and level of use.

Threats and Disturbances

- 2.14 Brief information was given for any identified threats and disturbances at the parcel level, (including details of severity), for invading plants, erosion, safety and security, litter and dog fouling.
- 2.15 Invading plants included species that were non-native and dominating a site as well as invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 2.16 Due to the urban context of Southwark, several listed threats and disturbances are relevant to all sites. These included intrusive buildings, boundary treatment,

redevelopment, aircraft noise and road and rail noises. As such, these were not necessarily mentioned.

2.17 Some threats were considered part of the same issue e.g. the presence of vandalism and motorcycle scrambling may cause safety issues. Tipping could also be considered a severe case of litter and not necessary a separate issue.

Interest / Potential for Enhancements

2.18 Brief information on the existing interests of the site and the potential for enhancement were provided, where appropriate, to the parcel. This included specific details relating to habitat structure, ecology, education and accessibility. Fuller information was also provided in the notes section of the GLA field survey form (an example is provided in Appendix 1).

Changes since Last Survey

2.19 Brief information was provided on any identified changes since the last survey, such as boundaries and habitat enhancements.

Habitats and Qualifiers

2.20 Information on the percentage cover of habitats was provided for each parcel as assessed by eye in the field. This included linear features and scattered trees (the latter as a percentage over the 100% ground cover). Relevant qualifying features of importance to nature conservation were noted for woodland (e.g. coppicing, dead wood), grassland (frequently mown, cuttings removed) and wetland habitats (floating and emergent vegetation).

Interests and Species Richness

2.21 Information was determined through field observation of the likelihood for eight species (or species groups), to be present comprising: invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds, higher plants and bryophytes, lichens and fungi. Species richness (for flora only) was a comparative assessment with other sites in the borough and included six categories, which ranged from poor to rich.

Nature Conservation Value

2.22 Information was provided by the surveyor of their opinion on the nature conservation value of the site along with brief reasons such as: the presence of BAP Priority Habitats and the potential for protected and/or BAP Priority Species.

Target Notes and Sketch Map

- 2.23 This section of the form was used to record the dominant and notable plant species, birds and butterflies identified during the site survey. Hand-drawn maps of complex (small-scale) habitats were also included here.
- 2.24 The presence of habitats considered to meet the criteria for Habitats of Principal Importance in England and BAP habitats relevant to Southwark were noted in this section.
- 2.25 Plant species abundance was recorded using the DAFOR⁶ scale with qualifiers to record additional botanical/habitat information (e.g. if a species is locally abundant or planted rather than naturalised or the maturity of the trees present). A separate species recording form (Appendix 1), was used to provide fuller information on species abundances and to avoid over-filling the parcel form.
- 2.26 The presence of any 'notable' species could include, Red data list species or Species of Principal Importance⁷; Species listed on Schedule 5 and/or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended); axiophytes (quality indicators), using guidance published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles⁸; and species identified as notable in Greater London by the Greater London Authority (2008)⁹.
- 2.27 Target notes were recorded in this section to provide fuller information on the location of ecological features (but were too small to map e.g. bat roosting potential, invasive species, mature trees or a stag beetle loggery). These have been digitised in GIS but are not shown on the habitat maps.
- 2.28 The survey team consisted of four ecologists, all whom are full members of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM,) and hold Field Identification Species Certificate (FISC), Level 4.

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⁶ Based on a percentage (%) of the plant species abundance, where D = dominant, A = abundant, F= frequent, O = occasional and R = rare.

⁷ JNCC (undated). Conservation designations for UK taxa [on-line] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3408 (accessed March, 2014).

⁸ BSBI (undated) Axiophytes. [on-line]. http://www.bsbi.org.uk/axiophytes.html (accessed March, 2014).

⁹ London Biodiversity Action Plan, Review of Priority Species, Greater London Authority, January 2008 available from http://www.lbp.org.uk/londonpriority.html

MAPPING

Habitat data

- 2.29 The London Borough of Southwark provided OS Master Map data. This was used to generate field maps for use during the site survey to digitise new or amended SINC boundaries and map habitats and parcels on to habitat maps for each site surveyed (Appendix 2 SINC and proposed SINC maps in separate document).
- 2.30 Where Master-Map features did not exist (e.g. for newly created habitats or for small features within sites), polygons were digitised using aerial photography and estimated from field survey.
- 2.31 Sites that were below the minimum mappable unit of 0.25ha (GLA, 2004), often contained small areas of different habitat types. For these sites habitat mapping was undertaken at a larger / more detailed scale to capture habitat diversity.
- 2.32 In accordance with the Phase 1 habitat mapping methodology, trees are mapped as a point or area symbol and are not necessarily accurate in location or size. Mapping habitat below the trees was given greater priority.

Boundary data

- 2.33 Digitised SINC boundaries were ground-truthed to ensure they were still valid. Habitat was mapped beyond the SINC boundary where this provided useful information on proposed boundary changes. Any changes were recorded on the field parcel form and accompanying habitat map produced.
- 2.34 Minor errors that exist in the GIS SINC boundaries (as a result the original digitisation), was also noted and habitats mapped to Master Map lines rather than incorrect open space boundaries. Minor boundary errors were not mapped as proposed boundary changes (Appendix 3), but listed in the recommendations section under GIS boundary errors.
- 2.35 The habitat maps for SINC's and proposed candidate SINC's are provided in Appendix 2 (in separate document). Each SINC or Open Spaces has at least one habitat map. For SINC's that contain more than one Open Space an additional map or maps is provided to illustrate the boundaries of the component parts.

Map References

2.36 Habitat maps refer to the Open Space number (on the map in light green and in the map key). The SINC number is shown on the map in blue, where applicable.

- 2.37 Open Spaces or SINC's that had no corresponding site boundary digitised on the GIS data set were given a temporary OS number (OSXX OSXX2). This occurred for three Open Spaces comprising;
 - OSXX Rye Hill Park Part of the Waterworks Open Space 132
 - OSXX1 Bellenden Road Tree Nursery SoL21 & Open Space 106
 - OSXX2 Northfield House Community Garden Unknown SINC & Open Space Reference. This site is listed as a SoL18 in citation and listed in Southwark BAP
- 2.38 Map 87 should be named Grove Park Allotments not Lettsom Gardens, which is located adjacent.

Target Notes

2.39 Target notes recorded during the field survey and noted on the survey forms have been digitised on GIS. They have been left off the habitat maps.

Species

2.40 Species data (confidential, point and area) were extracted for the sites to include records that fell within or intersected the boundary of a SINC or candidate site and also those records within a 200m buffer. Only records between the years 2000-2015 were used to provide a realistic assessment of species likely to be present on site.

EVALUATION

- 2.41 Following completion of field surveys, and habitat mapping, information was summarised for the borough, with the main topics listed below. Bar and pie charts were generated in order to compare results and an assessment made, drawing upon desk study information and field survey:
 - Habitat type, extent and distribution across the borough;
 - Trends in habitat change from 1994/95 to 2014/5;
 - Trends in wildlife interest;
 - Trends in threats and opportunities;
 - Habitat linkages.

Habitat Type, Extent and Distribution across the borough

2.42 This information was collated through GIS, whereby habitat polygons digitised to create the Phase 1 maps were sorted to provide information such as: total area per habitat;

number of sites and total area of habitat type per site. Habitat quality and condition was assessed through information recorded on the survey forms.

Trends in Habitat Change 1994 - 2015

- 2.43 The 1994/95 habitat data received in excel format from GIGL required significant reconfiguration and sorting to enable comparison with the current survey data. The main issues were.
 - Habitat information was embedded in the same column in both text and numerical format. An example row would appear as amenity grassland (45%, 1.15ha); scattered trees (25%, 0.64ha); shrubbery (15%, 0.38ha); bare artificial (15%, 0.38ha); and native woodland (10%, 0.26ha);
 - Larger SINC's with more than one parcel would require additional calculation as habitat percentages were associated with parcels not at the site level (e.g. a site with four parcels would contain 400% habitats);
 - SINC's which contained multiple Open Spaces would have less habitat accuracy
 than those with only one Open Space. This was due to habitat percentages being
 assessed at the parcel level that could span more than one Open Space;
 - Scattered trees were assessed as a percentage of the total area (with no information of the habitat underneath);
 - Hedges (native and non-native), running water and vegetated walls/tombstones
 were assessed as a percentage of the parcel, rather than as a length
 measurement, which was the preferred method in the recent survey; and
 - 24 sites surveyed in 2014/15 had to be excluded from assessment due to no corresponding habitat information in 1994/95. This included a number of candidate sites but also SINC's. The list of Open Spaces is given on page 35).

Data Simplification

- 2.44 To enable comparison of the two data-sets, (from 1995/1995 and 2015), the following assumptions and simplifications were made:
 - Three habitat types (conifer woodland, bracken and arable), were recorded in 1994/95 but were not recorded as present in 2014/15. As the score was very low (<0.1), they were combined with the closest corresponding habitat: bracken was

combined with tall herb; arable¹⁰ was combined with allotment; and conifer woodland was combined with non-native woodland;

- For both data-sets, poorly recorded habitats including bare-ground, chalk grassland, orchard and improved grassland were combined with ephemeral, herbrich neutral grassland, allotment and amenity grassland respectively in order to minimise the number of habitat types;
- Fen carr was recorded in 1994/95 but not in 2014/215 and Typha swamp was recorded in 2014/15 but not in 1994/15. Due to the complexities surrounding data capture of these habitats, these were excluded from the comparison and discussed in the text only;
- All linear features comprising native, non-native hedgerows, running water, vegetated walls and tombstones were excluded from the assessment; and
- The percentage area of scattered trees for the 1994/95 data was combined with the main habitat type recorded within the corresponding habitat parcel. This was either amenity grassland or hardstanding. Habitat type 'scattered trees' was not quantified.

Trends in Wildlife Interest

- 2.45 Trends in wildlife interest were assessed at the parcel level where information was collated in an excel format from all 353 parcel survey forms and presented in a bar chart.
- 2.46 Species data obtained from GIGL was identified for each site to accurately document biological records over the last five years (1999 2014). Records for London and Southwark notable species, BAP priority species and confidential species from within the site and up to 200m from the site were included in the assessment. Incidental records from site owners were recorded as were surveyor's field observations during the day.

Trends in Threats and Opportunities

2.47 Trends were assessed at the parcel level where information was collated in excel format from all parcel survey forms and presented as bar charts: Potential threats and

¹⁰ A small amount (<0.1ha) of arable was recorded in 1994/1995, which might have been recorded for an area of newly created allotment area. Arable was not recorded in 2014/15.

disturbance issues were categorised into four broad subjects: invading plants; erosion; safety and litter. Opportunities for habitat enhancement were summarised in 12 categories, some were broad such as wetland habitat and woodland management, whilst others were prescribed, such as reduce mowing, plant spring bulbs.

Habitat Linkages

2.48 In accordance with the NPPF and Southwark Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2019, an assessment of existing and potential habitat linkages was identified. The location of existing SINC's and aerial photographs were used to determine potential linkages. Table 4 lists the terminology used to describe the different components of a resilient and coherent ecological network. Reference to the GLA methodology was also made in relation to wildlife gardens and tree canopy.

Table 4: Terminology used to describe ecological networks (Lawton 2012).

Term	Description	
Core areas	These are areas of high nature conservation value which form the heart of the network. They contain habitats that are rare or important because of the wildlife they support the ecosystem services they provide. They generally have the highest concentration of species or support rare species. Core areas provide places within which species can thrive and from which can disperse to other parts of the network. They include protected wildlife sites and other semi-natural areas of high ecological quality.	
	In Southwark this would be the major parks, which are all designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and five Local Nature Reserves.	
Corridors and stepping stones	These are spaces that improve the functional connectivity between core areas, enabling species to move between them to feed, disperse, migrate or reproduce. Connectivity need not come from linear, continuous habitats; a number of small sites may act as "stepping stones" across which certain species can move between core areas. Equally, a land mosaic between sites that allows species to move is effectively an ecological corridor.	
	In Southwark this would include the smaller parks and railway corridors, and gardens.	
Restoration areas (core habitat areas for the future)	These are areas where measures are planned to restore or create new high value areas (which will ultimately become "core areas") so that ecological functions and species populations can be restored. They are often situated so as to complement, connect or enhance existing core areas.	
	In Southwark some of the parks and SINC sites are under pressure from intensive-use and management, or have been neglected so that the nature value has declined. Given time, enhancement and management these sites could be restored to become the core habitat areas for the future.	

Term	Description
Softening the matrix	These are areas within the wider landscape focused in the sustainable use of natural resources and appropriate economic activity, together with the maintenance of ecosystem services (Bennett and Mulongoy 2006). Set up appropriately, they help to 'soften the matrix' outside the network and make it more permeable and less hostile to wildlife.
	In Southwark this would include the built environment surrounding the open spaces, which could contain street trees, private gardens, community spaces around housing estates and buildings.

REVIEW OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED SINC'S

- 2.49 Recommendations for new SINC's provided by the GLA were used to identify the three kinds of site; Site of Metropolitan Importance, Site of Borough Importance and Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. Brief descriptions of these are given below.
 - Sites of Metropolitan Importance are those sites that contain the best examples of London's habitats and species and contain important habitat or species assemblages or important populations of species. Should one of these sites be lost or damaged, something would be lost which exists in a very few other places in London.
 - Sites of Borough Importance (Grade I and Grade II), are those sites that are important at a borough perspective in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the whole of London. Although sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, damage to these sites would mean a significant loss to the borough. As with Metropolitan sites, while protection is important, management of borough sites should usually allow and encourage their enjoyment by people and their use for education.
 - Due to recent changes in the GLA methodology Grade I and Grade II Borough Sites are to be combined into one Borough grade to reflect their value at the borough level, regardless of size.
 - Sites of Local Importance are those sites that have a local value such as for local residents or schools. Local sites are particularly important in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites. To aid the choice of these further local sites, Areas of Deficiency (see below) are identified. Further Local sites are chosen as the best available to alleviate this deficiency.
- 2.50 The outcome of the review of SINC's and candidate sites was tabulated and presented in the Recommendations section of this report along with other information on

boundary and name changes and opportunities for enhancement. A number of sources were used to review existing sites and propose new sites. These included:

- Reviewing the SINC citations to determine whether features for which the sites
 were listed remained in good condition, and if not why, or whether the sites have
 been enhanced to a sufficient degree to warrant an increase of the SINC grade.
 This was considered in terms of the Local Wildlife Site Board (LWSB), criteria
 (adapted from the GLC and GLA approaches);
- Identifying changes in habitat area between 1994 and 2014/15;
- Identifying the presence of UK, regional or local BAP priority habitats;
- Identifying the potential of the site to support priority or protected species;
- Areas of Deficiency;
- Location of existing habitat corridors.
- 2.51 A conclusion was then drawn for each site, which justified the grade for which the site had been designated or to recommend a new grade. These comprised: :
 - Existing SINC qualifies at Metropolitan/Borough or Local level;
 - Existing SINC exceeds level at which it was designated recommend upgrade;
 - Existing SINC qualifies at level of designation but is in decline priority for conservation work;
 - Existing SINC no longer qualifies at level it was designated recommend downgrade; and
 - Candidate site qualifies as potential SINC of Borough or Local Importance recommend designation.
- 2.52 Where a SINC citation stated the presence of notable or rare plant species which was subsequently not recorded in the 2014/15 survey, this did not affect the site's designation. If a specific species could not be found during the survey then it was assumed to remain and the citation was not changed, unless there were strong reasons to suggest that feature of interest was unlikely to remain.
- 2.53 Several existing SINC's are smaller than 0.25ha such as Galleywall Road (0.08ha), Snowsfield Primary School (0.12), and Aspinden Road Nature Garden (0.04ha). Although this is contrary to the GLA methodology, the sites support ecological habitats,

which are important to the borough and their size reflects the lack of open space in these areas.

Habitat Comparison between Proposed and Remaining SINC'S

2.54 A habitat comparison was undertaken between the proposed candidate sites and those that were not considered to meet the criteria. This was calculated as a percentage of the total area of habitat for proposed SINC's against the remaining candidate SINC's.

Changes to SINC Site Boundaries

2.55 Changes to site boundaries were identified during the site visit and confirmed with the borough ecologist, to ensure land ownership and responsibilities were clearly defined. This ensured site boundaries were accurate and excluded where new development might have taken place or where roads intersected the site. Boundary extensions were also proposed in some cases, to include adjacent habitat of value to biodiversity (Appendix 3, in separate document).

SINC Citations

- 2.56 All existing SINC citations were updated with information gathered from the GIGL species records (within the last 5 years), incidental records and species and habitat information collected from field surveys. New citations were written for proposed SINC's (Appendix 4, separate document). Fuller information was provided in relation to the following where relevant:
 - Main habitat types and their nature conservation value;
 - Recorded Habitats of Principal Importance and London/ Southwark BAP habitats;
 - Value of habitats to species and species groups;
 - Recorded Species of Principal Importance and London / Southwark BAP species;
 - Wider ecological value (e.g. as a habitat corridor);
 - Current management;
 - Current or proposed enhancement works;
 - Value to the community;
 - Threats and opportunities.

LIMITATIONS

- 2.57 Whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the sites, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.
- 2.58 Southwark contains 216 Open Spaces. This project surveyed 119 Open Spaces in total. Seven SINC's (containing seven Open Spaces), were not surveyed as part of this project. These comprised; Deal Porter's Walk, Durand's Wharf, King Stairs Garden, Kirkwood Road Nature Garden (part of Nunhead Railway Cutting SINC), The River Thames, Surrey Canal Walk and Warwick Gardens. The majority of these sites had been surveyed in recent years and did not need a re-survey. The River Thames was not surveyed due to only a small proportion of the site occurring within the borough. 56 Open Spaces were analysed by Southwark Council and deemed to have limited habitat and dominated by amenity grassland managed for sports use. The remaining 41 Open Spaces were not surveyed as they fell below the minimum size threshold (0.25ha), provided in the GLA methodology and the majority contained predominantly hard surfacing with limited habitat.
- 2.59 In the duration of this project, Open Spaces that were not surveyed may have been enhanced and new habitats created. It was not possible to survey these sites retrospectively.
- 2.60 It is important to note that, even where data is held, a lack of records for a identified geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may be simple under-recorded.
- 2.61 The assessment of protected or notable species provided a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species occurring on-site, based on the suitability of the habitat, known distribution of the species in the local area provided in response to our enquires, and any direct evidence of the site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group. Nor does the site survey constitute a full botanical survey.
- 2.62 Access to privately-owned or managed sites was not always possible. This affected several sites of which most were allotments and railway corridors. These are listed in Table 5 below. However, in most cases surveys were possible from publicly accessible vantage points (such as from bridges or adjacent roads or open space).

Table 5: List of Open Spaces where access was not possible in the project time frame.

Open Space Number	Name of Site		
OS 140	Alleyne School Playing Field (North of Townley Road)		
400	Bonar Road Allotments		
OS185	Carlton Place Copse		
OS175	Cox's walk Allotments		
OS119	Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground (playground not accessible)		
OS130	Dulwich Hamlet		
OS87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden		
OS186	Gipsy Hill Railway Cutting		
OS110	Grove Park and East Dulwich Railway Cuttings and Embankments		
OS151	Honor Oak Allotments		
OS167	Honor Oak and Dulwich Sports Ground		
OS108	Nunhead Railway Embankments		
OS148	Plough Lane Pond		
OS21	Snowfields School Nature Garden		
OS80	South Bermondsey Railway Embankments		
CW4	Surrey Docks Adventure Playground		
OS156	Sydenham Hill Railway Cutting		
OS181	Sydenham Hill Wood LNR & Dulwich Woods (Southern section not accessible).		
OS68	Victory Community Park (Elba Place garden not accessible)		

- 2.63 Wetland habitats were often small and occurred around the periphery of standing water which was difficult to map accurately. On large sites, these areas would have been target noted and mapped as standing water. This has affected how certain habitats including marginal vegetation, reed swamp and fen carr have been quantified.
- 2.64 Mapping is a simplification of the real world and thus has limitations in presenting the value of habitats present in the context of the site. In particular, the Phase 1 methodology is not able to show the variations in habitat management, maturity and

structure of the tree canopy. The accurate mapping of individual trees is also not required in this methodology.

- 2.65 The age of the data and lack of a definitive SINC list posed difficulties in correctly referencing Open Spaces. Clarification is given where necessary, but in general the GIGL GIS data was used to reference SINC's and the Southwark Open Space Strategy was used to reference Open Spaces. In many cases the SINC name is slightly different from the Open Space name.
- 2.66 Despite these limitations, it is considered that this report accurately reflects the habitats present within the borough, their biodiversity value and provides a robust evidence base to support the selection of new SINC sites and inform new policies.

3. Results & Analysis

SOUTHWARK'S HABITATS

Overview

- 3.1 Information on the habitats recorded across the borough is provided below in summary paragraphs. Figure 1 and 2 on the following pages show the area (in hectares) for the main habitat types relating to number of open spaces they occurred.
 - 59 SINC's (containing 69 Open Spaces) and 50 other Open Spaces were surveyed. This constitutes to 453ha;
 - The urban context of the borough and the amenity needs of the population was evident by the high proportion of amenity grassland (167ha), hardstanding (57ha) and planted shrubbery (12ha) recorded. The large parks, namely Dulwich Park, Southwark Park, Burgess Park, Peckham Rye Park and Common and Belair Park contributed greatly;
 - The borough had a score of 80ha of native broadleaved woodland (a London BAP priority habitat), with remnant ancient woodland present at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods (28.11ha), and Dulwich Upper Woods (1.8ha), and secondary native woodland at Nunhead Cemetery (8ha), and along Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railway Cutting (7ha). Native woodland within 26 smaller sites across the borough also contributed 8ha to the total;
 - Similarly, a score of 22ha was recorded for standing open water (also a London BAP Priority Habitat), with 14ha located in the northwest of the borough alone.

Apart from 2.6ha in Burgess Park, the remaining 4ha was spread across 30 Open Spaces throughout the borough. The majority of standing water also supported marginal vegetation, providing suitable conditions for a range of wildlife. Ten of these sites also supported reed and/or Typha swamp (0.3ha).

- The majority of the 37ha of neutral grassland (semi-improved), was recorded within three sites (two in the south and one centrally), namely Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk (13ha), Camberwell New Cemetery (11ha), and Burgess Park (4ha). The remaining 4ha was recorded across 20 Open Spaces throughout the borough; and
- A sizeable 9.5ha of herb-rich neutral grassland was recorded, which is a London BAP Priority Habitat (lowland meadow). A large proportion occurred in four SINC's namely Aquarius Golf Course (0.9ha), Peckham Rye Park (1.6ha), Dulwich Park (1.3ha), and Burgess Park (2.9ha). The remaining 2.9ha was spread across 28 Open Spaces, many of which were located in the north-west.
- Small SINC's that contained herb-rich neutral grassland and were particularly species-rich included Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR), Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden and Countisbury House Lawn.
- Albion Channel and Lavender Pond Nature Park SINC's supported the largest proportion of wetland habitat with good areas of reed swamp, fen Carr and marginal vegetation.
- Ponds within nature gardens and allotment sites, although small supported some amount of marginal vegetation, providing important habitat for invertebrates and amphibians;
- 0.32ha was recorded for reed bed, a figure which is likely to be less than actually coverage. This is a result of the limitations of mapping this habitat on large sites such as Burgess Park, Southwark Park, Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park. It is more than likely that the Southwark target of 1ha reed bed has been reached.
- A total of 2.6km of native hedgerow has been recorded, 23m of non-native hedgerow and 259m of vegetated wall was recorded.

Habitat Distribution Overview

3.2 The industrial docklands in the north-west contained a large proportion of the borough's standing water resource and also supported substantial areas of newly

created wetland, woodland and grassland. The ridge of high ground south of Dulwich, which historically would have been less suitable for farming, supports the remaining fragments of the Great North Wood. Mature trees in gardens and along roads allude to the Woods former size. In contrast, the north and central parts of the borough are densely residential, industrial and commercial, with very few open spaces, except for Burgess Park, which grew out of the demolishing of bombed streets and buildings after the War. Aspinden Road Nature Garden along with other small nature gardens have a similar war-time origin.

Figure 1: Bar Chart showing widespread and abundant habitats in Southwark

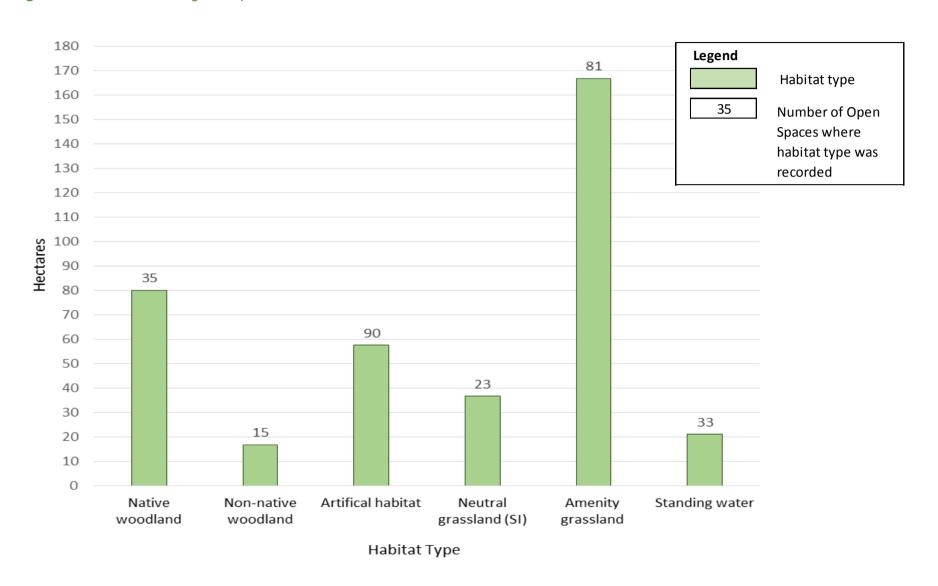
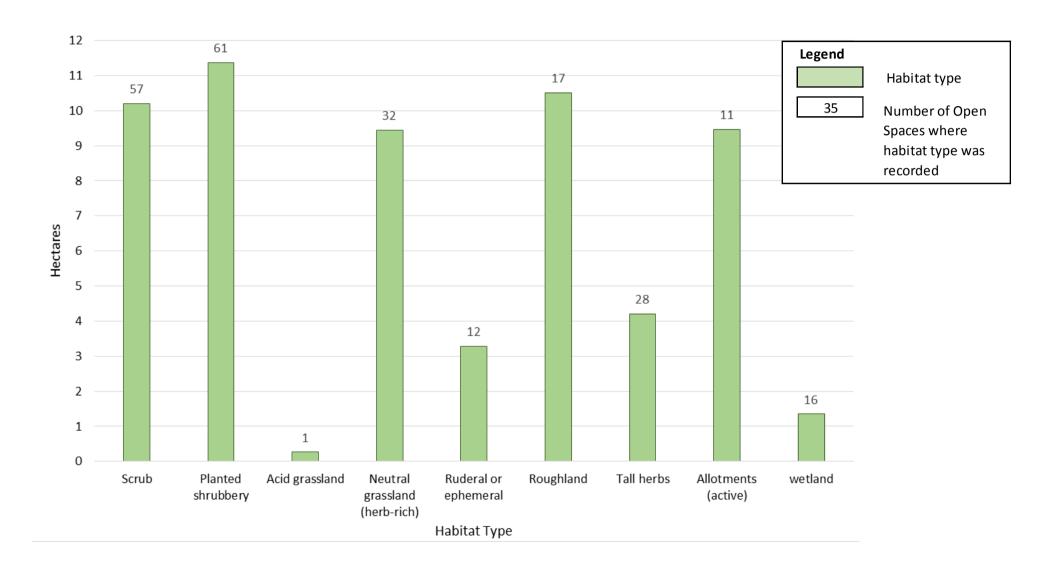


Figure 2: Bar Chart showing other habitats in Southwark



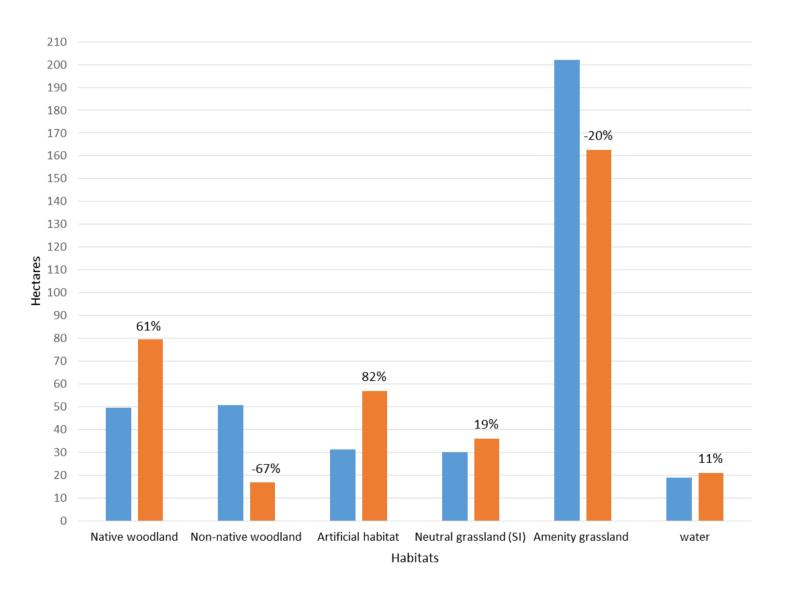
HABITAT CHANGES 1995 – 2015

3.3 The habitat change assessment was based on data for 87 Open Spaces (30 Open Spaces and a portion of two Open Spaces were excluded as there was no corresponding habitat information from 1995). Table 6 lists those Open Spaces not included. Figure 3 and 4 below show the comparison between the two years. A number of assumptions and simplifications were made to enable a comparison between two data-sets. This is described in the methodology.

Table 6: List of Open Spaces excluded from habitat comparison.

Open Space Number	Open Space Name	Current Status
OS163	Barclay Way	Candidate SINC
OS106	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	SINC
OS96	Caroline Gardens	Candidate SINC
OS175	Cox's Walk Allotments	Candidate SINC
OS168	Dulwich Common Allotments	Candidate SINC
OS130	Dulwich Hamlet	Candidate SINC
OS87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden	Candidate SINC
OS56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	SINC
OS178	Grange Road Allotments (North)	Candidate SINC
OS180	Grange Road Allotments (South)	Candidate SINC
393	Grove Park Allotments	Candidate SINC
OS135	James Allens Girls School Playing Fields	Part SINC
OS114	Lettsom Gardens	SINC
OS184	Long Meadow	Candidate SINC
OS17	Marlborough Playground	Candidate SINC
OS115	McDermott Road Nature Garden	SINC
OS14	Mint Street Park	Candidate SINC
OSXX2	Northfield House Community Garden	SINC
OS133	Nunhead Allotments	Candidate SINC
CW2	Old Nursery Site	Candidate SINC
OS69	Paragon Gardens	Candidate SINC
OS148	Plough Lane Pond	SINC
OS15	Redcross Gardens	Candidate SINC
OS132	Rye Hill Park	Candidate SINC
OS72	St James Allotments (Bermondsey)	Candidate SINC
OS102	Sumner Park	Candidate SINC
OS6	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (pitch 1)	Candidate SINC
OS7	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (pitches2,3)	Part SINC
OS112	William Griggs Garden	SINC
Partially excluded		
OS99	Brimmington Park	Candidate SINC
OS146	Herne Hill Velodrome	SIINC

Figure 3: Bar chart showing habitat change between 1994 and 2015 with percentage change for widespread and abundant habitats



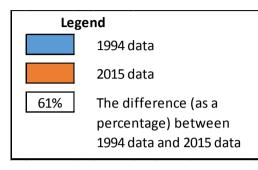
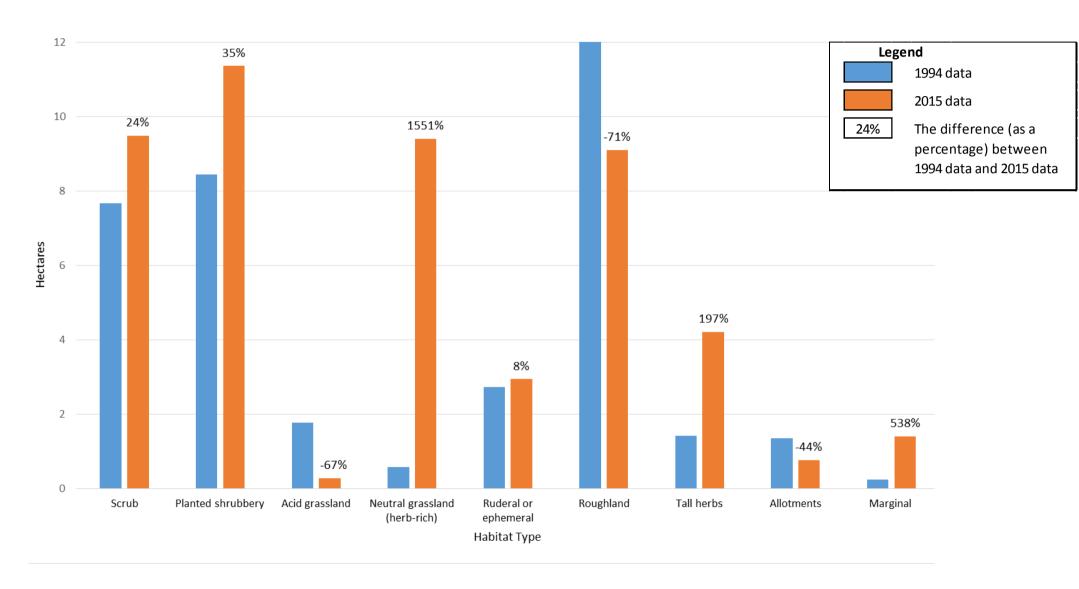


Figure 4: Bar chart showing habitat change for "other" habitats - between 1994 and 2015.



Woodland Habitats

3.4 In 1994, a similar ratio of native and non-native broadleaved woodland was recorded, whereas, in 2014, almost five times the area of native broadleaved woodland was recorded as non-native broadleaved woodland. Given that the combined totals of native and non-native broadleaved woodland has not significantly changed between 1994 (approximately 100ha), and 2014 (approximately 97ha), it is likely that the difference in the type of woodland recorded is because a considerable proportion of the broadleaved woodland habitat present in Southwark's SINC's contains a mixture of both native and non-native trees. Also, the increase in parcels for the 2014/15 surveys may have enabled greater detail to be recorded, whereby a portion of native speciesdominated woodland could be separated from the remaining non-native woodland. This occurred at Dawson's Heights (Dawson's Hill), where no native woodland was identified in 1994. Some sites also contained wet woodland (not mapped separated) a rare habitat in London and dominated by alder, crack willow, goat willow and aspen. This habitat was recorded at Belair Park, Nairne Grove Nature Garden, Consort Park and Peckham Rye Park and Common. Both native and non-native broadleaved woodland meet the criteria for BAP priority habitat 'woodland' in London. Retention of dead woodland and creation of new stag beetle loggeries were frequently recorded in SINC's and Open Spaces across the borough and included Mint Street Gardens, Dulwich Upper Woods and Christchurch Gardens.

Grassland Habitats

- 3.5 Total areas for amenity grassland and scattered trees had fallen by approximately 40ha in the twenty year period between 1994 and 2014. Some may have been lost to play and sports provision or new car-parking and buildings. Equally it is possible that the decrease has been a result of the creation of habitats such as planted shrubbery, herb-rich neutral grassland and scrub, the totals for each of these three habitats having increased since 1994. This is most notable for neutral grassland (herb-rich), of which the area has risen by almost 9ha, with the majority of the grassland having been created in Burgess Park over recent years. This figure exceeds Southwark's 1ha target for lowland meadow and contributes substantially towards the London BAP targets for meadows and pastures.
- 3.6 A large proportion of the decrease in amenity grassland may also be accounted for by the increase in bare artificial habitat, which has risen by approximately 25ha across between 1994 and 2014. This might be to accommodate new areas of play and all weather sports facilities. Part of it also might be better mapping, through the use of

Master-Map data, including the recording of paths (as opposed to relying solely on visual assessment by the field surveyor).

- 3.7 There has also been a marked loss of 85% of acid grassland since 1994. In 1994/95 acid grassland was recorded at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods (0.18ha), Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk (1.59ha), but neither site recorded that habitat in 2014. This could be attributed to a change of grassland management or succession. Both these sites are large and small areas of grassland may have been missed during the field survey. Conversely, at One Tree Hill, acid grassland was not recorded in the 1994/95 data (although it is mentioned on the interpretation for the site), in 2014 0.24ha was recorded in 2014.
- 3.8 The assessment criteria for herb-rich neutral grassland had been modified in order to record herb-rich grassland which contained abundances of a wider range of wildflowers. This explains the large increase for this habitat type. Small SINC's that contained herb-rich neutral grassland and were particularly species-rich included Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR), Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden and Countisbury House Lawn. The latter SINC probably contains the oldest grassland in the borough due to the presence of a number of unusual species more typical of older grassland (but conversely are not included in the GLA herb rich neutral grassland category). These included cork-fruited water dropwort Oenanthe pimpinelloides, field wood-rush Luzula campestre and cuckoo flower Cardamine pratensis.

Wetland Habitats

- 3.9 There is a discernible difference between the total wetland (reed swamp and marginal vegetation), in 1994 to 2014 as a result of habitat improvements. In particular, the large docks in the north-east have had floating pontoons installed and restoration at Surrey Waters has resulted in the wetland now supporting marginal vegetation, reed and bulrush swamp and birch and alder carr. Recent habitat creation at Burgess Park has also increased the wetland resource substantially including new areas of wet woodland, fen and marginal vegetation in the north east of the park and around the fishing lake.
- 3.10 The increase in marginal vegetation as opposed to other wetland habitats is partly the result of limitations in mapping fen carr, reed and bulrush swamp at a visible scale on larger open spaces. Although not GIS mapped in the 2014/15 data, these habitats were recorded at Lavender Pond, Surrey Waters and Dulwich and Sydenham Golf

Course. At the latter SINC, several ponds had been created as part of the sites sustainable drainage system, storing water drained from the fairways.

WILDLIFE INTEREST

3.11 The wildlife interest across the borough was assessed from the potential for species to be present within the survey parcels and from species records obtained from GIGL. Summary finds for eight species groups are illustrated in Figure 5 on the next page.

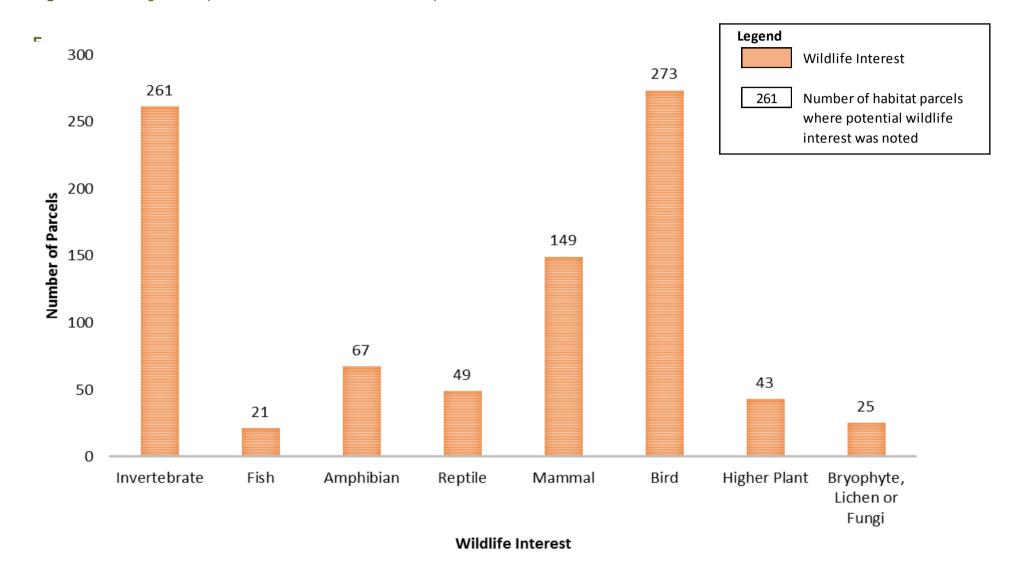
Overview

- 3.12 Across the 347 parcels there were 888 references to wildlife interest. Parcels within Dulwich Mill Pond, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods, Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course, and Dulwich Upper Woods contained seven out of eight species groups (excluding only fish). As these names suggest, all these sites are located around Dulwich and support the borough's only ancient woodland, remnants of the Great North Wood and now a living landscape (The Wildlife Trusts, 2012).
- 3.13 A total of 17 parcels (excluding those described above), contained habitat of value to five species groups. As mammals, reptiles and amphibians need to forage and disperse, the location of these parcels is particularly important for the maintenance of populations. These parcels were located at Herne Hill Velodrome, Stave Hill Ecological Park, Brenchley Gardens, Russia Dock Woodlands, Burgess Park, all three railway sites, Camberwell Old and Camberwell New Cemetery, Greendale Playing Field, Grove Park allotments, Honor Oak allotments and Cox's Walk Allotments. Greendale Playing Fields and Cox's Walk Allotments are candidate SINC sites.

Species Richness

3.14 Floral species richness was recorded for each survey parcel using a six level grading system ranging from poor through to rich. This was a broad assessment based on the surveyors' experience in Southwark and London as a whole. A total of 23 parcels were recorded as rich, of which 20 of these were SINC's and two proposed non-SINC's. For the SINC's, obvious inclusions were the ancient woodlands and cemetery sites, but less obvious were the parcels in some of the large parks including Burgess Park, Belair Park, Peckham Rye and Common, Stave Hill Ecological Park and The London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening. The latter supports a wide range of habitats and species including a small bank supporting calcareous grassland.

Figure 5: Showing wildlife potential interest across all habitat parcels.



- 3.15 A parcel containing native woodland at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park (north-east of the borough) was also noted, but this is currently outside the SINC boundary, in the southeast corner of the site. This is one of several SINC boundary extensions, which are listed in the recommendation section of this report. The "rich" parcels recorded at the candidate SINC sites were namely Red Cross Gardens and Nursery Row Park, both located in the north west of the borough. Although small in size, the wildlife pond at Red Cross Gardens and a good-sized wildflower meadow at Nursery Row Park provide valuable habitats within the densely built up areas and are known to support local BAP species including common newts and common blue butterfly respectively.
- 3.16 A large number of parcels (and SINC's), comprised habitat types that were intensively managed and of limited ecological value. This was likely to be the cause for the high score of 'average' species richness (127 parcels and twice as many as other grades), across the total number of sites. Sixty-nine parcels were recorded as 'poor/average' and 61 parcels were recorded as 'average/rich', whilst 53 parcels were recorded as poor. Seven were recorded as unknown.

Birds

- 3.17 SINC's that contain large areas of standing water and/or sizeable areas of woodland have been recognised for their important bird assemblages in the context of the borough. Birds were also the highest recorded wildlife interest with 273 parcel references which can be attributed to the majority of sites containing planted shrubbery, scrub and scattered trees of some value to breeding and foraging birds. Birds are also active during the day and therefore much for visible and or /identifiable than other species groups such as mammals.
- 3.18 In the south eastern corner of the borough, three records of kestrel on existing SINC's suggest suitable foraging habitat (rough grassland and small mammals). A number of less common species including wood warbler, hobby, hawfinch and tawny owl have been recorded at Dulwich Upper Wood and Gipsy Hill Railway Cutting. Pochard was recorded at Dulwich Mill Pond. Peregrines have been recorded in flight over many sites across the borough; however, nest sites are likely to be limited to high rise buildings in the north east of the borough.

Mammals

3.19 Within the last five years, records for bats were not necessarily limited to sites along obvious habitat corridors. Three species (common and soprano pipistrelle and *Nyactalus* sp), have been recorded at Surrey Gardens located just north of Burgess

Park, whilst up to four species of bat (soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle sp, noctule and Leislers bat (also known as lesser noctule), have been recorded at Lettsom Garden, west of Peckham Town Centre. There were a total of 149 references to the potential for sites to support mammals (bats). Hedgehogs have a limited distribution within the borough due to the dense road network and lack of habitat. SINC's known to have populations are Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk, Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park, One Tree Hill and the proposed candidate SINC Greendale Playing Fields.

Reptiles

3.20 Common reptiles have been recorded in five Open Spaces, namely Honor Oak Allotments, One Tree Hill, Camberwell New Cemetery and Russia Dock Woodland & Stave Hill Ecological Park. Apart from the latter SINC, which is located in the north east, all the other SINC's are found in the south-east of the borough. Suitable habitat for reptiles was identified within 49 Open Spaces, suggesting that either the population of reptiles could be larger than anticipated or that future re-introductions could be successful. A major limiting factor for the colonisation of sites by reptiles would be roads.

Amphibians

3.21 Most sites with standing water supported common toad and common frog, but only the Centre for Wildlife Gardening had records for smooth newt and Dulwich Upper Woods and Gipsy Hill Railway cutting had records of palmate newt. On the basis of incidental records, Red Cross Gardens, a candidate SINC, supports common and palmate newts and common toads, which makes this site particularly rich for amphibians. Suitable habitat for common amphibians was identified at 67 Open Spaces, many of which contained either a small pond or large parks, which contained lakes with some marginal planting of value to amphibians.

Invertebrates

3.22 SINC's in the southern half of the borough contained records for stag beetle, including Herne Hill Velodrome, Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides, Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides and One Tree Hill. Butterflies including common blue (a London BAP priority species), and meadow brown were recorded by surveyors across the borough, even in the north-west. Species of dragonflies were frequently recorded close to aquatic habitat with common species including broad-bodied chaser. Several bee species were also recorded. Important assemblages of dead-wood invertebrates are likely to be associated with ancient

woodland and mature trees within the larger parks. Areas that contain bare ground with ephemeral species such as Bird and Bush Park (north-west), and at Herne Hill Velodrome may also support locally important assemblages.

THREATS AND DISTURBANCES

3.23 The main threats and disturbances are summarised in three paragraphs below comprising; safety and security; invading plants and erosion and litter.

Safety and Security

3.24 Concern for safety and security were identified as a potential problem in 35 parcels, which is minor when considering the urban context of the borough. The "problem" parcels were often associated with wooded or rough vegetation, places where the general public would not normally venture. Four parcels with anti-social issues were recorded at Burgess Park, three parcels at Russia Dock Woodlands, two parcels at Dawson Heights and one parcel at Stave Hill Ecological Park. The effects of anti-social behaviour are likely to be worse (for public use), at the single-parcel sites due to their smaller size. This comprised Nursery Row Park, Dickens Square (Rockingham Park), and Bellenden Tree Nursery.

Invading Plants

- 3.25 The presence of invading plants was recorded in 94 parcels and was the most commonly recorded issue. The threat posed by invasive species is generally low given the nature of the habitats they affect and thus, for the most part, can be tolerated. These species often provide habitat structure and also reflect the interaction of urbanisation and ecology that are characteristic of the borough. The presence of Japanese knotweed does have implications for management and was recorded on at least ten sites. These were Nunhead Cemetery, Burgess Park, Dickens Square (Rockingham Park), St Peter's Churchyard (Lordship Lane), Camberwell New Cemetery, Camberwell Old Cemetery, Russia Dock Woodlands, Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Course, Holy Trinity Churchyard and Honor Oak Sports Ground. Japanese knotweed was also frequently recorded along all the railway corridors.
- 3.26 The presence of invasive garden plants within ancient woodland was also worth noting due to the importance of these habitats. Species such as snowberry, which has been identified as an invasive species of concern by the London Invasive Species Initiative. In addition, cherry laurel and spotted laurel were frequently recorded in Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods and Dulwich Upper Woods.

Erosion & Litter

3.27 Erosion was recorded in only 14 parcels across the borough but found in a range of situations. Of most concern is the erosion of banks around water-bodies which can limit value for wildlife. This was due to overuse by waterfowl or human access and was recorded at St James Churchyard and Belair Park. Erosion from paths was recorded in several woodland parcels. Foot traffic may be one contributing factor to the degradation of acid grassland and ancient woodland flora. For a densely urban area, the problem of litter and tipping was minor, being recorded at 37 parcels recorded out of 347 parcels. Quite often, litter was found collected in water-bodies which, apart from looking unsightly, could pose a risk to water-birds. This was seen as an issue at Canada Water, Burgess Park and Belair Park and Goldsmith Road Nature Garden. Tipping from adjacent gardens was noted in Russia Dock Woodland.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT

3.28 Opportunities for enhancement were noted by the field surveyors for each parcel on the survey parcel form. Information was then collated from all parcel forms across all Open Spaces. Two hundred and nine parcels had no recommendations recorded. It is likely that these open spaces are well used for other outdoor pursuits (for which space is at a premium), and thus reducing space for wildlife-managed vegetation. For the 132 remaining parcels the main findings are illustrated in Figure 6 and described below in four main headings comprising: woodland habitats; wetland habitats; grassland habitats and other habitats.

Woodland Habitats

- 3.29 The common themes to woodland scrub and hedgerows were:
 - Selective thinning of sycamore, false acacia and ivy from woodlands located in the
 east and south of the borough which contain the majority of the woodland resource
 and could benefit from increased diversity/structure in certain parcels;
 - Additional planting of native shrubs, particularly blackthorn, hazel and fruit trees;
 - Extend, gap-fill and lay maturing native hedges;

- Install bird and bat nesting features close to good foraging habitat. Ensure nest boxes suit specific requirements of species to encourage (e.g. house sparrow on buildings and blue tits in trees); and
- Removal of non-native shrub-species within ancient woodland.

Wetland Habitats

- 3.30 The common themes to wetland habitats were:
 - Enlarge areas of wet marginal vegetation to a size that provides suitable habitat for reed bunting and reed warbler (two London BAP species);
 - Improve water retention of existing ponds to provide permanent water;
 - Additional planting of marginal vegetation and relaxing of mowing around water's edge to improve shelter for amphibians and provide habitat for dragonflies;
 - Thinning of trees to increase light to water's edge;
 - Install willow-spilling to reinforce eroded banks;
 - Increase the number and size of floating pontoons; and
 - Minimise lighting from adjacent streets/development.

Grassland Habitats

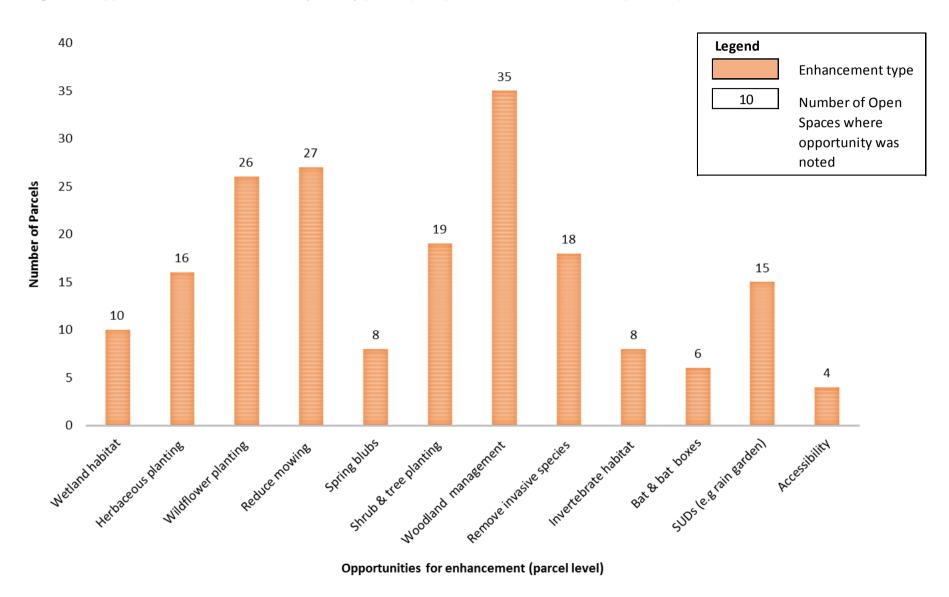
- 3.31 The common themes to grassland habitats were:
 - Relax the mowing regime of amenity grassland, particularly around scattered trees, hedgerows and boundaries to provide better habitat continuity for mammals, common reptiles and invertebrates;
 - Increase grassland diversity by seeding native, nectar-rich wildflowers which are good for invertebrates, particularly birds'- foot trefoil which is the larval food plant of the common blue butterfly (a London / Southwark BAP priority species); and
 - Plant spring bulbs to provide an early nectar source for invertebrates.

Other Habitats

- 3.32 Other recommendations included:
 - Where possible, plant shrubs and herbaceous species of known value to wildlife
 with the aim of providing nectar throughout the season and a range of habitat
 structure for nesting birds. This is relevant to all amenity focused Open Spaces
 throughout the borough;

- Better utilisation of unused hardstanding/paved areas by establishing food growing plots, planting trees and rain gardens. Depave (http://depave.org), has good examples of what can be achieved with limited capital costs. A similar approach may be appropriate at Surrey Docks Farm and in the north-east part of Burgess Park;
- Better utilisation of surface water runoff from adjacent roads and roofs by channelling through sustainable urban drainage (SUDs), features, creating wildliferich ponds, rain gardens and ditches. Southwark has a number of flooding hotspots caused by hard-surfacing (Southwark, 2013). Open spaces across the borough (but excluding ancient woodland) could be better utilised for these functions;
- Better integration of wildlife features within the site (rather than limited to a small, discrete corner with restricted access). This could be achieved by creating natural play areas for children http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources/play,-naturally-a-review-of-children's-natural-play.aspx; integrating habitats into utilitarian objects such as bin shelters, street signs and roofs: http://greenroofshelters.co.uk/make-provide/, http://www.theediblebusstop.org/ and changing ground maintenance contracts http://www.grassroofcompany.co.uk/urban-maintenance.htm. This is particularly important for many sites in the north-west and Peckham;
- The impact of habitat fragmentation and barriers to movements is a key issue for Southwark as a borough dominated by buildings, roads, walls and fences. Improving habitat connectivity between core habitat areas (large parks), to aid movement would be advantage for Southwark's rarer species such as the hedgehog and common lizard. In built up areas, the presence o
- Planting within the built environment would help to buffer and complement existing
 habitat within SINC's. New street trees, green roofs, rain gardens, green walls and
 community spaces can provide valuable habitat and improve species movement.
- Better information, such as plant labels, interpretation boards or smart phone links.
 Increasing local participation should also be encouraged to provide ways for people to connect with nature (https://www.tcv.org.uk/greengym), and foster a sense of ownership.

Figure 6: Opportunities for enhancement by survey parcel (multiple recommendations were possible).



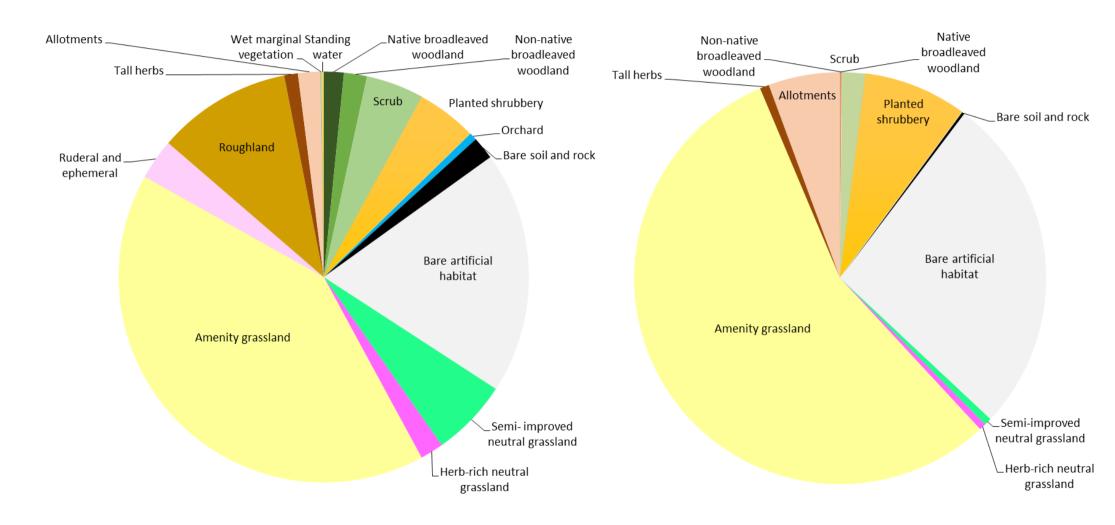
REVIEW OF EXISTING & PROPOSED SINC'S

- 3.33 The process for recommending a new SINC site was based on criteria set out by the London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB, 2013). Due to recent changes in the GLA methodology, the Grade I and II Borough sites have been combined into one category. For this reason, the identification of three not four kinds of SINC's was required and included; Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation and Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. A number of different sources were used to aid the assessment, in particular:
 - Identifying the presence of UK, regional or local BAP priority habitats;
 - Identifying the potential of the site to support priority or protected species;
 - Evidence of active management for nature conservation including bird boxes;
 - Identifying changes in habitat area between 1994/5 habitat parcel to 2014/15 i.e. evidence of habitat improvement;
 - Areas of deficiency; and
 - Presence of existing habitat corridors.

Habitat Comparison

3.34 A habitat comparison was undertaken between the proposed candidate sites and those that were considered not to meet the criteria. This was calculated by totalling the percentage of each habitat recorded at the candidate sites proposed as SINC's with the remaining sites. Figure 7 presents this information in two pie charts.

Figure 7: Habitat comparison between proposed SINC's (left) and remaining candidate sites (right).



- 3.35 It is evident from the comparison between the two pie charts that the proposed SINC's comprise a greater range of habitats and a greater proportion of habitats of value to nature conservation than those present at the remaining candidate sites.
- 3.36 The charts show that both groups of sites contain a high proportion of amenity grassland and hardstanding, habitats of low ecological value but with potential for enhancement through management. Planted shrubbery is similarly quite high for both groups, whilst the remaining sites have a noticeably larger area of allotment. The remaining candidate sites are missing several habitat types including roughland, ruderal and ephemeral, orchard, standing water and marginal vegetation. Both groups contain a proportion of semi-improved and herb-rich neutral grassland, but the proposed SINC's have a larger proportion of both.

Remaining Candidate Sites

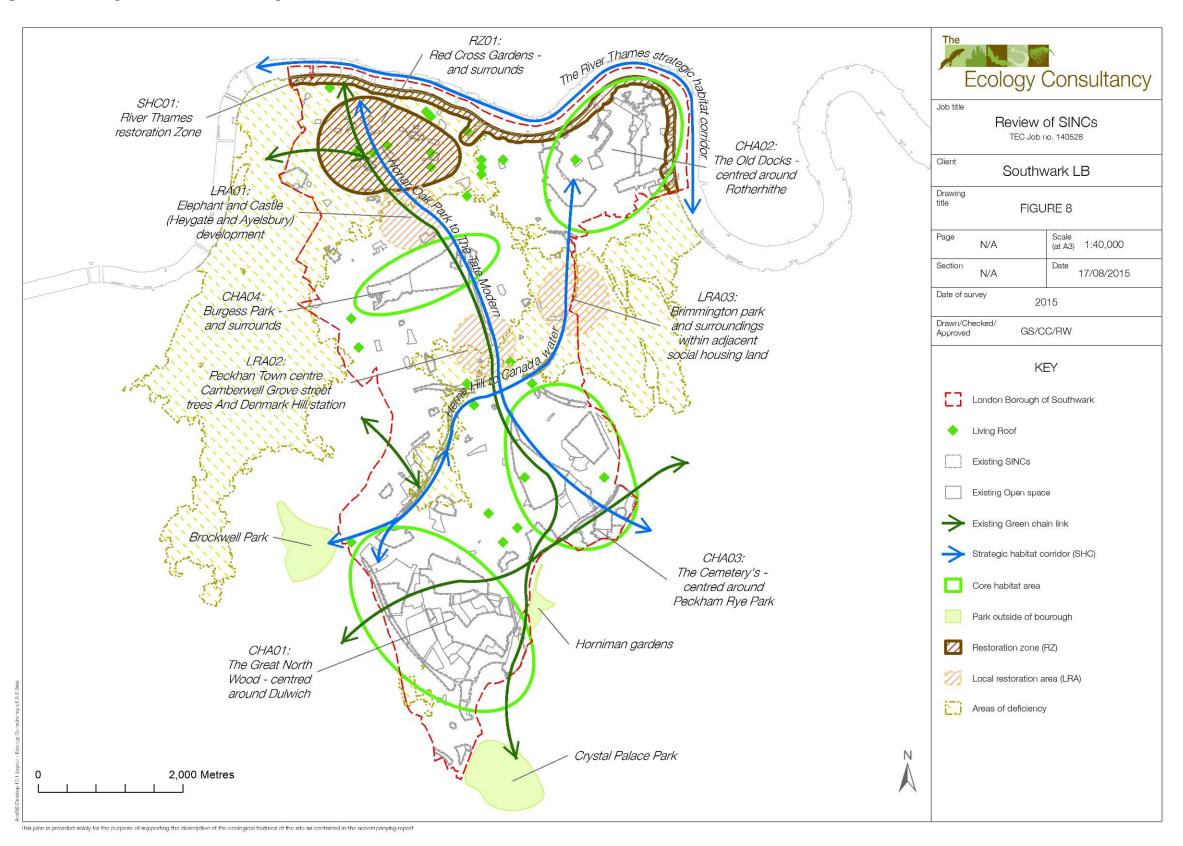
- 3.37 A large number of candidate sites were considered to be of insufficient ecological value to warrant inclusion in the SINC series but, nevertheless, they provide important green space and are of some wildlife value. The main reasons that these sites did not meet the SINC selection criteria were:
 - Dominance of low ecological habitats such as hard-standing, amenity grassland or planted shrubbery of little known value to wildlife;
 - Trees were immature and/or non-native and thus of low value to wildlife; and
 - There was no active management for nature conservation.

HABITAT LINKAGES

Overview

3.38 This project has identified a number of biodiversity hotspots in the borough. In the context of Southwark, the clusters of SINC's in certain areas could be referred to as Core Habitat Areas. Four such areas have been identified. Figure 8 below illustrates these and the other components that form the borough's primary ecological network, including three strategic habitat corridors, regional and local restoration areas and in relation to existing SINC's, AoNDs and existing green links.

Figure 8: A Strategic overview of the ecological networks in Southwark



Core Habitat Areas (CHA 01-04)

3.39 The four core habitat areas represent the best of Southwark's habitats and assemblages of birds and other wildlife and form large areas of green space in what, otherwise, is a highly urbanised borough. The maturity and contiguous nature of the Great North Wood Core Habitat makes this area particularly important. Mature trees within adjacent social housing land, private gardens and street trees are a legacy of the former extent of the wood. The Old Docks and The Cemeteries Core Areas are not as continuous, but they still form a discrete cluster made up of closely-spaced sites that are linked to each other through a wider habitat matrix (of private gardens street trees and other open spaces). Burgess Park Core Habitat Area has recently undergone large-scale restoration and re-creation of flower-rich grassland and wetland planting. Urban regeneration surrounding the park will implement complementary habitats created including sustainable urban drainage, green roofs and new community parks.

Restoration Areas (RA01)

3.40 The restoration area (or zone) in the north, around Bankside (RA01), recognises that enhancement measures have started and are set to continue to restore or create new high value areas (and which could ultimately become a Core Area in the future). Sites maybe small but should be numerous and may include innovative space-saving features such as green walls, green roofs and rain gardens, providing stepping stones for wildlife and softening the urban environment around existing Open Spaces.

Strategic Habitat Corridors (SHC01-03)

- 3.41 The River Thames is the largest Metropolitan SINC in the borough and stretches across the entire northern boundary of Southwark. Although the river is heavily engineered it is still an important green/blue link for wildlife and there are under-utilised opportunities for access for people at low tide. Surrey Docks Farm, Durand's Park and King Stairs SINC's and the proposed Cherry Gardens are located adjacent to the river providing complimentary habitat resource adjacent to the river's edge. Terrestrial habitat, although of limited ecological value (due to a dominance of hard-surfacing), could be enhanced for wildlife and people.
- 3.42 The strategic habitat corridor between Herne Hill and Canada Water (SHC 02), utilises part of Grove Park and West Dulwich Railway Corridor and an adjacent strip of private gardens south of Herne Hill. The western spur of the railway corridor links through to Brockwell Park (Lambeth), via an existing tree line at Denmark Hill Railway Station. Nunhead and South Bermondsey SINC railway corridors form small sections, whilst

Southwark Park and Surrey Waters and Canada Water (via Albion Channel form the link with the Thames).

3.43 The strategic habitat corridor (SHC 03), between Honor Oak Park and the Tate Modern runs along the existing green chain route (GLA, 2012), which utilises Camberwell New Cemetery, Peckham Rye Park and Common, Surrey Canal Walk and Burgess Park.

Local Restoration Areas (LRA01-02)

3.44 There are three discreet gaps which form Local Restoration Areas (LRA01-03), at Peckham town centre (LRA01); around Brimmington Park (LRA02); and north of Burgess Park (LRA03). Habitat enhancements should be targeted for these areas to improve connectivity and ecological function of the Strategic Habitat Corridors. Where possible new development should incorporate green infrastructure, whilst existing areas of the public realm, private gardens, and land around social housing should be managed for wildlife (including people), to strengthen habitat corridors and soften the built environment. A summary of the strategic ecological components are provided below:

Core Habitat Areas (CHA)

- CHA01: The Great North Wood centred around Dulwich
- CHA02: The Old Docks centred around Rotherhithe
- CHA03: The Cemeteries centred around Peckham Rye Park
- CHA04: Burgess Park and surrounds

Strategic Habitat Corridors

- SHC01: The River Thames
- SHC02: Herne Hill to Canada Water
- SHC03: Honor Oak Park to the Tate Modern

Restoration Area (or zone)

RA01: Red Cross Gardens – and surrounds

Local Restoration Areas

- LRA01: Peckham Town Centre
- LRA02: Around Brimmington Park
- LRA03: North of Burgess Park

4. Recommendations

REVIEW OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED SINC'S

Overview

4.1 As a result of the field survey analysis, species records, and assessment of habitat change, recommendations have been made to update the SINC series within the London Borough of Southwark, providing a robust framework for emerging policies in the New Southwark Plan. Table 7 on the next page tabulates relevant SINC's and candidate sites, where changes are being proposed to designation and site boundaries. Boundary changes are recommended for both existing and proposed SINC's where appropriate.

Table 7: The table lists those SINC's and candidate SINC's surveyed for this project. The Open Space number and name are provided for each, as large SINC's often contained more than one Open Space. For large SINC's, there are habitat maps for each Open Space. Proposed recommendations are provided for boundary changes, SINC designation, SINC number and name. Details are given on citations that have been updated or new.

	Existinç			Proposed Recommendations				
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation	
Sites of Metropolita	n Importance for Na	ature Conservation (Or	dered by S	INC Reference)				
M050 Nunhead Cemetery	OS 126	Nunhead Cemetery LNR	53	No boundary changes	Metropolitan	M050 Nunhead Cemetery LNR	Updated	
M075 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods	OS 181	Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	101	Half of Cox's Walk is located within Sydenham Hill Woods and is to be retained in this SINC site.	Metropolitan	M075 Sydenham Hill Woods LNR and Dulwich Woods	Updated	
M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	206 (Lewisham Reference)	Forest Hill to New Cross Railway Cutting	59	n/a (only a very small part is located within Southwark)	Metropolitan	M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	No change.	
Sites of Borough G	rade 1 Importance f	for Nature Conservation	n (Ordered	by SINC Reference)				
SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	OS 8	Lavender Pond (LNR)	47	Extension to north boundary	Borough	SoBI01 Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	Updated	
SoBI03 One Tree Hill	OS 150	One Tree Hill (LNR)	60	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI03 One Tree Hill (LNR)	Updated	
SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland &	OS 36	Stave Hill	39	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill Ecological Park (OS37).	Borough	SoBXX Stave Hill &	New citation	
Stave Hill Nature Park	OS 37	Stave Hill Ecological Park	40	To become a separate SINC with Stave Hill (OS 36).		Ecological Park		

	Existing	ı		Proposed Recommendations				
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation	
	OS 38	Russia Dock Woodlands	89	Reduction (along east boundary), boundary extension (along north-west) to include Surrey Docks Sports Ground Pitch 1 (OS6) and perimeter vegetation of OS7 (Pitch 2&3)	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Surrey Docks	Updated	
	OS 7	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitches 2&3)	88	Perimeter vegetation of sports fields to be retained as part of Russia Dock Woodland SINC.	Partly Borough Partly Open Space	Park SoBl06		
SoBI06 Dulwich & Sydenham Hill	OS 173	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	103	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI06 Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course	Updated	
Golf Course and Cox's Walk	OS 174	Cox's Walk	100	Part of Cox's Walk is to remain within Sydenham Hill Woods SINC and LNR.	Borough	SoBXX Cox's Walk	New	
SoBI07 Dulwich Upper Woods	OS 187	Dulwich Upper Woods (LNR)	92	Retained as one SINC with two Open Spaces. Extension in southern and eastern corner	Borough	SoBI07 Dulwich Upper Wood (LNR) &	Updated	
vvoods	OS 188	College Road	93	Reduction along eastern boundary		College Road wood		
SoBI08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	OS 149	Camberwell Old Cemetery	38	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBl08 Camberwell Old Cemetery	Updated	
SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park and Common	OS 124	Peckham Rye Park, Common & Piermont Green	52	Extensions to include Piermont Green (south-west corner) and line of trees (northern tip)	Borough	SoBI09 Peckham Rye Park, Common and Piermont Green	Updated	

	Existin	9		Proposed Recommendations				
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation	
SoBI10 Dulwich Park	OS 159	Dulwich Park	106	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI10 Dulwich Park	Updated	
	OS 35	Albion Channel	75	Extension along east and west boundary	Borough	SoBI11 Albion Channel	Updated	
SoBI11 Albion Channel	OS 55	Canada Water	102	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Canada Water	New	
	OS 5	Surrey Water	42	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Surrey Water	New	
SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	OS 121	London Wildlife Trust Centre for Wildlife Gardening	82	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBI12 Centre for Wildlife Gardening	Updated	
Sites of Borough G	rade II Importance t	for Nature Conservation	n (Ordered	by SINC reference)		,		
SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	OS 110	Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to North Dulwich Railsides	108	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII02 Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	Updated	
SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	OS 138	Sunray Gardens	07	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII03 Sunray Gardens	Updated	
SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor	OS 145	Camberwell New Cemetery, Honour Oak Crematorium, Sports Ground.	58	Excluding OS151 Honor Oak Allotments	Borough	SoBII05 Camberwell New Cemetery and Surrounds	Updated	
Oak Crematorium and adjacent areas	OS 151	Honor Oak Allotments	57	To become a separate SINC site	Borough	SoBXX Honor Oak Allotments	New	

	Existing	J			Proposed Recommendati	ons	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	OS 183	Countisbury House Lawns	17	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII06 Countisbury House Lawns	Updated
SoBII08 Burgess Park	OS 91	Burgess Park	91	A small reduction along the eastern boundary and a small addition in the southern end.	Borough	SoBII08 Burgess Park	Updated
SoBII09 Belair Park	OS 160	Belair Park	01	A small reduction along the northern boundary	Borough	SoBII09 Belair Park	Updated
SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	OS 156	Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides.	18	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII10 Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides	Updated
SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	OS 185	Carlton Place/ Hitherwood	15	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII11 Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)	Updated
SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	OS 135	James Allens Girls School Playing Fields	81	Large reduction along western boundary. Minor reduction along northern boundary.	Part Borough SINC Part Open Space.	SoBII12 James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	Updated
SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	OS 143	Aquarius Golf Course	110	Large extension to include the majority of the Open Space / Golf Course.	Majority is Borough SINC, Northern tip is Open Space.	SoBII13 Aquarius Golf Course	Updated
SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	OS 164	Dulwich Mill Pond	80	No boundary changes	Borough	SOBII 14 Dulwich Mill Pond	Updated
SoBII15 Walworth City Farm	OS 81	Walworth Garden Farm	73	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII15 Walworth Garden	Updated

	Existing	J			Proposed Recommendati	ons	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	OS 41	Surrey Docks Farm	77	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII16 Surrey Docks Farm	Updated
SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	OS 186	Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	12	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII17 Gypsy Hill Railway Cutting	Updated
SoBII18 Greenland Dock	OS 64	Greenland Dock	45	Large extension to the north		SoBII18 Greenland Dock	
& St. George's Wharf	OS 65	South Dock	46	SINC to remain as one site with two Open Spaces.	Borough	& St. George's Wharf	Updated
SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	OS 114	Lettsom Gardens	107	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII19 Lettsom Gardens	Updated
SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawsons Hill)	OS 155	Dawsons Hill	02	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII20 Dawson's Heights (Dawsons Hill)	Updated
SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	OS 144	Brenchley Gardens	94	Small extensions to northwest boundary.	Borough	SoBII21 Brenchley Gardens	Updated
SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	OS 80	South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	78	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBII22 South Bermondsey Railway Embankments	Updated
SoBII23 Southwark Park	OS 53	Southwark Park	43	Large extension along the north eastern boundary. To also include the Old Nursery Site (CW2)	Borough	SoBII23 Southwark Park	Updated

	Existing	ı			Proposed Recommendati	ons	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoBII24 Nunhead Railway	OS 108	Nunhead Railway Embankments	86	No boundary changes	Davasah	SoBII24 Nunhead Railway Embankments	Updated
Embankments	PN 6	Kirkwood Road Nature Garden	86	To be retained as part of Nunhead Railway Embankments	Borough		Ораагеа
Sites of Local Impo	rtance for Nature C	onservation (Ordered b	y SINC Re	ference)			
SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	OS 20	Leathermarket Gardens	11	No boundary changes	No change	SoL01 Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park	Updated
SoL02 Dickens Square Park (Rockingham	OS 44	Dickens Square Park	95	No boundary changes	No change	SoL02 Dickens Square & Butterfly Walk	Updated
SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	OS 97	Benhill Road Nature Garden	34	Large reduction along northern boundary	No change	SoL05 Benhill Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL07 Lucas Gardens	OS 105	Lucas Gardens	5	No boundary changes	No change	SoL07 Lucas Gardens	Updated
SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden	OS 68	Victory Community Park	27	No boundary changes	No change	SoL11 Victory Park and Elba Place Community Garden	Updated
SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	OS 103	Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	49	No boundary changes	No change	SoL12 Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	Updated

	Existin	ı			Proposed Recommendati	ons	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL14 Surrey Square	OS 77	Surrey Square Park	67	No boundary changes	No change	SoL14 Surrey Square	Updated
SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	OS 56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	104	Extension in southeast corner	Site of Local Importance	SoL15 Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	Updated
SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	OS 95	Bird-in-Bush Park	54	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL16 Bird-in-Bush Park	Updated
SoL17 Consort Park	OS 116	Consort Park	96	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL17 Consort Park	Updated
SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	OS 31	St Mary's Churchyard Gardens	64	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL19 St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe	Updated
SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard,	OS 49	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey	24	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL20 St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	Updated
SoL21 Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	OS 106	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	72	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL21 Bellenden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood	OS 119	Dog Kennel Hill Open Space and Adventure Playground	105	Extension along the south- eastern boundary.	Upgrade to Borough	SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood and adventure playground	Updated
SoL23 Nairne Grove Nature Garden	OS 134	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	71	No boundary changes	Upgrade to Borough	SoL23 Bressemer School Nature Garden	Updated

	Existing	3			Proposed Recommendati	ons	
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	OS 63	Aspinden Road Nature Garden	76	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL24 Aspinden Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	OS 74	Galleywall Nature Garden	85	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL25 Galleywall Nature Garden	Updated
SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	OS 115	McDermott Grove Nature Garden	51	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL26 McDermott Road Nature Garden	Updated
SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	OS 89	Varcoe Road Nature Garden / Bramcote Nature Garden	35	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL27 Bramcote Nature Garden	Updated
SoL28 Surrey Gardens	OS 82	Surrey Gardens AKA Pasley Park	66	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	Parsley Park	Updated
SoL29 Tabard Gardens	OS 46	Tabard Gardens	04	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL29 Tabard Gardens	Updated
SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	OS 146	Herne Hill Cycle Stadium and Sports Ground	56	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL31 Herne Hill Velodrome	Updated
SoL32 Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden	OS 21	Snowsfield Nature Garden	63	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL32 Snowsfields Nature Garden	Updated
SoL33 Alleyne School	OS 140	Alleyn School Playing Field (North of Townley Road)	n/a	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoL33 Alleyne School	Not updated.

	Existing	ı		Proposed Recommendations				
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation	
SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden	OS112	Highshore Open Space	98	No boundary changes	Downgrade	n/a	Not updated.	
SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Garden	Unique Reference unknown OSXX2	Northfield House Wildlife Garden	90	Site not previously digitised, although central meadow listed as SoL18 on citation and listed in Southwark BAP.	Site of Local Importance	SoL18 Northfield House Wildlife Gardens	Updated	
Reference Unknown	OS 148	Plough Lane Pond	n/a	No change	No change	n/a	Not updated	
Candidate SINC's (Open Spaces (Alph	abetical Order)						
n/a	OS 163	Barclay Way	30	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 61	Bermondsey Spa Park	09	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 93	Bethwin Road Open Space	14	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 99	Brimmington Park	55	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS101	Brunswick Park	06	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 96	Caroline Gardens	69	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 25	Cherry Gardens	32	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Cherry Gardens	New citation	
n/a	OS 1	Christchurch Gardens	26	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Christchurch Gardens	New citation	

	Existin	1		Proposed Recommendations				
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation	
n/a	OS 107	Cossal Park	50	Extension along the northern boundary	Site of local importance	SoLXX Cossal Park	New citation	
n/a	OS 175	Cox's Walk Allotments	68	None	No change	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 184	Long Meadow	08	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Long Meadow	New citation	
n/a	OS 85	Faraday Gardens	79	Extension along north-east corner and minor addition and reduction in south-east part.	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Faraday Gardens	New citation	
n/a	OS 152	Honor Oak Sports Ground	59	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 87	Evelina Lowe Nature Garden	36	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 180	Grange Road Allotments (North)	112	No boundary changes	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments West	New citation	
n/a	OS 178	Grange Road Allotments (South)	111	No boundary changes.	Site of local Importance	SoLXX Grange Lane Allotments East	New citation	
n/a	OS 128	Greendale Playing Field	03	No boundary changes	Borough	SoBXX Greendale Playing Field	New citation	
n/a	OS 154	Dulwich Library Gardens	31	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 168	Dulwich Common Allotments	113	None	None	n/a	n/a	

	Existinç	1		Proposed Recommendations					
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation		
n/a	393	Grove Park Allotments	87	None	Borough	SoBXX Grove Park Allotments	New citation		
n/a	OS 130	Dulwich Hamlet	70	None	None	n/a	n/a		
n/a	OS 39	Holy Trinity Churchyard	41	None	Site of local importance	SoLXX Holy Trinity Churchyard	New citation		
n/a	OS 167	Honor Oak and Tulse Hill Playing	115	None	None	n/a	n/a		
n/a	OS 54	King George's Field Park	44	None	None	n/a	n/a		
n/a	OS 16	Little Dorrit Park	33	None	None	n/a	n/a		
n/a	OS 17	Marlborough Playground	16	None	None	n/a	n/a		
n/a	OS 113	Holly Grove Shrubbery	97	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Holly Grove Shrubbery	New citation		
n/a	OS 14	Mint Street Park	22	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Mint Street Park	New citation		
n/a	OS 10	Nelson Square Gardens	29	None	None	n/a	n/a		
n/a	OS 42	Newington Gardens	10	None	None	n/a	n/a		
n/a	OS 133	Nunhead Allotments	116	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Nunhead Allotments	New citation		
n/a	OS 69	Paragon Gardens	25	None	None	n/a	n/a		

	Existin	J		Proposed Recommendations				
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation	
n/a	OS 9	Pearson Park	99	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 76	Nursery Row Park	13	Large addition along the northern boundary. Two small additions the along the western boundary.	Borough	SoBXX Nursery Row Park	New citation	
n/a	CW 2	Old Nursery Site	84	Combined with Southwark Park	Borough	SoBII23 Southwark Park	Updated	
n/a	OS 84	Pelier Park	61	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 75	Pullens Gardens	62	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 15	Redcross Gardens	37	No boundary changes	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Redcross Gardens	New citation	
n/a	OS 132	Ryehill Park (Waterworks)	109	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 70	Salisbury Row Park	19	Two additions proposed to join up disparate parts of the park	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX Salisbury Row Park	New citation	
n/a	OS 104	St Giles' Churchyard	20	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 72	St James' Road Allotments	114	None	None	n/a	n/a	
n/a	OS 52	St James' Churchyard	23	None	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St James' Churchyard	New citation	
n/a	OS 170	St Peter's Churchyard (Lordship Lane)	28	None	None	n/a	n/a	

Existing			Proposed Recommendations				
SINC No & Name	Open Space No	Open Space Name	Map No	Boundary Changes	SINC Designation	SINC No & Name	Citation
n/a	OS 86	St Peter's Churchyard	65	Large extension along northern boundary	Site of Local Importance	SoLXX St Peter's Churchyard	New citation
n/a	OS 120	St. Francis' Park	21	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 102	Sumner Park	48	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	CW 4	Surrey Docks Adventure	83	None	None	n/a	n/a
n/a	OS 6	Surrey Docks Sports Ground (Pitch 1)	88	To be combined with Russia Dock Woodland SINC Site	Borough	SoBI05 Russia Dock Woodland & Surrey Docks	Updated
n/a	400	Bonar Road Allotments	74	None	None	n/a	n/a

SINC's that Exceed their Current Status

4.2 Three SINC's have been assessed as exceeding the level at which they were designated and have been proposed as sites of Borough Importance. These comprise Dog Kennel Hill Wood, Galleywall Road Nature Garden and Nairne Grove Nature Garden. Table 8 provides the justifications for each site.

Table 8: Justifications for upgrade to Borough Importance.

SINC No, Name & Open Space no	Justification
SoL22 Dog Kennel Hill Wood OS119	A small but varied site, comprising secondary woodland, an orchard and an adventure playground. The sycamore-dominated woodland is quite species-rich with a good understory of native shrubs of hawthorn, silver birch and bramble and a ground flora including cow parsley, wood avens and native bluebell (the latter most likely planted). A recently planted orchard (within the adventure playground) has a good diversity of heritage fruit trees, infrequently mown herb-rich grassland and tall ruderal understory. Grasses include giant fescue, meadow foxtail, and cock's-foot. Herbs include yarrow, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil and ox-eye daisy. A good range of native shrubs are present including spindle, hazel, wild privet, wild cherry and alder buckthorn. There are also scattered mature oak trees. Numerous bat and birds boxes have been installed in the woodland and mature trees also provide potentially suitable roosting habitat for bats. An extension to the SINC is proposed along the road in the southeast, to include an area of semi-mature, native trees and shrubs. The site forms the northern end of a habitat corridor which links through Greendale Playing fields, James Allen School and East Dulwich railway line to the south, of value to commuting and foraging bats, hedgehogs and common reptiles, all species that have been recorded in the area.
SoL25 Galleywall Road Nature Garden OS74	Galleywall Road Nature Garden is located in a heavily built-up area south of Southwark Park, but has been imaginatively designed to make best use of the space. Of most striking is the large invertebrate habitat wall, made out of recycled materials and gradually being built by volunteers. Its borders the site on all sides and when it is finished, it is likely to be the largest of its kind in the Borough (or even London). Within the garden, an attractive pond has been created on one side with good marginal vegetation, including flag iris, water mint, purple loosestrife, marsh marigold, flowering rush, water-lily species and reed canary grass amongst others. A smaller pond (less wellestablished) is located on the other side, with numerous native and non-native wetland species still in pots. The grassland is semi-improved but with a number of planted native species including bird's-foot trefoil, primrose and wild carrot. A good range of native shrub and trees are also present including a mature oak tree, young birch, dogwood and grey willow. The site is currently well used by the adjacent school, and raised beds, native climbers and a bee hive are proposed to encourage more public interest in the garden.

SINC No, Name & Open Space no	Justification
SoL23 Nairne Grove Nature Garden OS134	This site is probably the only aspen woodland in Southwark. A small nature garden in north Dulwich with abundant tall, semi-mature aspen and a well-developed understorey of willow, wild privet, hazel and bramble. At the northern end is a small pond, scattered trees and a large loggery (doubles up as a climbing frame). A range of species occur that are noted on the Southwark and London BAP including common frog, house sparrow and stag beetle. A mature ivy-clad ash has potential to support roosting bats. The woodland is regularly managed by a local tree surgeon who has created some good deadhedging along the paths. It is well used by the adjacent Bressemer School, who have recently added a small wildflower meadow, and a clay oven.

Proposed Borough SINC Sites

4.3 Three candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. The reasons for designation are justified in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Reasons for designating Candidate SINC's at Borough Level.

Open Space no and Name	Justification
OS128 Greendale Playing Field	The main habitats at this site are a mosaic of species-poor semi improved grassland, scrub and tall herbaceous vegetation dominated by false oat grass, rough meadow grass and bramble. These habitats are common and widespread but the site contains a large amount of the area present in the borough. Anthills are numerous within the rough grassland and provide structural diversity. Plants recorded include hoary cinquefoil, ivy broomrape, dog rose, honeysuckle, evening primrose, welted thistle, and hop. A number of Southwark BAP species have been recorded on site including hedgehog, stag beetle, common frog and house sparrow. The site forms continuity of habitat between Dog Kennel Hill SINC to the north and open space and SINC's the south including James Allen School playing fields and rail-side habitats. This habitat corridor is likely to be of value to foraging bats and reptiles if present in the wider area. The site probably offers one of the few remaining accessible areas of natural habitat in the local area as most nearby open spaces are managed for amenity and recreation.

Open Space no and Name	Justification
393 Grove Park Allotments	An active allotment located adjacent to Lettsom Gardens, accessed via the entrance from Grove Park road and managed by the same organisation. The allotments have a good range of native and nonnative perennials and shrub species. There are approximately nine semi-mature - mature apple trees and a recently planted native orchard, of value to invertebrate species. In between the allotment beds, the grassland is left long and consists of a range of grassland species including perianal rye grass and Yorkshire fog. An overgrown hedge in the middle of the allotment contains a number of edible and native species including plum, walnut, English oak, elder and bramble. At the northern end of the hedge is a large, mature ash tree, which has numerous cracks and crevices of potential value to bats as roosting habitat. Three species of bat, have been recorded foraging in the vicinity of the allotments and include noctule, soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle. All bat species are noted in the London and Southwark BAP. The Southwark BAP species common frog and common toad have also been recorded on site. The allotments are likely to provide complimentary habitat to Lettsom Gardens, of value to wildlife including bats, birds and invertebrates. Current plans are to create a pond, reduce the use of slug pellets to favour birds such as the song thrush and plant an edible hazel
	hedgerow along the eastern wall.
OS76 Nursery Row Park	A medium sized park, located in the north west of the borough that has undergone enhancements and contains a number of habitats of value to wildlife including herb-rich grassland, an orchard, mature scattered trees, planted shrubbery and vegetated walls. The grassland covered a large area in the centre of the site and was managed as a meadow. Species included field scabious, wild carrot, ladies bedstraw, salad burnet, bird's-foot trefoil, common toadflax, bladder campion and chicory. The butterflies meadow brown and common blue, (the latter a London BAP species) were recorded on site along with bumblebees and crickets. Goldfinches and house sparrows were also recorded and likely using the site for foraging (these are uncommon species and the latter a Southwark BAP species). The orchard was located in the north (proposed extension), and contained a wide range of native fruit trees with scrub, including Callery pear, wild cherry, crap and domesticated apple, hazel, wild service tree, privet, hawthorn and blackthorn. This area is valuable habitat for foraging birds and overwintering invertebrates, and complements the adjacent pollinator-rich meadow. The south east part of the site contains a number of large, mature, London plane trees. The trees form an almost complete tree canopy cover with amenity grassland underneath. This area is popular with local residents (during hot weather) and has numerous log seats, and stag beetle loggeries. The remainder of the site has good cover of planted shrubberies, overgrown vegetated walls and more recent ornamental grasses and herbaceous planting. Climbers included abundant honeysuckle, wisteria, ivy, Virginia creeper, clematis and jasmine. Other shrubs included dogwood, weeping birch, hornbeam and elder.

Proposed Sites of Local Importance for Conservation

4.4 15 candidate SINC's are proposed as Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. Table 10 lists Open Spaces and justifications.

Table 10: Justification for candidate SINC's designation as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS25 Cherry Gardens	A linear garden planted with a mix of native and non-native trees and shrubs and located next to the River Thames Site of Metropolitan Importance. The eastern area contains the majority of the native species including hazel, wild cherry and weeping birch, forming a closed canopy in parts. A number of large willows line the river front, their canopy reaching over the river wall, providing a more natural transition between aquatic and terrestrial habitat. This is one of the few places along the Thames where access down to the River is safe and within an existing open space. Other parts of the garden to the east contain a mix of semi-mature, non-native trees, under planted with shrubs an herbaceous species some of are of known value to wildlife. The gardens are likely to be of value to a range of common birds and invertebrates. The gardens are well used by local residents as well as tourists that walk along the Thames path, or take boats trips from the Cherry Gardens Pier, located in the middle of the gardens
OS133 Nunhead Allotments	A large, informal allotment site located on a slope with a number of wildlife-friendly features. The top half of the site is more akin to roughland due to the density of planting plots and slope (potentially older and longer established). Allotment beds support a good range of herbaceous and cultivated crops of known value to pollinators. Fruit trees including domesticated plum, apples, peaches and pear were frequent and densely planted in two locations – forming small orchards. Between the beds, areas of unmanaged grassland, comprised a good range of species including false oat grass, bents creeping cinquefoil, common couch, common mallow and timothy. Bare areas supported ruderal species including scarlet pimpernel, annual dog's mercury, and creeping jenny. Ponds were typically small but frequent, with good marginal vegetation comprising marsh marigold, arrowhead and waterlily and sloping sides, providing habitat for common frogs and toads. Grassland composition varied across the site, some areas exhibiting species more typical of drier soils (potentially the result of dumped construction rubble from previous use of land) and herb rich including wild carrot, meadow vetchling and wild marjoram (although possible planted). The site is likely to provide foraging habitat for a wide range of birds such as song thrush, house sparrow. Grey heron are seen frequently and have been known to take fish from the ponds. The site forms a habitat corridor between Nunhead Cemetery – Site of Metropolitan Importance (which borders the site along its north-eastern boundary) and Peckham Rye Common - Site of Borough Importance, just beyond Peckham Rye Road in the south east. Nunhead covered reservoir forms the northern boundary.

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS180 Grange Road Allotments (North)	A large, informal allotment site, with a number of wildlife-friendly features. The allotment beds had been laid out to form almost continuous belts of vegetation, which comprise a good range of herbaceous and cultivated crops of known value to pollinators. There were numerous small areas of tall, semi-improved grassland (some being unmanaged plots), with a range of common meadow species such as cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, meadow buttercup, common knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, creeping thistle and teasel, Individual plants of male and ladies fern, wood melick and bracken were also recorded and may be self-sown from adjacent ancient woodland. Ponds were typically small but frequent, with good marginal vegetation and sloping sides, providing habitat for common frogs and toads. A narrow strip of predominantly native woodland and scrub was present along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site with the adjacent Metropolitan SINC – Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods. Species consisted of pedunculated, sessile oak, beech, hazel, common birch, grey willow, sycamore and Norway Maple. A hawthorn hedge lines the western boundary, whilst the northern boundary is lined by an old boundary of mature, oak trees (base of trees located in adjacent land – part of the SINC site Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course).
OS178 Grange Road Allotments (South)	A large, well maintained allotment site located contiguous with Sydenham Hill Woods Metropolitan SINC, which forms its southern boundary. The site supports a number of features of high nature conservation value, comprising a mature oak boundary hedgerow (along Grange Lane), and a mature, native oak woodland in the north-eastern corner of the site. These habitats may providing supporting habitat for bat, bird and invertebrate populations located in Sydenham woods. The woodland on site appeared unmanaged with a dense understory of bramble, common nettle, and young tree regrowth of sycamore, elder and ash. Plots are generally well tendered and neat with mown, improved grassland. Allotment rules allow for a third meadow, a third vegetables and a third flowers – which is likely to provide a good range of foraging habitat for common but declining invertebrate's species.
OS184 Long Meadow	Long meadow is a fragment of the former countryside surrounded by residential development. It represents quite a large area of informal grassland an uncommon habitat in Southwark providing refuge and foraging habitat for invertebrates, birds, bats and possible small mammals. The northern half is more intensively mown. Scattered mature trees line the site's perimeter, providing a commuting and foraging resource for bats. A native hedgerow dominated by hawthorn with other native species forms the northern boundary. It is likely to be a well-used open space for local people.

Open Space no &	hand the second
name	Justification
OS85 Faraday Gardens	Faraday Gardens is a small park containing areas of native woodland, scrub, planted shrubbery and amenity grassland. The native woodland is dominated by hornbeam, ash and horse chestnut, with an understory containing scattered holly, hawthorn and box. Scattered scrub occurs along the western perimeter and includes dogwood, elder and hawthorn. The southern wall supports maidenhair spleenwort <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> and hart's tongue fern. Planted borders contain a diverse range of perennial plants providing a rich nectar source to invertebrates. For a small space, a good range of species and habitats are present and are likely to provide a good habitat resource for common birds and invertebrates. The southeast corner of the site comprises hard standing and a fenced play area mature climbers and planted shrubbery surrounding the fenced area provide good cover and nectar source for pollinators. The park is located within a residential area and is likely to be popular with local people. St Peter's churchyard, also a proposed local SINC shares part of the southern boundary.
OS86 St Peter's Church Yard	St Peter's churchyard contains a church surrounded by amenity grassland, scattered mature London plane trees and planted shrubbery. Shrubs area largely non-native although occasional elder, hazel and hawthorn present. The mature trees provide some bat roosting potential. The park is located within a residential area and is likely to be popular with local people. The site is being extended to include the church building and area of mature trees, shrubbery and grassland in the east of the site. The variety and maturity of vegetation is likely to be of value to a wide range of common but declining bird species including house sparrow and invertebrates. Faraday gardens also a proposed local SINC shares part of the northern boundary.
OS70 Salisbury Row Park	A medium-sized park of amenity grassland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery and a small fenced off area of native woodland. The planted shrubbery contains some species of known value to wildlife and are likely to provide some nesting opportunity for common bird species. The small area of broadleaved woodland is dominated by ash and sycamore with lime and cherry. A rich mix of native shrub species are present including gorse, dogwood, and rowan. Ground flora is notable quite diverse in one area comprising of flag iris, purple loosestrife and pendulous sedge (perhaps a dried out pond). Elsewhere cow parsley and nettle are frequent. Several habitat features have been created including a dead hedge and bird boxes. The site is located in proximity to a number of other open spaces, providing a habitat stepping stone for invertebrates, birds and potentially bats within this densely urban location.

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS107 Cossal Park	A medium sized park in a residential area comprising amenity grassland with scattered trees, native scrub and climbers. Trees include mature London planes and common limes with semimature cherry, English oak, crack willow and apple. The majority are located along the south-west and south eastern boundaries and almost form a closed canopy. Scrub include hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn, with climbers of old man's beard, clematis and burnet rose around the perimeter of the park. There are also a number of food growing beds managed by the local community. Together these habitats provide shelter, breeding and foraging habitat for widespread species of birds and invertebrate. The local BAP species house sparrow has been recorded in the park. An area of scrub and roughland (fenced off) in the north, provide additional cover and refuge for nesting birds and overwintering habitat for invertebrates. The site is located in close proximity to Nunhead railway corridor (a site of Borough Importance), which forms part of a strategic habitat corridor in the borough. The site is likely to regularly used by local residents in nearby flats. The large area of amenity grassland provides opportunities for enhancement such as pond creation and/or native hedge wildflower planting.

Open Space no &	Justification
OS15 Redcross Gardens	Redcross Gardens is located in a heavily built-up area, close to London Bridge and within an area of deficiency. It supports one of the best small ponds in the borough for wildlife, along with good herbaceous and shrub planting, scattered trees and a sedum, green roof. The pond is a good size and has natural banks with well-developed marginal, emergent and floating vegetation. Dominant emergent vegetation includes yellow flag iris, common reed, and water plantain, lesser spearwort and water forget-menot. White water lily covers one third of the water surface. Marginal vegetation along the banks includes dense meadowsweet, marsh marigold, ornamental astible, golden rod, Michaelmas daisy and ornamental grasses. A small patch of semi-improved (mown) herb-rich grassland is located around the peripheral of the pond and includes greater birds-foot trefoil, black medick and devil's bit scabious. Many of the native plant species listed above are found in very few other places in Southwark and their presence at this small site is particularly important for a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. The pond supports a population of smooth newts, a rare species in Southwark and provides breeding and foraging habitat for common frog, common toad and potentially a number of odonata species including darter, broad-bodied chaser and blue damselfly. Butterflies include small white, red admiral and comma (the latter is known to breed on the native hop growing on one of the walls within the garden. The pond and garden is frequented by a number of wildfowl species including mallard. House sparrow, a Southwark BAP species has been recorded, along with green finches and goldfinches. The remainder of the garden is laid out to amenity grassland (well used at lunch-time by city workers), and herbaceous borders with a good range of nectar-rich plants. Species include lavender, California poppy, red valerian, rosemary, hollyhocks, bear's breeches and cat mint. Three mature hornbeam trees provide bird nesting opportunities (

Open Space no &	Justification
OS14 Mint Street Park	Mint Street Park is the second largest open space in the north-west of the Borough comprising areas of amenity grassland, herbaceous and shrub planting and scattered trees. The planted boarders are particularly diverse in the south-eastern corner and include tall perennial planting and crevice and rock garden planting. Species such as evening primroses, Verbena spp, great mullein, teasel, wild and ornamental thymes, rock roses and Mexican fleabane are particularly good for pollinators. A small area of roughland and scrub dominated by nettles, bramble, hawthorn and dog rose provide shelter and nesting habitat for common birds and invertebrates throughout the year. Recent habitat enhancements undertaken by Better Bankside Open Space Trust (BBOST) include a large stag beetle loggery. The site is regularly used for holding events and is popular at lunch-time for city workers.
OS52 St James' Churchyard	St James Churchyard supports a pond of high nature conservation value due to its aquatic and riparian fauna including common newts and dragonflies. It has good variety of native marginal plants including flag iris and branched bur-reed. Adjacent to the pond is a large area of mixed native and non-native scrub with scattered trees. A wide range of species are are present including hawthorn and blackthorn providing good foraging and nesting habitat for birds. Goldfinch and house sparrow, species noted on the Southwark BAP have been recorded. An area of herb rich grassland, is managed as a wildflower area and provides a good source of nectar for bees and other invertebrates. The common carder bee has been recorded along with common blue and red admiral. Species present include black knapweed, cocksfoot, meadow foxtail and wild carrot. Crickets are audible. The church tower has potential to support roosting bats. The site is located within a densely urban area but within proximity to other small open spaces to the north and west. It is also within close proximity to the River Thames. The aquatic habitats on site are likely to provide a stepping stone for invertebrate species (particularly dragonfly species) in the local area.
OS39 Holy Trinity Churchyard	Holy Trinity Churchyard supports a small area of mature, non- native woodland with a canopy of hybrid black poplar and sycamore. A dense understory comprises of elder and cherry laurel with a ground flora dominated by ivy and bramble. A small open glade comprises amenity grassland and tall herbs dominated by nettle. The site provides good foraging habitat for bats and potentially suitable bat roosting features within dense ivy on trees and on adjacent building. The mature trees on site also form part of a habitat corridor with street trees along Salters Road and Bonding Yard Walk to the south. There is plenty of nesting and foraging habitat for birds, as is dead wood for ground-dwelling invertebrates. The Southwark BAP species house sparrow has been recorded on site. A relatively little-used and relaxed site in contrast to the adjacent Surrey Docks Farm, it offers local residents a tranquil alternative for accessing nature.

Open Space no & name	Justification
OS1 Christchurch Gardens	Christchurch Garden is located in the north of the borough, a block away from the River Thames and in a heavily built up area. A large brick church is surrounded by mature trees, scrub, herbaceous, shrub planting and amenity grassland. It is has under gone recent enhancement through active management by Better Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BBOST), which have added new planting and dead wood habitat for stag beetle and other invertebrates. There is a wide strip of native shrub planting underneath the tree canopy on the northern perimeter including dogwood, beech, hawthorn, wayfaring tree and hazel. Woodland ground flora includes cow parsley, common dog violet, and wood spurge. Other species present include teasel, false oat grass, pendulous sedge and honeysuckle. Mature trees include London plane and common lime – the latter having potential for bat roosting features. The garden is likely to provide a good habitat resource for common invertebrates and foraging for common bird species. The Southwark BAP species house sparrow has been recorded on site along with blue tit and the speckled wood butterfly. It is likely to be a well-used by office workers at lunch-time during hot weather.
OS113 Holly Grove Shrubbery	Holly Grove Shrubbery is a linear site comprising a winding footpath, with scattered mature trees and planted shrubbery, with by a mix of native and non-native shrubs including holly, blackthorn, and hazel, sunshine bush and laurel. A large number of mature, Norway maple trees are scattered through the site. The maturity and range of shrubs provide ideal habitat for nesting birds and pollinating invertebrates. Although currently managed for amenity purposes, there is an opportunity to plant a great proportion of native hedgerow species (particular edible varieties) to provide greater foraging value for wildlife and people. The site joins onto an open area to the east which forms a continuation of this site (with scattered trees, blub planting and seats). Located in the densely urban center of Peckham it provides local people an attractive route to walk to the shops and is well used.

Combining with existing SINC'S

- 4.5 Two candidate SINC's namely Old Nursery Site and Surrey Docks Sports grounds (Pitch 1) will be combined with nearby existing SINC's: Southwark Park and Russia Docks Woodland respectively. This is partly due to their small size, contiguous habitat and boundaries. Table 11 below list these changes.
- 4.6 There is one proposed deletion to the SINC series, comprising SoL34 Bellenden Nature Garden which contained insufficient habitat to warrant SINC designation. This does not mean the Open Space has no wildlife value, it is likely to be of value in the local vicinity and be used by local residents. . It is proposed that all remaining SINC's stay at the same level of designation as in 1994, as they retain the same level of ecological interest.

4.7 The remaining candidate SINC's still support habitats of value to wildlife; however, these were either limited in extent or contained commonly occurring low-value habitats, or no active management for nature conservation was taking place.

SINC's of Priority for Conservation

4.8 Six SINC's have been assessed as meeting their current level of designation, but are a priority for conservation. This comprises Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf (particularly South Dock OS65), Leathermarket Gardens and Community Park, Lucas Gardens, Surrey Gardens, Surrey Docks Farm and Geraldine Harmsworth Memorial Park. South Dock has become a busy marina and has limited value due to high disturbance from boat activity and lack of vegetation. For the other sites, the management for nature conservation is limited to small areas rather than being an integral part of the whole site. People and wildlife are not mutually exclusive and other Open Spaces (e.g. Red Cross Gardens) integrate the two with a high degree of success. Table 11 provides a brief explanation of the current issues and potential solutions for the six sites.

Table 11: Opportunities for enhancement at existing SINC's.

SINC Name	Current Issue	Solution
Leathermarket Gardens and Community Park	Managed intensively for amenity use.	Engage community to assist with the creation of edible hedgerows and herbaceus planting of known value to wildlife.
Surrey Gardens	Dominated by amenity grassland	Allow areas of grassland to be left uncut, particularly around site boundaries and under trees. Seed with wildflowers to create visual amenity and pollinator habitat.
Greenland Dock & St. George's Wharf (particularly South Dock OS65)	Actively used for boat mooring with no vegetation.	Identify a corner of the dock where habitat enhancements could be created, whilst not obstructing boat operations. Plant floating pontoons of reed, and marginal vegetation.
Surrey Docks Farm	Focus is on farm animals. Wildlife "confined" to small woodland area" rather than whole site.	Provide educational resources that illustrate the value of the whole site for wildlife, including the orchard, allotment beds, old buildings and woodland area. Establish new planting along river wall and provide safe access to River Thames foreshore. Create new pond to replace concrete duck pond.

SINC Name	Current Issue	Solution	
Geraldine Harmsworth Memorial Park	Large park dominated by amenity grassland with wildlife areas locked and hidden from view.	Establish flower-rich meadows, to provide visual and pollinator value. Promote as part of the Bee – Line campaign (Buglife). Provide interpretation and engagement to visitors. Use park grounds to show case other artefacts of war in museum and design a walking route.	
Lucas Gardens	Large park dominated by amenity grassland	Extend wildlife habitat along the entire eastern boundary of the site. Habitats could include climbing logs / loggeries, seeded grassland, a native hedgerow maze, edible planting.	

Separating SINC's and name changes

4.9 Eight SINC's contain multiple Open Spaces. Four are proposed to be separated by Open Space boundary whilst retaining their current designation to ensure each Open Space has a dedicated SINC citation. Whilst the remaining five are to remain together in order to avoid downgrading part of the SINC. Table 12 lists changes to relevant SINC's and recommendations to name changes.

Complicated SINC's

- 4.10 Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park is unusually large and complicated requiring both retaining, separating and combining of Open Spaces to rationalise boundaries.
- 4.11 The southern half of Cox's Walk runs through Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods SINC as a narrow fenced footpath. It is proposed that this part of the footpath remains as part of Sydenham Hill Wood SINC site (OS 181), rather than altering the Open Space boundary to reflect the footpath alignment. As a result of the Open Space boundaries Cox's Walk (OS174) also falls within the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Sydenham Hill Wood and Fern Bank boundary. As a result it remains as a site of borough importance and not Metropolitan.

 Table 12: List of SINC's with Multiple Open Spaces and Recommendations

SINC no	SINC name	Open Space no	Recommendations
SoB106	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course and Cox's Walk	OS173, OS174,	Separate into two SINC's by Open Space boundaries. Proposed names: Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course / Cox's Walk.

SINC no	SINC name	Open Space no	Recommendations
SoB05	Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Nature Park	OS36, OS37, OS38, OS7, OS6	Separate into two SINC's with Stave Hill (OS36) retained as part of the Ecological Park (OS37), to avoid downgrading if separated. Combine OS6 with Russia Dock Woodland. Retain existing perimeter vegetation in OS7 and combine
			additional area with Russia Dock Woodland.
SoBI11	Albion Channel	OS35 OS55 OS5	Separate into three SINC's by Open Space boundaries. Proposed names: Albion Channel / Canada Water / Surrey Water.
SoBII24	Nunhead Railway Embankments	OS 108 PN6	Retain as one SINC. This is to avoid downgrading Kirkwood Nature Garden.
So11B05	Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak Crematorium and adjacent areas	OS145, OS151	Separate into two SINC's by Open Space boundaries. Proposed names: Camberwell New Cemetery and surrounds / Honor Oak Allotments
SoB106	Dulwich Upper Woods LNR	OS187, OS188	Retain as one SINC. This is to avoid downgrading College Road non-native secondary woodland.
SoB08	Greenland Dock & St George's Wharf	OS64, OS65	Retain as one SINC. This is to avoid downgrading South Dock (OS65) if separated.
SOBII23	Southwark Park	0\$53	Combine with the Old Nursery Site (CW2), which is contiguous with the new site boundary in the north east.

Existing SINC's Recommendations for Enhancement

4.12 Brief recommendations are given in Table 13 for relevant existing SINC's. More detailed information is provided in individual citations.

 Table 13: Opportunities for Enhancement in specific Open Spaces

Open Space no:	Open Space Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed
OS91	Burgess Park	Sustainable urban drainage around the perimeter of the park utilising surface runoff from adjacent roads. Removal of areas of hard-standing that are not in use (e.g. redundant roads or in north east part of the site).
OS173	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf course	A good site already. An invertebrate survey would be recommended to inform management of potentially valuable site features (including ditches, sand bunkers, woodland, old trees and roughs).

Open Space	Open Space	T (b . b . (c . c . b	
no:	Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed	
OS53	Southwark Park	Wildflower planting within area of amenity grassland adjacent to the car park, due to lack of recreational use and small size. The section of amenity grassland should be allowed to grow to a higher sward with a rough grassland margin which could be enhanced with native perennial wildflowers. Bat boxes to be installed on some of the scattered trees to compensate for loss of natural roosting features. Planters within the bandstand could be planted with nectar-rich species to benefit pollinators. The marginal vegetation around the lake could be extended. The roughland should be better managed under a Habitat Management Plan.	
OS126	Nunhead Cemetery	It is recommended that Japanese knotweed is removed. The Beeches pathway should be managed to reduce scrub/ruderal encroachment and improve plant diversity.	
OS143	Aquarius Golf Course	Maintain existing woodland, scrub and rough/herb-rich grassland along the north and eastern perimeter of the site. Create new areas of vegetation (e.g. planted trees, scrub or reduce mowing in a strip) along the western and southern boundaries to link up with existing areas on and off site.	
OS64	Greenland Dock	Information boards for history/ wildlife. More pontoons would increase nesting habitat for breeding waterfowl and could provide shelter for fish fry.	
OS160	Belair Park	Lay native hedgerow to provide improved habitat for nesting birds.	
OS38	Russia Dock Woodland	Thin woodland along the eastern boundary and manage bramble encroachment in roughland mosaic to allow sunlight to reach ground flora. Reduce shading over standing water to increase macrophyte cover and diversity. Control invading false acacia, holm oak and snowberry.	
OS56	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park	Potential to increase native orchard species and reduce mowing below to provide high value habitat for invertebrates and potentially meet the criteria for London/Southwark BAP priority Orchard habitat. Improve boundary vegetation e.g. by planting a hedgerow or tree line to reduce noise from adjacent roads and provide better habitat for birds. Include woodland area (currently outside of the site boundary). Extend and allow open access to the nature area along the northern boundary.	
OS46	Tabard Gardens	The wildflower bank could be enhanced with planting of native perianal wildflowers. Interpretation of value of scrub habitat and provide interpretation board/ Smart Phone link.	
OS105	Lucas Gardens	Expand the nature area (wildlife grassland and scrub) along the western boundary of the site, currently dominated by amenity grassland.	
OS138	Sunray Gardens	Additional bank reinforcement around the lake with willow spilling would help reduce erosion.	
OS82	Surrey Gardens aka Pasley Park	Additional planting within woodland of scrub and ground flora species.	

Open Space no:	Open Space Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed		
OS20	Leathermarket Gardens	Currently managed by Southwark Parks Department. Bankside Open Spaces Trust have created a small wildflower area for invertebrates. Extend native hedgerows along site boundaries. Seed wildflower grassland along other boundaries. Potential to replace roses and ornamental shrubs with native species or those with known value for wildlife.		
OS41	Surrey Docks Farm	Plant a biodiverse green roof to replace the failing one on the café roof. Consider removing sections of paving along waterfront and plant with native shrub/tree species.		
OS49	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	Additional planting of native shrubs.		
OS114	Lettsom Gardens	Thin sycamore, bramble and ivy within woodland to reduce competition, increase structural variation and enable native ground flora to establish.		
OS68	Victory Community Park	Reduce mowing frequency and seed with wildflowers		
OS95	Bird-in-Bush Park	Provide information about value of bare ground to invertebrates. Seed or plant wild flowers of high nectar value.		
OS31	St Mary's Churchyard Gardens	Reduce mowing under trees and in the western part of the site. Plant flowers of known value to wildlife within borders and rockery rather than evergreen shrubs.		
OS185	Carlton Place Copse/ Hitherwood	Selective removal of holly to provide light for ancient woodland ground flora. Remove rubbish. Provide information and engagement to local residents to improve stewardship of site and reduce tipping.		
OS116	Consort Park	Lay hedgerow along western boundary (in five years). Install bird boxes on trees. Plant woodland ground flora (such as cyclamen, hellebores and ferns around trees and on banks less used by children.		
OS89	Varcoe Road Nature Garden / Bramcote Nature Garden	Extend species-rich hedgerow around entire boundary.		
OS21	Snowfield Nature Garden	Current proposal is to enhance the roof top terrace into an outdoor classroom with planted beds.		
OS183	Countisbury House Lawns	Seed contiguous areas of grassland with corky fruited water dropwort and other grassland herbs.		
OS81	Walworth Garden Farm	Limited due to garden focus. Retrofit green roof on office building. Plant wildflowers in small areas of amenity grassland and allow to grow tall and set seed. Plant native climbers along western boundary.		
OS134	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	Potential to create invertebrate habitat wall along eastern fence.		
OS112	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	Improve boundary vegetation with hedging and climbers to reduce openings and prevent illegal entry. Ponds no longer present and so could be re-established.		

Open Space no:	Open Space Name	Type of habitat enhancement proposed
OS74	Galleywall Road Nature Garden	Currently lacks local recognition or public involvement. As such a beehive and small allotment plots are being proposed to improve this. The invertebrate habitat wall is a feature worth promoting.
OS63	Aspinden Road Nature Garden	Potential to enhance the pond to create a permanent water feature, as currently it is prone to drying out. Planting of understorey shrubs such as hazel and blackthorn would provide foraging and nesting habitat for common species of birds. Under plant woodland with wildflowers
OS103	Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	Community involvement to improve condition.

Boundary Changes and Mapping errors

4.13 A number of SINC's and candidate SINC's require boundary changes as a result of new development or that new habitat had been created adjacent and should be included in the site boundary. A number of sites also had minor boundary errors that are more likely the result of digitisation rather than actual boundary changes. Table 14 lists SINC's and Open Spaces effected.

Table 14: Proposed amendments to SINC and candidate SINC boundaries.

SINC Y/ proposed	SINC / Open Space name	Changes	Reasons
		Boundary of	changes
Yes	Albion Channel	1	Extend boundary to include the strip of scattered trees along the eastern boundary of the channel and around Surrey Water.
Yes	Aquarius Golf Course	1	Extend SINC boundary to include the whole golf course which supports additional areas of herb-rich grassland, woodland and scrub and has good habitat continuity with Brenchley Gardens in the north and Camberwell New Cemetery to the south.
Yes	Benhill Road Nature Garden	1	Northern section excluded due to school development.
Yes	Brenchley Gardens	2	To include areas of herb-rich grassland within adjacent grassland.
Yes	Burgess Park	2	Amend the eastern boundary to exclude a private property, extend the boundary south of the café close to Addington Square to correspond with the extent of grassland.

SINC Y/	SINC / Open	Changes	Reasons
proposed	Space name		
Proposed	Cossal Park	1	Extend boundary to include area of scrub to the north of the park (formally old tennis courts). This area provides excellent habitat for foraging and nesting birds and overwintering habitat for invertebrates.
Yes	Dog Kennel Hill Wood	1	Extend boundary to include area of semi- mature, secondary woodland along the south east corner of value to breeding birds.
Yes	Dulwich Upper Woods	Several	Amend boundary to include native woodland to the south and east of the existing SINC. Remove grassland along College Road.
Yes	Geraldine Mary Harmsworth	1	Extend to include area of native woodland in the south east corner of the site.
Yes	Greenland Dock & St Georges Wharf	1	Extend to include area of standing water to the north, which supports aquatic habitat, of value to amphibian's birds and invertebrates.
Proposed	Grove Park Allotments	1	Extend boundary to include access driveway and boundary walls to allotments, which has been planted and contain mature fruit trees and climbers.
Yes	Grove park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides	1	Extend northern boundary at western end of site to include planting.
Yes	James Allen's Girls' School Botany Garden	several	Exclude area that dominated by hardstanding and include area of grassland with mature oak trees.
Yes	Lavender Pond Nature Park (LNR)	1	Extend to include small entrance to the north with mature trees.
Yes	Northfield House Community Garden	1	Extend to include the whole of Northfield House Grounds, which contain two other gardens and extensively vegetated walls.
Proposed	Nursery Row Park	Several	Extend boundary to the north to include area of scrub, orchard planting and amenity grassland. Extend boundary to the west to include two small areas recently planted with herbaceous species.
Yes	Peckham Rye Park and Common	1	Extend boundary to include Piermont Common in the south east corner.

SINC Y/	SINC / Open	Changes	Reasons
proposed	Space name		111111111111111111111111111111111111111
Yes	Russia Dock Woodland & Stave Hill Ecological Park	several	Exclude triangle of land in the east as a result of development. Include habitat (woodland and new park) within Surrey Docks Sports Ground. (OS7 and OS6). Amend boundary along road to exclude hard-standing.
Proposed	Salisbury Row Park	Several	Extend boundaries to include two small areas of amenity grassland (former roads) with the rest of the proposed SINC.
Proposed	Old Nursery site	1	Merge with Southwark Park SINC, which is contiguous with its southern boundary.
Yes	Southwark Park	Several	Extend park boundary to include linear area along the eastern boundary contiguous with the old nursery site (CW4).
Proposed	Faraday Gardens	2	Boundary line needs amending in the southwest corner (most likely a mapping error). Extend boundary in the northwest to include recently created wildlife pond and herbaceous planting.
Proposed	St Peter's Churchyard	Several	Extend boundary to include the church building and land to the north west which comprises scattered mature trees, boundary walls and planted shrubbery.
	Changes	due to existing	g GIS mapping errors
Yes	St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	1	Northern boundary
Yes	Sunray Gardens	2	North East/South West boundaries
Yes	Tabard Gardens	2	South East/North West boundaries
Yes	Galleywall Road Nature Garden	1	Southern boundary
Yes	Benhill Nature Reserve	2	Eastern and western boundaries
Yes	Surrey Docks Farm	1	Eastern boundary
Yes	Belair Park	1	Northern boundary
Yes	Lettsom Gardens	3	South, north and western boundaries
Yes	Dicken's Square (Rockingham Park)	1	North-west boundary

SINC Y/ proposed	SINC / Open Space name	Changes	Reasons
Yes	Consort Park	1	North-west boundary

Changes to SINC and Candidate SINC Names

4.14 Existing SINC's and Candidate SINC proposed changes to names are listed in Table 15. This reflects proposed changes in site boundaries and changes in site use or management. It is also hopes to go some way in reducing the confusion between SINC names and Open Spaces Names, which are often slightly different. The table excludes the SINC's to be separated, which the proposed names have been listed above.

Table 15: Proposed name changes.

SINC no	SINC Name	Proposed SINC Name	Reason
M075	Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods	Sydenham Hill Wood LNR and Dulwich Woods	Better reflects the part of the site with LNR status.
M075	Nunhead Cemetery	Nunhead Cemetery (LNR)	Better reflects the sites full designation.
SoBI07	Dulwich Upper Woods	Dulwich Upper Wood (LNR) & College Road wood	Better reflects the sites full designation
SoBI09	Peckham Rye Park and Common	Peckham Rye Park, Common & Piermont Green	Reflects all areas contained within SINC site.
SoBI03	One Tree Hill	One Tree Hill (LNR)	Better reflects the sites full designation
SoL23	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	Bressemer Garden	Name on entrance to garden
SoL21	Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	Bellenden Road Nature Garden	The name given to the sign on the front gate.
SoL34	Bellenden Nature Garden / Highshore Open Space	William Griggs Garden	The name on the plaque next to the garden
SoL18	Northfield House Community Garden	Northfield House Community Gardens	Correcting spelling mistake on GIS data.
SoL22	Dog Kennel Hill Wood	Dog Kennel Hill Wood, & Adventure Playground	More accurate description.
SoL32	Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden	Snowsfields Nature Garden.	Simpler description

SINC no	SINC Name	Proposed SINC Name	Reason
SoL28	Surrey Gardens aka Pasley Park	Pasley Park	Correct name of site
SoBII15	Walworth City Farm	Walworth Garden	The site does not house any animals and is a garden that focuses on a wide range of exotic / horticultural plant varieties
SoL11	Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden	Victory park & Elba Place Community Garden	Reflects community involvement.
SoL02	Dickens Square Park (Rockingham Park)	Dickens Square park & Butterfly Walk	Better description of habitats.
SoL23	Nairne Grove Nature Garden	Bressemer School Nature Garden	The name given on the gate.
Proposed	Bermondsey Spa Park	Bermondsey Spa Park	Correcting spelling mistake on GIS data.
Proposed	Grange Road Allotments (North)	Grange lane Allotments West	More accurate description
Proposed	Grange Road Allotments (South)	Grange Lane Allotments East	More accurate description

GIS data

4.15 A number of anomalies occur in the GIS data, Southwark BAP document in relation to Open Space numbers and names (Table 7 at the beginning of this section). It is recommended that the borough dedicate some time to update records and ensure a definitive, up-to-date list of SINC's to reduce confusion in the future.

SINC Citations

4.16 New citations have been written for all proposed local or borough SINC's. New citations have also been written for existing SINC's that are being proposed to be separated to reflect open space boundaries more closely. The council through their service level agreement with GIGL will need to provide new SINC references for all new SINC's and those separated by their Open Space Boundaries. Area and central grid reference information (highlighted in red) will also need to be updated once confirmed. All existing SINC's citations have also been up-date to reflect current habitats and management practises. Appendix 4 lists updated SINC citations (separate document).

Candidate SINC's - Biodiversity Potential

4.17 The potential for the remaining candidate SINC's to be enhanced for biodiversity was assessed, taking into consideration: current use of the site, size and the ease to which enhancements could be made. Marlborough Playground was identified as having the highest potential for improving biodiversity, whilst six other Open Spaces were identified as having moderate potential. The remaining Open Spaces were considered to have limited potential for biodiversity primarily due to their current intensive use for sports, amenity and recreation. Table 16 provides fuller information.

Table 16: Open Spaces with Greatest Potential for Biodiversity.

Open Space no	Open Space name	Enhancements			
	High Potential				
OS17	Marlborough Playground	A large site in the north west of the borough dominated by hardstanding and well used for a range of sports activities. The local BID district (Better bankside) are keen to create a sports garden, recognising the value of the space for multiple uses, including greening, biodiversity and climate change adaptation.			
Medium Potential					
OS99	Brimmington Park	A medium-sized park in an area of deficiency and located along a strategic habitat corridor. The site is currently dominated by hardstanding but could be enhanced by depaving areas and creating new habitats such as a wildlife pond, raised allotments, orchard and a small native woodland. The railway arches have potential to support roosting bats.			
OS42	Newington Gardens	Remove hard standing and plant shade-tolerant scrub/shrub planting under tree cover.			
OS69	Paragon Gardens	Create ecological play features from logs, rocks and ropes			
OS10	Nelson Square Gardens	Planting of species of known value to wildlife. Westminster Gardens may provide some useful ideas. Remove paved areas and plant with shade-loving, winter flowering species of value to invertebrates early in the year.			
OS163	Barclay Way	Reduce mowing under the scattered trees. Plant climbers along brick boundary walls and access routes. Consider SuDs features.			
OS86	St Peter's Churchyard	Plant more trees to provide a better barrier to pollution and noise from adjacent road.			

Protection of Mature Boundary Trees

4.18 There are a number of Open Spaces (around Dulwich) that are dominated by amenity grassland, mown for sports use, but support mature boundaries of mature oaks and

scrub. The boundaries are likely to be wildlife corridors and could support ancient woodland species or acid grassland. It is advised to identify and map these as green corridors (using the GLA methodology) and ensure a basic-level of protection to these ecological features in planning.

New enhancements

4.19 Other open spaces that have undergone recent biodiversity enhancement (e.g. Crossbones in the Better Bankside area) and the Peckham Coal Line (in Peckham) should be surveyed in the near future as they could support wildlife habitats in areas of the borough that have limited open space and access to nature.

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Glossary

Areas of Deficiency

Are defined as built-up areas more than one kilometre's actual walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough site. These aid the choice of Sites of Local Importance.

Blue Ribbon Network

A spatial policy covering London's waterways and water spaces and land alongside them.

Brownfield land

Refers to a site that has previously been used or developed and is not currently fully in use.

Central Activities Zone (CAZ)

The Central Activities Zone is the area where planning policy recognises the importance of strategic finance, specialist retail, tourist and cultural uses and activities, as well as residential and more local functions.

Green Chains

These are areas of linked but separate open spaces and the footpaths between them. They are accessible to the public and provide way-marked paths and other pedestrian and cycle routes.

Geodiversity

The variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms, soils and natural processes, such as weathering, erosion and sedimentation, that underlie and determine the character of our natural landscape and environment.

Green corridors

This refers to relatively continuous areas of open space leading through the built environment which may be linked and may not be publicly accessible. They may allow animals and plants to be found further into the built-up area than would otherwise be the case and provide an extension to the habitats of the sites they join.

Green infrastructure

The multifunctional, interdependent network of open and green spaces and green features (e.g. green roofs). It includes the Blue Ribbon Network but excludes the hard-surfaced public realm. This network lies within the urban environment and the urban fringe connecting to the

surrounding countryside. It provides multiple benefits for people and wildlife including: flood management; urban cooling; improving physical and mental health; green transport links (walking and cycling routes); ecological connectivity; and food growing. Green and open spaces of all sizes can be part of green infrastructure provided they contribute to the functioning of the network as a whole.

Green roofs/walls

Planting on roofs or walls to improve biodiversity and habitat resource and provide climate change, amenity, food growing and recreational benefits.

Heritage

The evidence of the past, such as historical sites, buildings and the unspoilt natural environment, considered collectively as the inheritance of present-day society.

Nature conservation

Protection, management and promotion for the benefit of wild species and habitats, as well as the human communities that use and enjoy them. This also covers the creation and recreation of wildlife habitats.

Open space

The term open space covers all land use in London that is predominantly undeveloped other than by buildings or structures that are ancillary to the open space use. This definition covers a range of types of open space within the urban area, both in public or private ownership and whether access is unrestricted, limited or restricted.

Open Space Sites

Each Open Space has a unique reference number (for example OS88). They may or may not include a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation Interest (SINC's) which will form either the entire Open Space Site or only the part of most value to nature conservation.

Parcels

The basic unit of survey is a piece of land termed a "parcel". A parcel is broadly homogeneous in terms of habitat, ecological value, ownership and public access. Parcels are grouped together to form an Open Space. Large Open spaces may have numerous parcels, whilst smaller ones are likely to have fewer or only one parcel.

Field Survey Form

Each parcel also has a written record on one or more standard A4 forms (see Appendix 1). Every parcel must be noted on the first form, which collects information about its name, location, ownership, habitats, species richness and details of the surveyor and the date and duration of visit. The reverse of the form collects information on land use and planning status, accessibility, nature conservation interest, recreational facilities, potential for enhancement, threats, change since previous survey and an evaluation of the nature conservation importance of the parcel. There is a field on this form to cover every aspect normally covered in surveys of this kind except for the species of plants present, and for detailed change statistics.

Plant recording form

A plant recording form will usually only be used for the more interesting or diverse parcels. It allows the collection of a list of species identified, with a coarse indication of abundance and qualifiers relating to maturity and distribution within the parcel. This information can also optionally be written on the parcel form.

Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SINC's)

SINC's are sites within Southwark that are designated for their nature conservation interest. There are four grades of site; Metropolitan, Borough Grade I and Grade II and Local. Each site has a unique reference number (for example M50 for a Site of Metropolitan Importance, SoBII12 / SOBI11 for a Site of Grade II / Grade I Importance and SoL21 for a Site of Local Importance) SINC's always form at least part of an Open Space (which has its own unique reference number – e.g. OS88). Many SINC's in Southwark comprise more than one Open Space. Recent guidance from the Greater London Authority is proposing that Grade II and Grade I are merged into a single grade at Borough level, regardless of whether it is currently a Grade I or Grade II.

Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS)

An alternative approach from the traditional ways of managing runoff from buildings and hardstanding. They can reduce the total amount, flow and rate of surface water that runs directly to rivers through storm-water systems.

Urban Greening

Urban greening describes the green infrastructure elements that are most applicable in central London and London's town centres. Due to the morphology and density of the built environment in these areas, green roofs, street trees, and techniques such as soft landscaping, are the most appropriate elements of green infrastructure.





Experience and quality that make a difference

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Appendix 1: Greater London Authority methodology

Open space and habitat survey for Greater London

1 Introduction

- 1.1.A methodology for open space and habitat survey in London was adopted by the Mayor in his Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. The Mayor's policies, procedures and criteria for evaluation of nature conservation sites (Appendix 1 of the Strategy), include the use of this survey methodology, which is now the main information basis for nature conservation planning in the capital. The survey methodology was first developed and used in 1984/85, when the Greater London Council commissioned the London Wildlife Trust to complete the first comprehensive survey of wildlife habitats in Greater London. It has been updated and consolidated by the London Ecology Unit and, more recently, by the GLA. It has the great advantage that it is standardised and comprehensive, so that any particular site is readily put into perspective.
- 1.2. The format has been further modified in 2004 to take account of the open space typology of PPG17. This opportunity has been taken to make a few other minor modifications. This revised format is recommended in the Mayor's Guide to Preparing Open Space Strategies (a London Plan Best Practice Guide), and will be included in the first revision of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.
- 1.3. Survey is needed for several reasons:
 - to keep the database up to date;
 - to extend the original survey to document sites which are smaller or of less nature conservation interest than those originally documented;
 - to monitor changes in the amount or quality of open space and wildlife habitats, within individual boroughs and in London as a whole.
- 1.4. This survey format is broadly similar to English Nature's Phase I methodology. There are a few small differences in habitat classification, but the two specifications collect essentially the same ecological information, in the same detail, with the same comprehensive coverage. The differences in habitat classification are largely due to the essentially urban setting for which the London survey specification is designed. The other main difference from Phase I is that every site has an individual survey form, in addition to a map, in the London format. This reflects the fragmented nature of green spaces in the urban setting, makes retrieval of data much simpler, and facilitates comparison of sites.
- 1.5. This survey format is sufficiently technical that some expertise in ecology is required to undertake the survey, particularly those sections on the back of the survey form. It is not, therefore, suitable for general public use. The front of the form could, however, be used by a non-ecologist for a stand-alone survey for open space planning. The survey is designed to collect the objective, or relatively objective, raw data. It must be stressed that the interpretation of these data is a separate stage, which should be planned at the same time as a new survey is planned. Such interpretations can be published, as in the London Ecology Unit's series of Ecology Handbooks, but further interpretation is usually required in response to particular planning issues.

2 The ingredients

- 2.1. The basic unit of survey is a piece of land termed a "parcel". A parcel should be as homogeneous as possible in terms of habitat, ownership and public access, and must lie within a single London borough. Parcels should also be relatively homogeneous in terms of nature conservation importance, as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are defined using whole parcels.
- 2.2. Parcels are grouped into "sites", which may often be better-known large units of open land, such as Hampstead Heath or Walthamstow Marshes. A site should always be defined to correspond with a single management unit, such as a park, common or cemetery. Many smaller sites comprise just one parcel.
- 2.3. These parcels and sites are defined on a survey map. This is usually at a 1:5,000 scale, although larger scales may be appropriate for parts of central London. Public access points to sites are also indicated on the maps. These maps are digitized electronically over Ordnance Survey LandLine or MasterMap data.
- 2.4. Each parcel also has a written record on one or more standard A4 forms (see appendix 4.5). Every parcel must be noted on the first form, which collects information about its name, location, ownership, habitats, species richness and details of the surveyor and the date and duration of visit. The reverse of the form collects information on land use and planning status, accessibility, nature conservation interest, recreational facilities, potential for enhancement, threats, change since previous survey and an evaluation of the nature conservation importance of the parcel. There is a field on this form to cover every aspect normally covered in surveys of this kind except for the species of plants present, and for detailed change statistics, for which there are additional (optional) forms.
- 2.5.A plant recording form will usually only be used for the more interesting or diverse parcels. It allows the collection of a list of species identified, with a coarse indication of abundance and qualifiers relating to maturity and distribution within the parcel. This information can also optionally be written on the parcel form.
- 2.6. The changes form is used where a comprehensive re-survey is to be compared with previous survey(s). Appendix 4 describes its use in detail.
- 2.7.A form is available as a continuation sheet, or for a revisit when the standard details remain much the same. The plant recording form can also be used as a stand-alone form for use on successive visits to a parcel if no major changes have occurred
- 2.8. When planning a survey, it is essential to decide on the following before starting:
 - the geographical area to be covered (e.g. an individual London borough);
 - the minimum size for a site to be surveyed (in the Mayor's 10-year rolling programme, this is 0.25 ha);
 - any land uses or habitats to be excluded. It is usual to cover everything predominantly vegetated or water, except private gardens. Open spaces

which are predominantly hard surfaces, such as some town squares, should also be included for open space planning purposes;

• the level and type of photographic documentation required.

3 Detailed instructions for completing the survey form

See the appended form. The form is designed for use in a clip board. One form is filled in for each parcel, but for the first parcel of a site it also serves as a record of the whole site. Any items that are the same for successive parcels within a site (e.g. site name or owner/manager) can be indicated as such with a "*".

Site and parcel number: This is to be recorded in the format:

Site number/parcel number (number of parcels in the site),

the latter item for the first parcel only. For sites which have already been surveyed, the existing site number should be used. For new sites, a five digit number not already in use should be allocated, according to the format:

First two digits: code for the borough holding the visual centre of the site, including leading zeros. These numbers are listed in Appendix 7.1.

Last three digits: unique number within each borough (001-999) including leading zeros.

Thus, in the example given, "27" is the number of Ealing Borough and "038" is the unique number of the site within the Ealing series. The site has three parcels and this sheet is for parcel 1.

Site name: This must be filled in for every parcel of a site. If at all possible use a name to be found on Ordnance Survey maps. Any secondary names can be given in brackets (e.g. Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp)). If no established name can be found, a descriptive name should be coined.

Parcel name: This should be filled in if a name exists on ordnance survey maps, or if a well-established local name is known. Otherwise, a suitable descriptive name should be coined (e.g. "Hanger Lane railway embankment" or "Pastures in north-east").

Location: This should be in terms of London road maps (e.g. "east of Fernbank Road, west of the railway and south of Longhalt station").

Owner/manager: Often to be gleaned when gaining access, sometimes to be found on a noticeboard on site. Obtain full address and phone number if possible. Guesses should be indicated as such. Where owner and manager are different, record both if known (e.g. "owned by Railtrack, managed by London Wildlife Trust").

Access/view from: Indicate access point(s) to a parcel if you gained access, and viewpoints where not.

Permission to enter obtained from: Unless a parcel is obviously accessible to the public, surveyors should not attempt to enter land without permission from the owner or other authorised person. This should ideally be obtained in writing before setting out to survey the site, but may sometimes be obtained on arrival. Note the name, status and telephone number of the person giving permission in this section of the form. If possible, obtain signed written authorisation on a separate sheet.

Grid reference: This should be an eight-figure reference for the visual centre of the parcel as indicated on the specimen form. Almost all of Greater London falls within 100km square 51 or TQ, only a small part of Enfield being in 52 or TL. Thus in most cases "TQ" may be pre-printed on the forms.

Surveyor(s): Initials and surname if not a regular surveyor, otherwise initials will suffice.

Borough: A parcel should fall entirely within a single London borough. A site may be in more than one.

Area: This should be measured to 10% accuracy from the map prepared of the parcel. On a map of appropriate scale, a dot overlay will usually provide this accuracy. Indicate clearly whether the units are hectares or square metres. Alternatively, a more accurate measurement can be obtained from GIS if the map is digitized.

Date: The date of the visit when the information was obtained, in the usual day/month/year format. A new form (which may be a plant recording form or continuation sheet) must be used for each visit to a site.

Time spent: This is the time spent on the parcel during the visit. It need only be approximate, as it is merely a coarse guide to the thoroughness of the examination.

Weather: A brief summary of the weather during the visit, concentrating on factors which affect recording, such as sunshine, rain, rough temperature and wind (e.g. "cloudy but warm, no wind"). This is to provide an indication if a lack of records of, for example, butterflies, is likely to be due to a poor site for butterflies, or to poor weather.

Access gained to: For an indication of the proportion of the parcel that was examined at close range. Add a note to clarify if necessary.

Open space typology: Tick one box only, to refer to the predominant PPG17 typology of the parcel. The categories are defined in appendix 3

Planning status: It will not be possible to complete this section in the field. Instead, it should be completed after the field visit by reference to English Nature's schedules of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR, currently only two in London) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR). The relevant adopted UDP Proposals Map should be consulted for other nature conservation and open space designations.

SINC or equivalent includes any site protected for nature conservation (different boroughs use different terms; Site of Importance for Nature Conservation is the most widely used, but others include Site of Wildlife Value, Site for Local Nature Conservation and Area of Nature Conservation Importance). Green corridor includes similar designations such as Wildlife Corridor, but not Green Chain, which is recorded separately. Other protected open space includes a wide range of designations, including Public Open Space, Urban Green Space, Local Open Land and Private Open Space; specify the designation which applies.

Ownership: Tick one box only. Local authority ownership is any land owned by a borough council or the Corporation of London, except for education land. It should be noted that land owned by health and education institutions, usually playing fields, should be recorded in those boxes rather than in the local authority box, since it is often

difficult to distinguish between hospitals which are run by the NHS and those which are run by trusts, or to know whether schools are in the public sector or not. Government/crown land includes land managed by the Royal Parks Agency and MOD land. English Heritage, Countryside Commission and similar quangos should be recorded as 'government'. Trusts can be private or voluntary. Religious ownership includes the Church Commissioners and all other religions and Christian denominations. Note which religion or denomination if possible. Note that while churchyards may be managed by a local authority, they will almost always be under church ownership; cemeteries, however, are more likely to be in local authority or private ownership, although non-Christian cemeteries are often under religious ownership. If unsure of ownership, use a "?" in the box of your best guess.

Public access: Tick one box. *De facto* access should be ticked if a site is readily accessible and clearly used by the public, but not if a few children squeeze in through a small hole in the fence. *Restricted* access includes time restrictions, such as open days, (but not parks that close at night, which can be recorded as free access), access only to certain people, such as club members, a financial charge for access, or access only to parts of a parcel, such as footpaths. Always note which type(s) of restrictions apply.

Accessibility by mode: Score each mode of transport from 0-2 as follows:

Pedestrian - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access for pedestrians, i.e. it is completely enclosed by a wall or fence, with no points of entry (including roads); 1 indicates limited points of access, i.e. two or less; and 2 indicates good access for pedestrians, i.e. multiple points of entry. This category is very closely linked to Entry points above. Also take into account the distance of the site from residential areas: if the site has no access points within 400 metres walking distance of a residential area (defined as a group of 20 or more dwellings), do not score it higher than 1; if no access points within 800 metres of a residential area, score 0.

Cycle - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access for cyclists, i.e. it is completely enclosed by a wall or fence, with no points of entry (including roads); 1 indicates limited points of access, i.e. two or less, and particular problems relating to cyclists such as limited gate width; and 2 indicates good access for cyclists, i.e. multiple points of entry and/or provision of cycle racks at entrances where cycling is not permitted within an open space_and close proximity to either the London Cycle Network or a designated local cycle route.

Public Transport - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having very poor access to the public transport network (which here includes bus stops, underground, overground and light rail stations), i.e. the site is more than 800 metres or ten minutes walking time to the network; 1 indicates limited access to the public transport network, i.e. the site is more than 400 metres or five minutes walking time to the network (but less than 800 metres/10 minutes walk); and 2 indicates high accessibility to the public transport network, i.e. less than 400 metres or 5 minutes walk to the network. For sites only on bus networks, if bus services are less frequent than one per hour, score 0, and if buses are between one and two per hour score no higher than 1.

Private Car - This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access for cars into the site and no car parking within 5 minutes walk of the site; 1 indicates limited or poor access for cars to the site, i.e. several entry points but no on-site parking provision (although off-site

provision may be within 5 minutes walking distance); and 2 indicates good accessibility for cars, i.e. multiple entry points for cars and dedicated on-site parking provision.

Wheelchair – This is scaled 0-2, with 0 having no access to people in wheelchairs (steps at entrances, steep sloped or very narrow, rough or soft paths); 1 indicates limited access for people in wheelchairs, i.e. some but not all entrances wide enough and without steps, only parts of the site suitable for wheelchair access, or the condition of the paths being less than ideal; and 2 indicates good wheelchair access, with most if not all entrances suitable and access to most of the site on an extensive network of well-designed paths.

Level of use: A coarse scale only, to be judged by physical signs as well as by direct observation of people.

Entry points: This applies to entry from outside an open space. It therefore does not apply to any part of a parcel that adjoins another accessible open space. If the parcel has completely open access, i.e. it has no boundary fence or wall limiting access, the *open access* box should be ticked, and an indication given as to whether this applies to the whole or only part of the parcel. However, if the parcel is bounded by a wall or other structure which limits the number of entry points, the *limited entry points* box should be ticked. In this case, it will also be necessary to indicate the access points on the 1:10,000 maps. In a few cases, for example, Tooting Bec Common, it may well be that a combination of access arrangements apply, i.e. some of the site is bounded by a fence and thus has limited access, whilst other parts may have open access, such as a road running along the site boundary. If this is the case, the individual points of access and lengths of open access should be indicated on the 1:10,000 map. If a parcel is completely surrounded by other accessible open space, the third box should be ticked.

Maintenance: Tick one box only. This is a subjective evaluation, and should be judged with regard to the intended land use(s) of the site. Good maintenance of a formal park differs markedly from good habitat management in a nature reserve. Tick *satisfactory* if the overall standard of maintenance seems adequate for the intended use. Tick *good* if it seems that special efforts have been made to maintain a better than average overall standard of maintenance. Tick *poor* if there are signs of inadequate maintenance.

In parks and other formal open spaces, signs of poor maintenance to look out for include worn out playing pitches; overflowing rubbish bins, tatty flower beds, litter, pot-holed footpaths and roads, worn-out grass areas (or signs that the mower blades were too low and have scraped off most of the turf), and structures and other features (including fences, buildings, gates, seats and lighting) that need cleaning, repair or painting. If none, or few, of these things are present, tick *satisfactory*, unless everything is unusually spick and span and in good repair, in which case tick *good*.

In sites managed for nature conservation, signs of poor maintenance might be litter and tipping, invasive plants including scrub invasion of high-quality grasslands, inappropriate tree planting or over-zealous tidying of dead wood. In some nature reserves, no maintenance at all might be satisfactory, but this is by no means always the case. Good path maintenance is always a sign that at least *something* is being done (and conversely poor or no path maintenance suggests that the site is neglected).

In the case of cemeteries, poor maintenance may be demonstrated by a significant number of headstones leaning over, or clear signs of untreated subsidence. Allotments may *appear* to be unmaintained; but do not identify them as unmaintained if there are

clear signs that they are in use - no matter how scruffy they look. Obviously, disused or partly disused allotments can qualify as poorly maintained (unless they are deliberately being left wild for nature conservation).

Predominant recreational use: Tick one box only. *Active* recreation includes pitch sports, tennis, swimming and running. *Passive* recreation includes walking (with or without dog) relaxing, sunbathing and nature study. If a large park has small areas of facilities for active recreation, tick *passive*. If sports facilities dominate a park, tick *active*. The relevant UDP Proposals Map or Ordnance Survey map may be useful if unsure which to tick.

Facilities: More than one box may be ticked (note that boxes for tennis courts and pitches require numbers). Explanations of some of the more ambiguous general facilities are provided below:

Play Equipment for under 7s includes play equipment that has been formally designated by the borough council on a sign or notice board as only suitable for children under the ages of seven and is normally signed to such effect. However, the category may also include play equipment that is not formally designated, but which is clearly for use by children of the aforementioned age, i.e. swings with cradles, small slides, seesaw, etc.

Play Equipment for 7-13 year olds includes play equipment that has been designated by the council on a sign or notice board as only suitable for children of the aforementioned age range. However, the category may also include play equipment that is not designated, but which is clearly for use by such children and may include such features as aerial ropeways, large slides and climbing frames.

Play Equipment for over 13s includes facilities such as skateboard tracks and basketball hoops clearly designed for use by teenagers. Such facilities may not be formally designated on a sign or notice board.

Seats: only tick the box if you consider that someone wanting to sit down would stand a reasonable chance of finding a seat. Thus, don't tick if there is only one seat in a huge park.

Refreshments includes only permanent structures or buildings for that purpose and does not include temporary or mobile facilities.

Facilities for the Disabled could include either specific provision in limited areas such as access, Braille signs, disabled toilets, scented gardens etc., or the entire site could be designed to meet the needs of the disabled (if so, this should be indicated in the notes on the questionnaire form).

Litter bins: use the same criteria as for seats.

Car parking: tick only if there are parking spaces within the site. On-street parking around or close to the site doesn't count. Car parks should be within the curtilage of the site, laid out for that purpose, not an area which represents an encroachment into the site, or local on-street parking.

Nature trails includes those areas of a site set out with signposts/guides indicating the significance of features.

Historical features: includes great houses, follies, bandstands, pump houses, bridges, ice houses, orangeries, old walled gardens, historic greenhouses, historic tombs and monuments, etc. Include all 'listed' buildings and structures.

Art Gallery: such as the Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens, but not temporary displays such as the Sunday morning Bayswater Road display on the railings alongside Kensington Gardens.

Sculpture/monuments: you might already have ticked historical features for these; don't be afraid to tick again. Be careful with piles of bricks and other things that might look to you like rubbish, but which might be 'installations' or even 'art'. Most cemeteries will include monuments.

Dog litter bins/areas: tick this if there are special bins for dog crap. Look out for dog-shit areas, which may be indistinguishable from sandpits. There ought to be signs.

Information: includes information boards, interpretation panels, leaflets available in cafes, etc.

Cycle Paths means formally designated surfaced routes for cyclists (such as the London Cycle Network). This does not, however, include facilities for off-road/mountain biking (even if way-marked).

Water Sports include water skiing, rowing and sailing, but not swimming.

Fishing includes only where coarse angling is permitted. There are usually signs indicating fishing rights. Do not assume that someone fishing has a right to do so.

Playing Pitches includes pitches formally marked out for the purposes of rugby, football, hockey, and other field sports. Specify the total number of pitches. In the boxes below the Playing Pitch category indicate number that are Mini, Junior or Full size. Junior pitches are approximately 2/3rds the size of full size pitches and Mini pitches are approximately half the size. Then indicate in the adjacent boxes the number that have the following surfaces All Weather, Natural or are Floodlit. All weather surfaces include astroturf pitches and hard surface tennis courts.

Horse riding can include rides (such as Rotten Row in Hyde Park), bridleways and riding centres (which usually have stables and other facilities such as showjumping).

Threats and disturbances: Give brief details of any of these which apply, noting the nature and severity of the problem in each case.

Invading plants includes scrub invasion of grassland as well as invasive aliens.

Erosion is damage caused by excessive wear, either through overuse of a site with inadequate maintenance, or through muddy paths "expanding", or through mountain biking, etc. Deliberate damage should be recorded under *vandalism* below.

Motorcycle scrambling is a common cause of erosion and habitat damage, as well as a threat to the safety of people using the site, and a noisy intrusion. Note if possible whether the motorcycle use is authorised or not (it is usually not).

Intrusive buildings are unattractive features, such as tower blocks, gas holders, masts, pylons, elevated roads and railways, that overlook the open space in a way that is

unsympathetic to its ambience. They need not be on the boundary. (The *boundary* is treated separately, see below.) Note if any of these things can be seen from the open space. Are they pervasive, i.e. always in the background or can you get away from them? Remember: they don't need to be adjacent to the site; they could be some distance away and still affect the ambience of the open space. Include pylons, railways etc. that cross the site.

Boundary treatment: note if the boundary of the open space is unattractive. This can be if the use is intrinsically unattractive, such as a sewage treatment works, a major traffic-ridden road, industrial buildings (unless attractive, modern, high-tech). It can also be if the boundary feature itself is unattractive. Typically, the boundary between houses and open space comprises a jumble of sheds, wooden fences, chicken wire and concrete slab walls, much of which is likely to be dilapidated, and often with signs of graffiti. Do note, however, that some boundaries, such as old, weathered brick walls, can be quite attractive. In all cases, use your judgement to determine whether the impact of the intrusive feature(s) is significant.

Redevelopment: Imminent redevelopment can be a serious threat. You may have foreknowledge of this (it may indeed be the reason for the survey). Signs on site include planning notices, advertisements for sale of vacant land, etc.

Safety/security: Note here any factors affecting public safety or the perception of public safety. This could include uneven paths and hidden holes, dangerous structures, evidence of use by alcoholics or drug users, and the availability of hiding places for potential lurkers, particularly near paths. Comments on sightlines, lighting and the proximity of other people might also be useful.

Vandalism/graffiti: Take care to distinguish between vandalism and poor maintenance. Vandalism is caused deliberately, not accidentally or by heavy use. Signs include graffiti; the contents of litter bins deliberately strewn across the site; broken windows; and obvious damage to other structures and features.

Litter/Dog fouling is perhaps the most common cause of complaint and annoyance for open space users. Most places are likely to have a small amount of litter, and places where dogs are allowed usually have some fouling. Record whether the problem is minor, moderate or severe.

Tipping includes fly tipping, dumped cars or dumping of household/garden waste over a fence; needs to be distinguished from serious litter problems, recorded above.

Pollution includes signs of contaminated land, dumping of toxic substances (such as oil drums) and water pollution. You could also include a note here if poor air quality affects the enjoyment of an open space beside a busy road.

Record aircraft noise or road/rail noise only if these are significant enough to affect the enjoyment of the site by people or to disrupt wildlife such as singing birds. Be aware that low cloud can muffle aircraft noise. With road or rail noise, note whether it affects the whole parcel, or whether it is possible to "escape".

Other includes any threat not covered by the above.

Interest/Potential for enhancement: A space for brief notes on the role of the open space and how the parcel might be improved. Use the "Notes" section overleaf to expand if necessary.

Recreation to note whether this is a major facility or could include potential to provide new facilities for a variety of formal and informal types of outdoor recreation, including for children's play.

Structural might include noting the contribution of the space to the character and attractiveness of the area or its inclusion in a larger network or group of sites.

Amenity could include access improvements, including for people with disabilities, or the provision of seating, shade or shelter.

Ecology might include brief suggestions for habitat management or a note that a littleused corner of a park might be appropriate for nature conservation management or habitat creation.

Education could include the proximity of a primary school, or the need for some interpretation, or the suitability of the site for a nature trail.

Social and Cultural could include noting any facilities/information provided that are targeted at specific user groups or whether the space is used for community events.

Heritage could note the historic importance of the space, its features or its relationship with the surrounding area, for example important listed buildings on the boundary or whether it is a designed landscape.

Health could note any evidence of activities, such as Green Gyms or Trim Trails, or sensory environments for the visually and hearing impaired.

Accessibility could include any suggestions for improve the access into the space for example opening up new access points close to stations.

Change since last survey: Make brief notes on any changes. Significant changes include the loss (through redevelopment, etc) of part or all of a parcel, major changes in habitat or management (such as total scrub invasion of a grassland site), or a boundary change moving the parcel from one borough to another. Minor changes include small changes in habitats or management (some scrub invasion, introduction of grazing, etc). Tick Error in last survey if it is clear that a significant error was made in defining boundaries or the classification of habitats. This does not include small differences of opinion over the percentages of different habitats. For parcels where there has been a significant or minor change the losses and gains are recorded in a separate record.

Geology, topography, aspect, drainage, soil: Notes on any of these factors where possible, with reference to geological maps if necessary.

Contacts/others' information/history and succession: For notes on people or organisations (other than the owner/manager) known to be interested in the site, for information provided by other people, and notes on known historical sources on the site or parcel.

Habitats: It is best if a parcel can comprise a single habitat, but this may be relaxed if additional habitats comprise a very small area, or if there is an intricate mix (such as hawthorn bushes invading grassland, or a park with scattered trees, hedges, shrubbery

and hard surfaces among amenity grassland). This can also be relaxed for a parcel comprised solely of heavily improved or managed land of fairly low wildlife value, such as an area of playing fields with some standard trees around its edges.

Aerial photographs are often of value when estimating the percentage cover of each habitat. Percentage cover should be expressed to the nearest 10%, except for very small percentages and consequently to make the sum 100%.

Appendix 4.2 gives a definition of each of the habitats, with notes on how to judge marginal cases. The definitions of some of the swamp/fen habitats have been changed to reflect the priority given to reed beds in biodiversity action plans.

Habitat qualifiers: These are located in three columns beneath the habitats on the form, and generally refer to the habitats in the column directly above them. Tick or fill in any that apply. Use a question mark if uncertain. The percentage shrub layer should always be estimated for woodland, but this need be only to the nearest 10%. "Sand/clay bank" refers to a sloping or vertical face of bare sand or earth which might be of value to invertebrates such as burrowing hymenoptera.

Species richness: This is a visual assessment of the number of vascular plant species in the parcel in relation to similar parcels elsewhere in Greater London. All species, whether native or not, count for this assessment, except for those obviously planted and not reproducing. As the comparison is within, not between, habitat types, it is possible to have a low score for naturally rich habitats such as chalk grassland or a high one for naturally poor habitats like heathland. If the survey was carries out at an inappropriate time of year, or a significant proportion of the parcel was not examined closely, "not known" should be ticked. It may, however, be possible in some circumstances to make a meaningful assessment without actually entering a site.

Interest: A particular interest is to be ticked if the site is judged to be notable for that factor. Tick the box if you have direct evidence (e.g. one or more locally rare plants present, or a slow-worm seen, or a badger path crossing the site), or use a "?" if the judgement is based more on the character of the habitat than direct observation (e.g. the site looks good for reptiles or there are features which might be utilised by bats).

Nature conservation value (surveyor's personal view): This is for the surveyor's view of the nature conservation value of the site. It is somewhere to wax lyrical. Beware of damning a parcel (except with faint praise); good places can be misjudged at the end of a hard day's work, even the best surveyor can miss something of significance, and a considered judgement will include factors not obvious on a field visit.

Notes, sketch map: A sketch map is desirable if no field map or aerial photograph is carried during the survey or if there are new details to be recorded which are fine enough not to be clearly annotated on the scale of the field map carried. It is better, if possible, to carry both an aerial photograph and a field map at an appropriate scale.

This area is valuable for noting observations made while walking about the parcel. Always note the dominant plant species for each habitat, and any notable plants, as well as any fauna identified, such as birds, butterflies and signs of mammals. Full lists of plants may be recorded here, but for more diverse parcels (generally more than about 15 species of plants) it is preferable to use the plant recording form.

Appendix 1 Borough codes for assigning site numbers

Code	<u>Borough</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Borough</u>
00	City of London	17	Newham
01	Westminster	18	Bexley
02	Camden	19	Bromley
03	Islington	20	Croydon
04	Hackney	21	Sutton
05	Tower Hamlets	22	Merton
06	Greenwich	23	Kingston upon Thames
07	Lewisham	24	Richmond upon Thames
08	Southwark	25	Hounslow
09	Lambeth	26	Hillingdon
10	Wandsworth	27	Ealing
11	Hammersmith & Fulham	28	Brent
12	Kensington & Chelsea	29	Harrow
13	Waltham Forest	30	Barnet
14	Redbridge	31	Haringey
15	Havering	32	Enfield
16	Barking & Dagenham	99	Outside Greater London

Appendix 2 A list of habitats for open space survey in London

11		
<u>Code</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Definition</u>
01/02/03	Woodland	Stands of trees forming at least 75% cover, including coppice and trees of shrub size, but excluding fen carr (19). Includes stands of willow except <i>Salix cinerea</i> , <i>caprea</i> and <i>viminalis</i> , but excludes hawthorn, hazel (except hazel coppice with standards), elder, juniper and the three willow species listed above, which are always scrub (06) regardless of height. Where the species composition does not fulfil any of 01, 02 or 03 below, code as a mixture. Always record % shrub layer under the qualifiers.
01	Native broadleaved woodland	Woodland (see above) with native broadleaved species (i.e. excluding sycamore and sweet chestnut) comprising at least 75% of the canopy.
02	Non-native broadleaved woodland	Woodland (see above) with non-native broadleaved species (including sycamore and sweet chestnut) comprising 75% of the canopy.
03	Coniferous woodland	Woodland (see above) with coniferous species (including yew) comprising 75% of the canopy.
37	Scattered trees	Trees forming less than 75% canopy cover over another habitat (excluding coppice with standards, which is coded as woodland). Record percentage tree cover here, and the rest of the area under the appropriate habitat.
05	Recently felled woodland	Does not include coppice, which is coded as woodland.
06	Scrub	Dominated (at least 75% cover) by shrubs (usually less than 5 metres tall), excluding fen carr (19), heathland (15), young woodland, coppice, hedges (25, 34) and planted shrubberies (38). Includes stands of hawthorn, hazel (except coppice with standards), elder and <i>Salix cinerea</i> , caprea and viminalis regardless of height.
38	Planted shrubbery	Dominated (at least 75% cover) by shrubs, usually non-native species, the majority of which have clearly been planted. Excludes hedges (25, 34).
25	Native hedge	Line of shrubs, with or without treeline, one or two mature shrubs wide (wider belts should be coded as scrub or woodland), with native species comprising at least 75% of the shrubs.
34	Non-native hedge	As above but with non-native species comprising at least 75% of the shrubs. If neither 25 nor 34 apply, code as a mixture.
31	Orchard	Planted fruit or nut trees forming at least 50% canopy cover.
36	Vegetated walls,	Includes ruins, fences and other artificial structures with an appreciable amount of vegetation (including mosses and lichens) but excluding

Code	Name	<u>Definition</u>
	tombstones.	artificial water margins, which should be coded as wet marginal vegetation (18) if vegetated.

26	Bare soil and rock	Includes active quarries, fresh road workings, spoil or tipping and earth banks of water habitats, where these are minimally vegetated. Excludes arable land (28).
27	Bare artificial habitat	Includes tarmac, concrete, railway ballast, gravel paths, buildings and artificial margins to aquatic habitats, where these are minimally vegetated.
08	Acid grassland	Un- or semi-improved grassland on acidic soils, with less than 25% cover of heather or dwarf gorse. Excludes reedswamp (17). Usually with one or more of Deschampsia flexuosa, Molinia caerulea, Nardus stricta, Juncus squarrosus, Galium saxatile, Potentilla erecta or Rumex acetosella in abundance.
09	Neutral grassland (semi- improved)	Mesotrophic grassland usually with one or more of Arrhenatherum elatius, Deschampsia cespitosa, Alopecurus pratensis, Cynosurus cristatus, Dactylis glomerata, Festuca arundinacea or F.pratensis. Contains more than just Lolium perenne, Trifolium repens, Rumex acetosa, Taraxacum, Bellis perennis and Ranunculus species (see 07 and 11), but lacks the characteristic forbs of 35. Excludes reedswamp (17).
35	Neutral grassland (herb-rich)	Mesotrophic grassland with more forbs typical of old grassland than 09. Likely to contain one or more of Primula veris, Lychnis flos-cuculi, Achillea ptarmica, Silaum silaus, Succisa pratensis, Stachys officinalis, Serratula tinctoria, Ophioglussum, Gensita tinctoria, Sanguisorba officinalis or Caltha palustris, or an abundance of Carex ovalis, Pimpinella saxifraga, Conopodium majus, Cardamine pratensis, Knautia or Filipendula ulmaria.
10	Basic grassland	Un- or semi-improved grassland containing calcicoles. Usually with some of Brachypodium pinnatum, Bromopsis erecta, Heliotrichon pratense, Thymus polytrichus, Sanguisorba minor, Centaurea scabiosa or Origanum vulgare in some abundance.
11	Improved or re-seeded agricultural grassland	Species-poor mesotrophic grassland containing little but Lolium perenne, Trifolium repens, Agrostis species, Bellis perennis, Taraxacum and Ranunculus species. Distinguished from 07 by its agricultural use and hence usually less frequent mowing.
07	Amenity grassland	Usually frequently mown, species-poor mesotrophic grassland characteristic of parks and sports pitches, containing similar species to 11. Scattered trees and shrubberies in parks should be coded separately.
12	Ruderal or ephemeral	Communities composed of pioneer species such as occur in early succession of heavily modified substrates. Typical species include Senecio squalidus, S.vulgaris, Sinapis arvensis, Poa annua, Hirschfeldia incana and species of Polygonum, Persicaria, Melilotus, Atriplex, Chenopodium, Medicago, Vulpia, Picris, Lactuca, Diplotaxis, Conyza and Reseda.
13	Bracken	Stands where bracken is dominant. Also used with other habitat codes to indicate scattered bracken.

14	Tall herbs	Stands of tall non-grass herbaceous species, often rhizomatous perennials, such as Fallopia japonica, Conium maculatum, Chamerion angustifolium, Anthriscus sylvestris, Urtica dioica, Epilobium hirsutum, Solidago canadensis and species of Aster and Heracleum. Excludes herbaceous fen vegetation 32).
33	Roughland	An intimate mix of semi-improved neutral grassland (09), tall herbs (14) and scrub (06). If these occur in large enough patches they should be coded separately. Usually the next successional stage after 12.
15	Heathland	Dwarf-shrub cover greater than 25% of species such as heathers and <i>Ulex minor</i> , with less than 50% cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> . May include a large amount of acid grassland (06) in a close mosaic, but code as a mixture if grassland areas are large.
39	Allotments (active)	Communal allotment gardens which are under cultivation. Code disused plots under other habitats as appropriate.
28	Arable	Cropland, horticultural land (excluding allotments), freshly ploughed land and livestock paddocks stocked so heavily as to have little vegetation.
16	Bog	Dominated by <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses (greater than 50% cover) with water table at or just below the surface.
17	Reedswamp	Stands of <i>Phragmites australis</i> with at least 75% cover of reeds. Includes dry and tidal stands.
40	Typha, etc swamp	Stands of <i>Glyceria maxima</i> , <i>Typha</i> species or <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> where these species form at least 75% cover.
18	Wet marginal vegetation	Emergent vegetation with a permanently high water table in strips less than five metres wide on the margins of water bodies. Contains species such as <i>Iris pseudacorus, Apium nodiflorum, Acorus calamus</i> and species of <i>Rorippa, Alisma</i> and <i>Juncus</i> . May include <i>Phragmites, Typha</i> and <i>Glyceria maxima</i> , but where these form single-species stands code as 17 or 40 respectively. Usually too small to map but must always be coded if present.
19	Fen carr	Woodland or scrub over herbaceous vegetation with the water table above ground for most of the year.
20	Standing water (includes canals)	Lakes, reservoirs, pools, wet gravel pits, ponds, canals, docks and brackish lagoons beyond the limit of swamp or wet marginal vegetation. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.
21	Ditches (water filled)	Distinguished from 20 and 22 by their (often agricultural) drainage role. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.
22	Running water	Rivers and streams. Always code vegetated margins separately and note trophic status and whether saline or tidal.

23	Intertidal mud, sand, shingle, etc	Intertidal areas without significant vegetation of higher plants. Try to record the extent at low tide.
24	Saltmarsh	Intertidal areas appreciably vegetated with higher plants, excluding reedswamp (17).
30	Habitat information not available	Areas which cannot be observed due to restricted access, etc.
29	Other	To be avoided if possible. Must be specified if used.
32	Species-rich herbaceous fen	Stands of herbaceous vegetation where the water table is above ground for most of the year, with less than 75% dominance of <i>Phragmites</i> , <i>Typha</i> , <i>Glyceria</i> and <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> . Distinguished by width from 18. So rare in London that it is not on the survey form; write in under "Other" if required.

Appendix 3 Typology categories

i. Parks and Gardens

Park refers to traditional public open spaces laid out formally for leisure and recreation. They usually include a mixture of lakes, ponds, lidos, woodland, flower beds, shrubs, ornamental trees, play spaces, formal and informal pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, golf pitch & put, footpaths, bandstands, toilets, cafes and car parks - but not necessarily all of these. Parts of some parks might be managed as so-called natural areas. Examples of parks include the Royal Parks, municipal parks such as Battersea and Victoria, and wilder places such as Hampstead Heath which, although having distinctly informal qualities, are maintained predominantly for the same purpose, and include the usual swings and roundabouts and playing pitches. Many parks are enclosed by walls or railings, although some parks that began as common land may not be enclosed.

Formal garden refers to spaces with well defined boundaries that display high standards of horticulture with intricate and detailed landscaping. It includes the London squares common to central London, which are typically square areas of grass with some shrub borders, bounded by railings, and surrounded by buildings. Examples include Belgrave Square and Soho Square.

ii. Natural and Semi Natural

Common refers to publicly accessible open space that has few if any 'facilities'. It will typically be mainly open rough grassland (not mown playing field or recreation ground type grass) and/or woodland, and may have a limited provision of facilities. In typology terms, commons are much less formal than parks or parkland. Examples include Wimbledon Common, Wanstead Flats, and parts of Epping Forest.

Private woodland refers to woodland which is not accessible for recreational use, nor managed for nature conservation. Record this under "other" until the survey form is revised to accommodate it.

Nature reserve is a category reserved for an open space that is managed primarily for nature conservation. Do not tick this box just because the site has a nature conservation designation. Many parks, etc. have such designations. An SSSI is likely to have park, common or agriculture as its type. Designated Local Nature Reserves, however, are recorded here. Also do not tick this box where you find small areas set aside for nature within parks, commons and other open spaces.

iii. Green Corridors

River should only be used for rivers and streams that do not form part of another land use, such as park, common or nature reserve.

Canal implies an artificial waterway which is navigable. Include docks in this category.

Railway cutting and railway embankment are self-explanatory.

Disused railway trackbed is usually obvious, with some traces of its former use. Where disused trackbeds are specifically managed for nature conservation, such as Parkland Walk, record as nature reserve.

Road island/verge is self-explanatory. Record as nature reserve if specifically managed for nature conservation.

Walking / cycling route is a designated footpath / cycleway through informal open space often along former railways or canals but record these examples as Disused railway trackbed or Canal.

iv. Outdoor Sports Facilities

Recreation ground is an area of mown grass used primarily for informal, unorganised ball games and similar activities (including dog walking). Not to be confused with playing fields, below.

Playing field is a site comprising playing pitches, usually for football, but also for rugby and hockey and, in the summer, for cricket. Playing pitches may not always be laid out in the summer, so look out for notice boards or changing rooms and pavilions for evidence. Include sites here even if they appear disused. Include school playing fields. Almost always, playing fields consist *only* of pitches; but they will sometimes have other bits of open land around the edges. Do not include sites that *partly* contain playing pitches but are more properly categorised as parks or commons. Pitches are often to be found in parks and commons, but the type here is concerned with sites that are exclusively or predominantly reserved for organised team sports.

Golf course: do not include golf courses that are part of parks, commons etc. This type does not include golf driving ranges, pitch & putt or crazy golf.

Other recreational is to be used for sites that are used exclusively or predominantly for other organised sports such as bowls, tennis and golf driving ranges (but not golf courses, see below).

v. Amenity

Village green is usually an expanse of grass in the centre of old villages, often used in the summer for cricket.

Hospital includes the grounds of any clinic or health centre.

Educational refers to school or college grounds and field study centres where school education is the primary function. Nature sites which cater for schools and for the general public should be recorded under nature reserves. School playing fields should be recorded under playing fields.

Back garden land is self-explanatory. While most surveys exclude private gardens, backlands are often surveyed for planning casework.

Landscaping around premises includes communal amenity space around housing estates and community centres, and also landscaping around industrial premises.

Reservoir includes covered reservoirs unless these form part of a park.

vi. Children and Teenagers

Play space is a site set aside mainly for children. It will contain the usual paraphernalia of swings, slides and roundabouts. Do not record play spaces here if they form part of parks, commons and other open spaces.

Adventure playground is a defined play area for children in a supervised environment. Boundaries and entrances are secure.

Youth area is a defined area for teenagers including skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and other more informal areas such as 'hanging out' areas and teenage shelters.

vii Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms

Allotments should be obvious. Include them even if they appear or are disused.

Community garden includes an area that is generally managed and maintained by the local population as a garden and/or for food growing and normally restricted in their access. For examples Pheonix Garden in Holborn.

City farm includes areas that are generally managed and maintained as a small farm by the local population, containing livestock and planting and normally restricted in their access. For example Freightliners Farm in Islington.

viii. Cemeteries and Churchyards

Churchyard/cemetery includes burial grounds, graveyards, crematorium grounds and memorial gardens, and gardens or grounds of non-Christian places of worship. Some former or burial grounds that have become full have been converted to informal leisure or recreation spaces; where the gravestones have been removed, these should be recorded as *parks*.

ix. Other Urban Fringe

Equestrian centre includes any land used for intensive horse keeping and riding, but not extensive horse grazing, which should be recorded as agriculture.

Agriculture includes arable and grazing land, including horse grazing, and market gardening (such as vegetables, often grown under cloches, etc.).

Nursery/horticulture does not include commercial retail nurseries (although these might legitimately form a part of a park or common, etc.). Horticulture includes areas of permanent glasshouses.

x. Civic Spaces

Civic/ market square includes tarmac areas or paved open spaces, which may or may not include planting. However, they do not necessarily have seats and may just be a plaza area, with some planting (usually trees) and public art. Often provide a setting for civic buildings and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. Examples include the area in front of the jubilee line station at Canary Wharf, and the plaza in front of Westminster Cathedral.

Other hard surfaced areas include other areas designed for pedestrians. These typically are used as 'sitting out' areas, where workers can enjoy the sun and eat their sandwiches, and as such usually have seats or benches. For example, Emma Cons Gardens opposite the Old Vic Theatre. This category excludes pedestrianised streets, car parks, servicing areas to buildings, and housing amenity space such as communal courtyards.

Other

Sewage/water works includes extensive sludge drying areas, filter beds, etc.

Disused quarry/gravel pit may be water-filled, but is not necessarily so.

Vacant land is land with no formal land use. This includes many "urban commons" which are used by people for informal recreation and which may be very valuable for nature conservation. If sites have formalised access and management for nature conservation, record as commons or nature reserves as appropriate.

Land reclamation is land recently decontaminated or reclaimed from disuse, which has not yet been redeveloped.

Others could be anything that does not fit any of the above categories, such as airfields or forestry (not wooded commons or woodland nature reserves).

Appendix 4: Recording changes in wildlife habitat

Introduction

When undertaking a comprehensive re-survey of open spaces, using the Greater London Authority Open Space and Habitat Survey format, it is important to collect change statistics as a contribution to monitoring trends in London's biodiversity. This report details the methods employed to do this.

The kinds of site involved.

Three types of site may be involved in changes:

- The first is sites that were covered in both the original survey and the current one. As the methodology used in both surveys was much the same, the habitat composition of each parcel could be compared directly. However this is inaccurate, as this assumes that both the classification of habitats and the estimation of their areas is not subject to error. The likelihood of two surveyors coming up with exactly the same data in the absence of change is low. In order to ensure maximum accuracy, rather than using just the raw figures from the original survey, the surveyor should use her judgement on what the real changes were, based on the original figures, contemporary aerial photographs and evidence in the field on the current survey.
- The second type is sites surveyed currently, but not in the original. This can occur particularly where the qualification criteria for survey differ between the two times. Here the surveyor has only aerial photographs from the time of the original survey and her judgement from evidence in the field to go on. Assessment of habitat composition based on aerial photograph evidence is difficult, but must be done to avoid biasing the results. While it is usually possible to tell the difference between broad habitat types, such as woodland, scrub, rough grassland, close-mown grass and bare ground, it is difficult to get any more detailed information than this. In some cases the surveyor may have enough local knowledge to record whether the grassland may have been acid or neutral, or the woodland may be native or non-native, but this is still an estimate.
- The last type of site is those which showed on the earlier aerial photographs as satisfying the present criteria for survey, but were excluded from the current survey because they have been replaced by hard surfaces, usually due to being developed in the intervening years. The original habitat composition of these sites is estimated from aerial photograph evidence alone, with the same difficulties as outlined above.

The size threshold for survey effectively excludes most private residential gardens and a few other small blocks of open space. The method does not provide an estimate of the changes that take place in such small areas.

Documenting the changes

The changes in an individual survey parcel can be complex. For example, an area of mixed semi-improved grassland and scrub can undergo succession, with some of the grassland being displaced by scrub and some of the scrub being replaced by woodland.

At the same time some other grassland could be lost to built development. Although the changes would be correctly summarised by estimating the original and final habitat compositions of the whole parcel, information on which areas moved between which pairs of habitats would be lost. This information is available to the surveyor, and these procedures collect the full details, as in the first four lines of the following table. Note that only 30% of the parcel is judged to have changed. There is no need to log the composition of the remaining 70%.

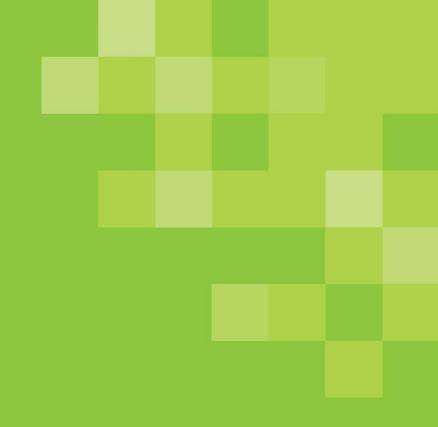
For the third category of site new 'change pacels' need to be defined. As these represent places where habitat has been lost and what remains does not currently qualify for survey, there is no requirement to bring these into the parcels system for general habitat survey. These are identified in a separate one-up numerical series as shown in the model given in the last three rows of the following table. The final habitat composition of such parcels will be predominated by habitat categories that support little or no widlife (26, 27, 07 and to a lesser extent 37, 38). The individual percentages in these change parcels should add to 100.

Parcel number	Area of the parcel (ha)	Estimated % of the parcel	Original habitat	Final habitat
22043/13	15.1	11	09	06
		5	06	01
		14	09	27
22C01	3.6	10	25	27
		50	09	27
		40	09	07

Site & Parcel Details	,				0 11 6	
Site & Parcel no:	/				Grid ref	
Site Name					Surveyor/s	
Parcel Name					Borough	
Location					Area Date	На
Owner / Manager Access / View from					Time Spent	hrs mns
Permission to enter from					Weather	III S IIIIIS
Termission to enter from					Access to:	all part none
					Access to.	an part none
Open Space Typology						
i. Parks and Gardens	iii. Green Corridors	iv. Outdoor Sport	s Facilities v	. Amenity		vi. Children and Teenagers
park	river	recreation gr		village		play space
formal garden	canal	playing field		hospita	0	adventure playground
ii. Natural and Semi Natural	-{	golf course	· —	educat		
h———	railway cutting			-		youth area
common	railway embankment	other recrea	tional	0	arden land	***************************************
private woodland	disused railway			landsc	aping around premise	s vii. Allotment
	trackbed		<u> </u>	4		
nature reserve	road island/ verge		L	reserv	oır	vii. Community Garden
	walking/ cycling route					vii. City Farm
viii. Cemetery/ Churchyard	ix. Other Urban Fringe	x. Civic L	1		Other	
	equestrian centre	civic/ marke	t square	sewage	e/ water works	land reclamation
	agriculture	other hard si	urfaced area	disuse	d quarry/gravel pit	other (specify)
	nursery / horticulture			1	vacant land	
	- 		ĮI.			·
Planning Status	Ownership	Public Acces	s		Accessibility (Scor	e 0-2) Level of Use
SSSI	Local Authority	Free			Pedestrian	Not or hardly used
LNR	Government / Crown	De facto			Cycle	Moderate numbers
SINC or equivalent	Health	None			Public Transpor	[L]
Green Belt	Education		l (describe):		Private Car	
MOL	Religious	nestricted	a (acseribe).		Wheelchair	
					wheelchair	
Green Chain	Voluntary Organisation	D. D.			3.5.1	D 1 1
Green Corridor	Rail Company	Entry Points			Maintenance &	Predominant
No open space designation	LRT		ess – whole/part o	fsite	Management	Recreational Use
Conservation Area	Gas Company		ntry points		Good	Active
Other protected open	Water Company	Whole su	rrounded by		Satisfactory	Passive
space (specify):	Electric Company	accessible	open space		Poor	None
	Other Private					
	·					
Facilities						
Facilities Tennis court	Golf course	Play for u	nder 7s	Litt	er bins	Historic features
		Play for u				
Tennis court (specify number)	Pitch & putt / crazy golf	Play for 7	-13	Rec	ycling facilities	Historic features Art gallery Sculptures / monuments
Tennis court (specify number) Playing Pitch	Pitch & putt / crazy golf Driving range	Play for 7 Play for o	-13 ver 13's	Rec Dog	ycling facilities g litter bins / area	Art gallery Sculptures / monuments
Tennis court (specify number) Playing Pitch (specify number and type)	Pitch & putt / crazy golf Driving range Changing rooms	Play for 7 Play for o BMX trac	-13 ver 13's :k	Rec Dog Nat	ycling facilities g litter bins / area ure trail	Art gallery Sculptures / monuments Public art
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_	
Significant	Contacts /Other's Information / History and succession
Minor	
Error in last survey	

Biodiversity		
Site and parcel no:	/ Date:	
TT 1 (0/)		
Habitats (%)		
01 Native broadleaved woodland	08 Acid grassland	16 Bog
02 Non- native broadleaved woodland	09 Neutral grassland (semi-improved)	17 Reedswamp
03 Coniferous woodland	35 Neutral grassland (herb rich)	40 Typha etc. swamp
37 Scattered Trees	10 Basic grassland 11 Improved / reseeded agric grassland	18 Wet marginal vegetation 19 Fen carr (woodland / scrub over fen)
05 Recently felled woodland 06 Scrub	07 Amenity grassland	20 Standing water (includes canals)
38 Planted shrubbery	12 Ruderal or ephemeral	21 Ditches (water filled)
25 Native hedge	33 Roughland (intimate mix of 9, 14 & 6)	22 Running water (rivers & streams)
34 Non-native hedge	13 Bracken	23 Intertidal mud, sand, shingle etc
31 Orchard	14 tall herbs	24 Saltmarsh
36 Vegetated walls, tombstones etc	15 Heathland	30 habitat information not available
26 Bare soil and rock	39 Allotments (active)	29 Other
27 Bare artificial habitat	28 Arable	
Treeline w/out Hedge w/treeline	grazed Frequently mown	Floating vegetation Submerged vegetation
hedge		H. H
Even-aged Ancient woodland	Infrequently mown Cuttings removed Y/N	Emergent saline tidal
plantation		vegetation
Coppic Dead wood pollarded	Unmanaged grassland Ridge & furrow	Naturally formed river bank
= = ===	flush wet Sand/clay bank	Trophic status:
Flush wet Wood shrub layer	flush wet Sand/clay bank	eu- meso- oligo- dys-
		eu- meso- ongo- dys-
Interest	Species 1	Richness
Invertebrate Bird	Geology Poor	Average / rich
Fish Higher plant		/ average Rich
Amphibian Bryophyte	Avera	age Not known
Reptile Lichen		<u> </u>
Mammal Fungi		
Nature Conservation Value (surveyor's personal o	pinion)	
NOTES / SKETCH MAP F	Pagard dominant and notable play	nt angaing hinds butterflies
NOTES / SILETCH MAP	Record dominant and notable plan	in species, birds, butternies
etc.		





Experience and quality that make a difference

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 Norfolk Thorpe House, 79 Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1UA T. 01603 628408
 Scotland Suite 10, 3 Coates Place, Edinburgh EH3 7AA T. 0131 225 8610





Appendix 2: SINC and proposed SINC Habitat Maps

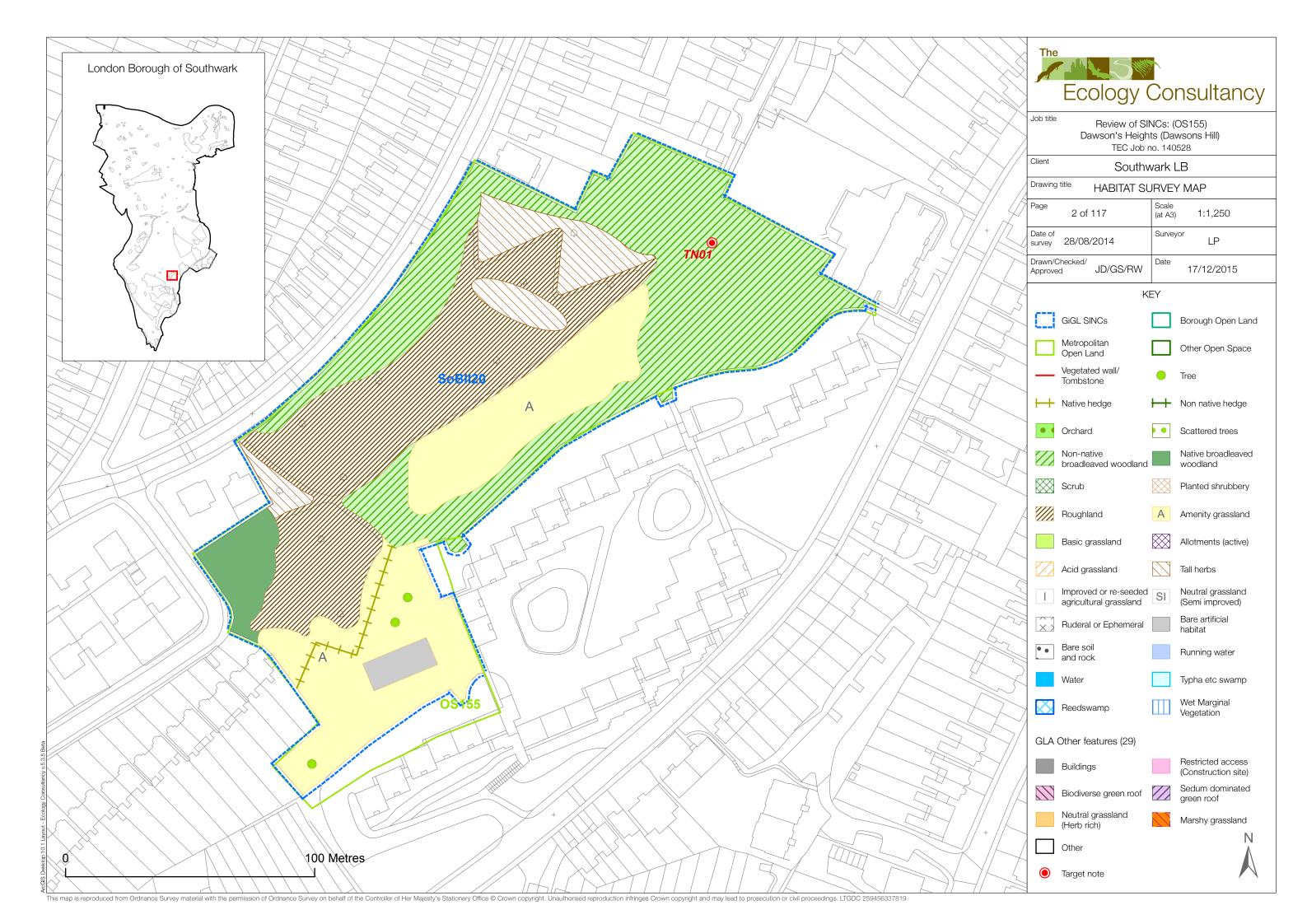
Corrections:

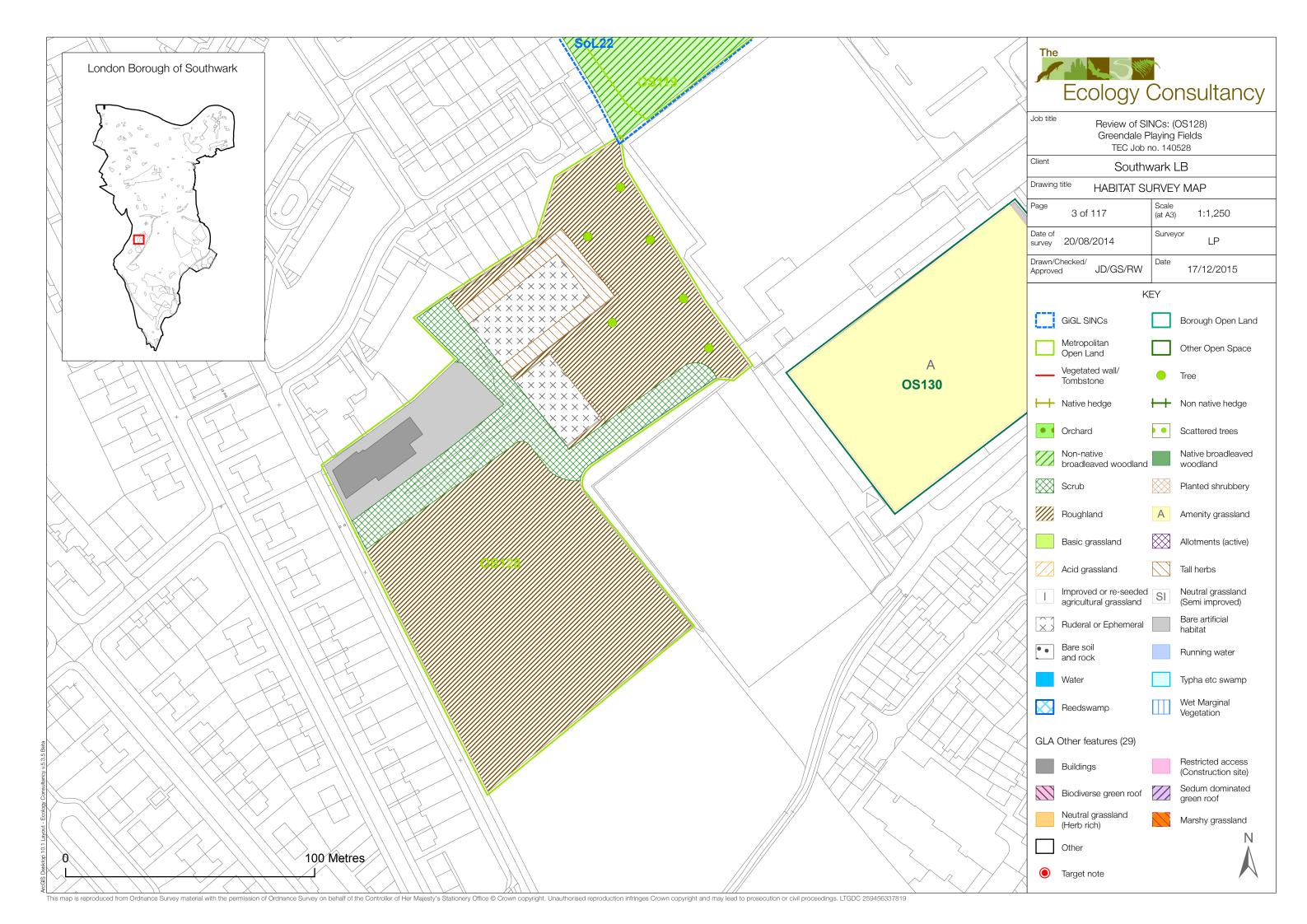
Please note a number of errors / clarifications are present on completed maps and GIS data. These are as follows:

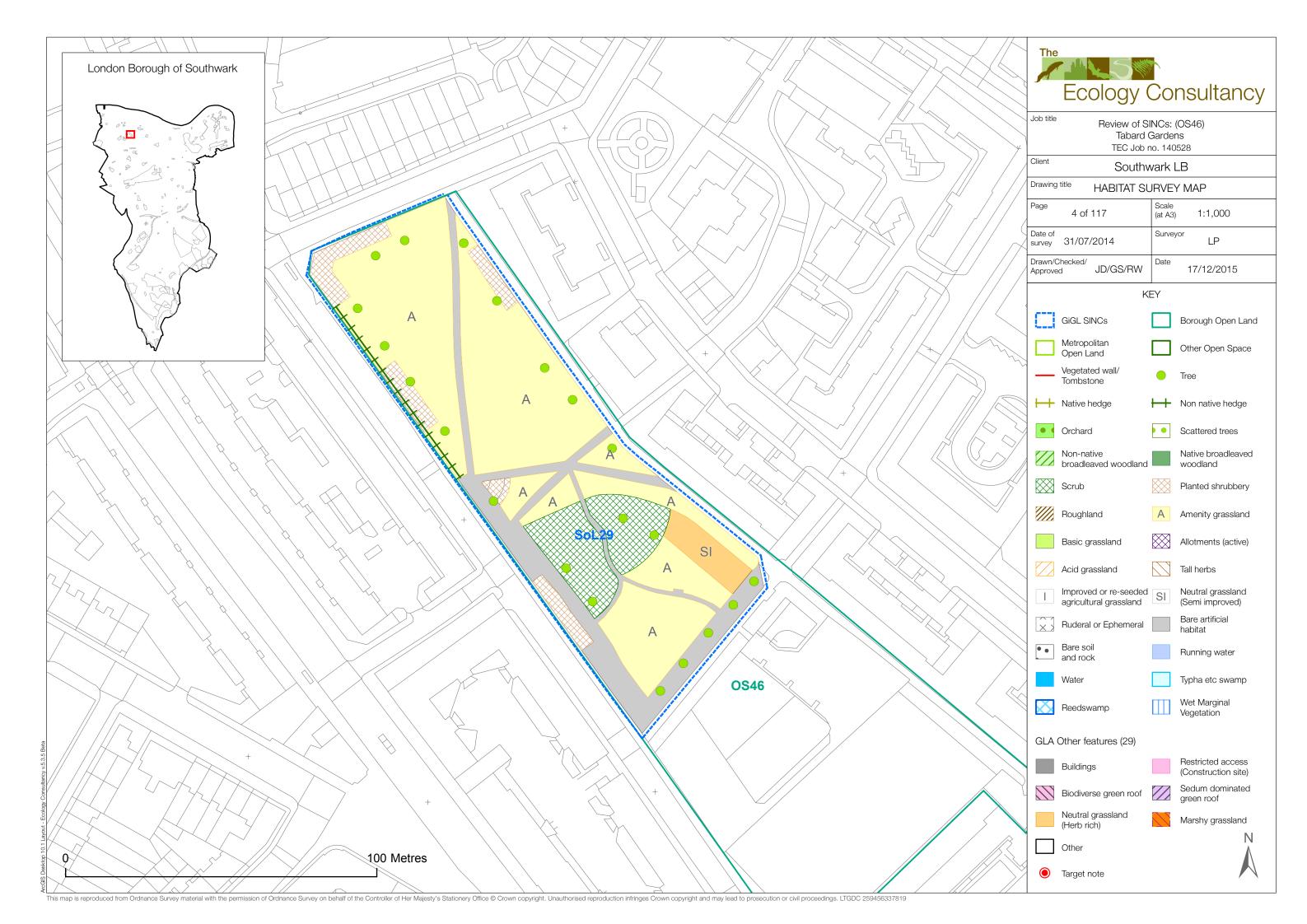
- GLA other features (29) Restricted Access (RA) not always due to construction site being present. Even where RA occurred, habitats were mapped from boundaries of suitable vantage points (as per GLA methodology). In some cases habitat was assessed retrospectively using aerial. Fuller information can be found in the habitat survey forms for each site.
- GLA other features (29) Neutral grassland (herb-rich) is a new category created to accurately map new areas of habitat enhancement (wildflower creation) eg. in Burgess Park. These areas are species rich and comprise a wide range of native species. However, none meet the criteria for neutral grassland (herb-rich) habitat code 35 in the GLA methodology due to a lack of certain notable species and abundances. Not even Countisbury Lawn 0S54 mapped previously as this habitat meets the criteria.
- GLA other feature (29) other is included but is not applicable to any areas surveyed.
- Hardstanding is wrongly used for areas of railway habitat, which should be mapped as bare soil or rock.
- Scattered trees are mapped diagrammatically only and do not illustrate canopy size.
- The location and number of scattered trees were not mapped accurately due to the time this would have taken and also because the habitat underneath the trees of more ecological value in general.
- Wetland habitats including reedbed, marginal vegetation, swamp are not mapped for large sites – due to the same size of these habitats. Fuller information is provided in the field survey forms for each site.
- Any boundary lines (to SINCs, other Open Spaces) is due to existing errors relating to the data set. This might be due to the old data or poor digitisation.
- Where habitats were identified next to or adjacent to the SINC or proposed SINC, these were mapped (and represent habitats with no site boundary). And are to be included within the new SINC or new Proposed SINC boundaries where relevant.
- Those sites that have not been mapped entirely in GIS are: Bermondsey Spar Gardens, Salisbury Row Park and Cossal Park.
- Northfield House Community Garden: The area of other: herb-rich neutral grassland is not as extensive as the GIS map shows.
- Dulwich Upper Woods and College Road maps: A narrow section of non-native woodland along the road verge (northeast and delineated by a green line) should be SI grassland not woodland.

- Dulwich Common Allotments: Large part of the site is private and mapped as N/A. It is not a construction site but a large property with mature boundary trees and scrub of high value to nature conservation.
- Honor Oak and Tulse Hill Playing Fields: Mapped as amenity grassland and NA. No access was granted but aerial and assessment from site boundaries was possible. The boundary are of high value to nature conservation being mature and native species.
- Belair Park: Bunds mapped as n/a construction site, which they were. However, they will be planted with a wildlflower seed mix and in the future, should be re-mapped as other: herb-rich neutral grassland.
- Russia Dock Woodlands: Northern boundary is mapped as N/A construction site but this is fact just a road and a GIS error.

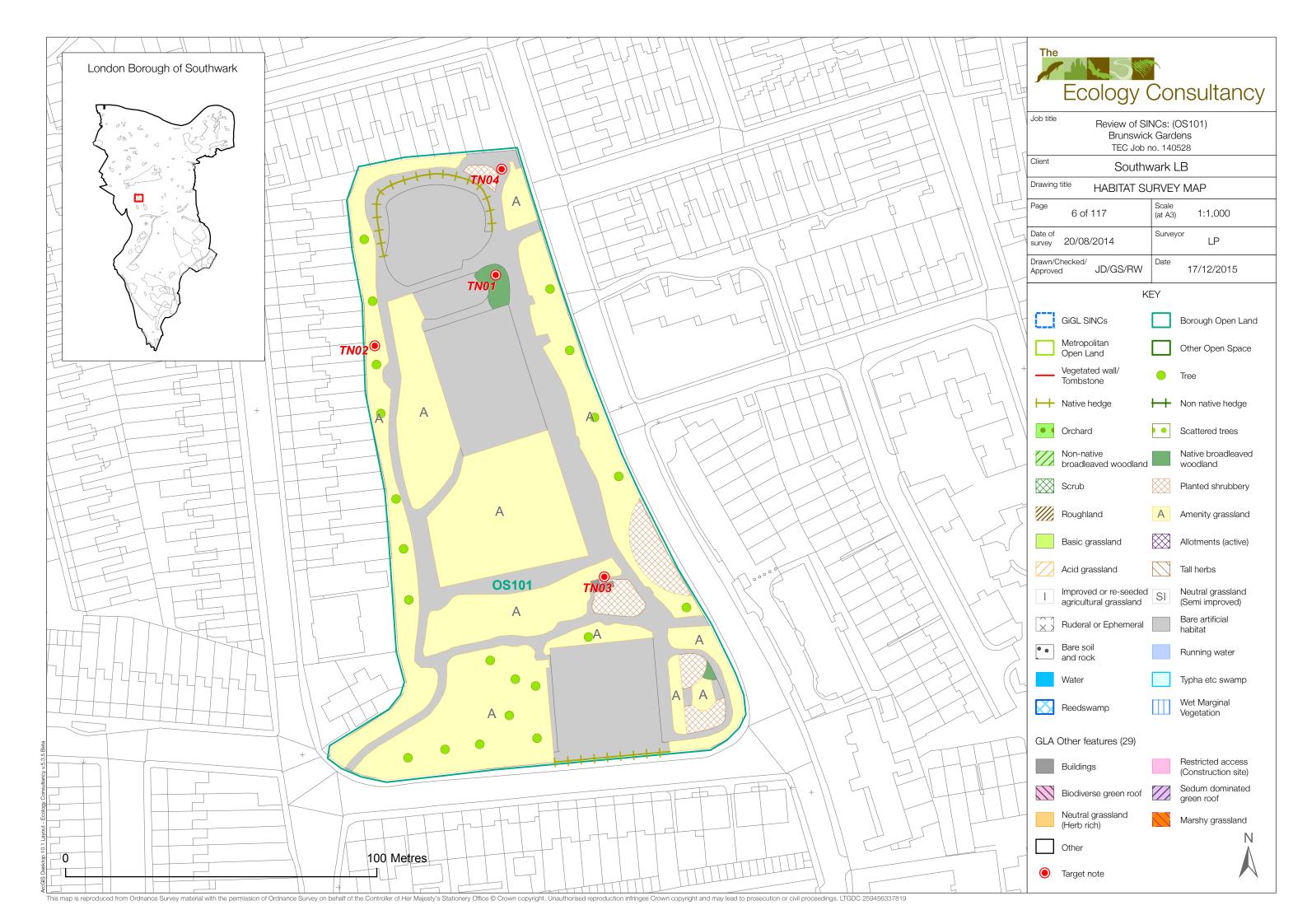


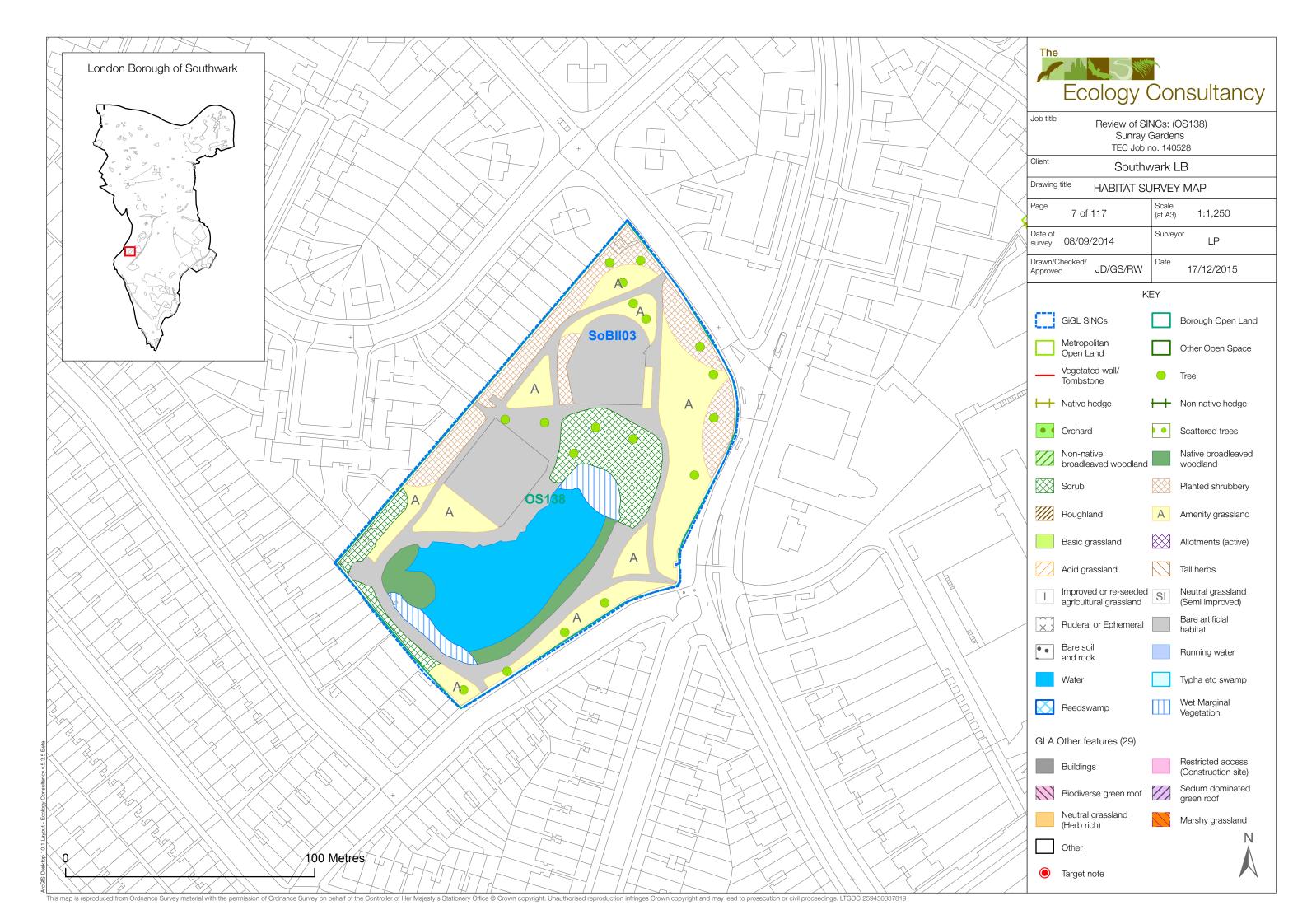


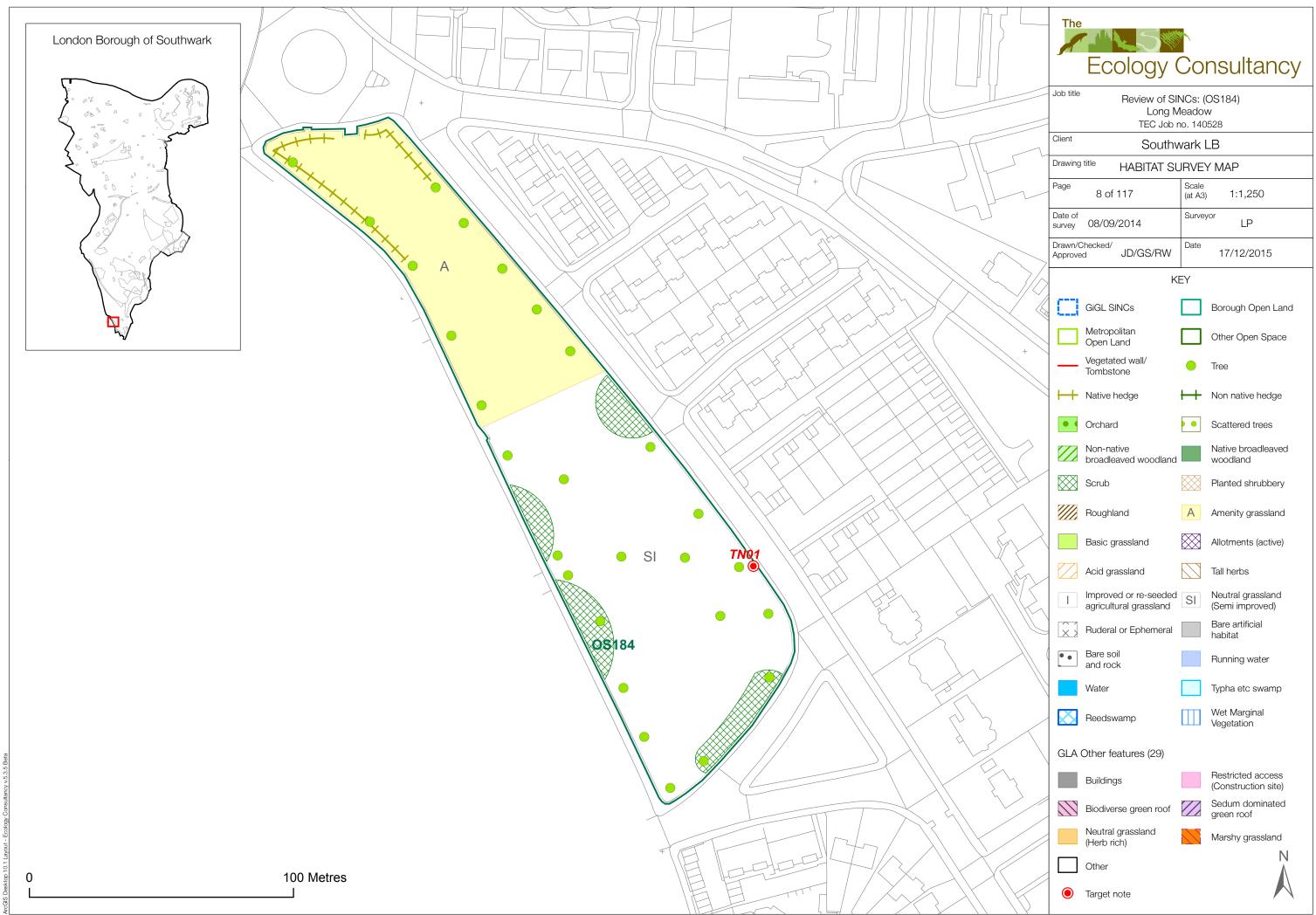


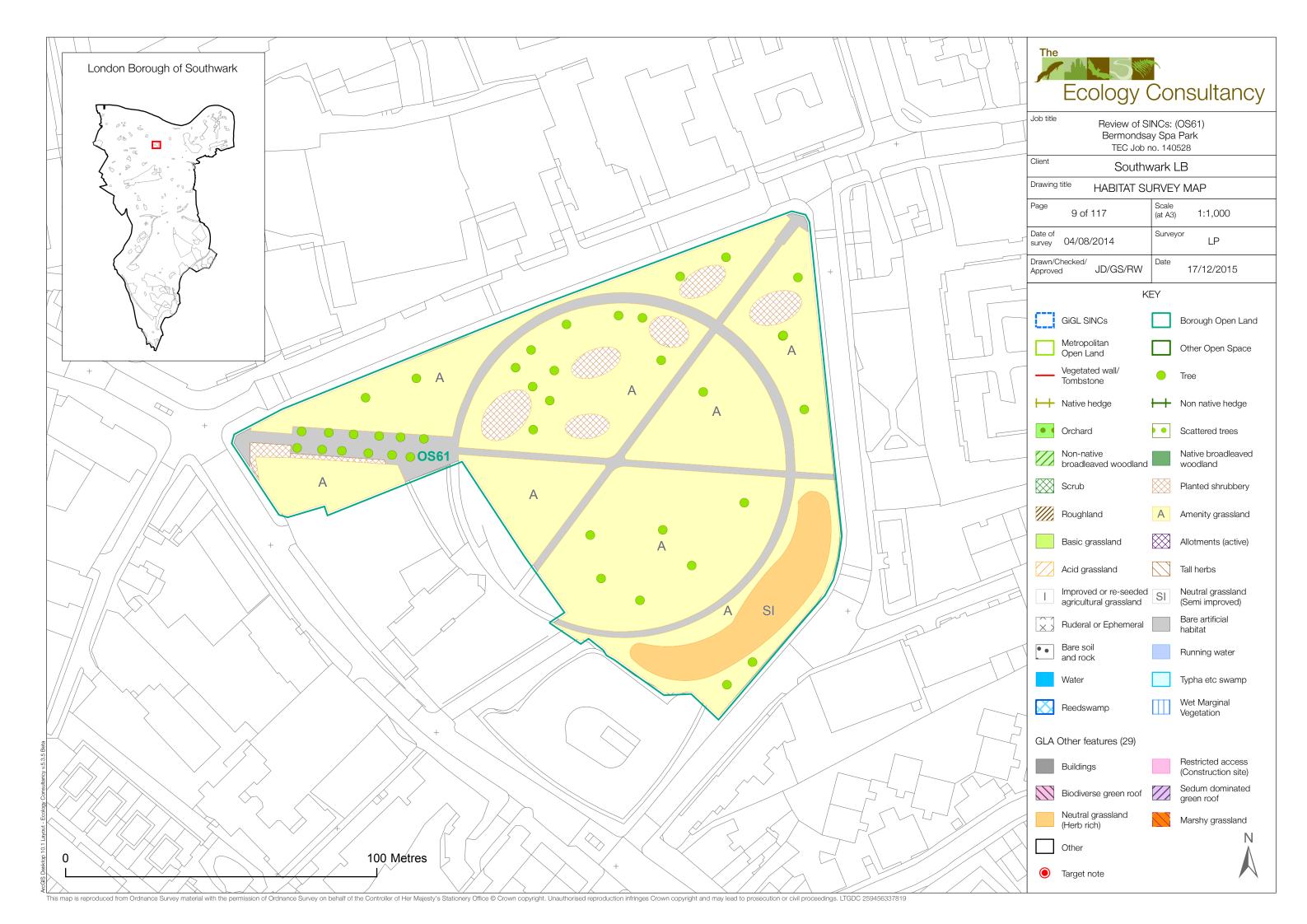




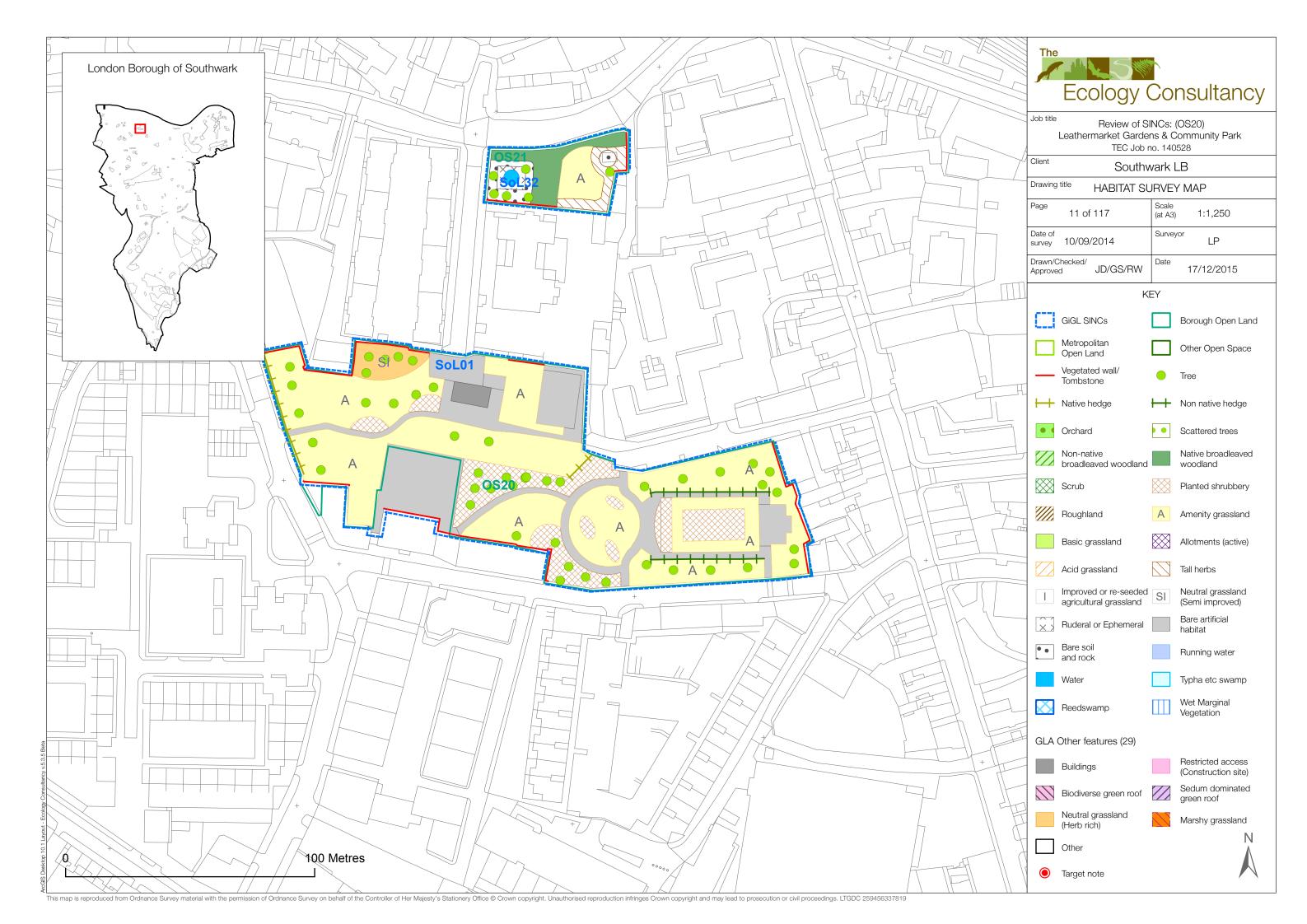




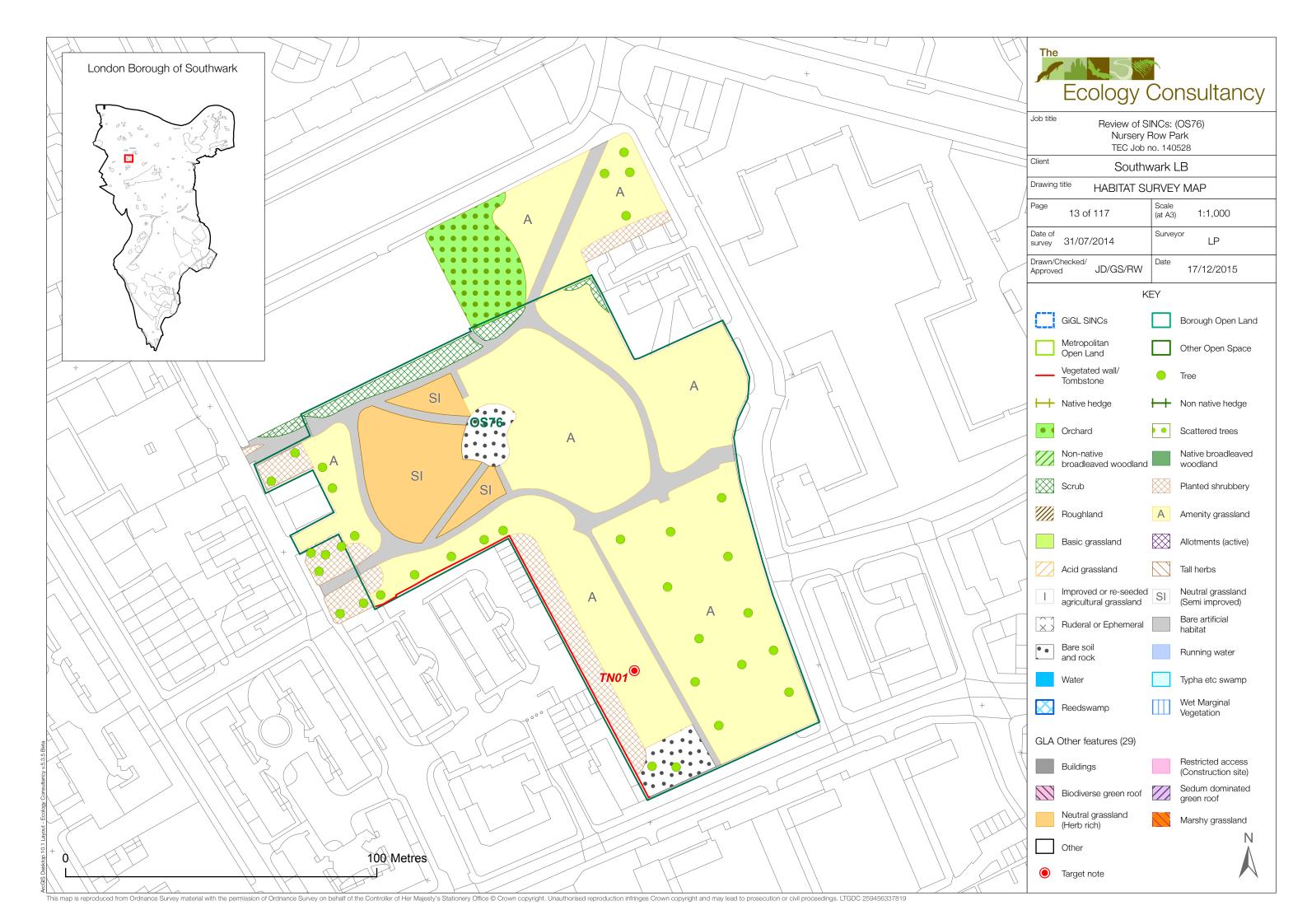


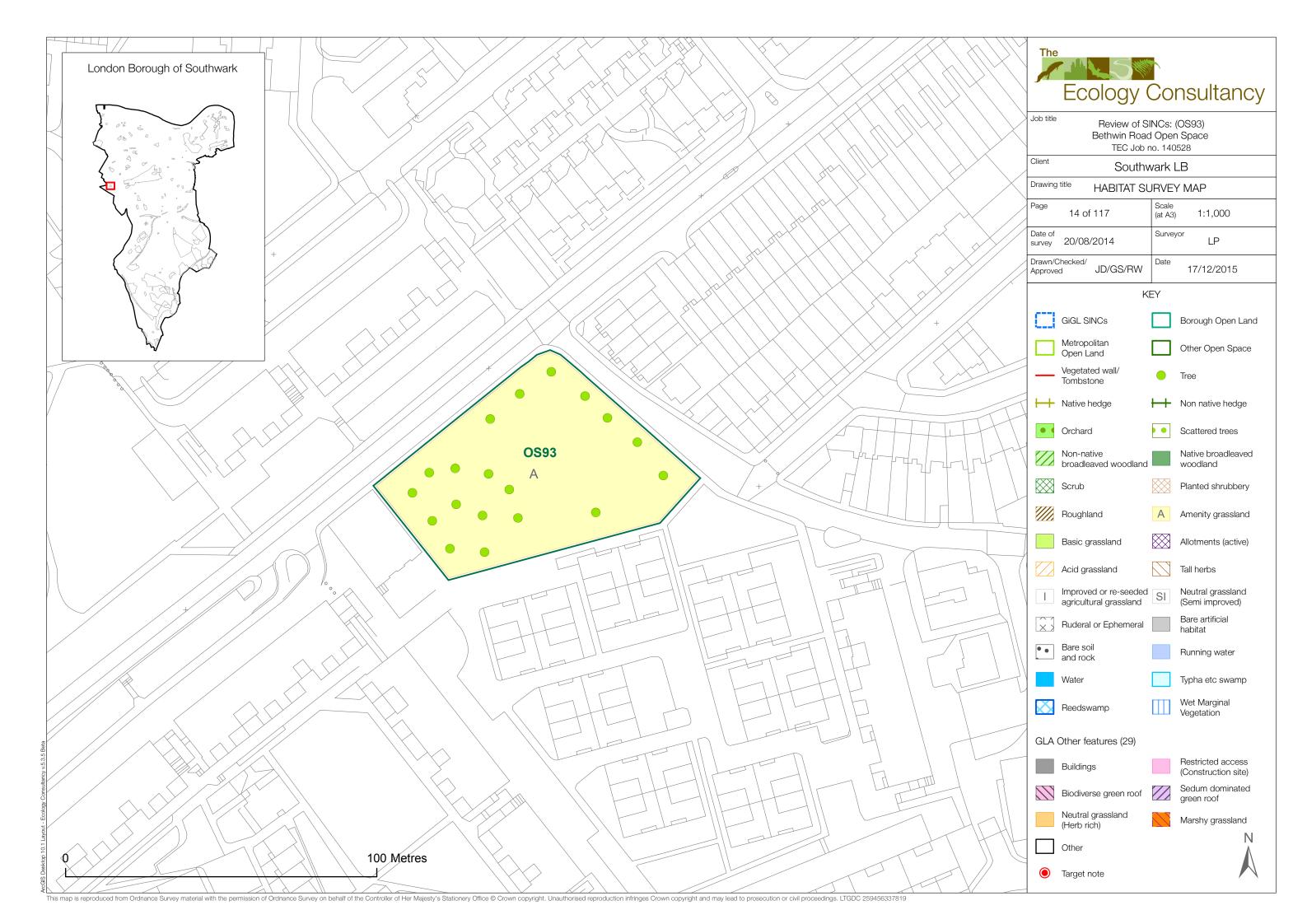


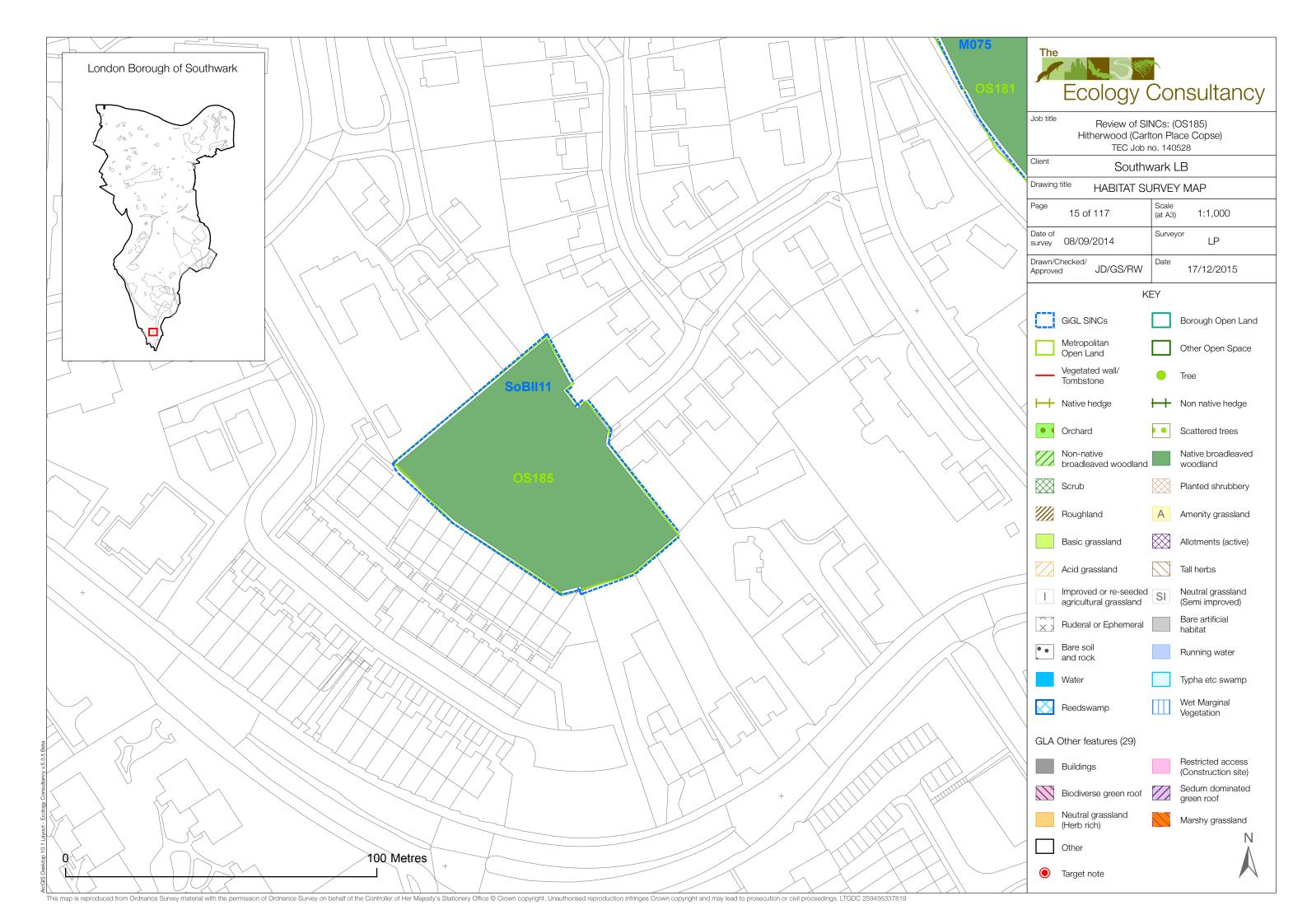


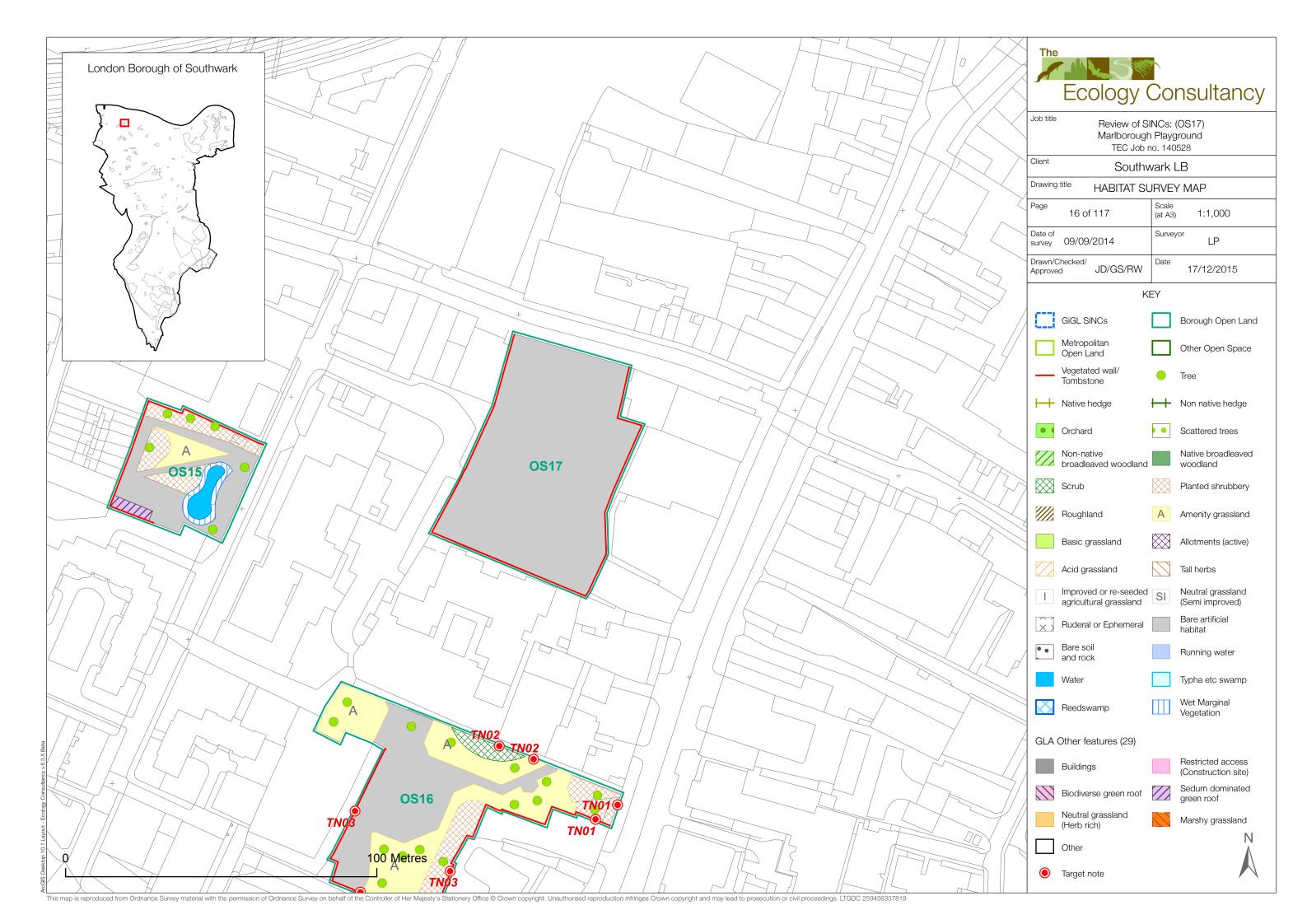




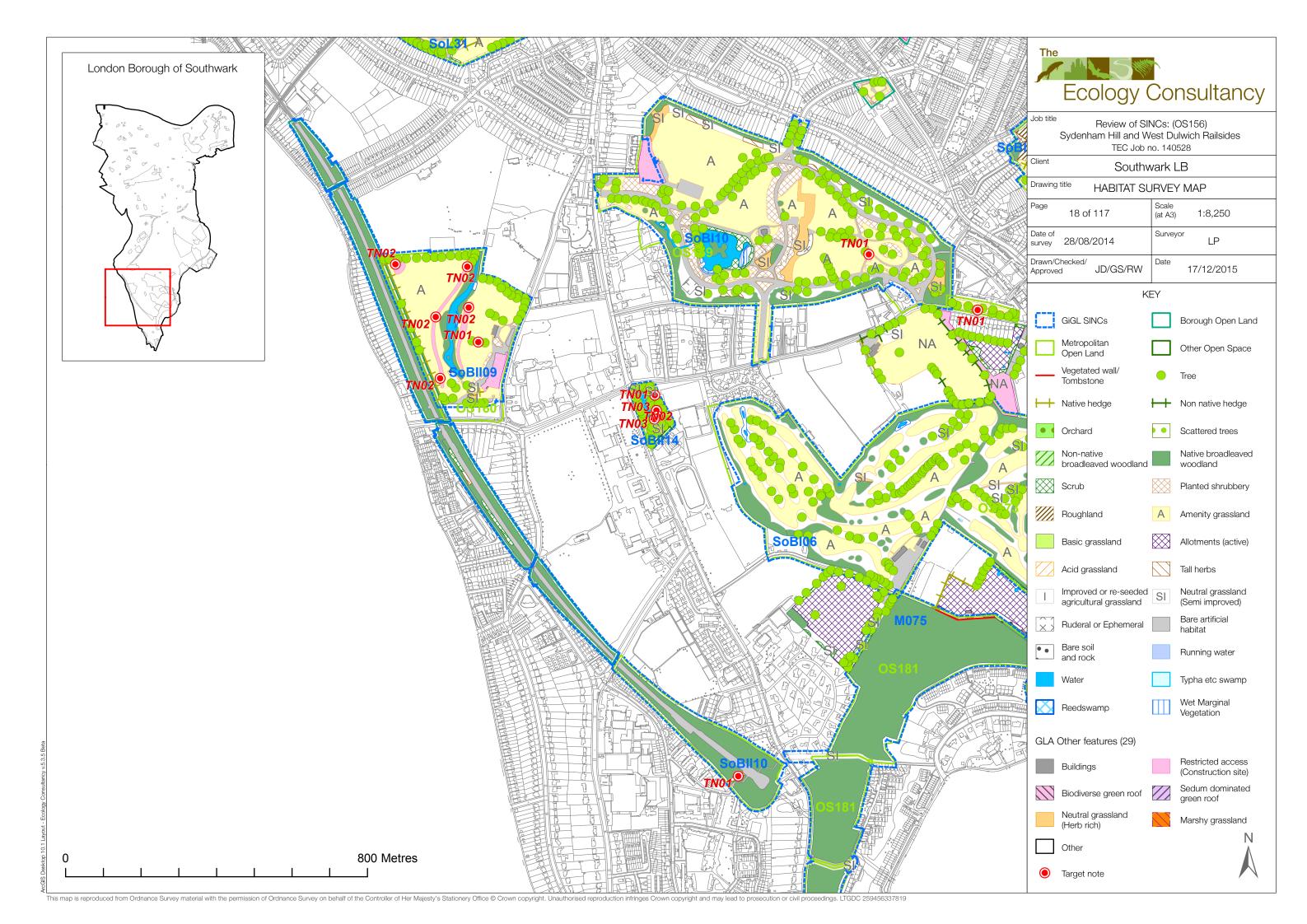






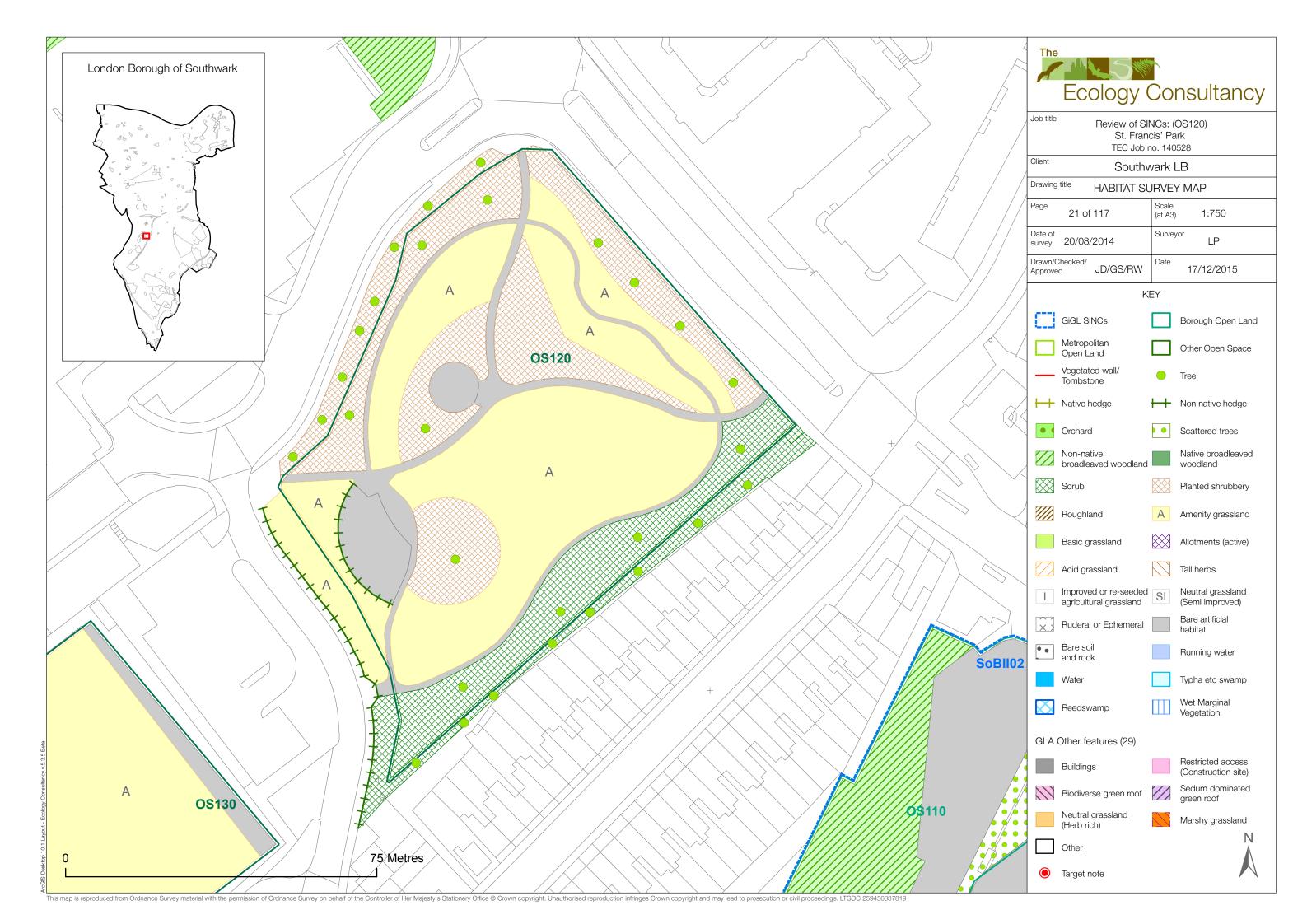


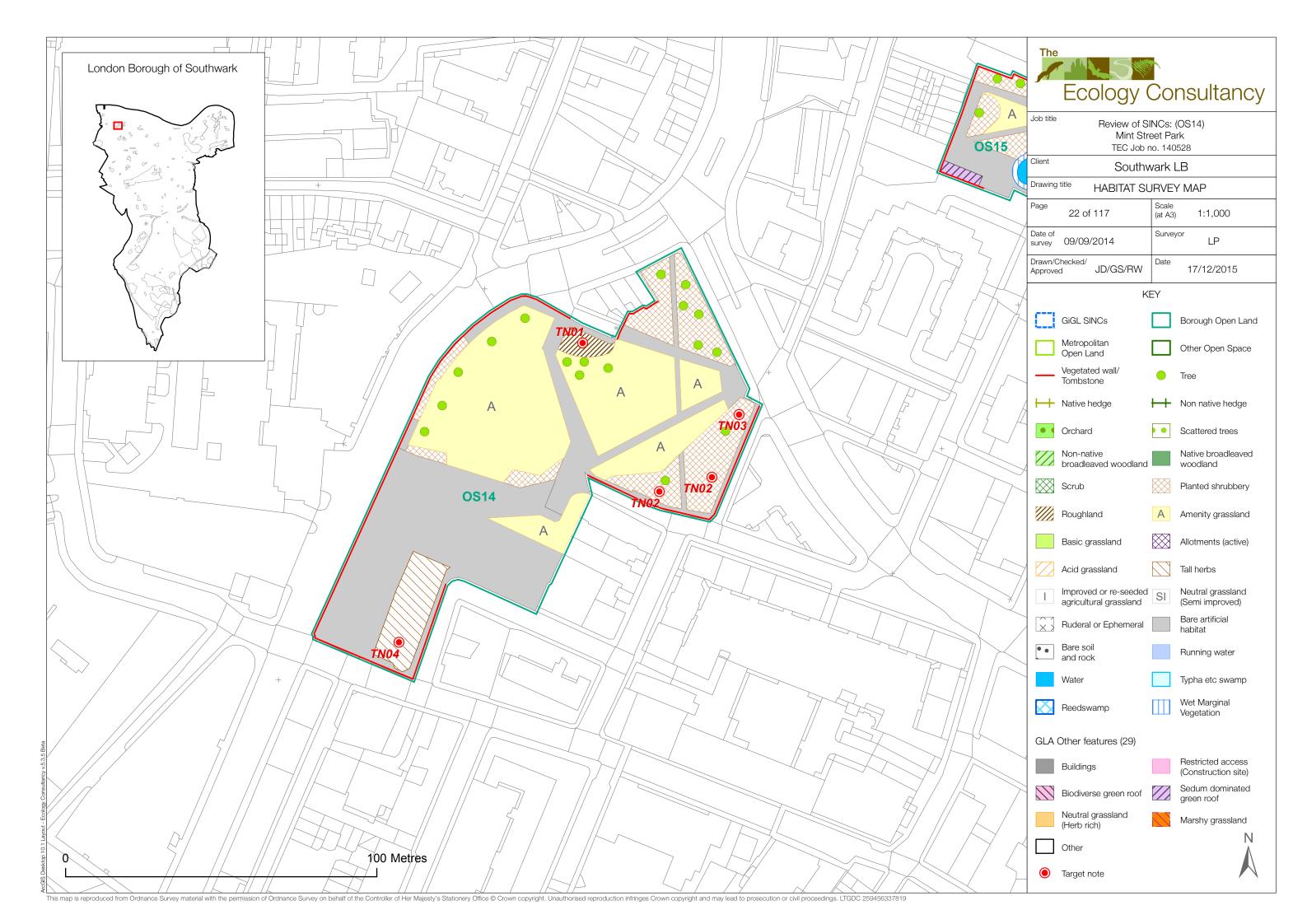




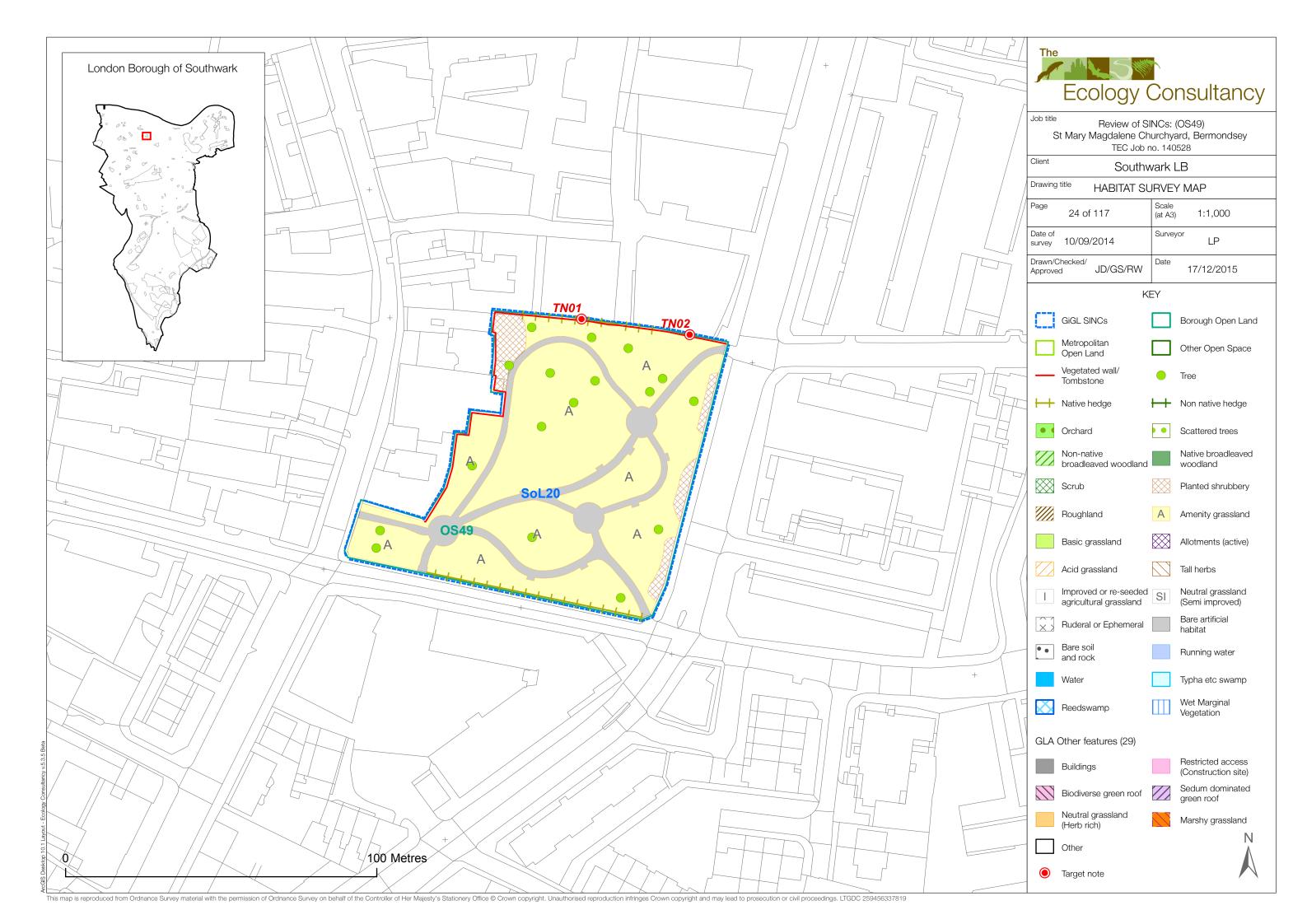


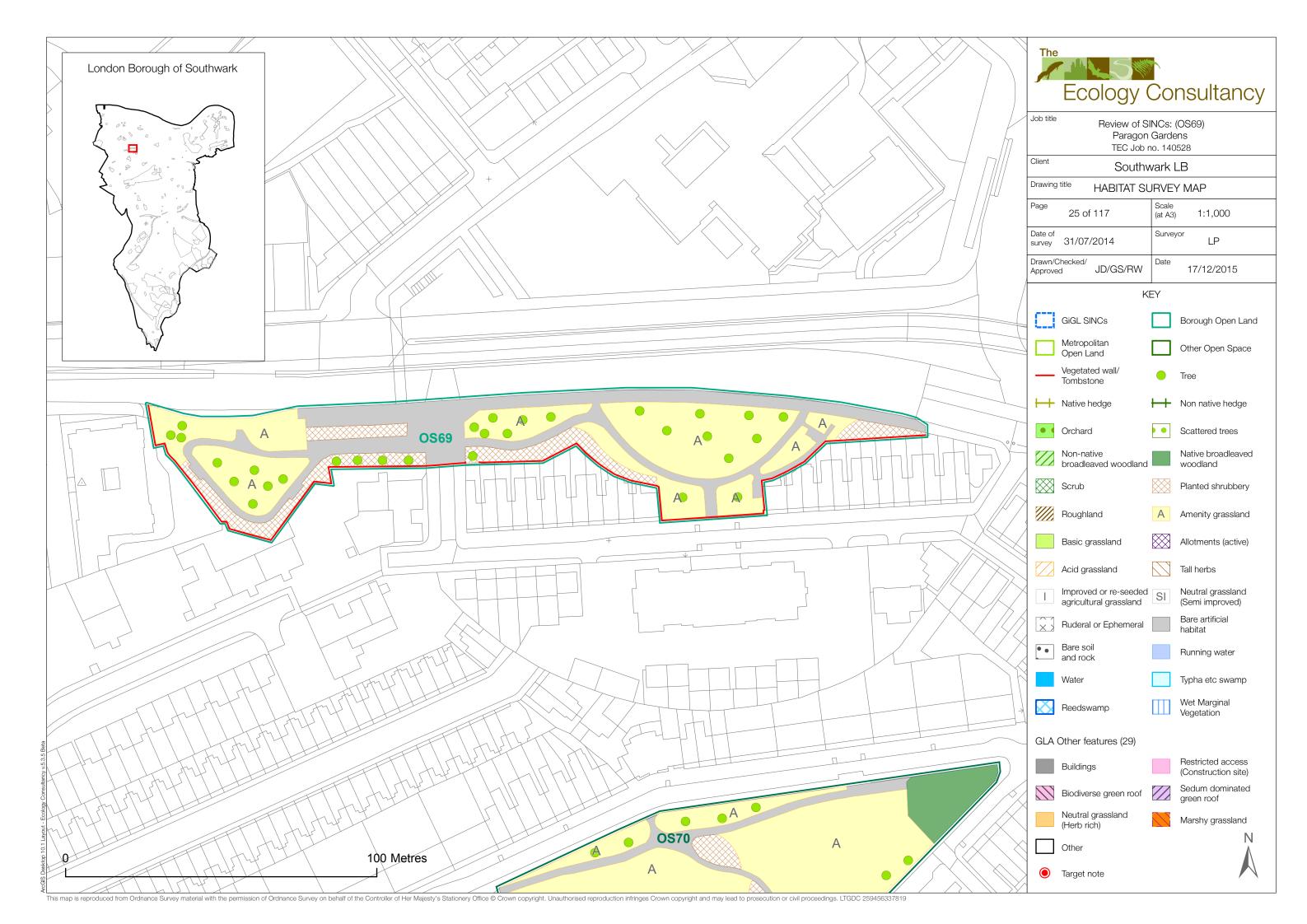




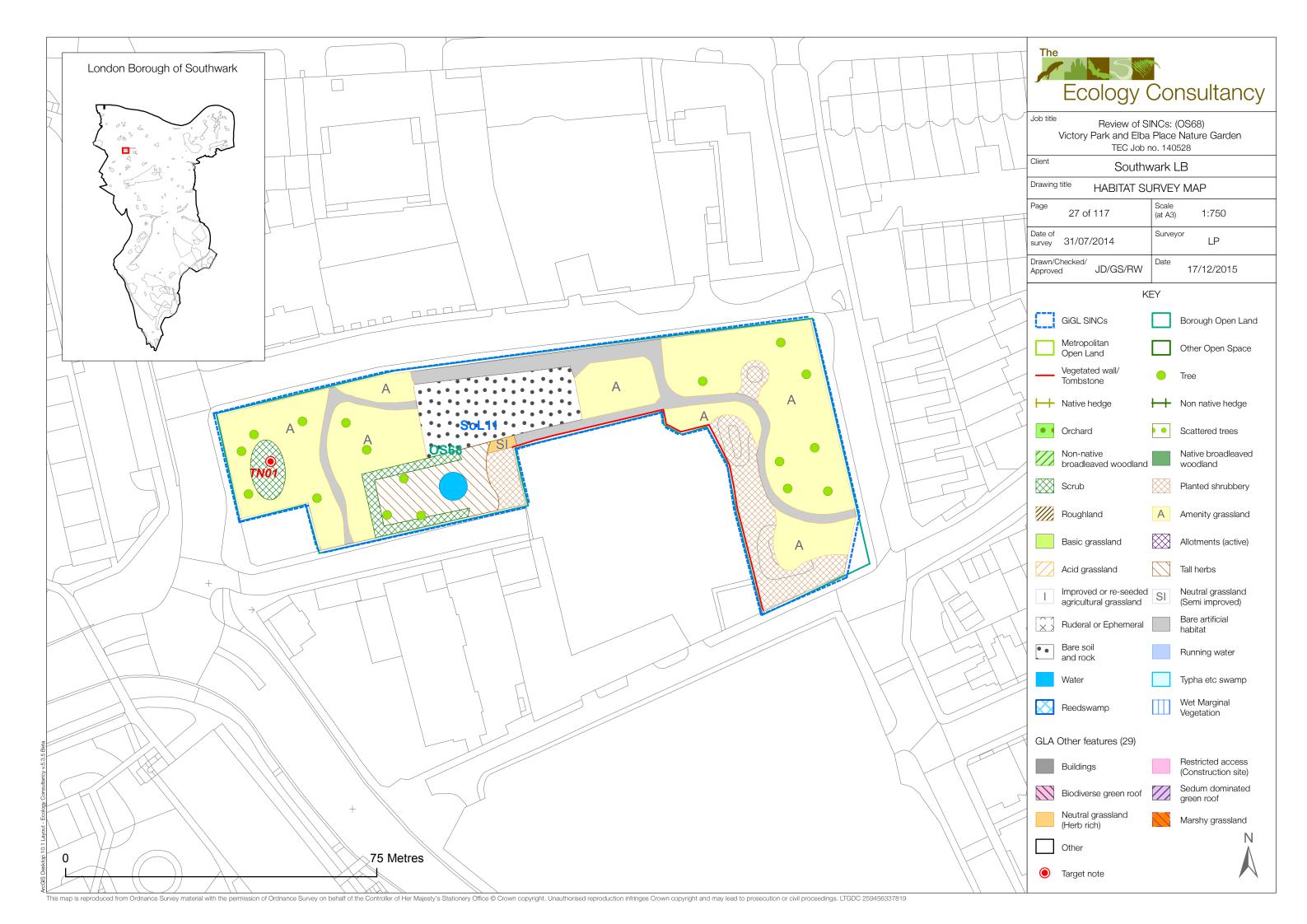


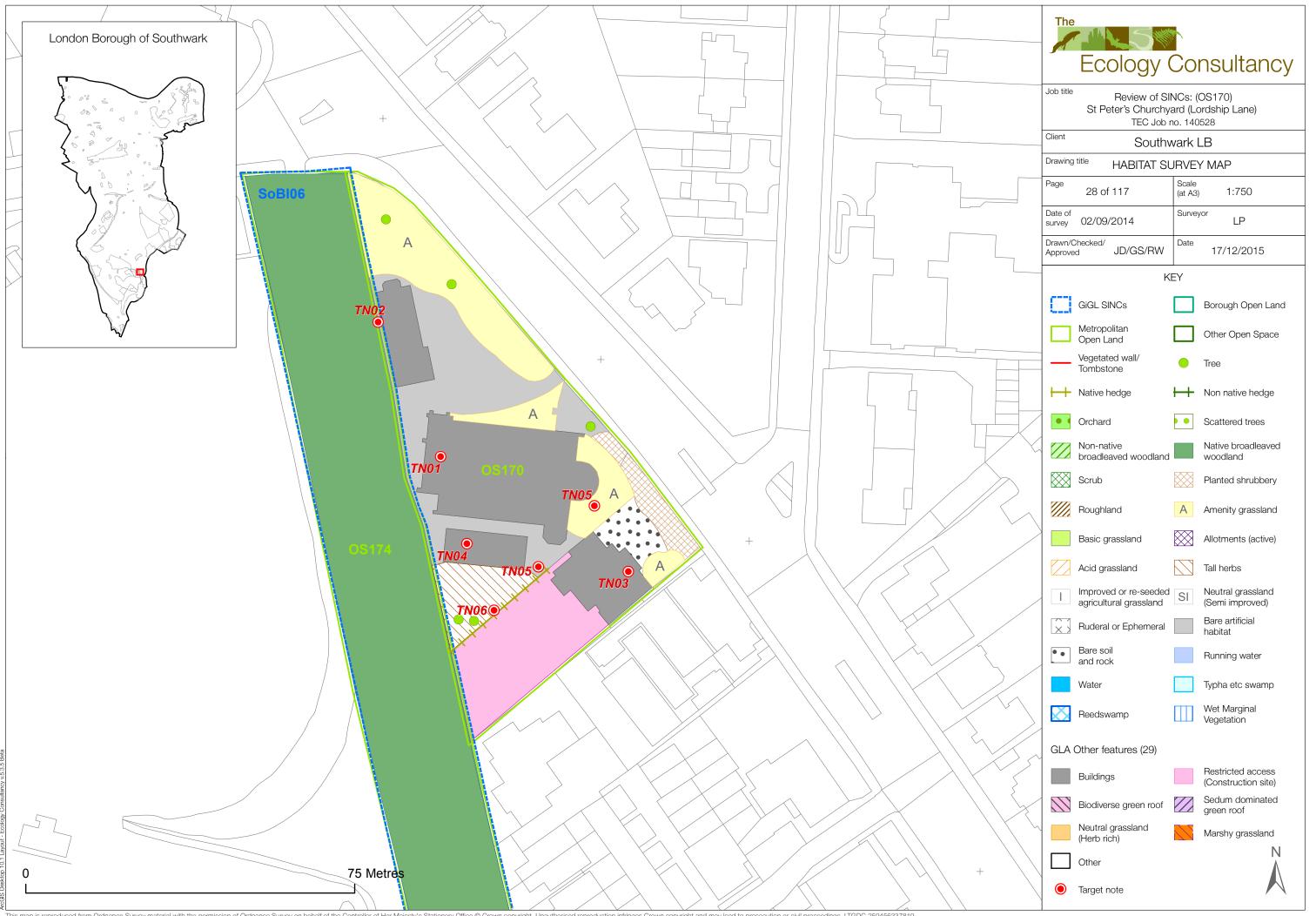


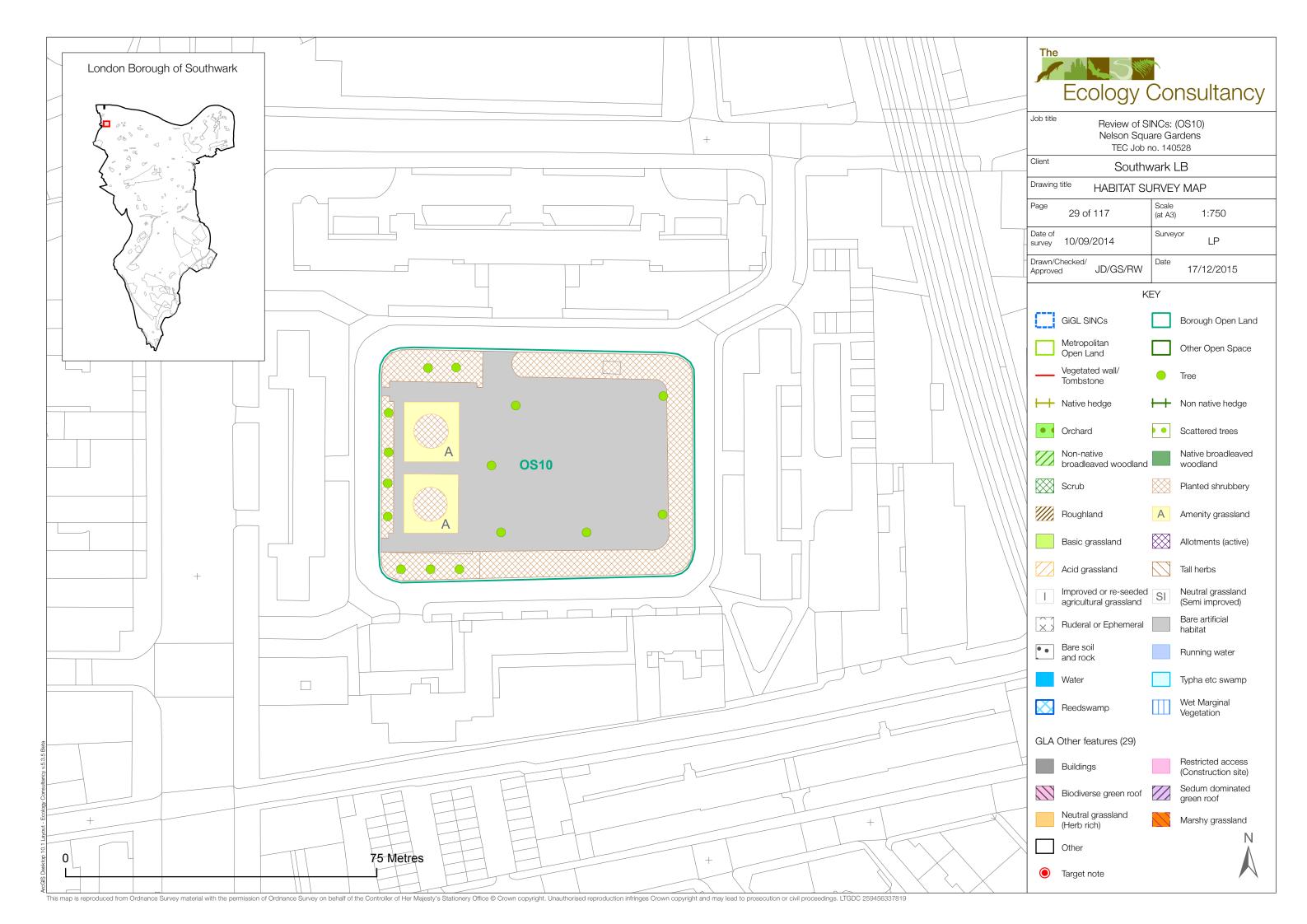


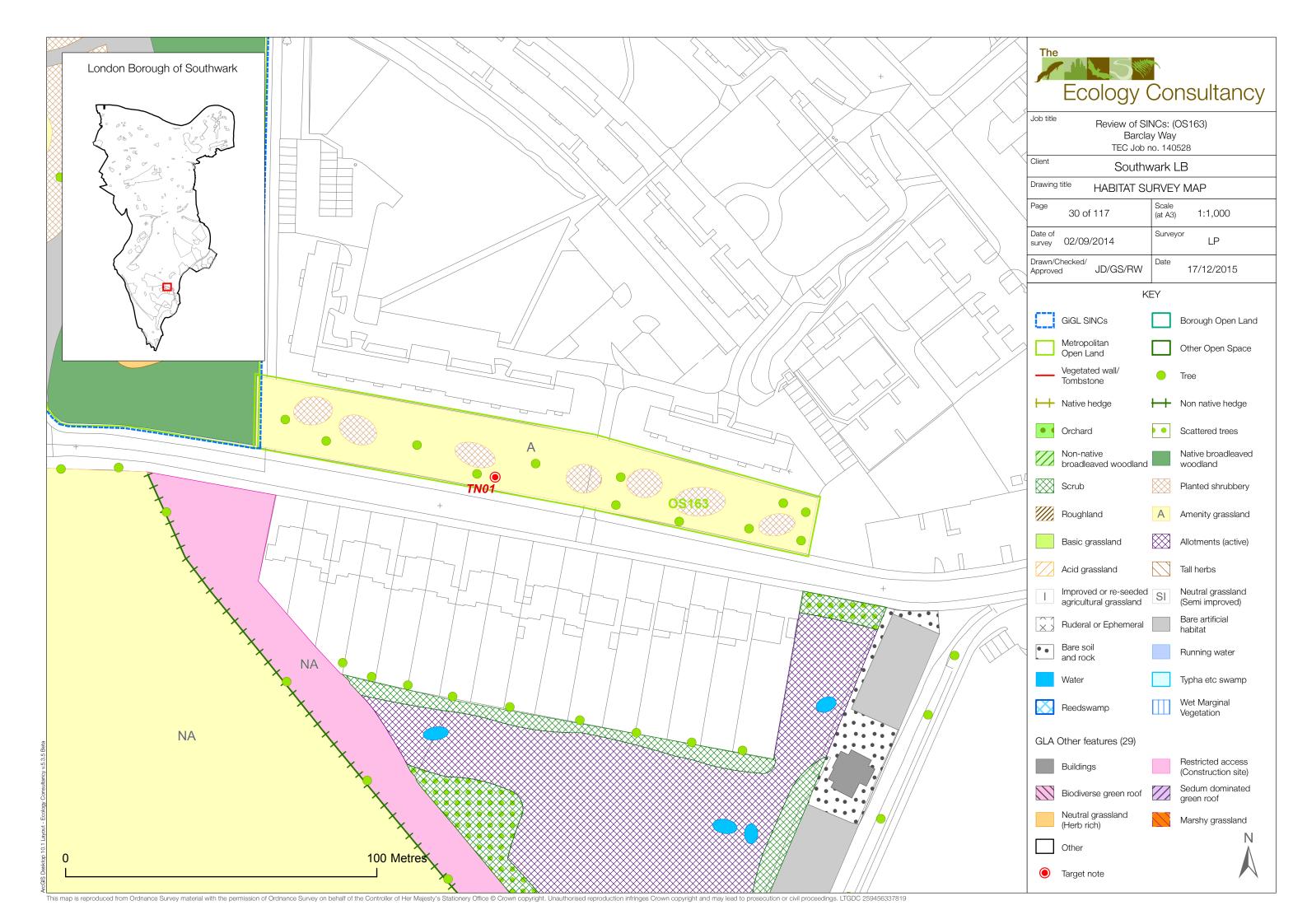


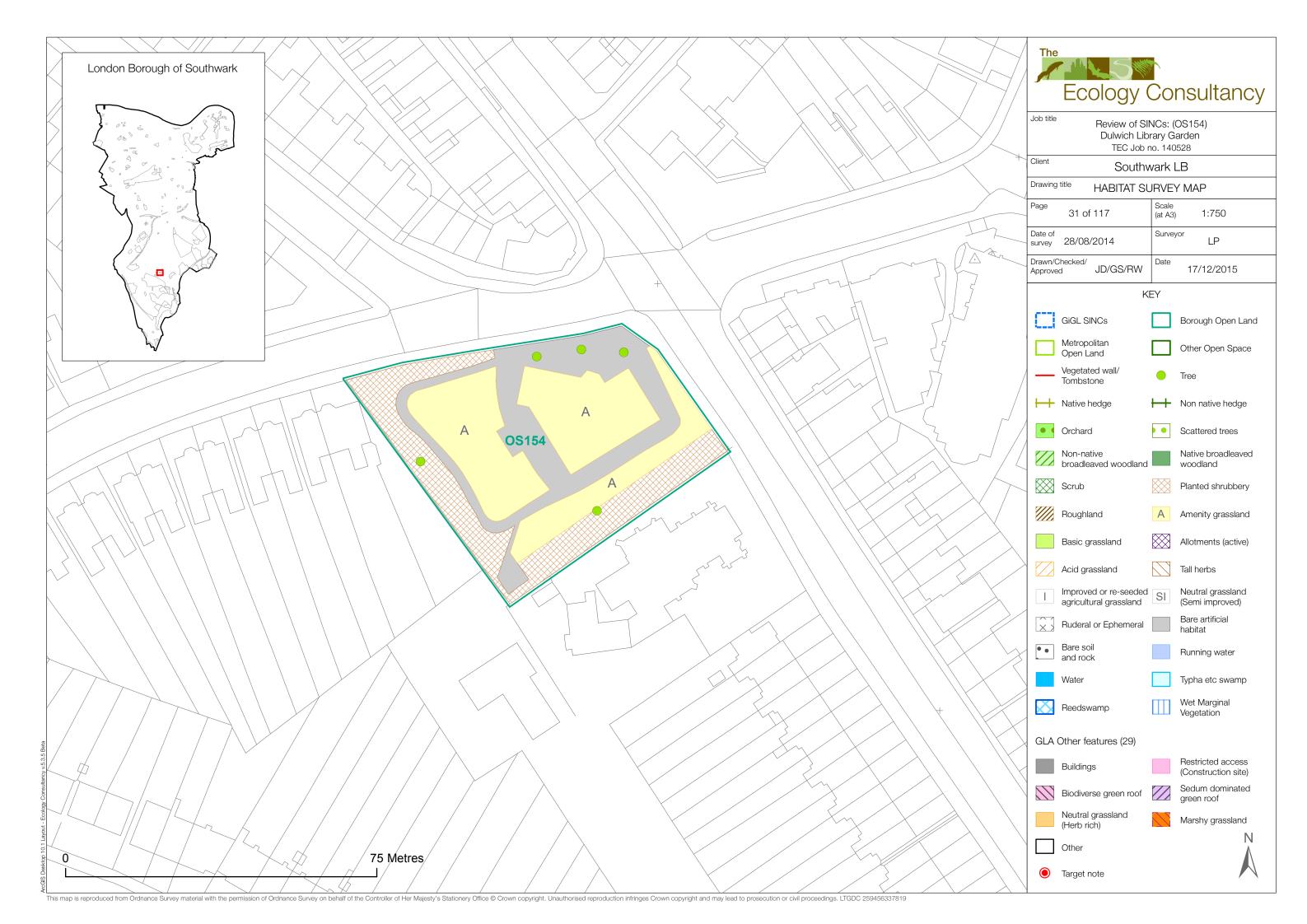


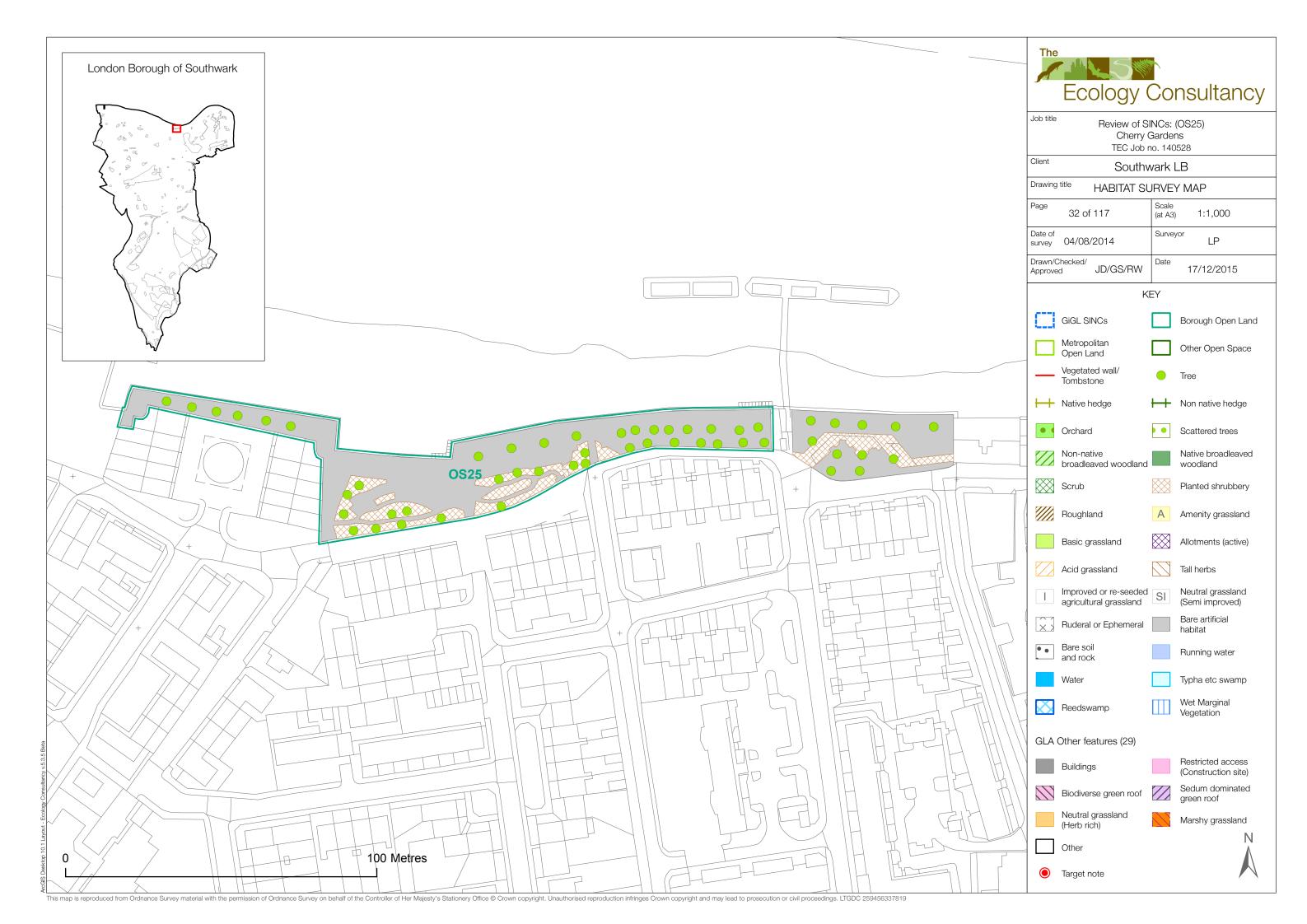


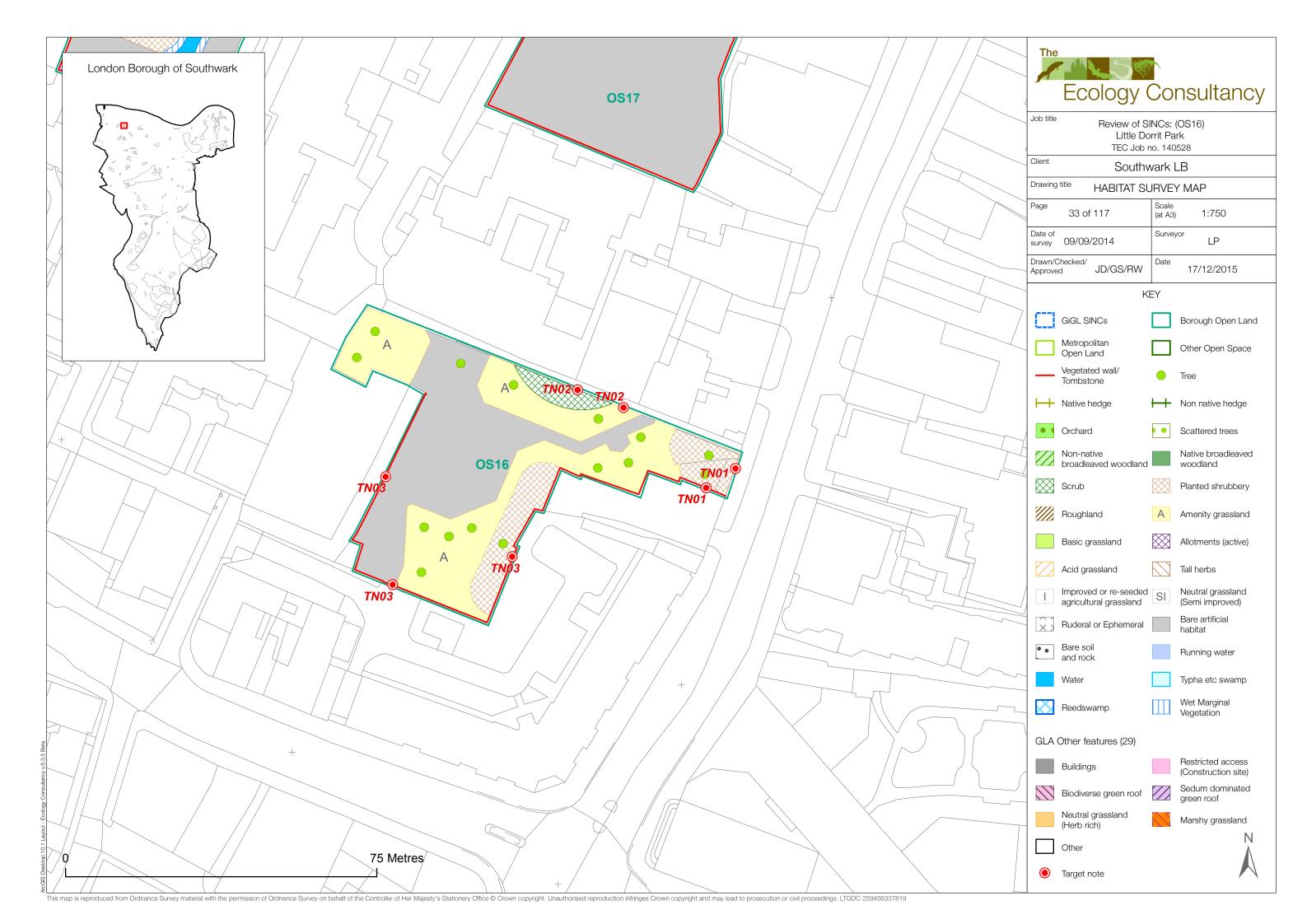


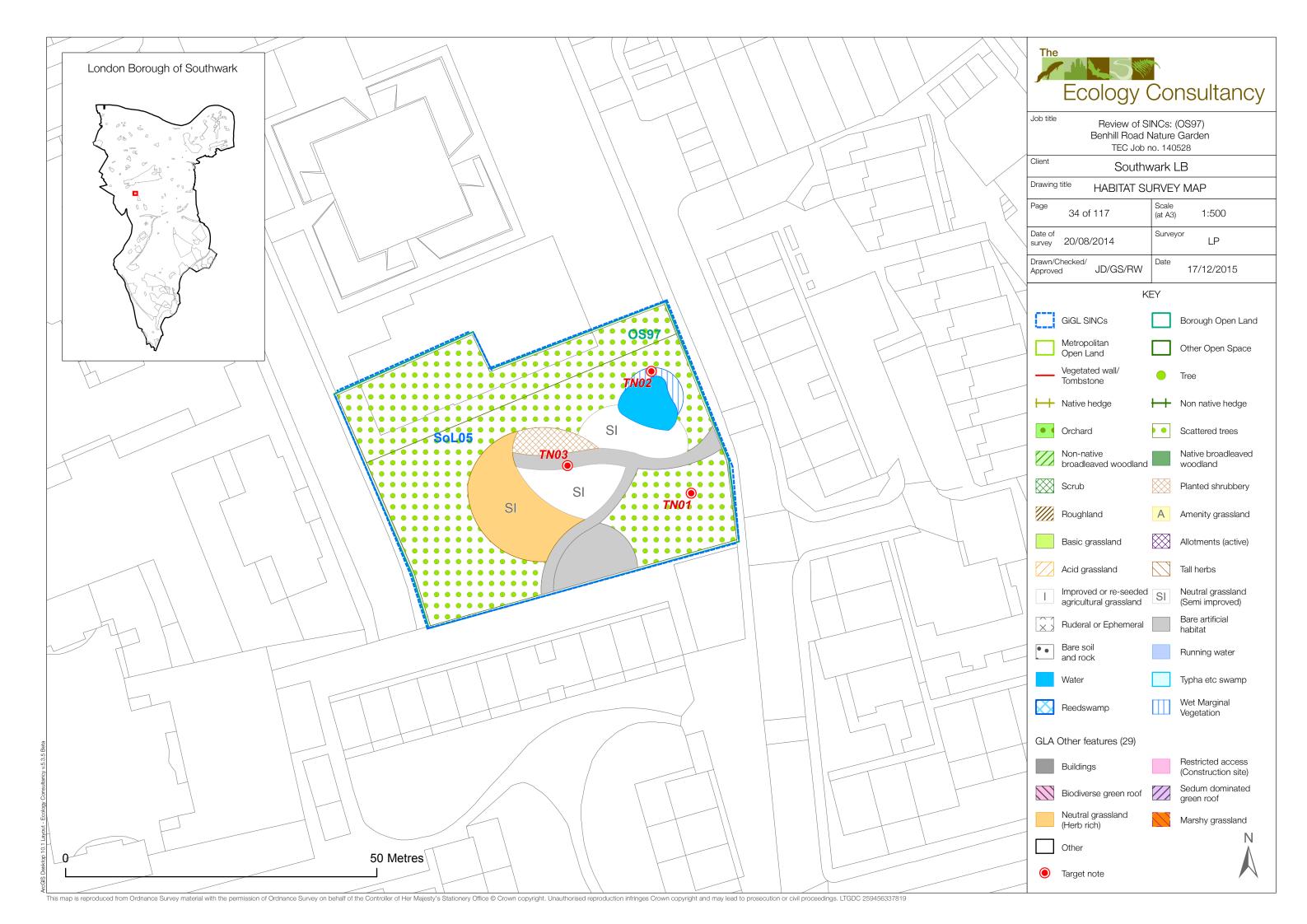


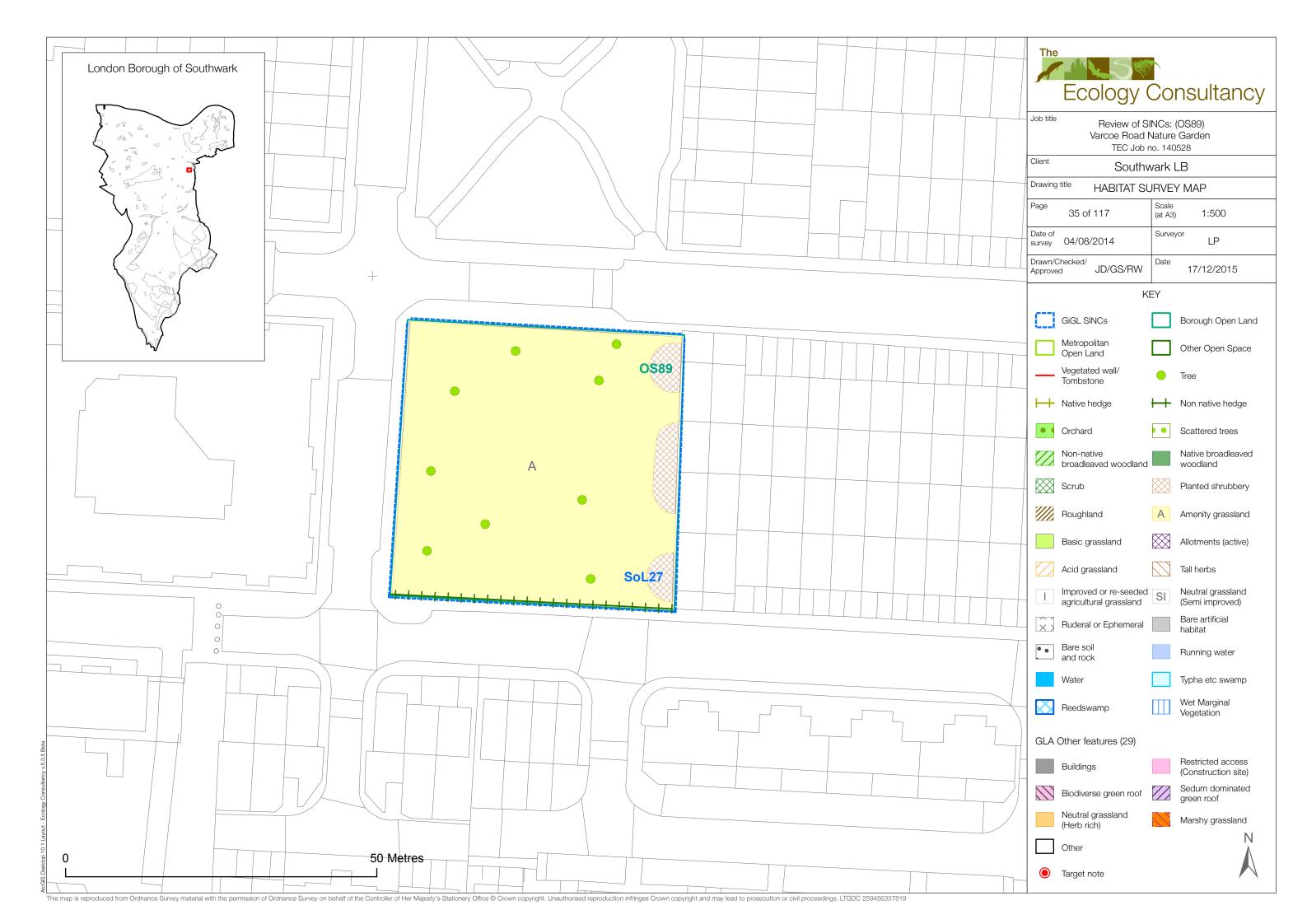


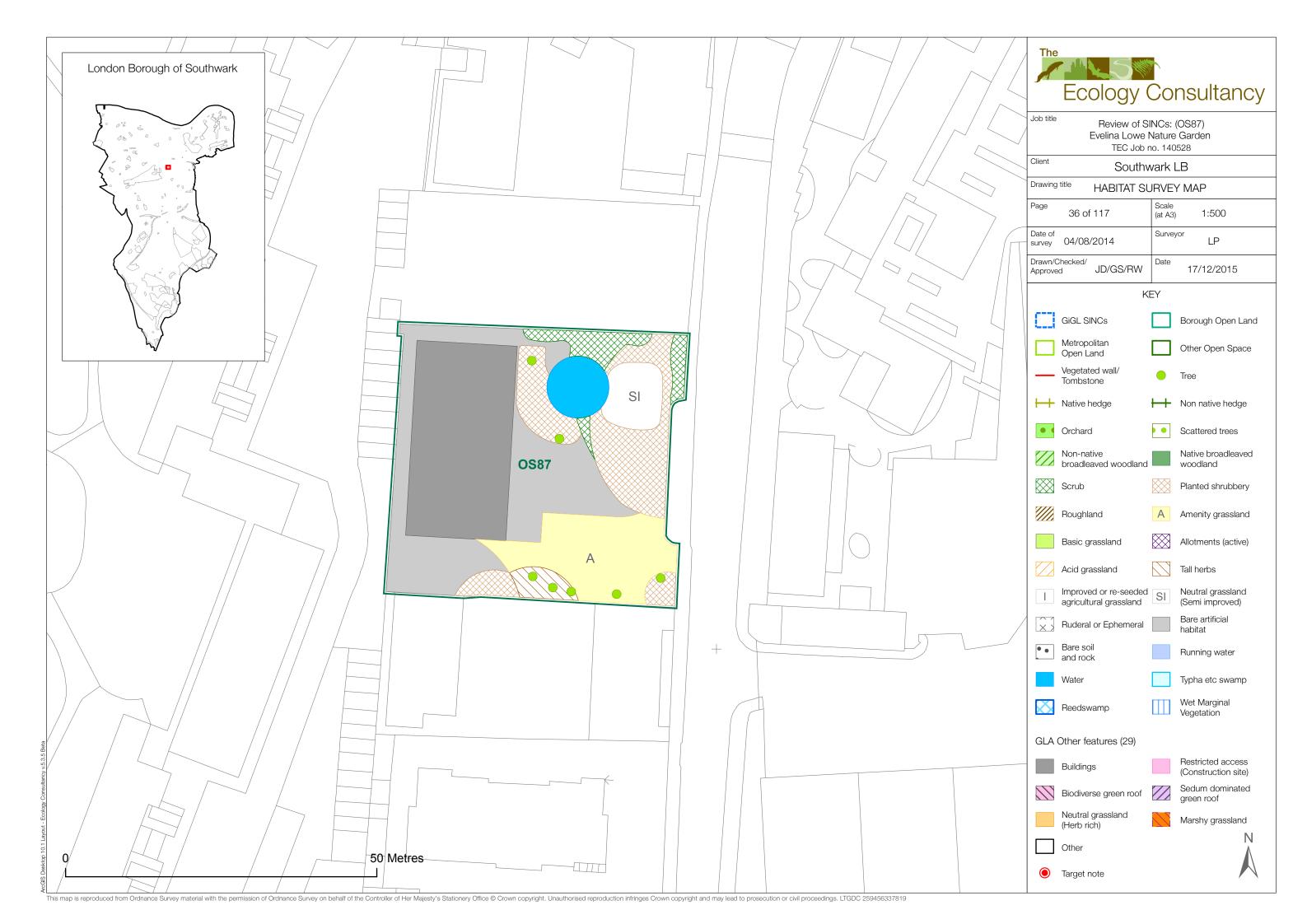


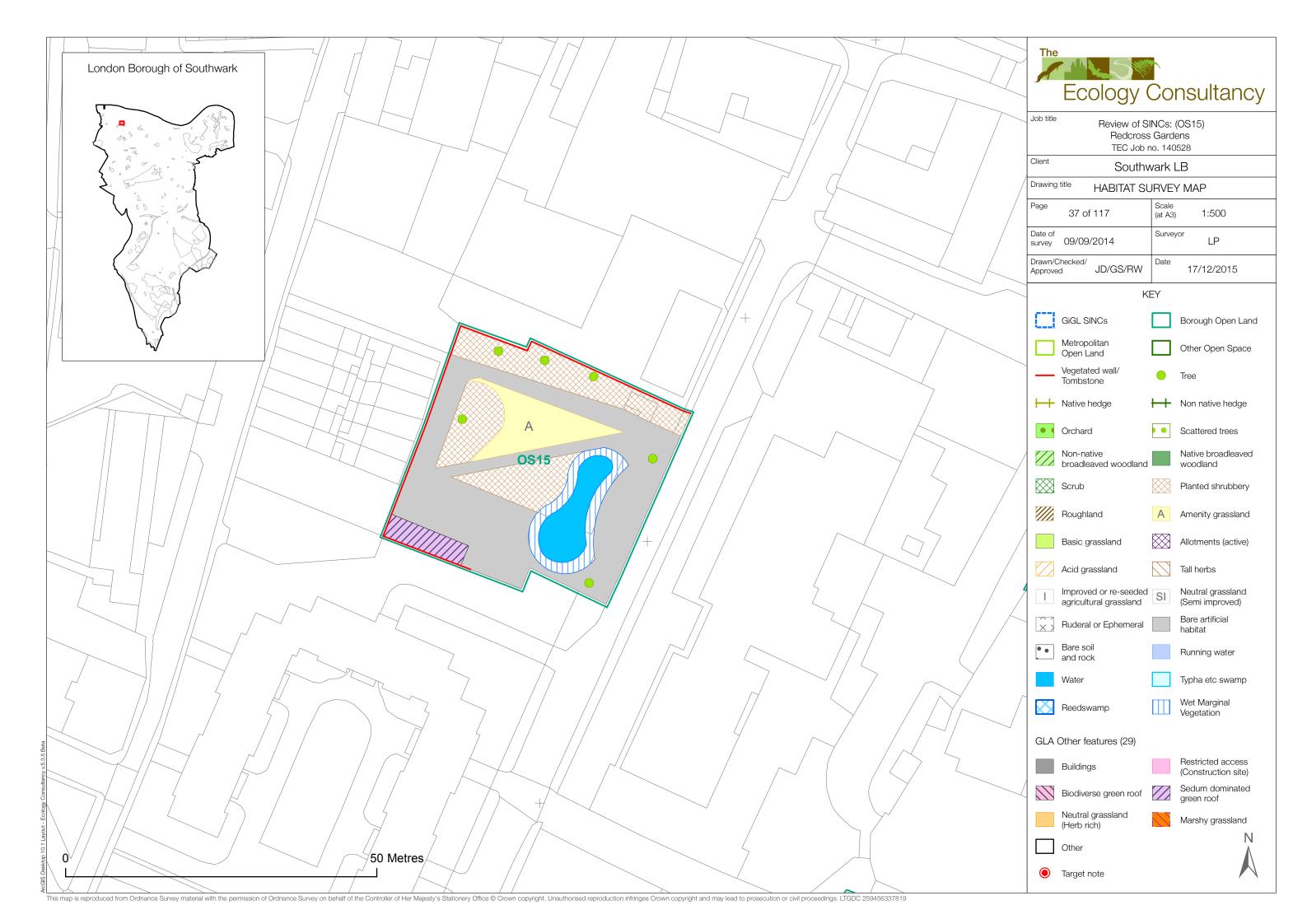






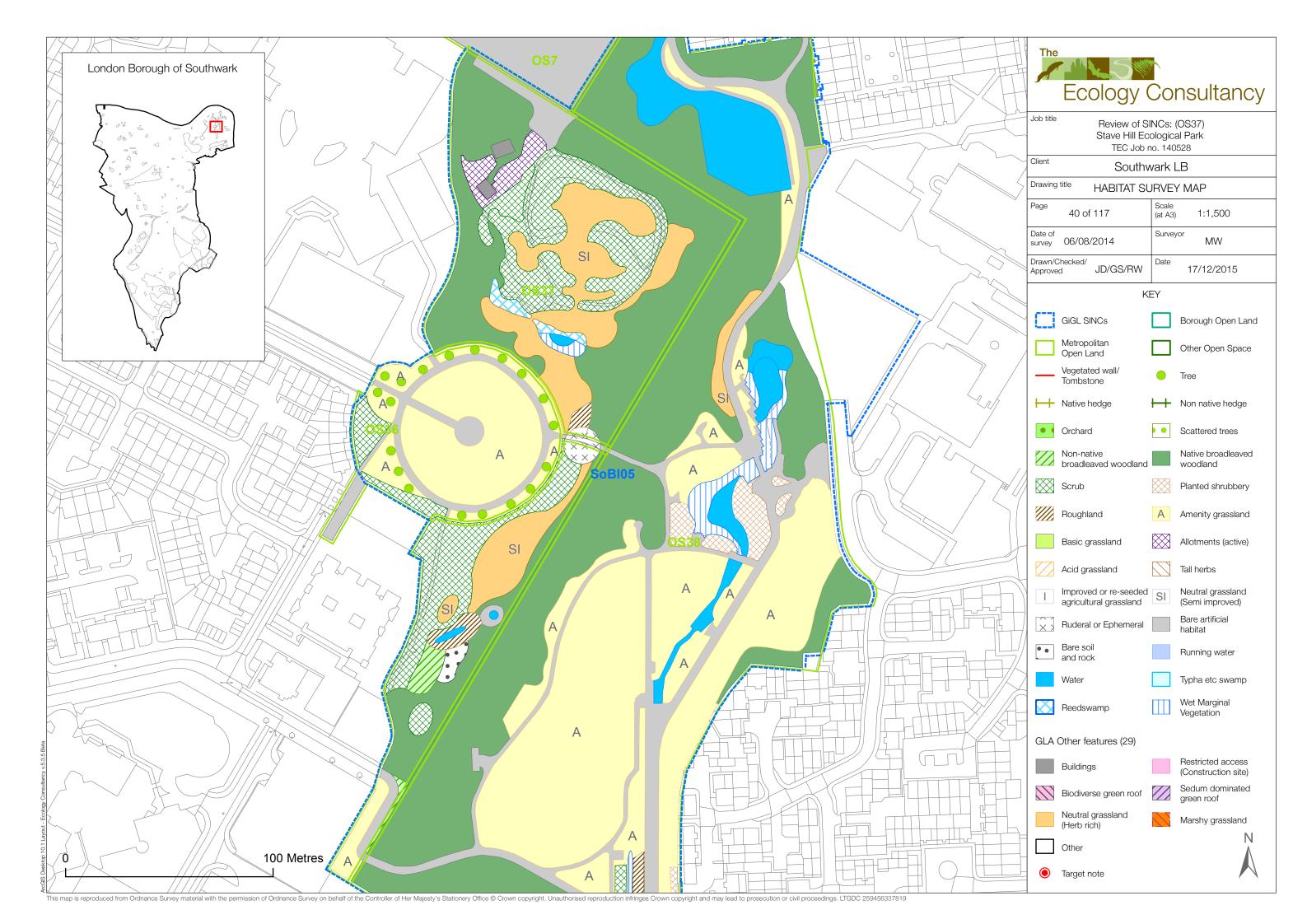




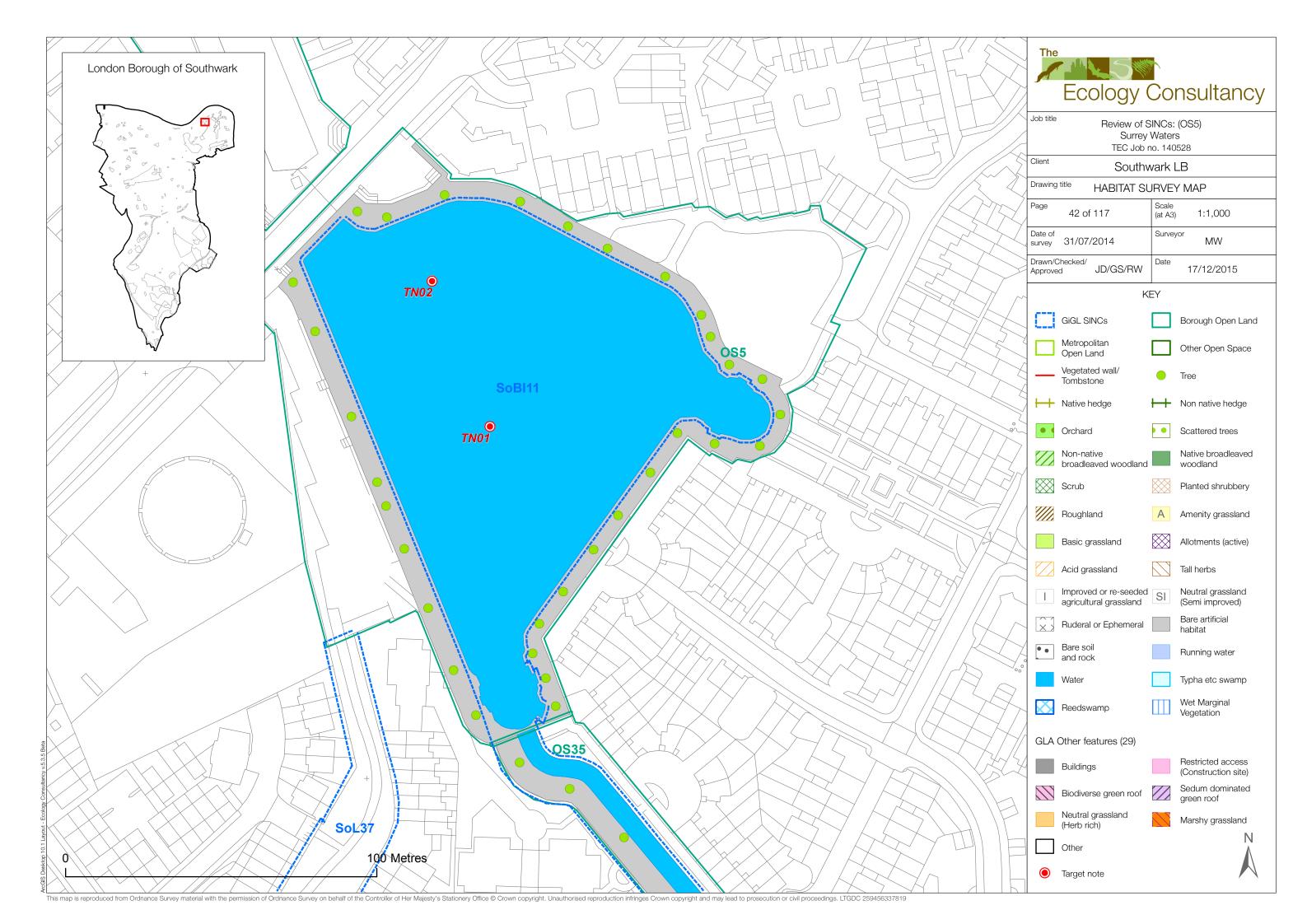


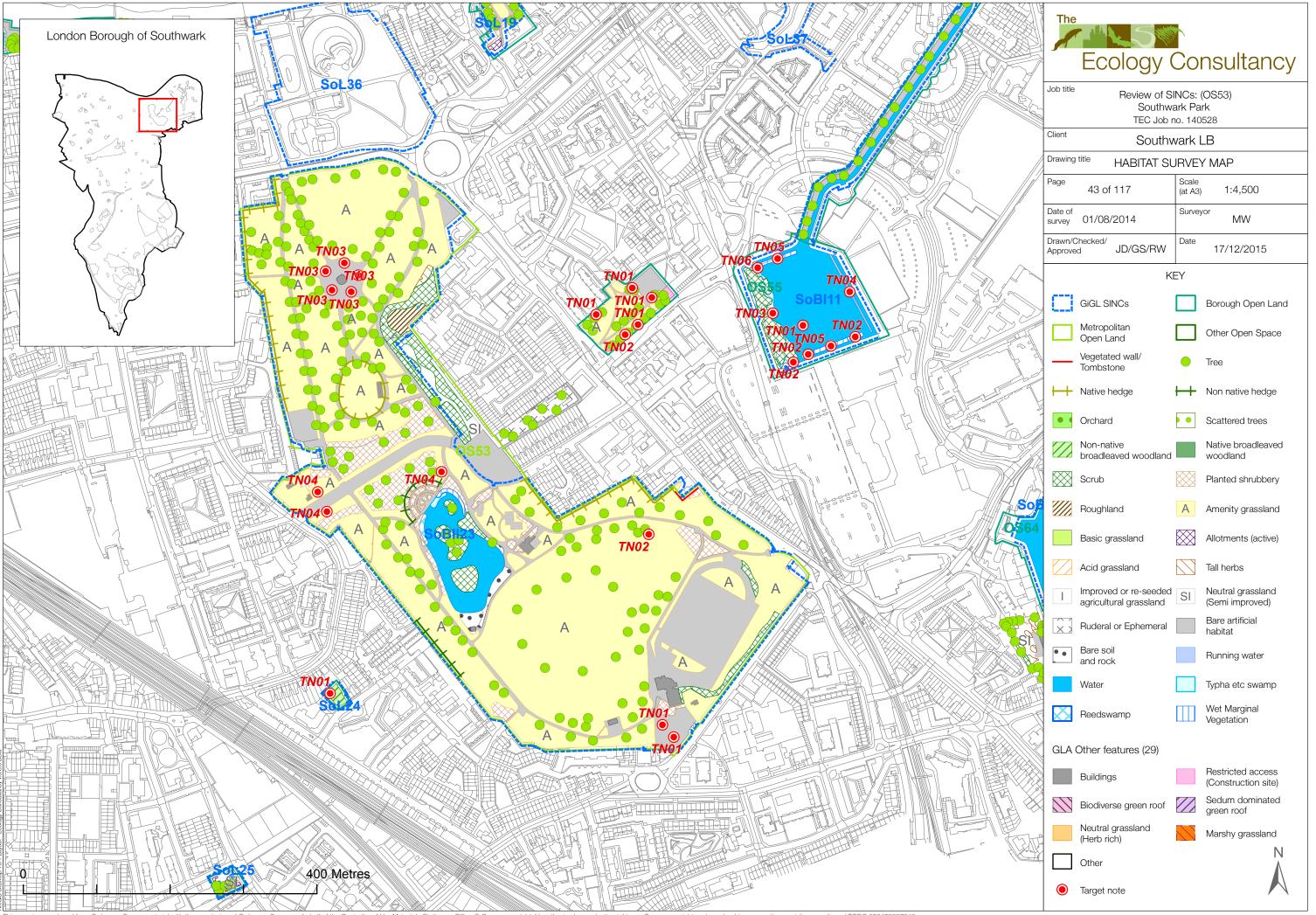


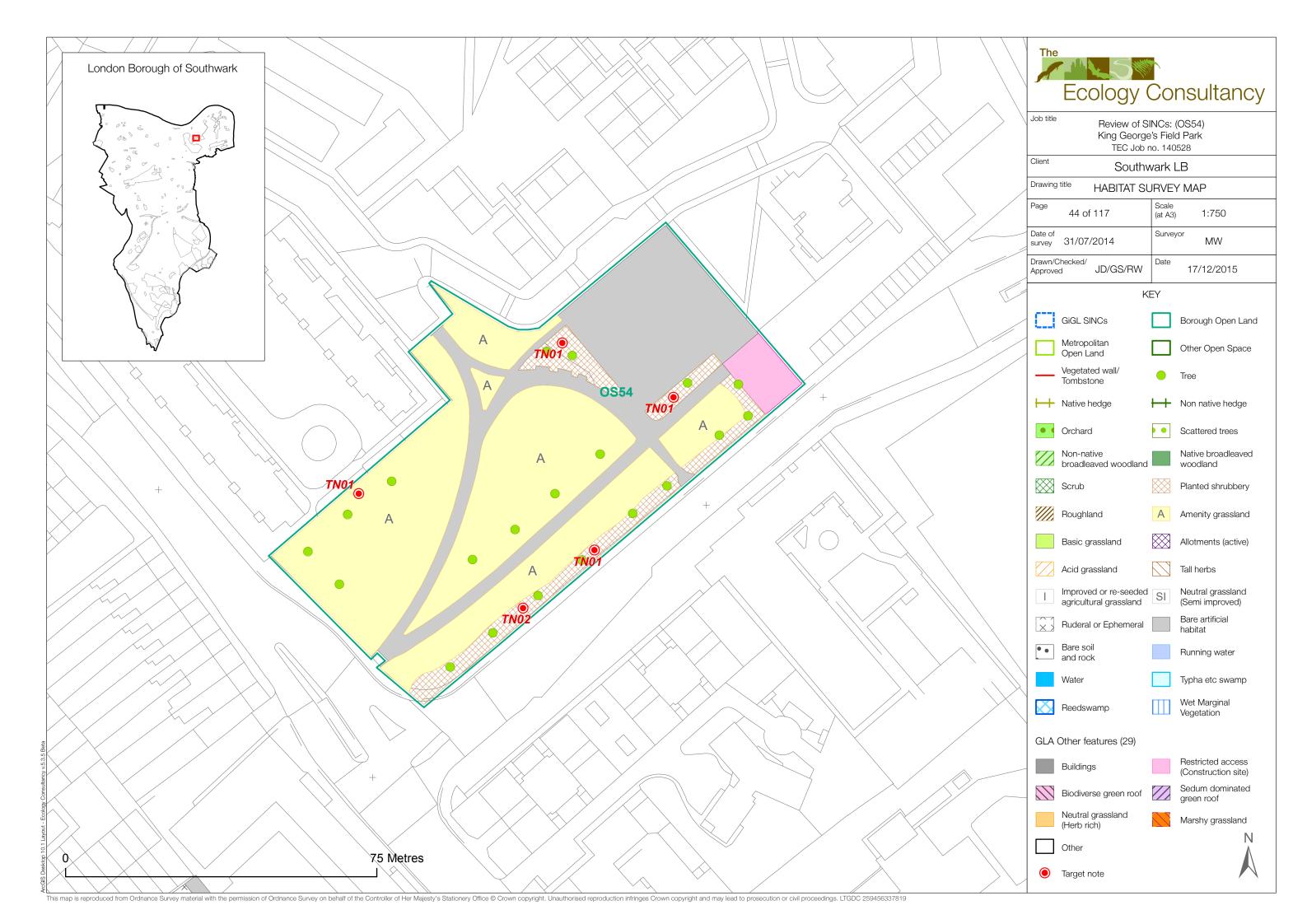


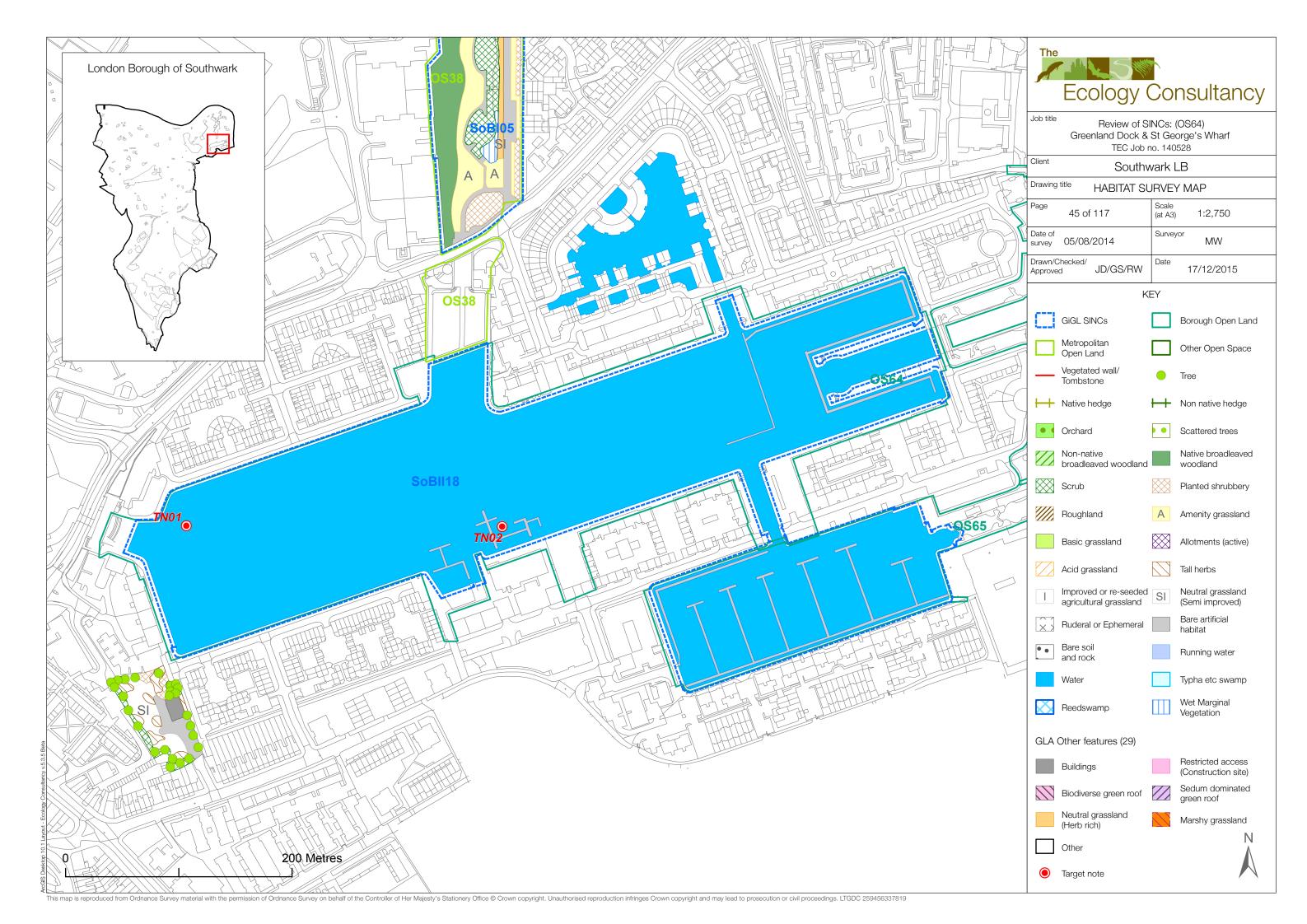


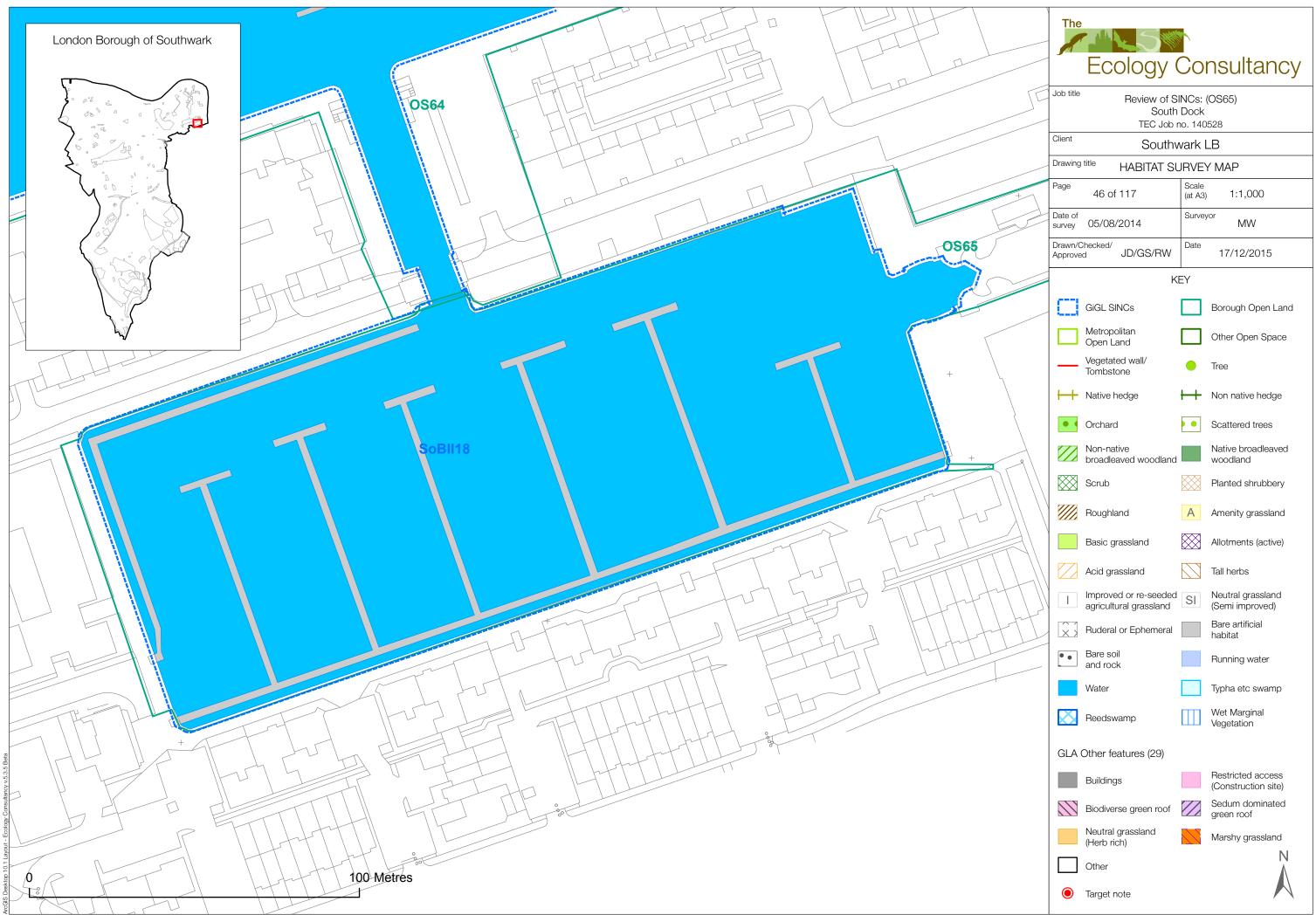




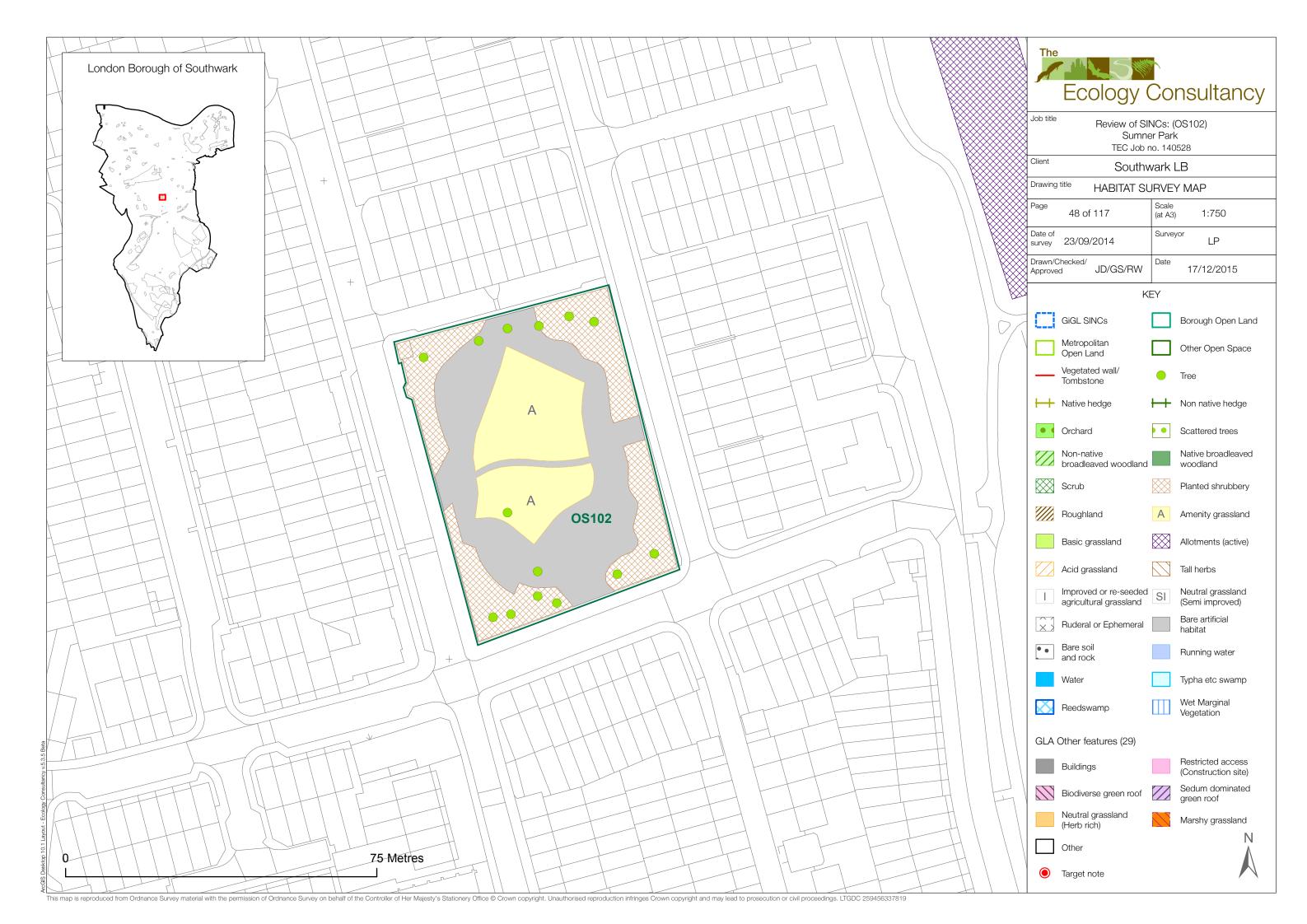


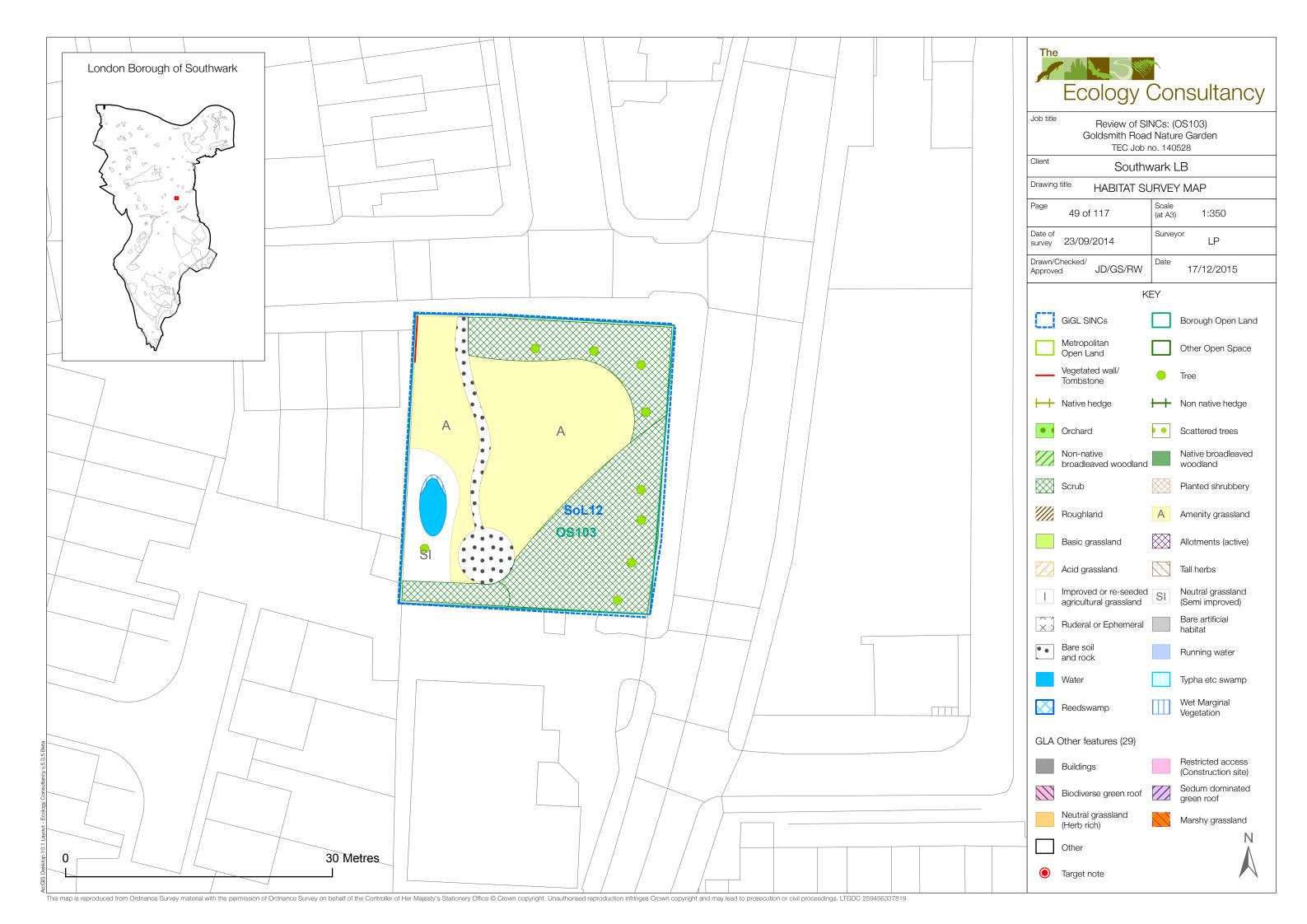


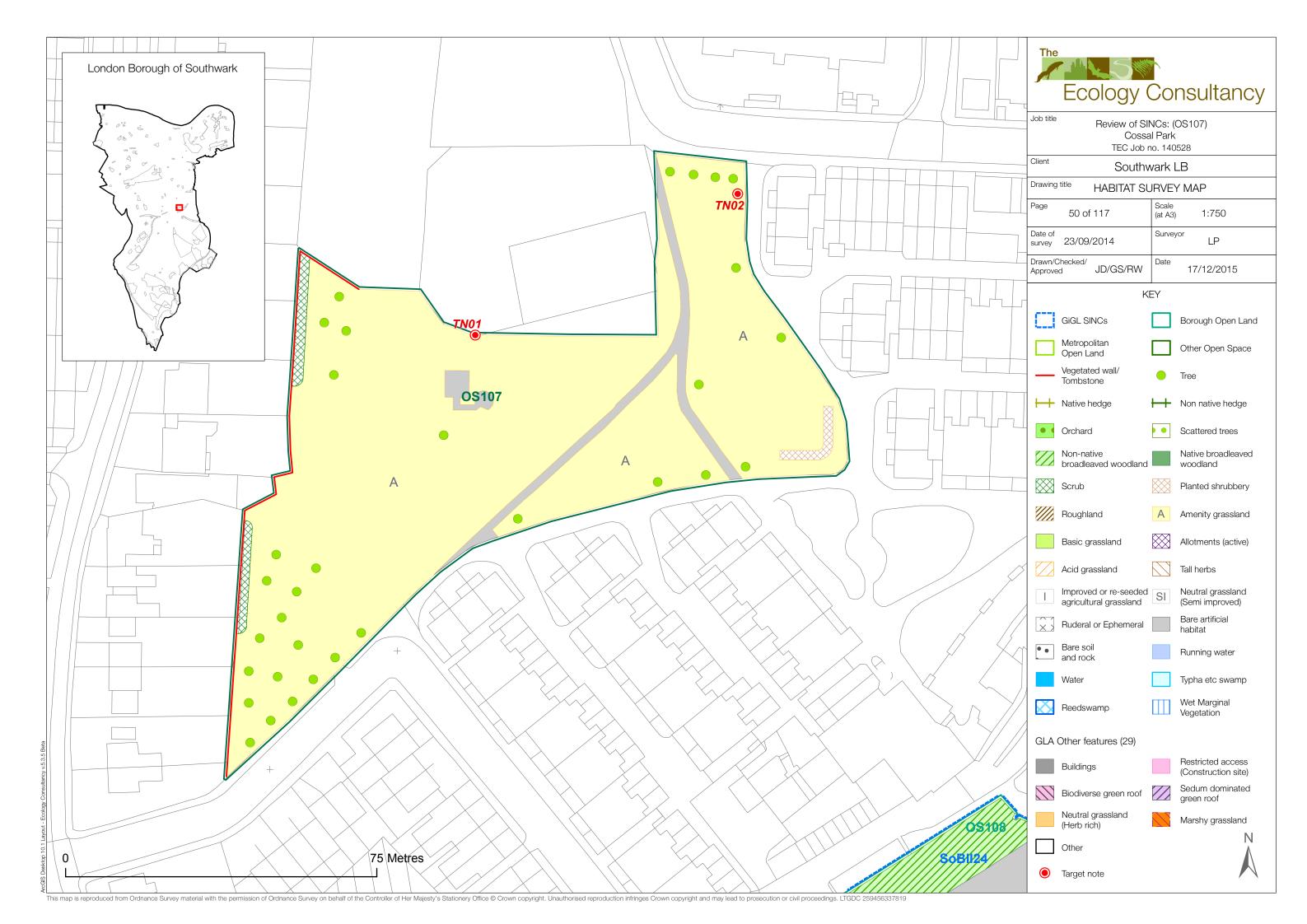


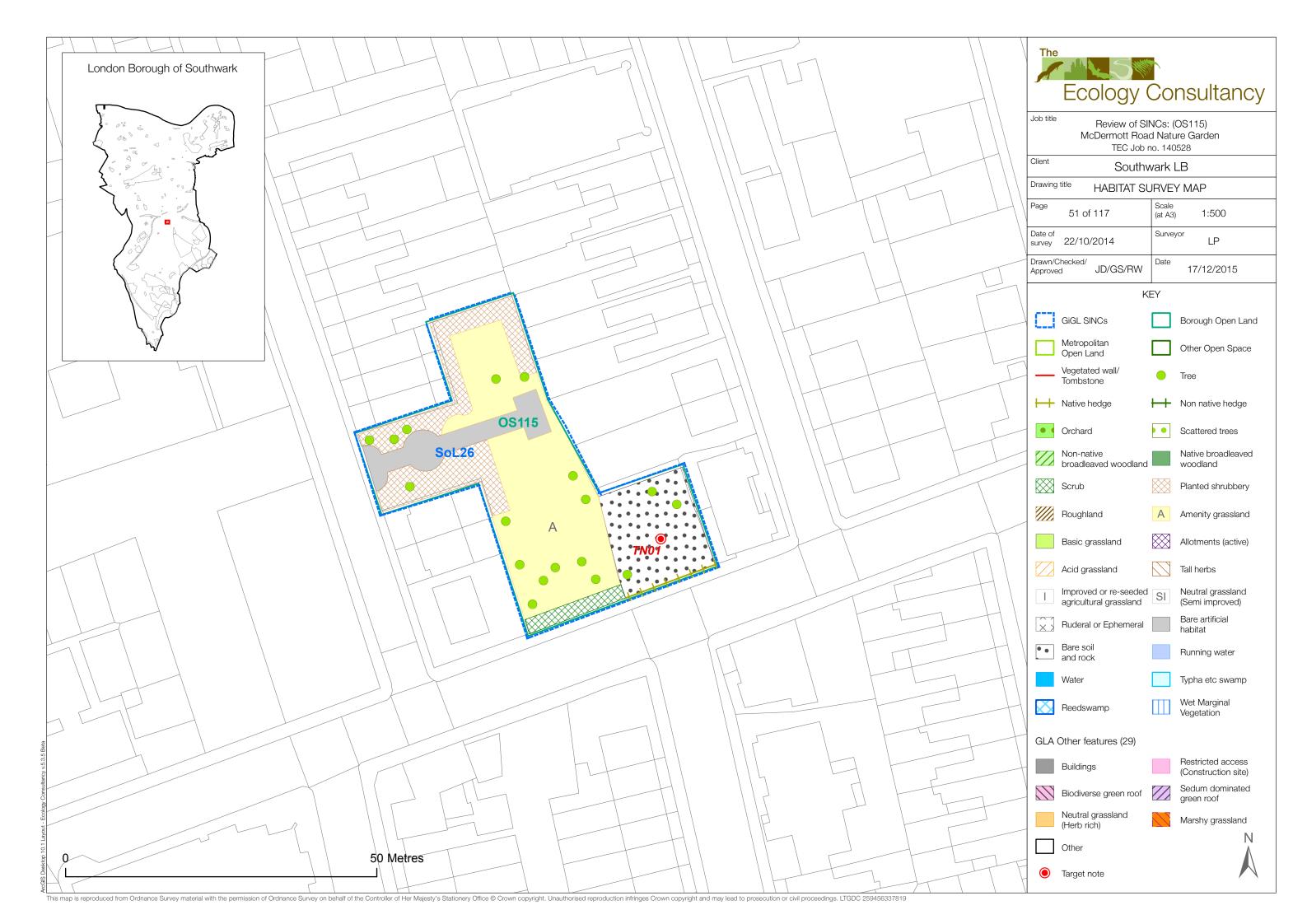


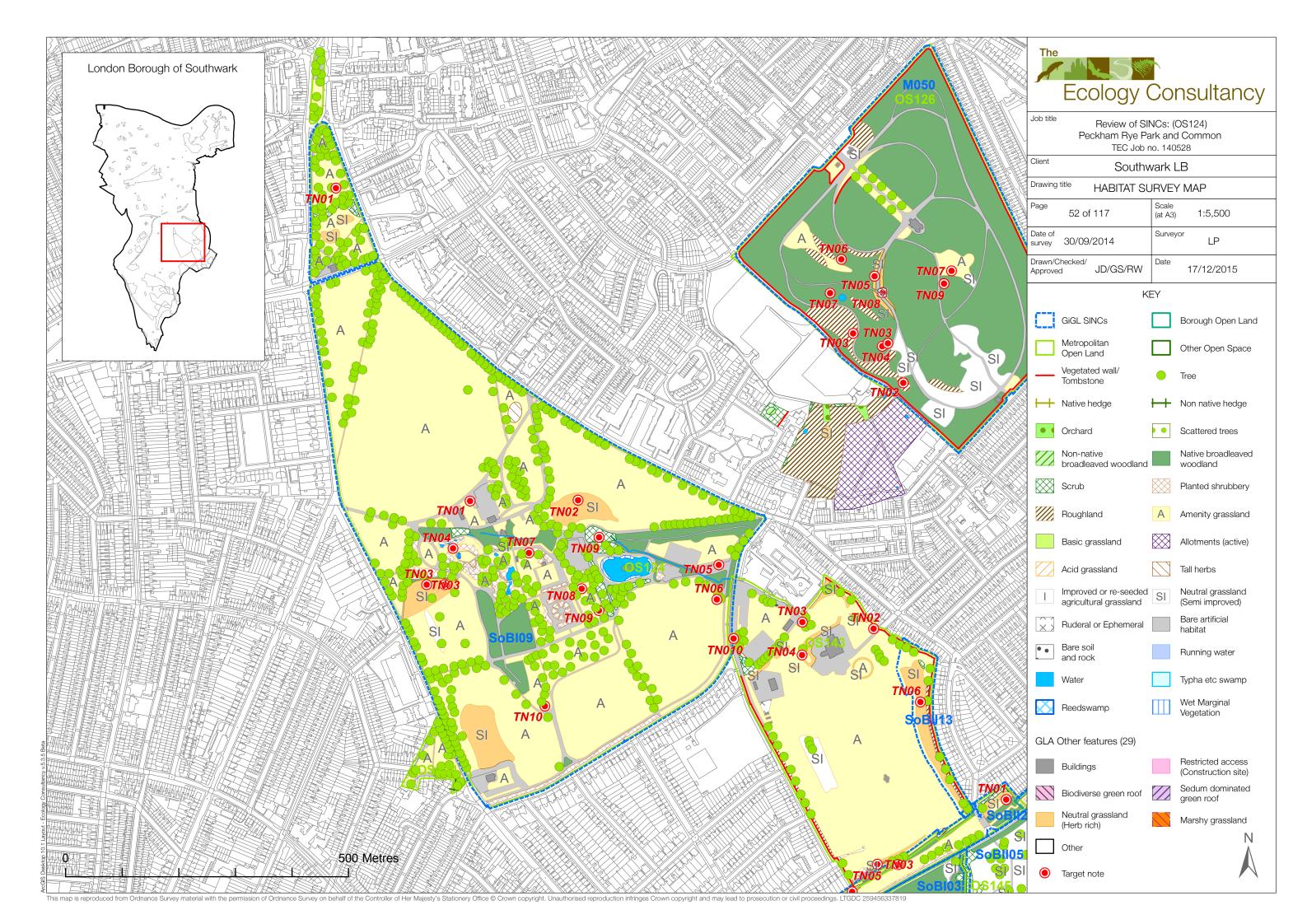






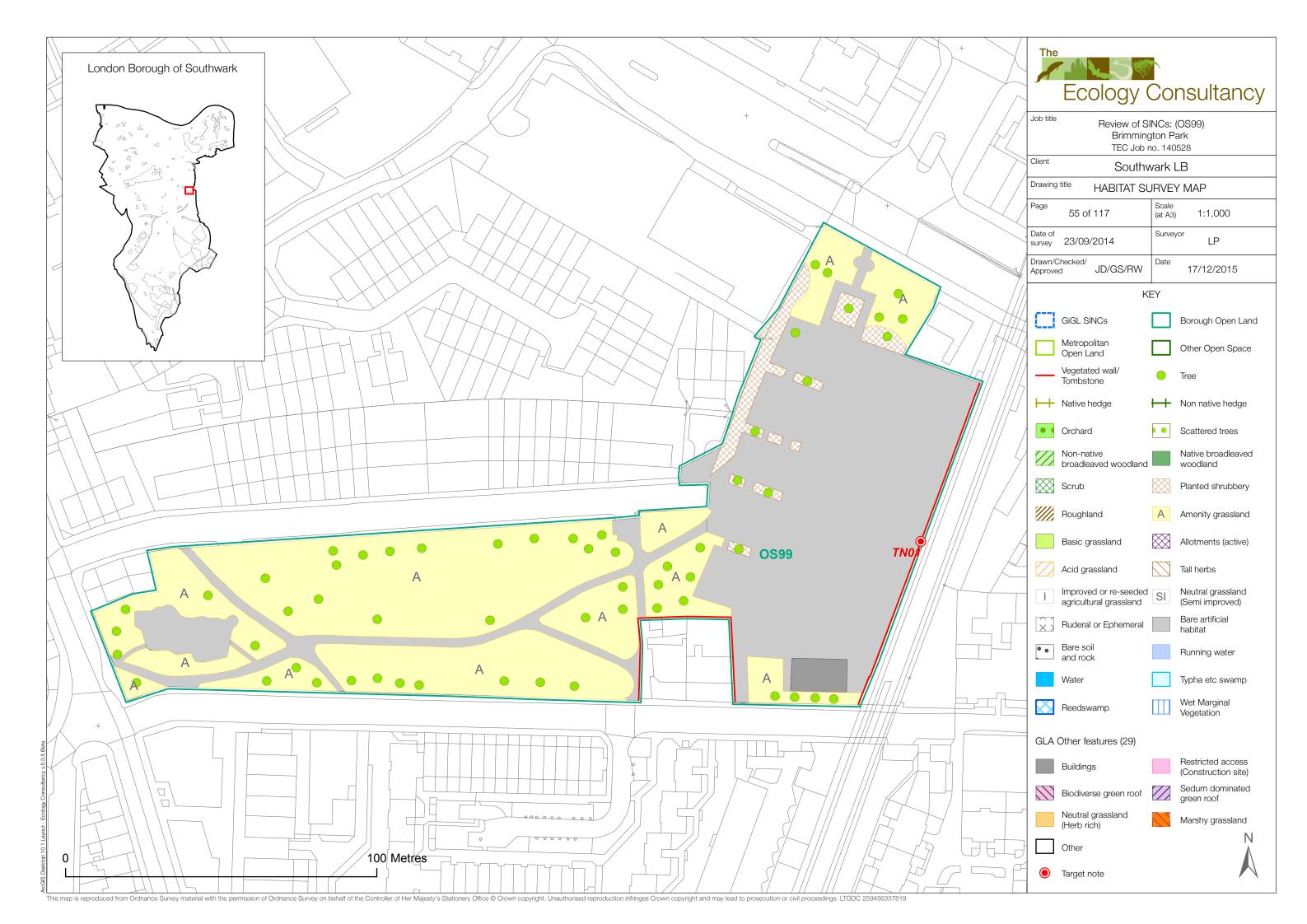


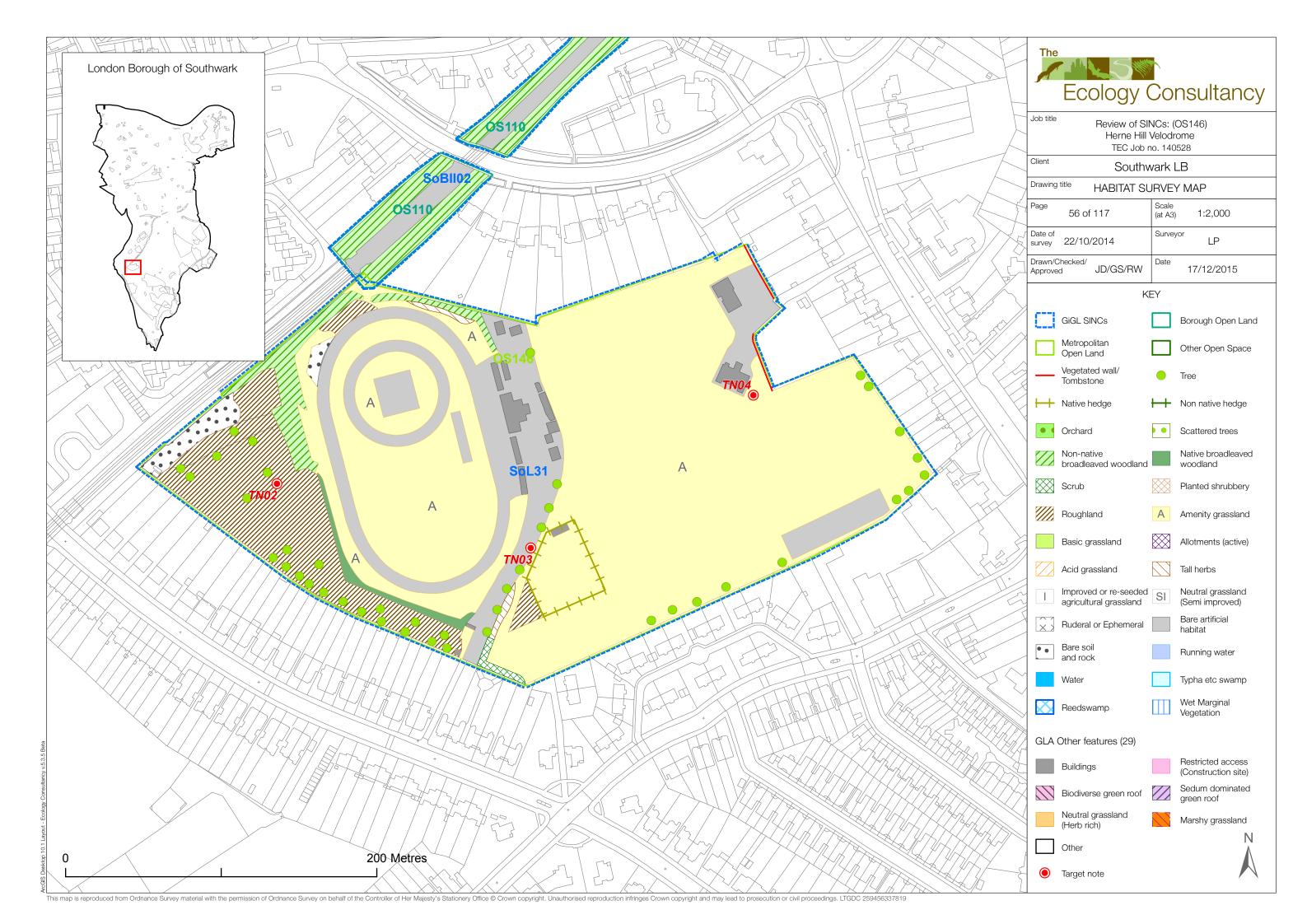


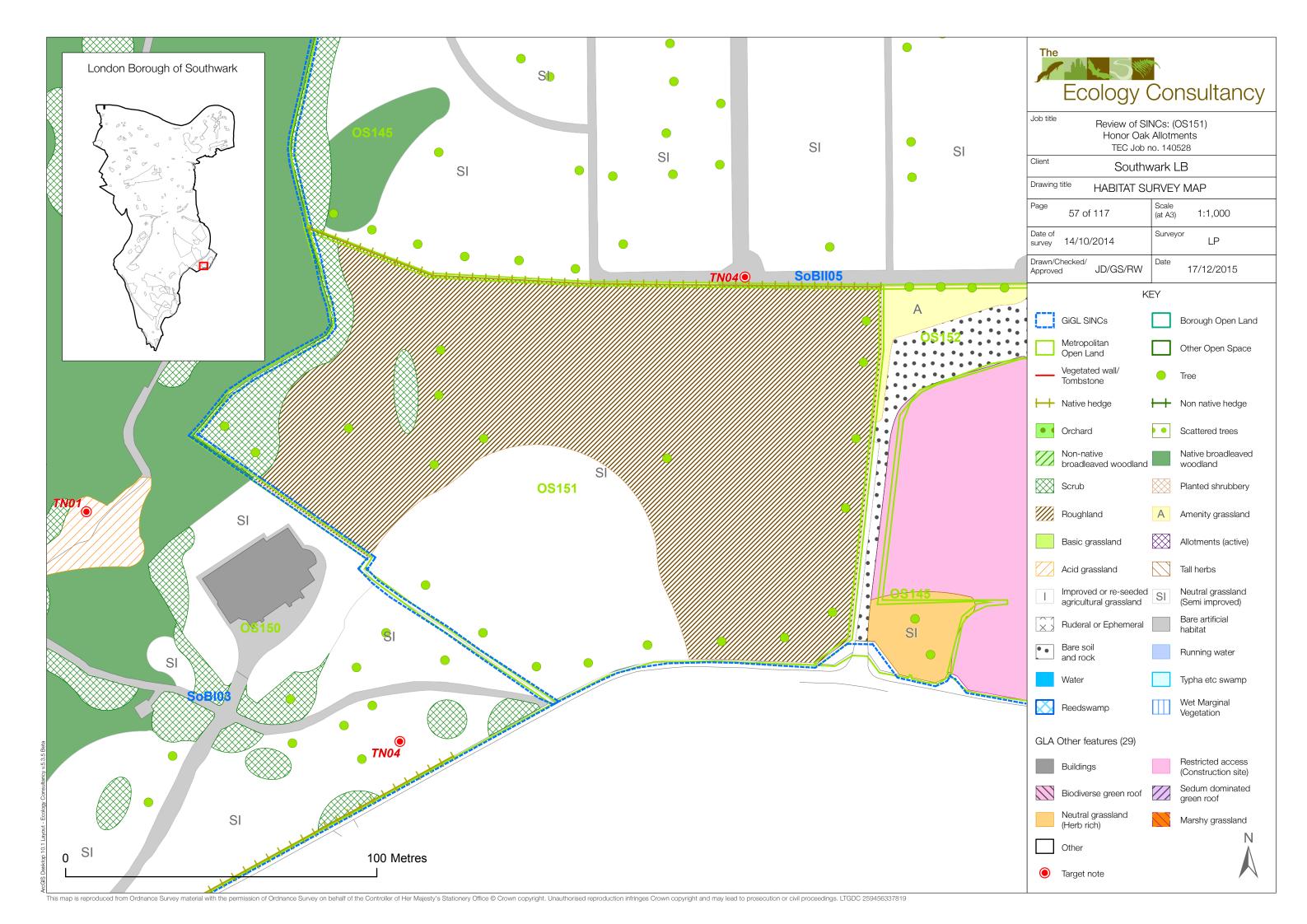


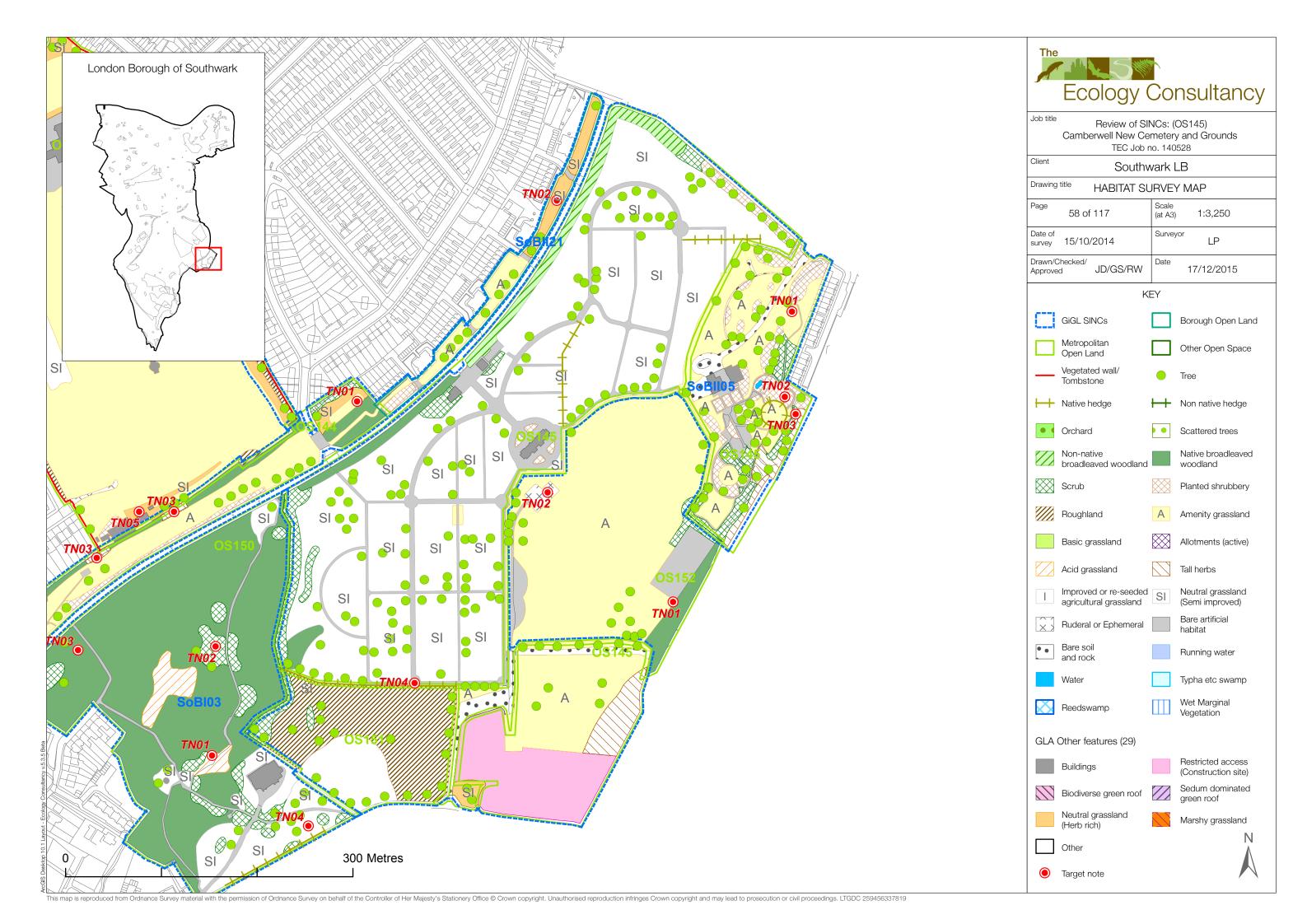




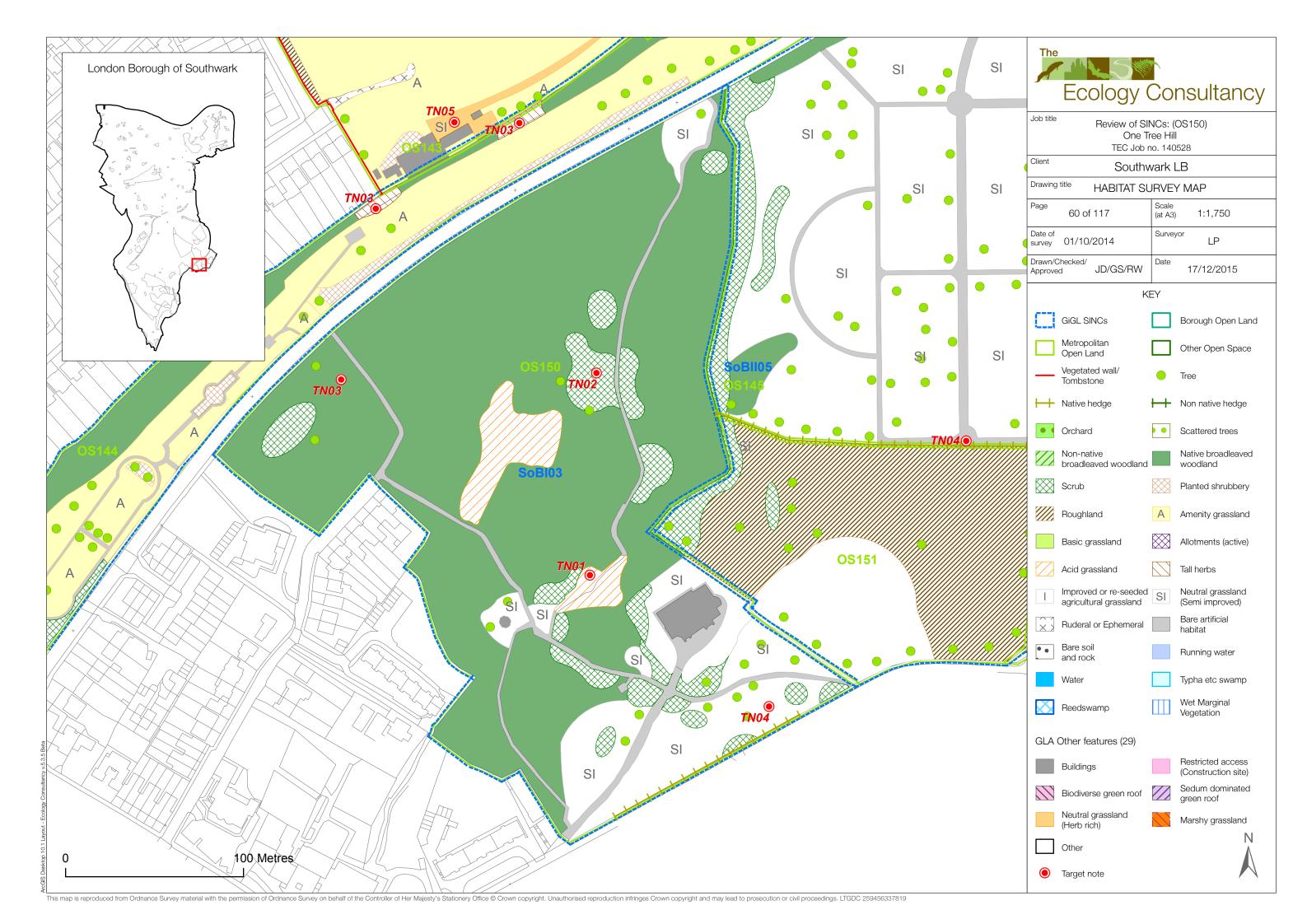


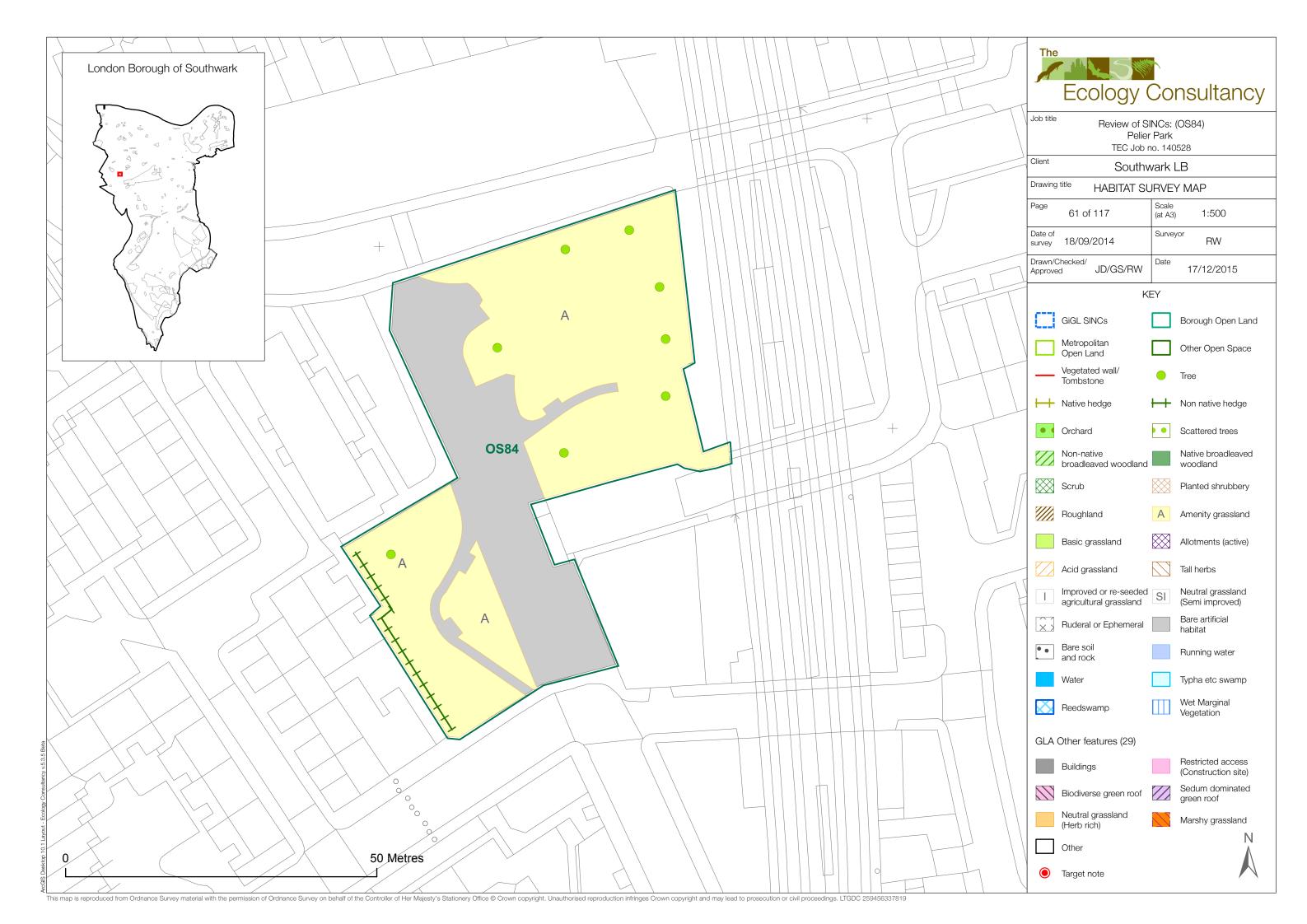




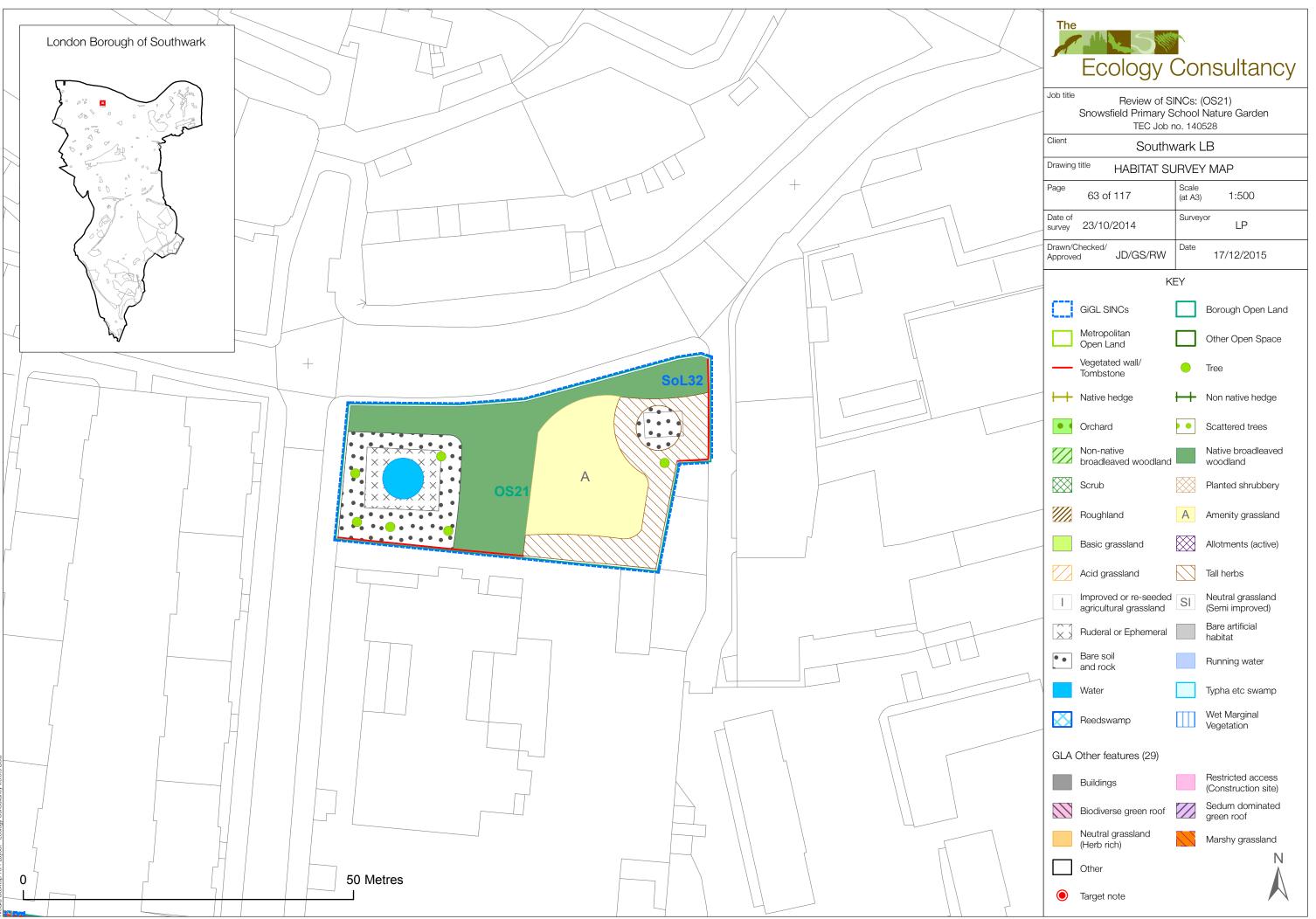


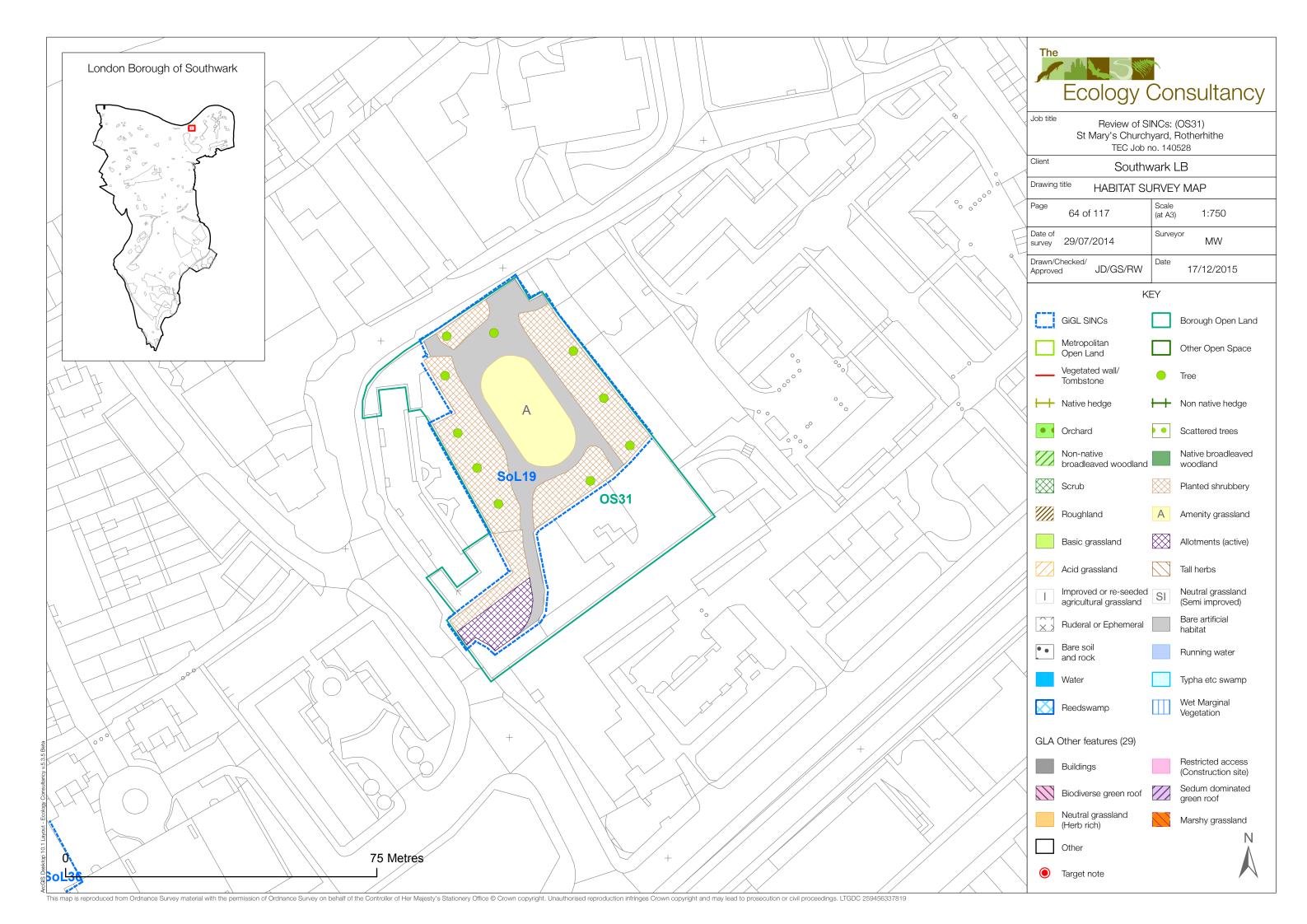


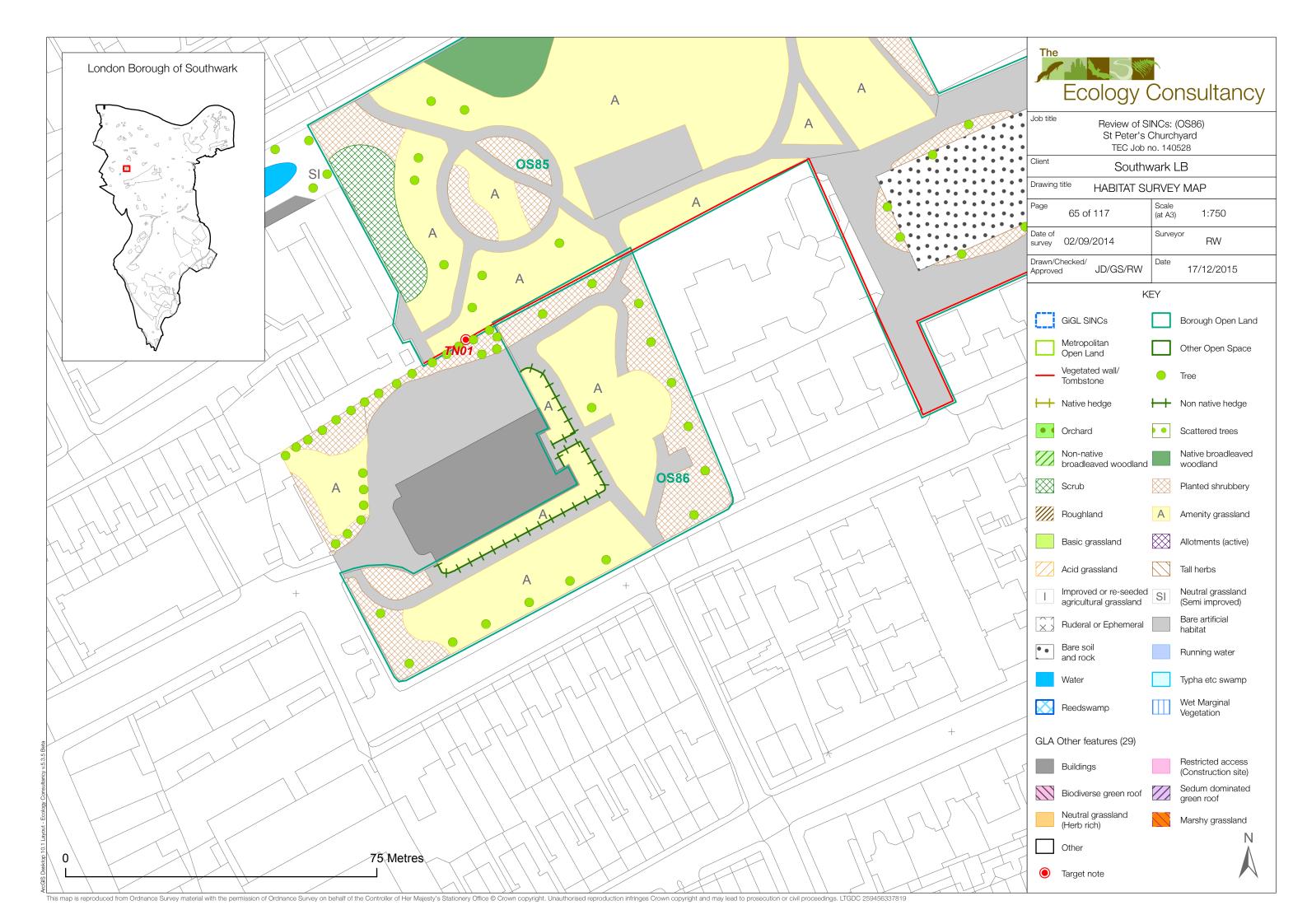


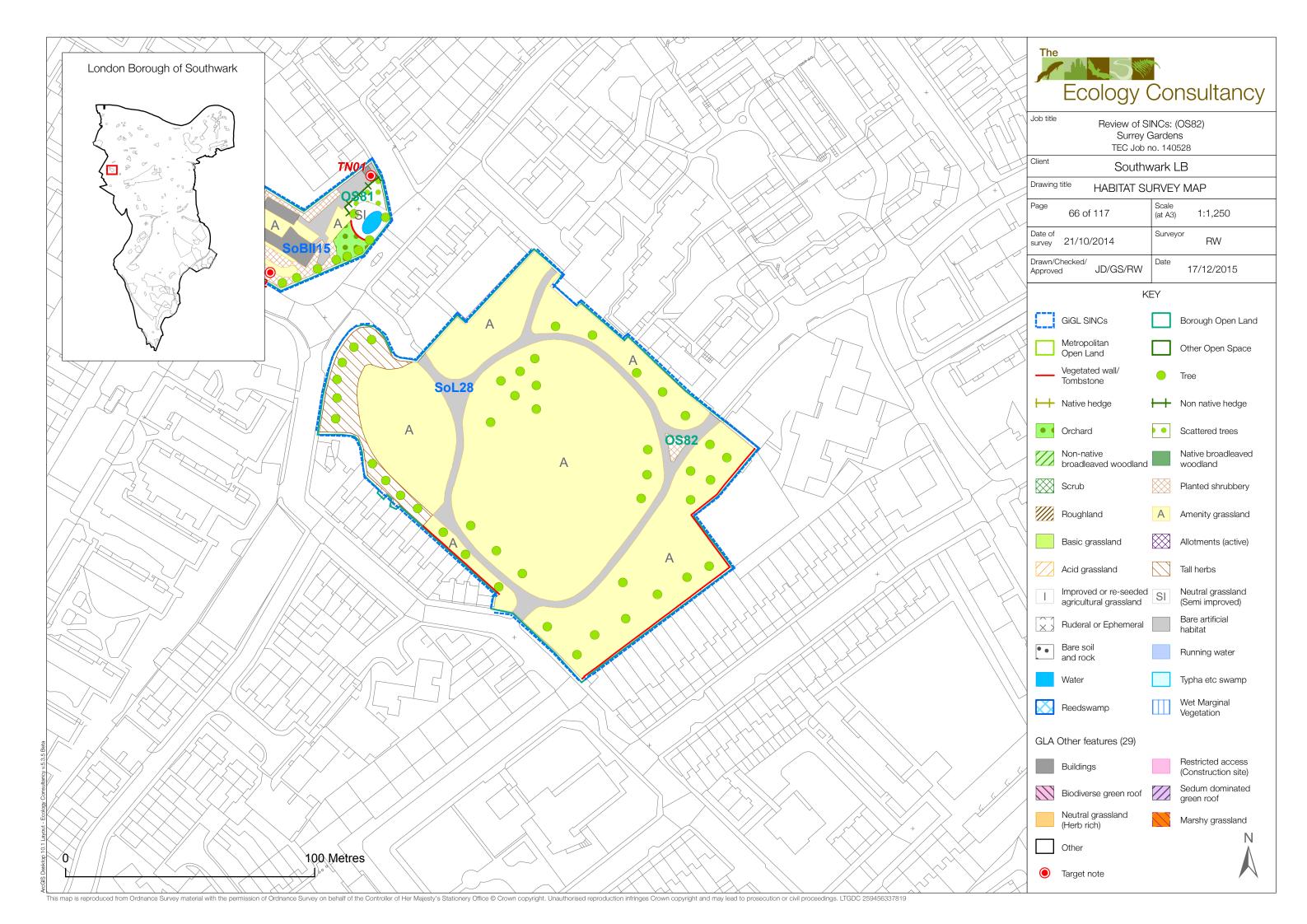


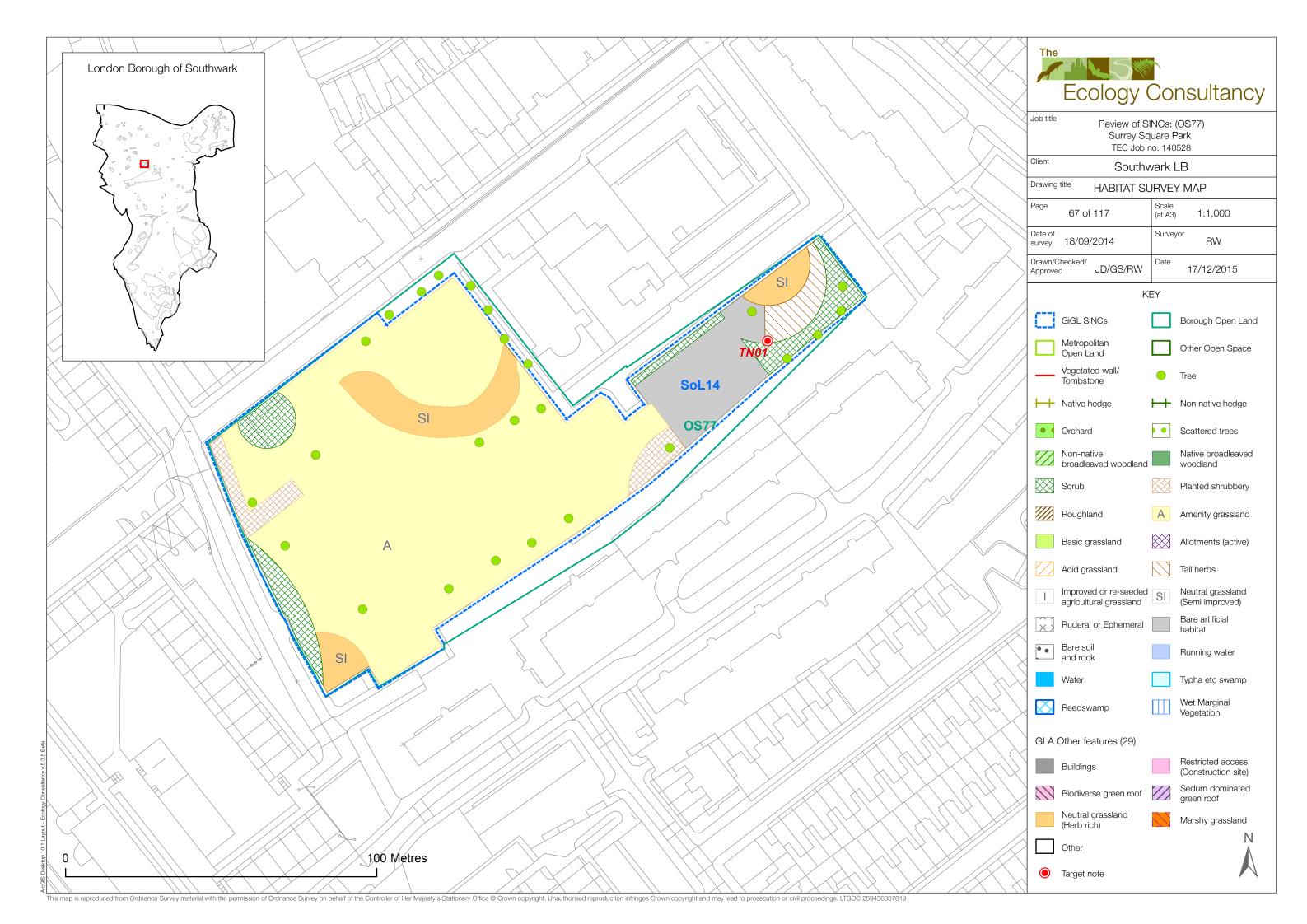


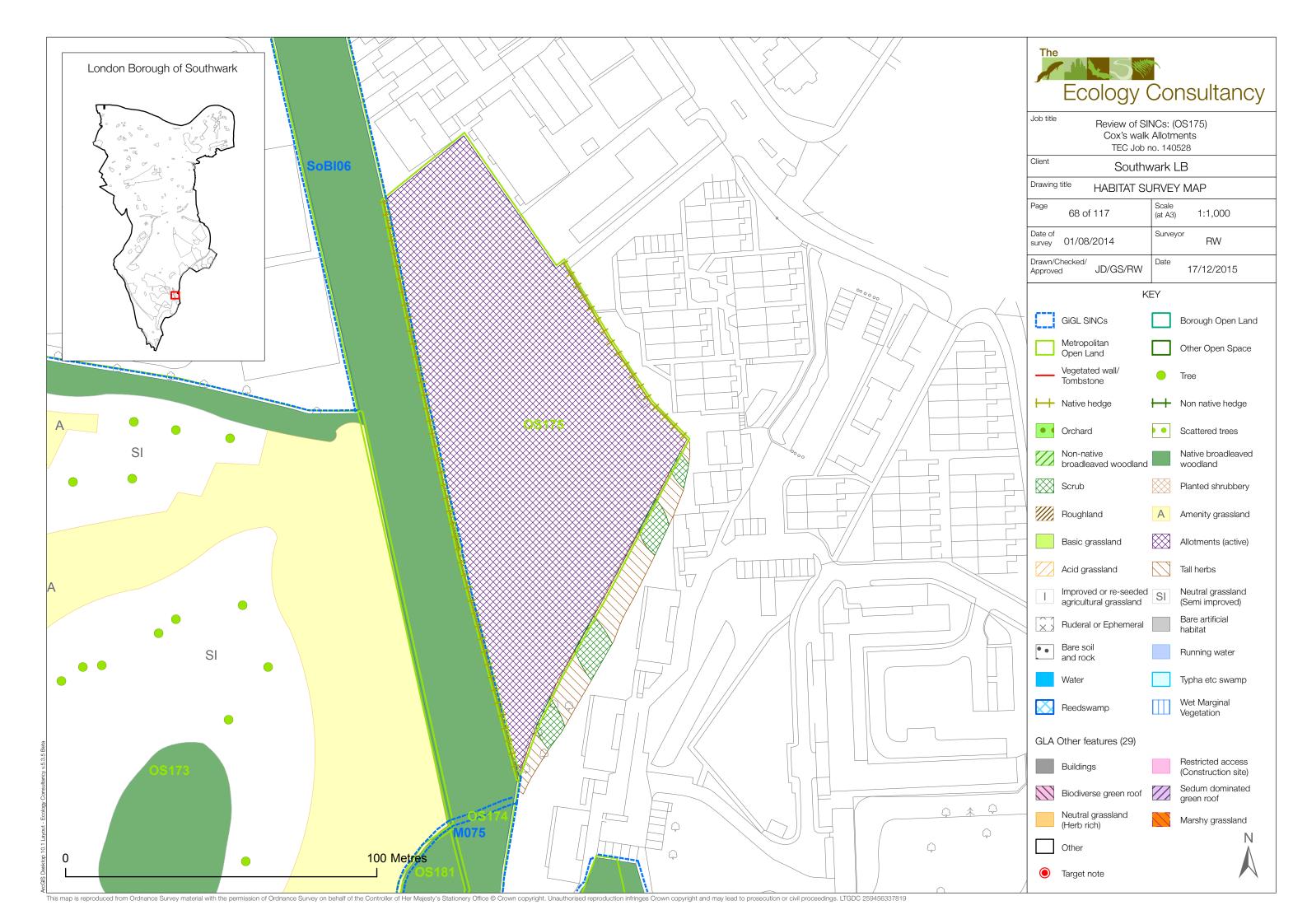


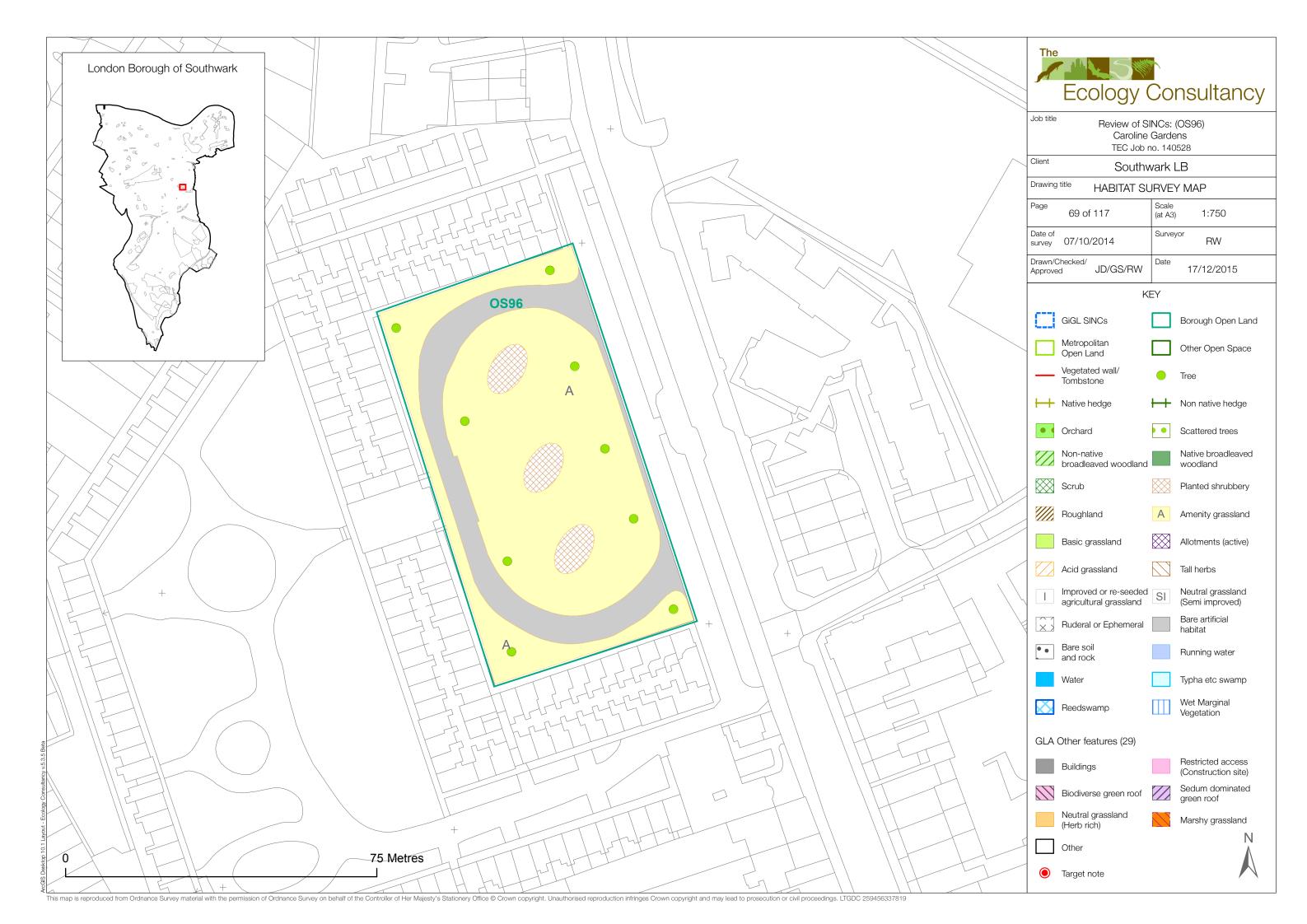


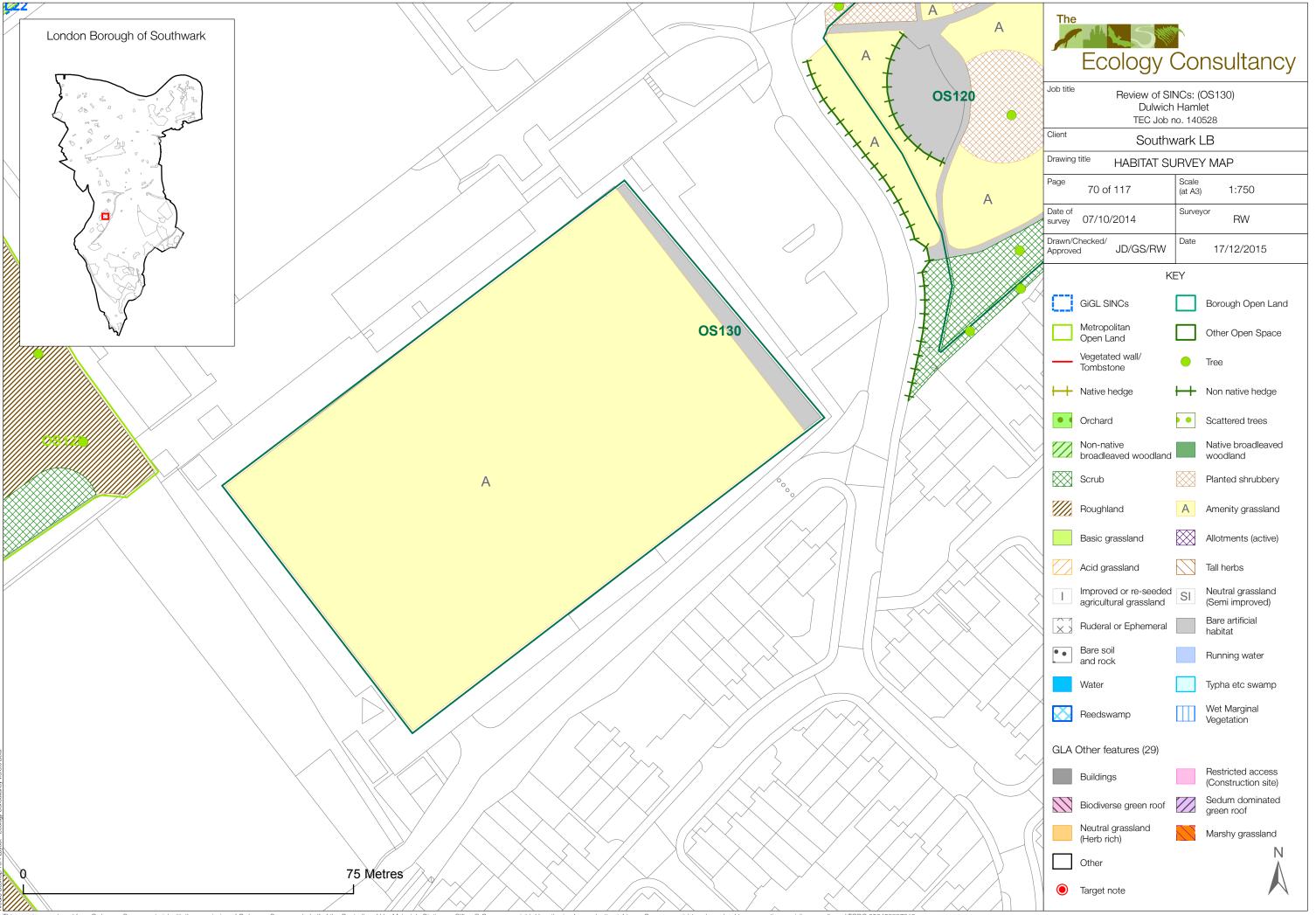




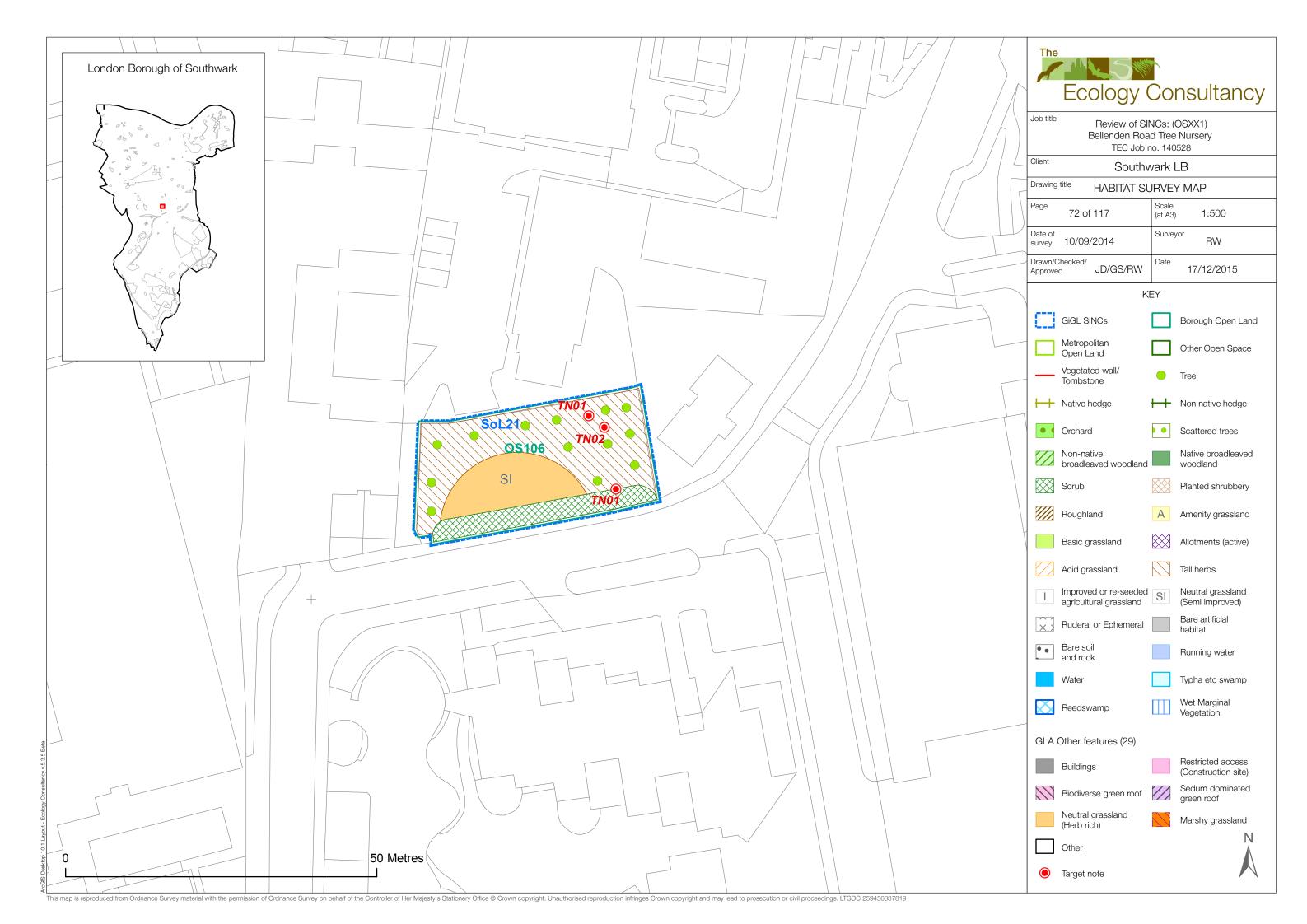


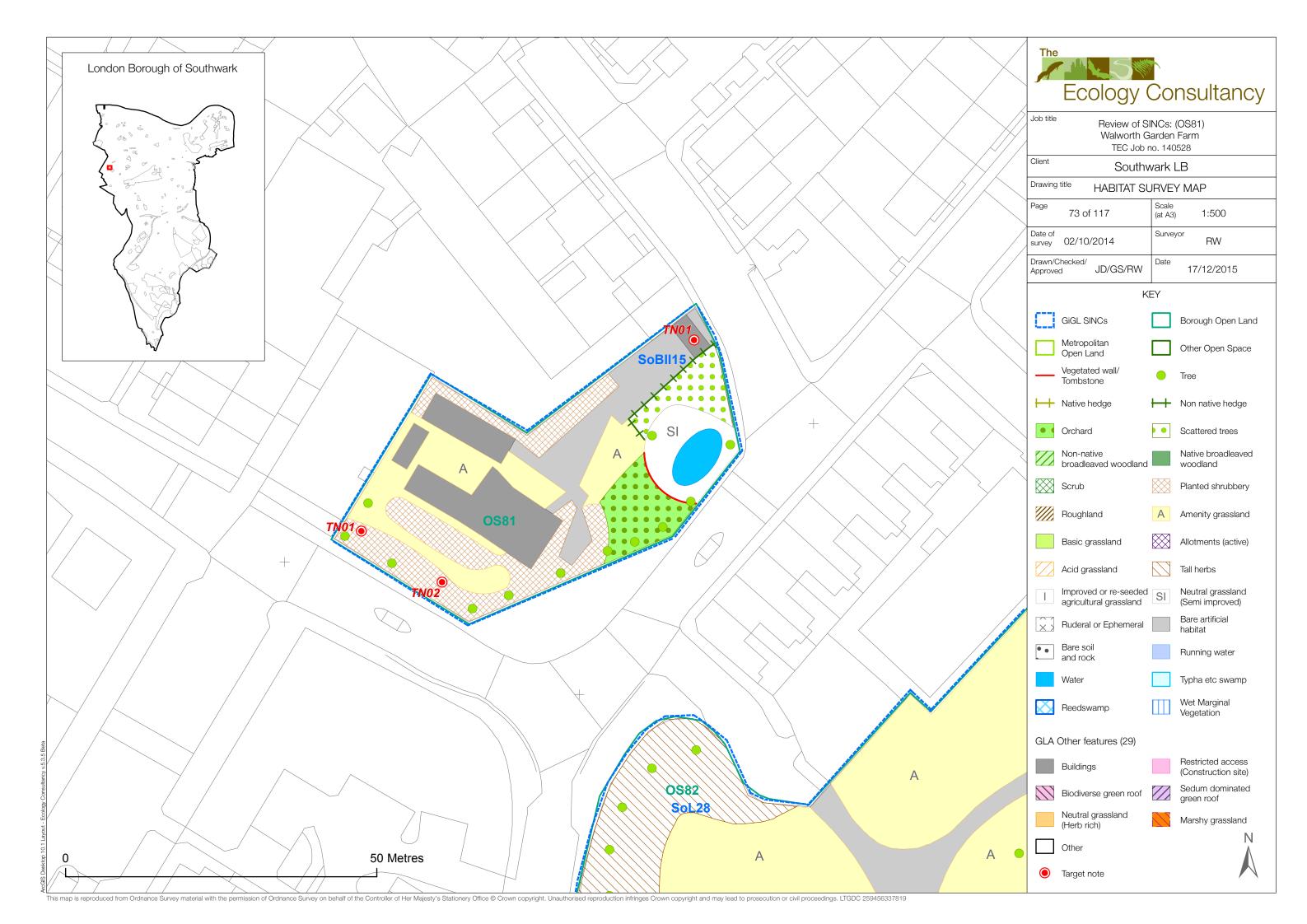


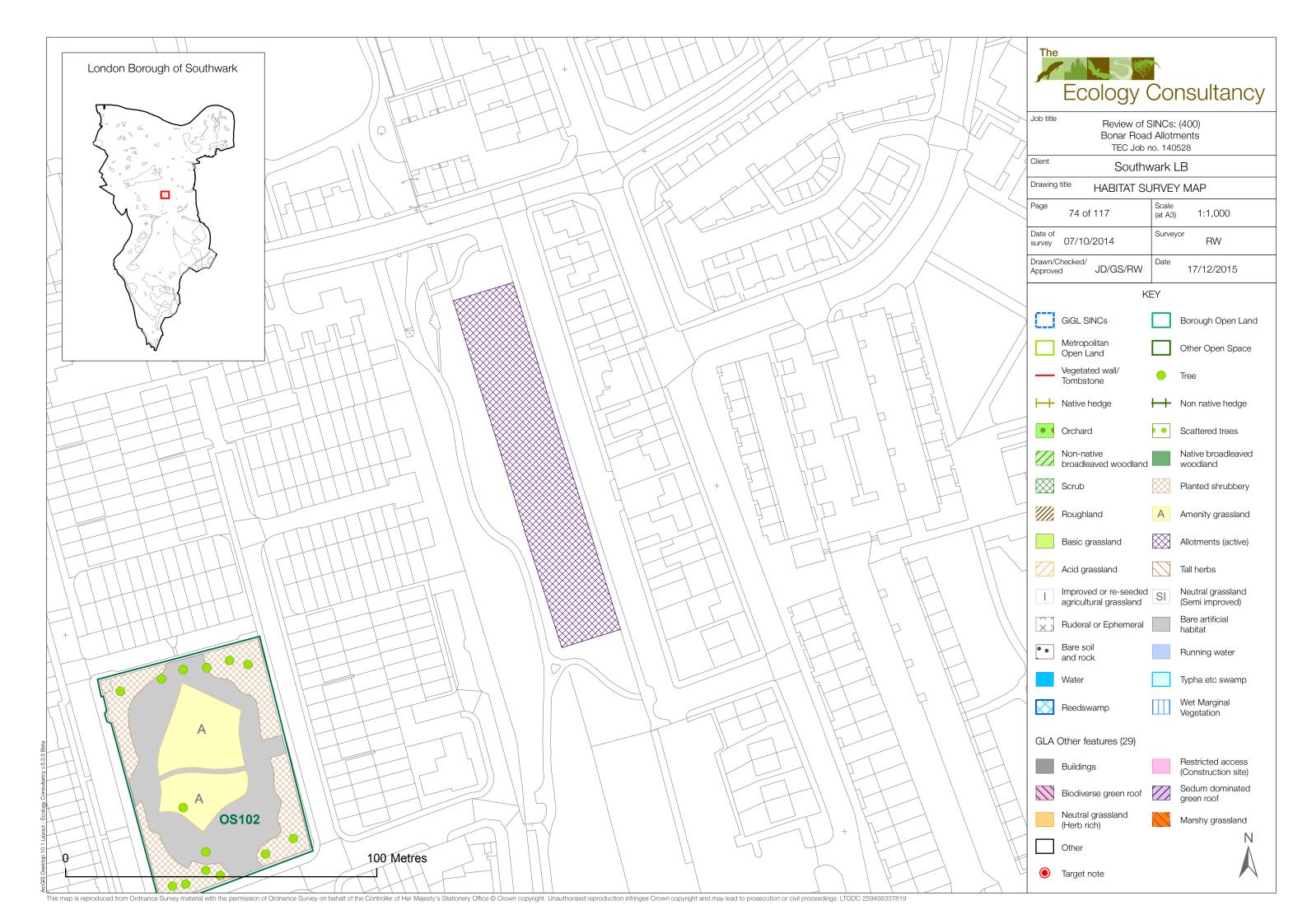


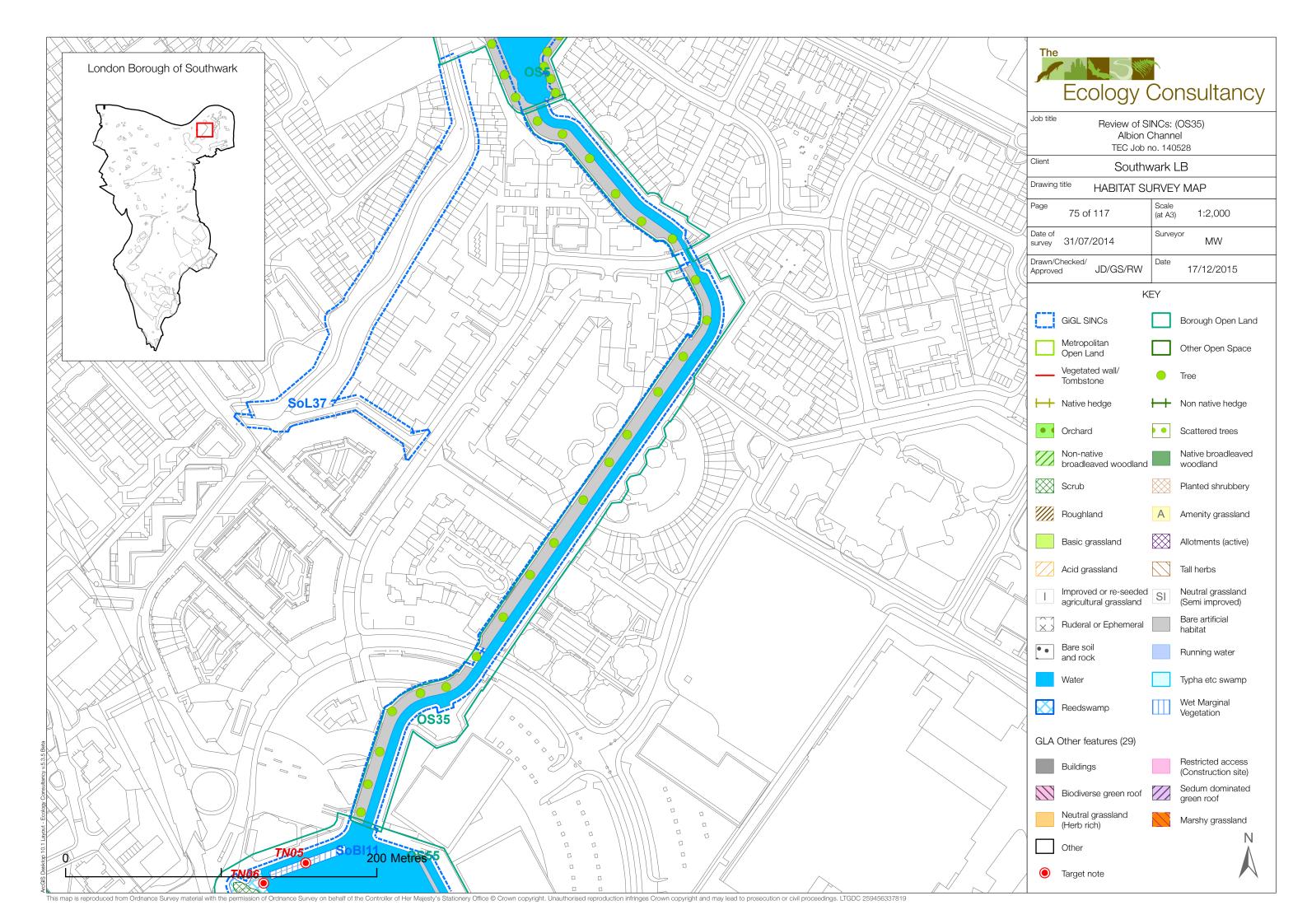




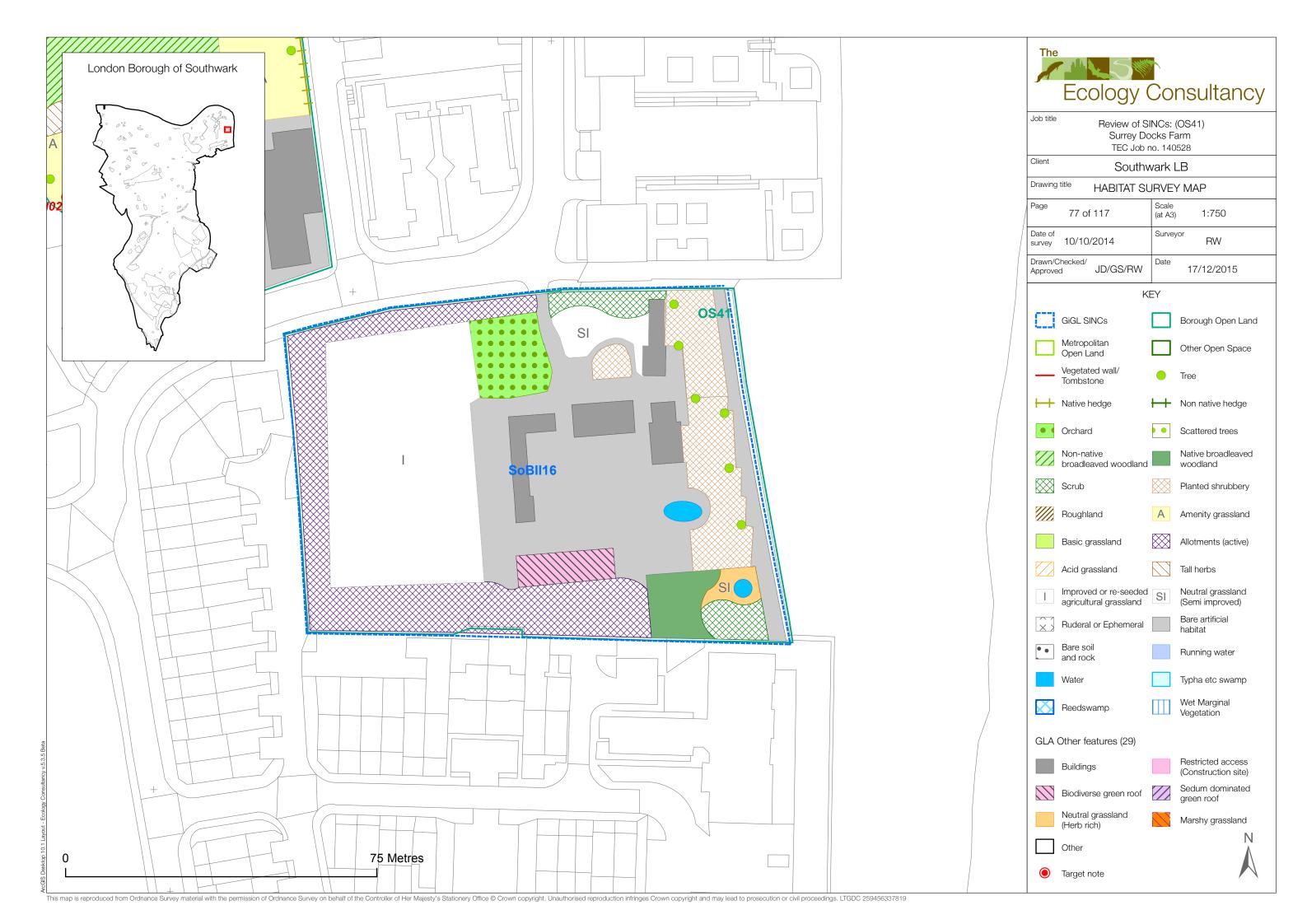


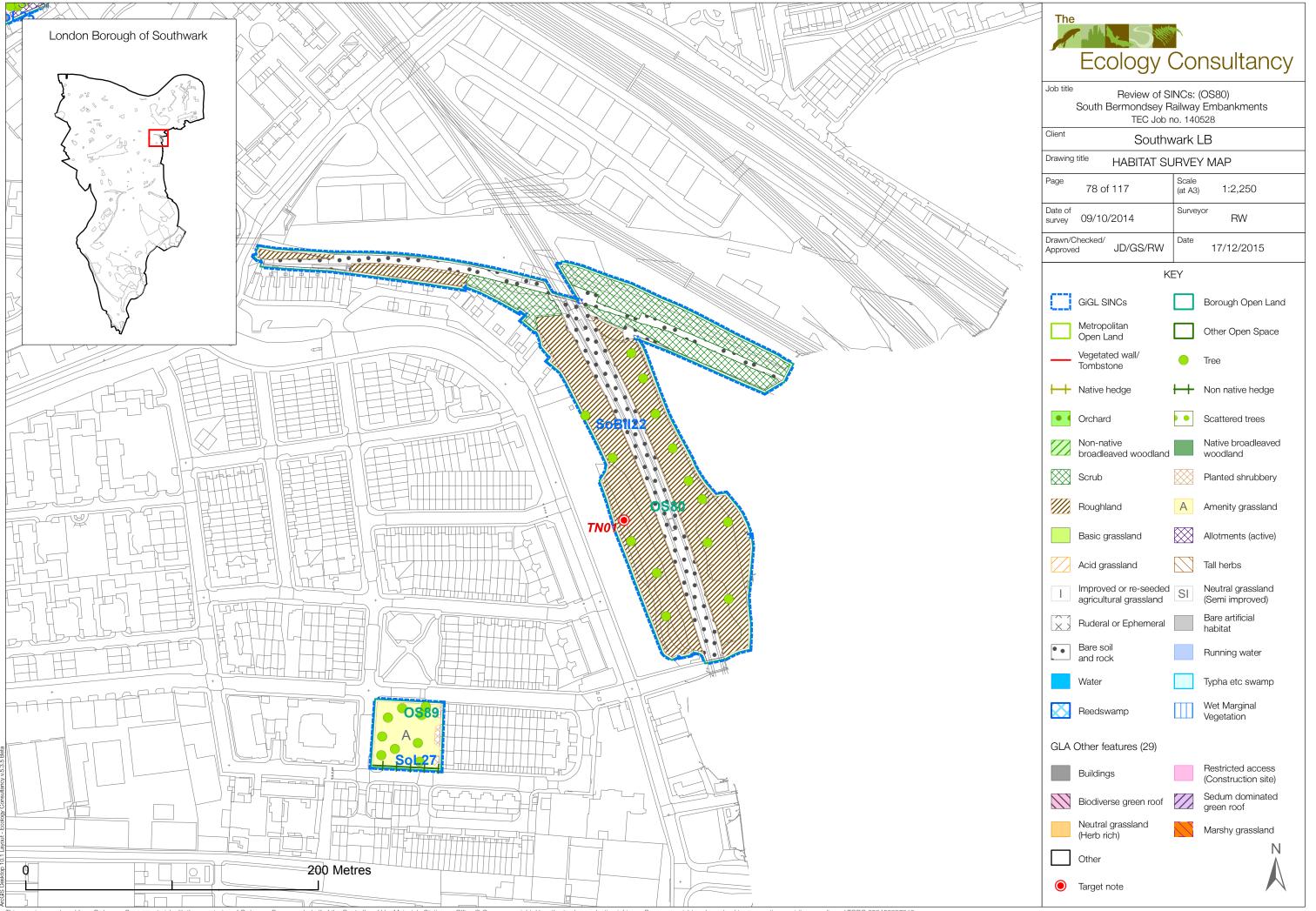


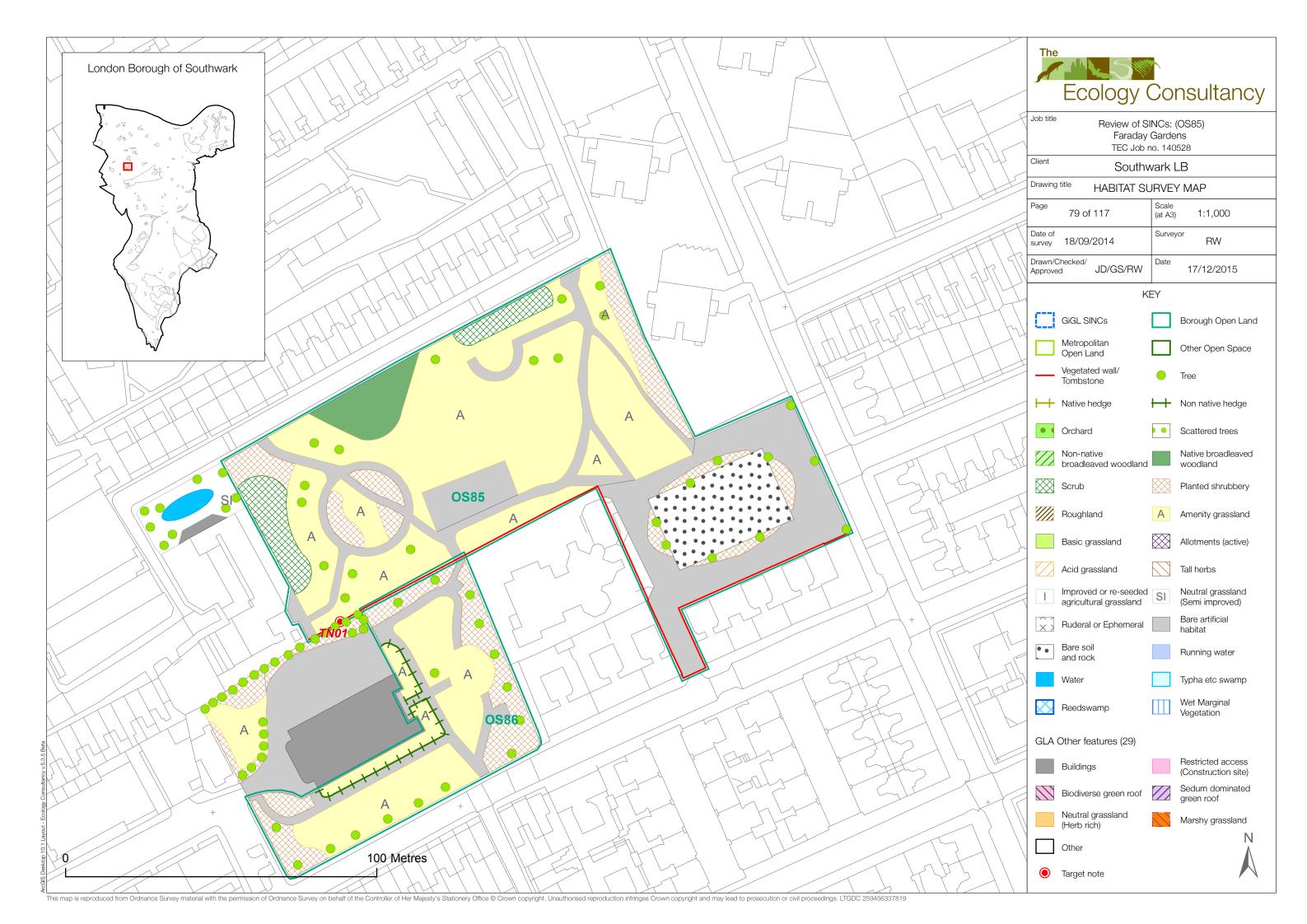




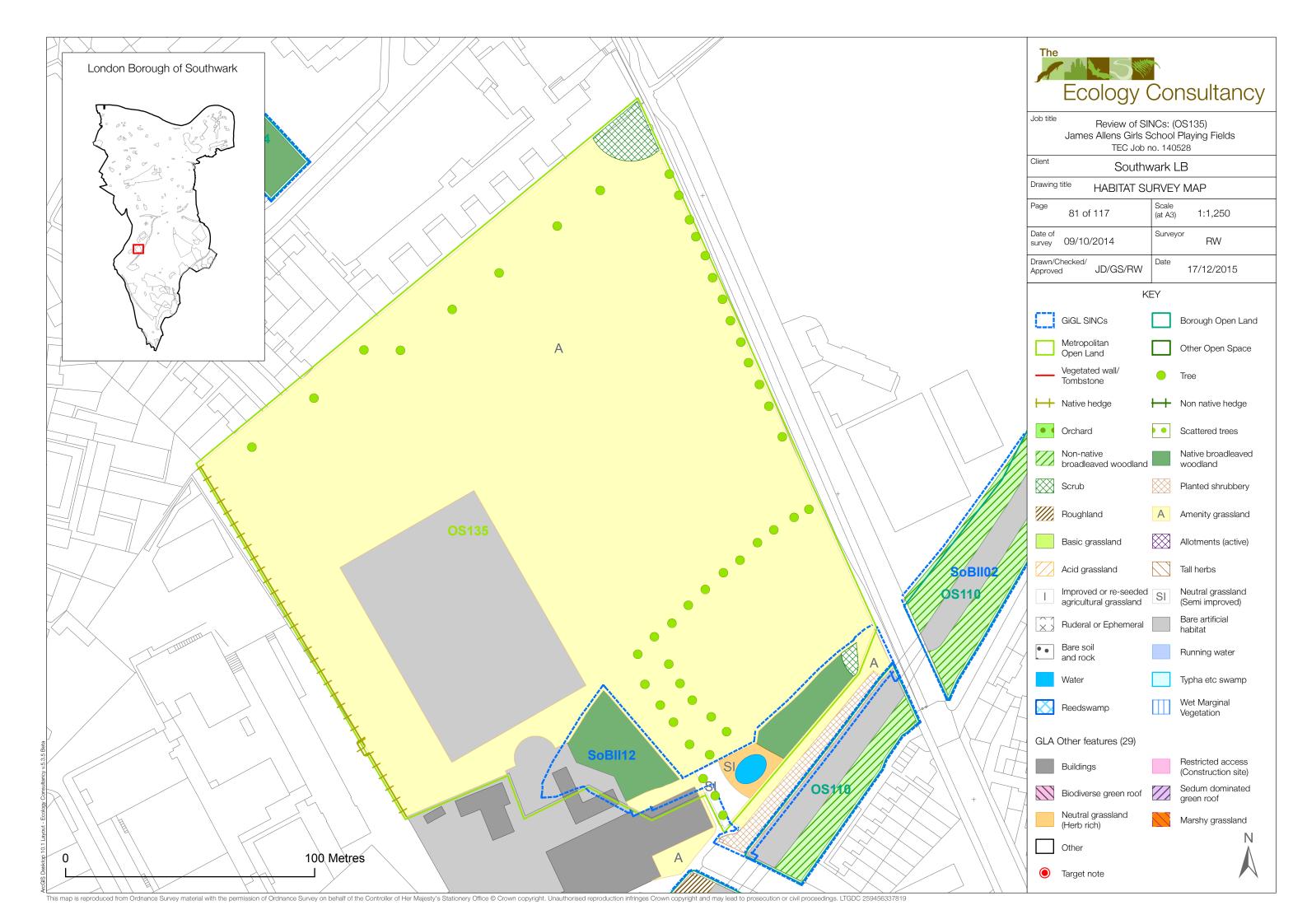


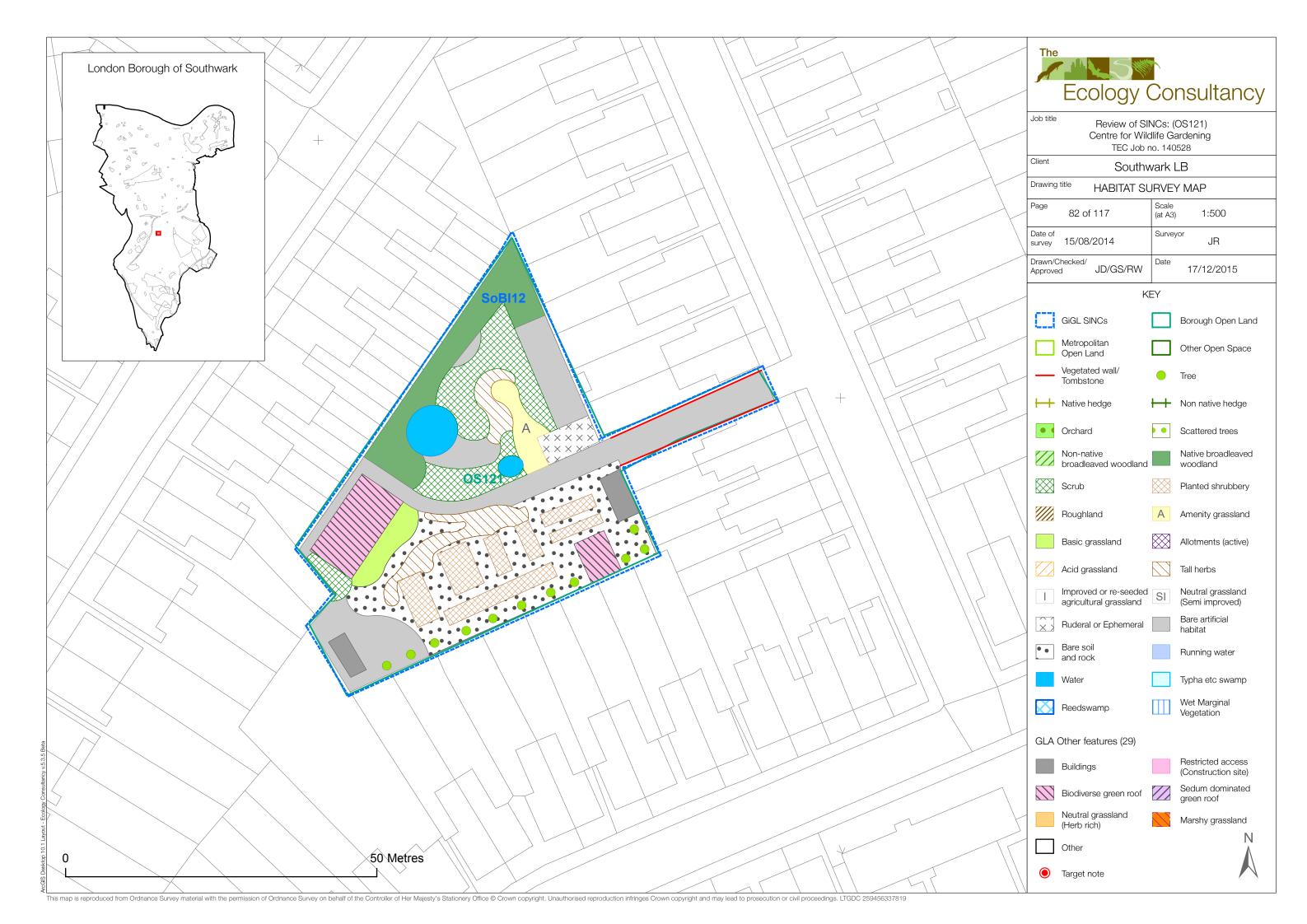


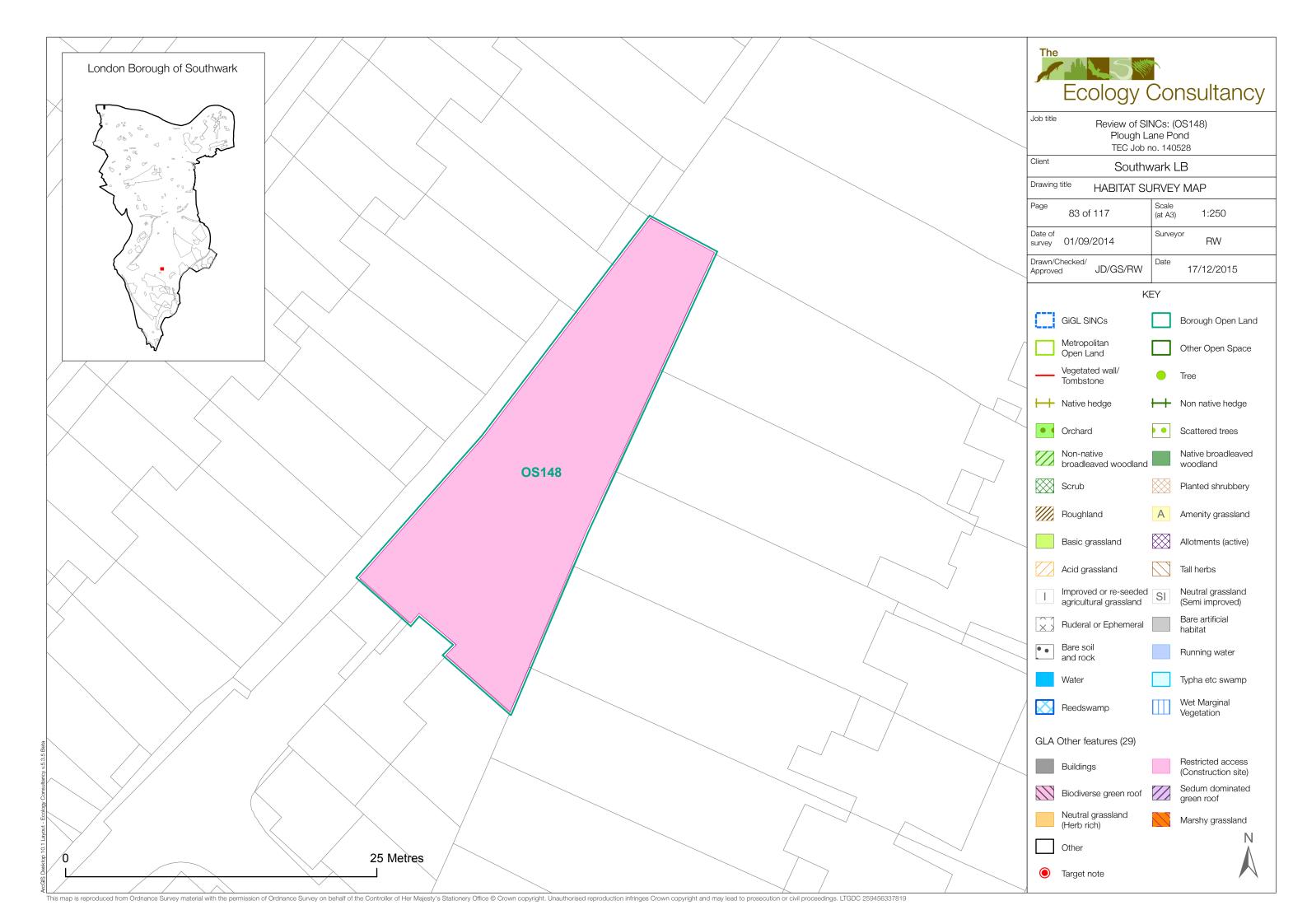




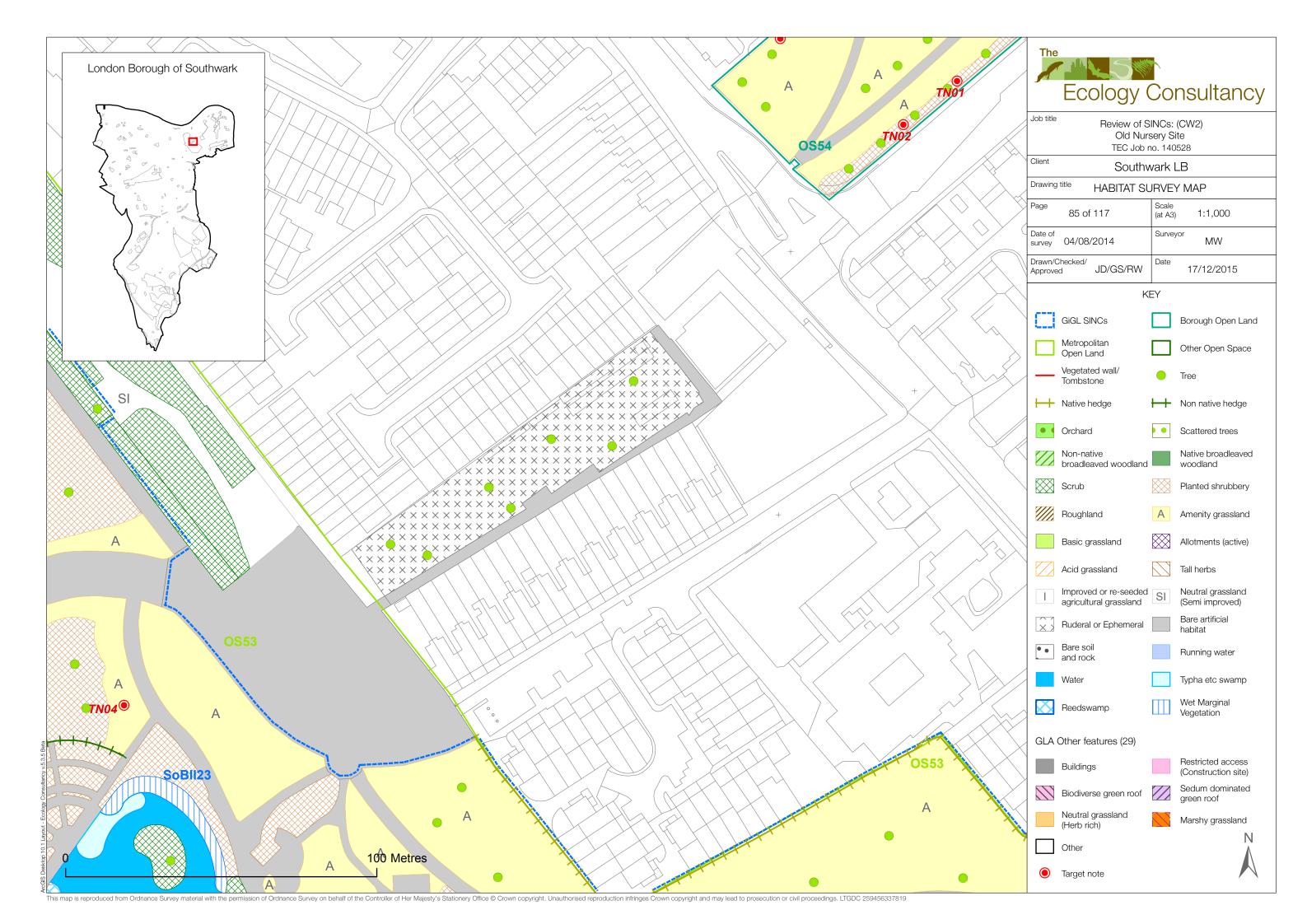


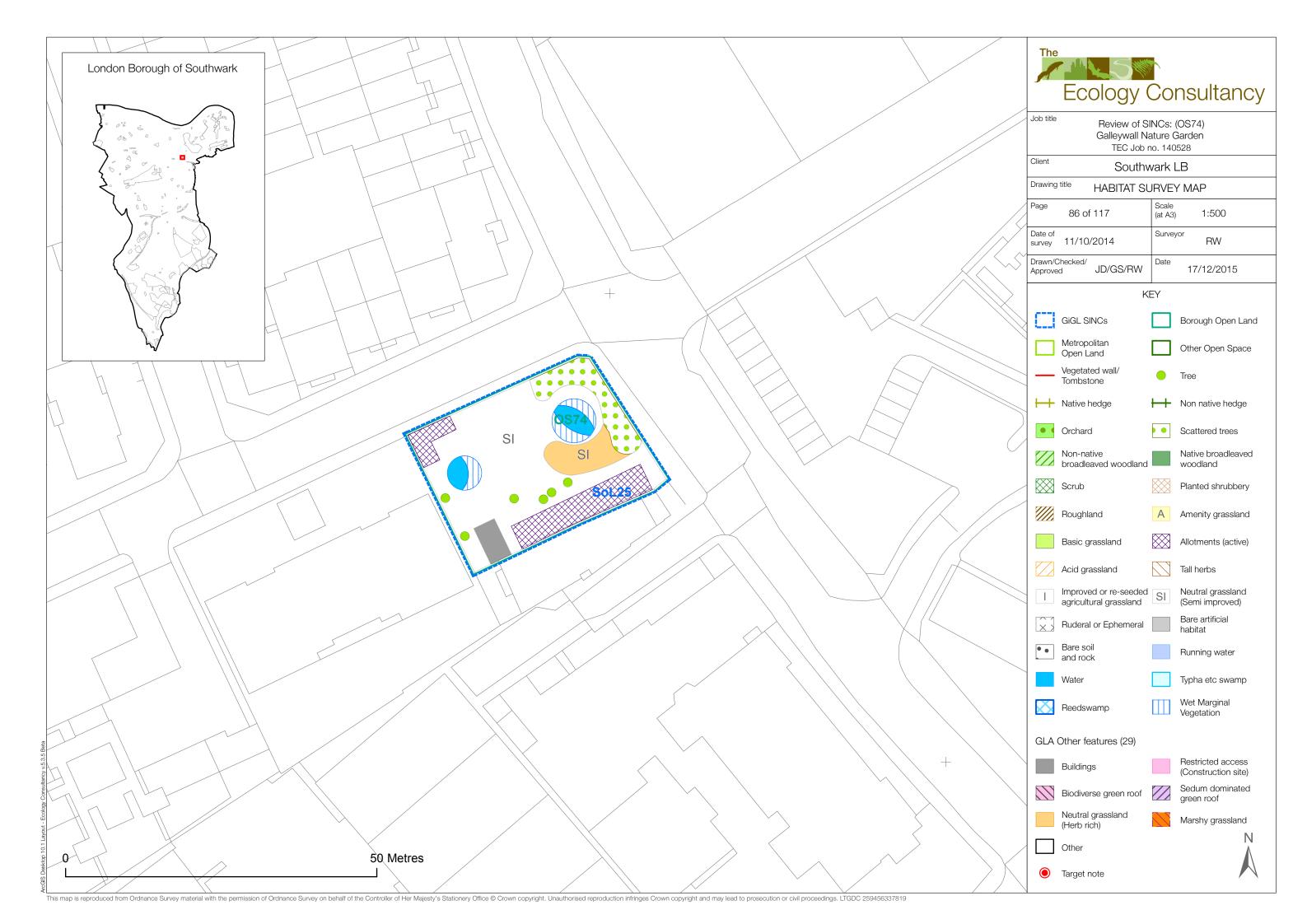


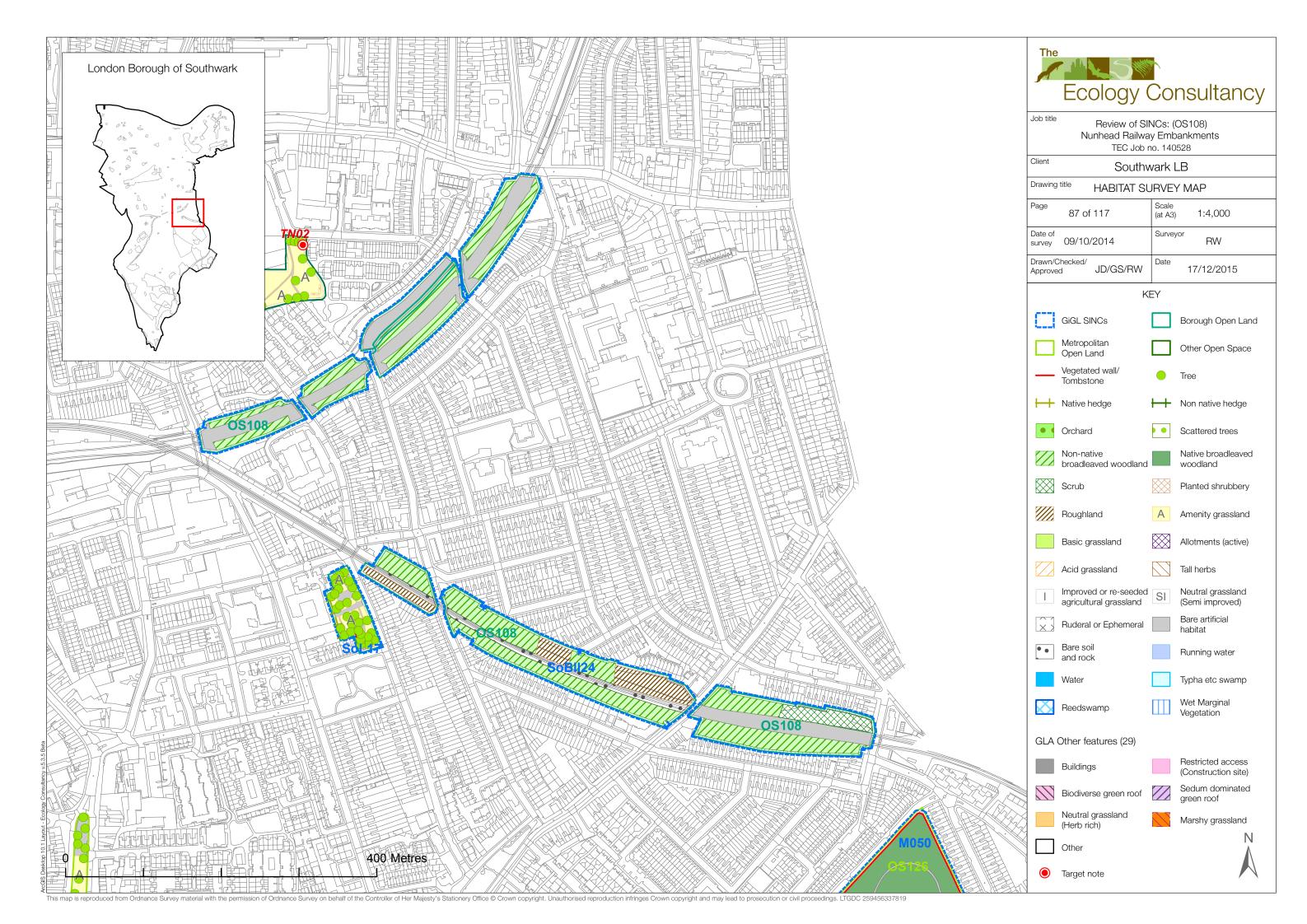


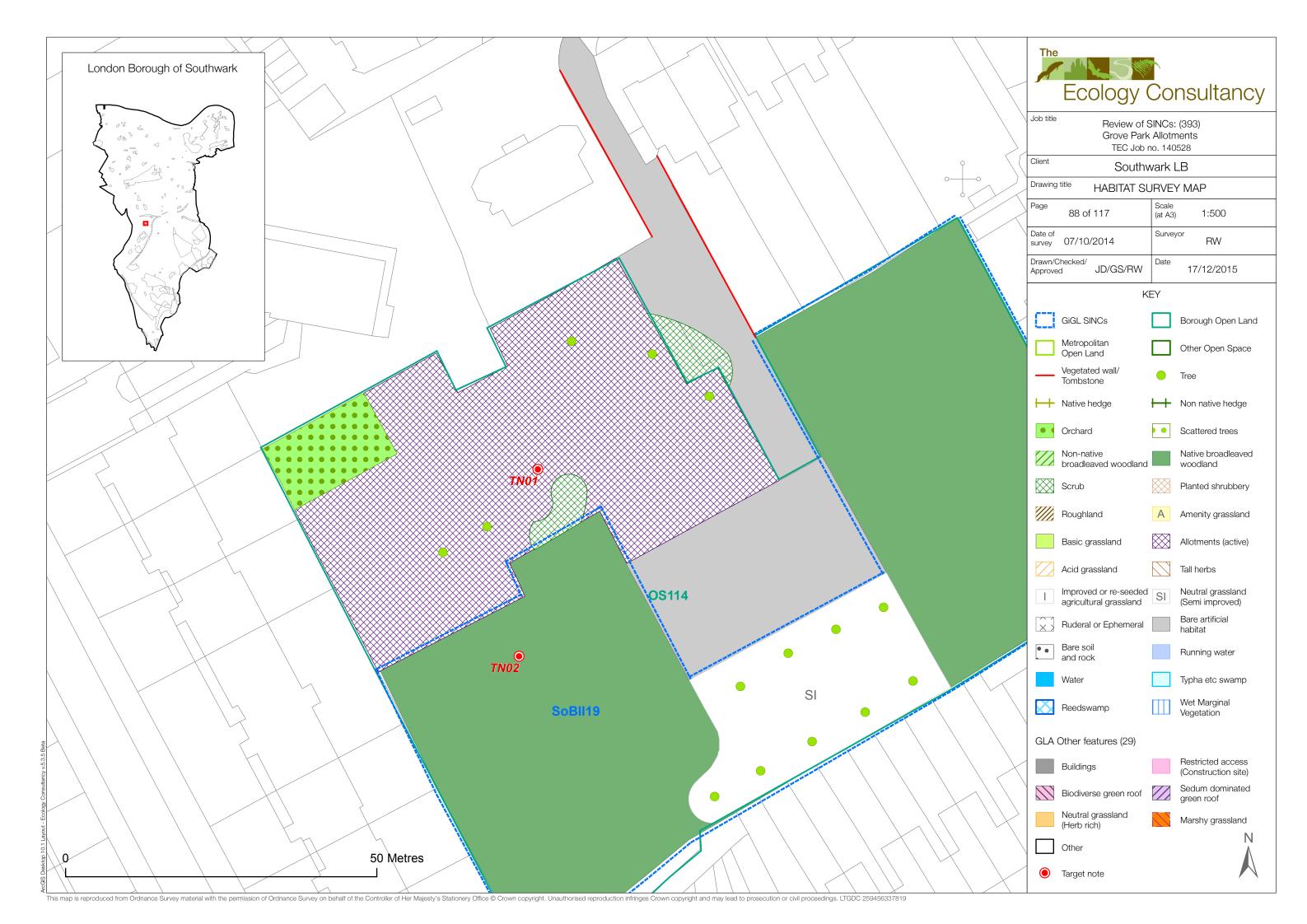


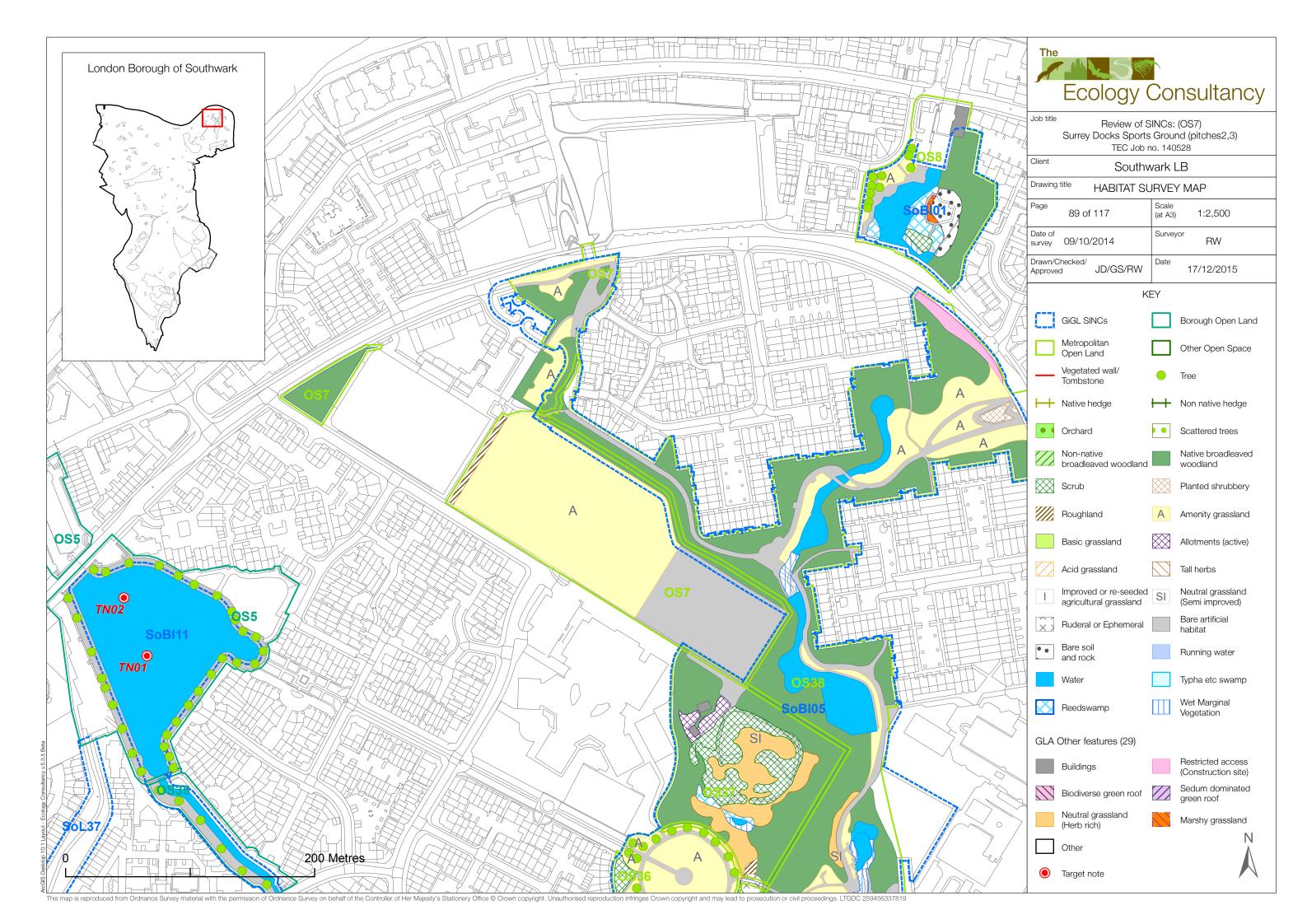


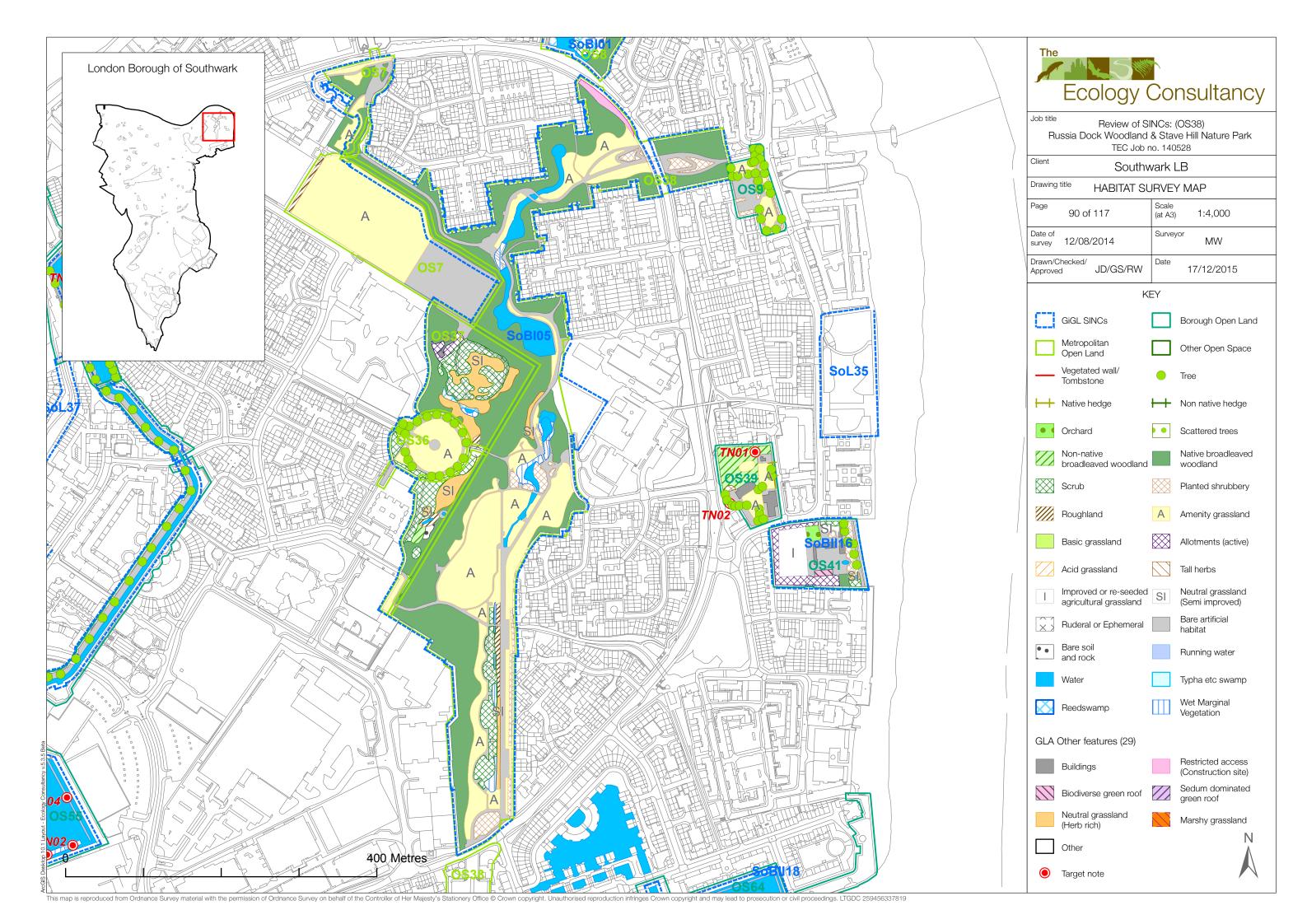




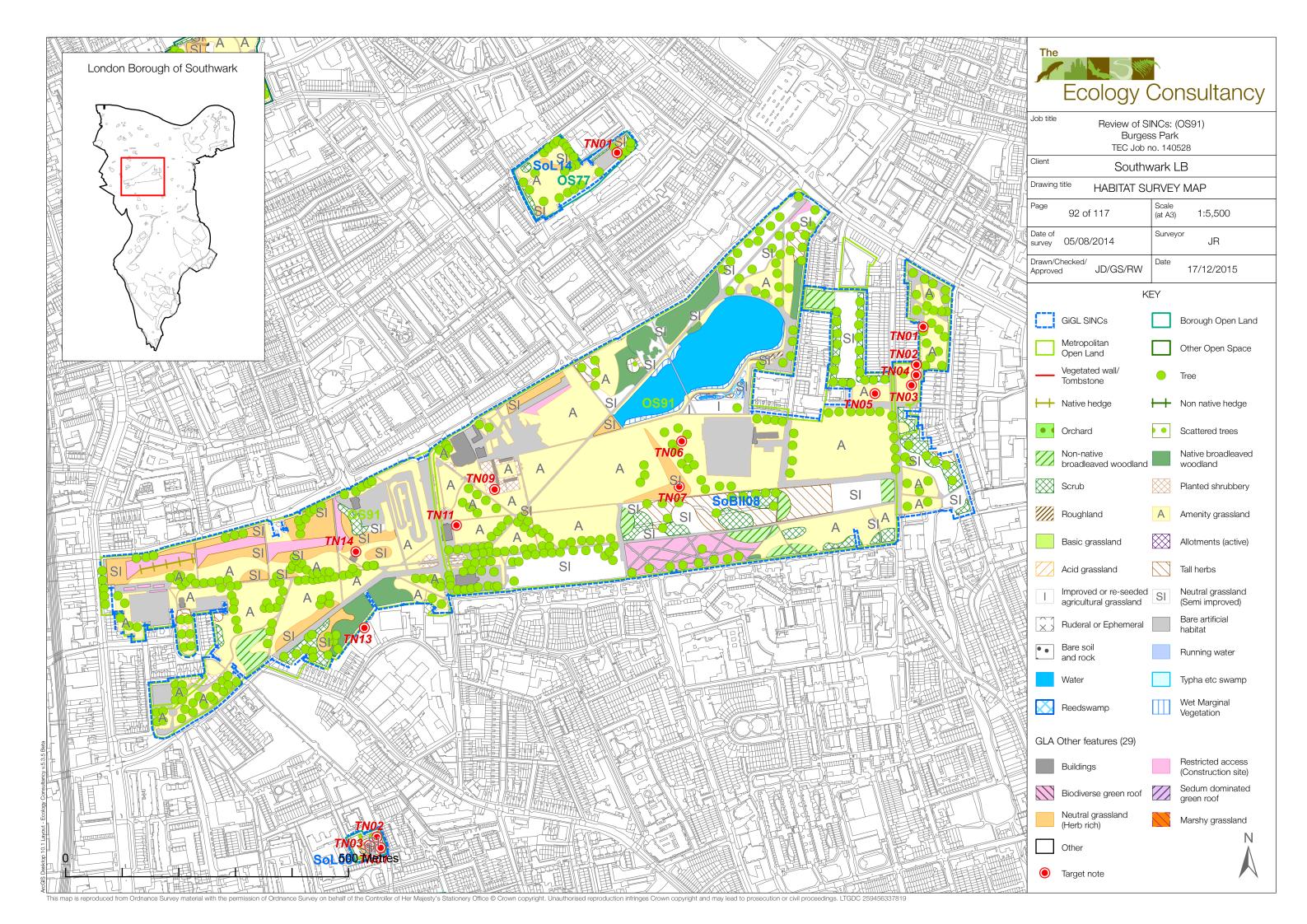






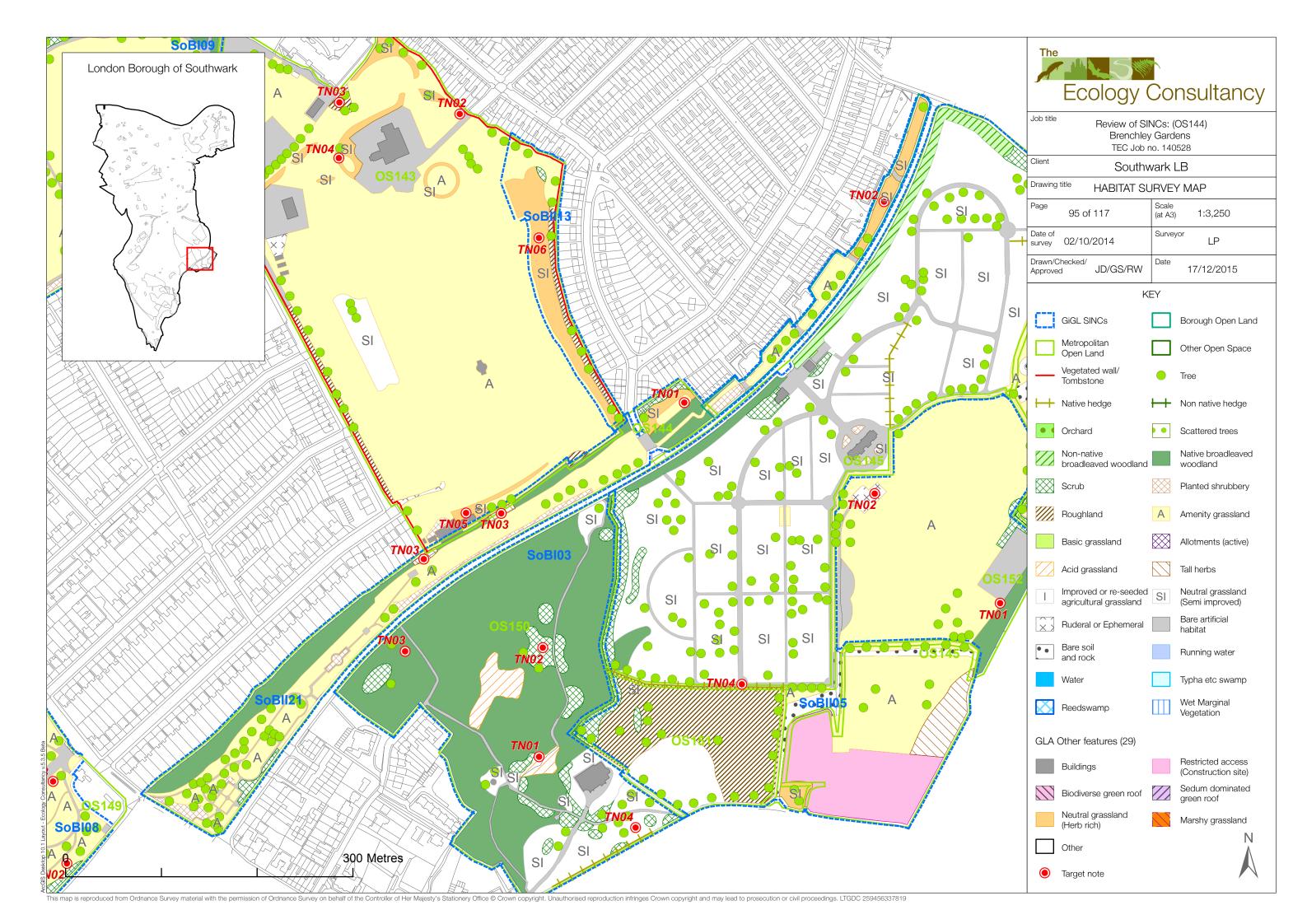


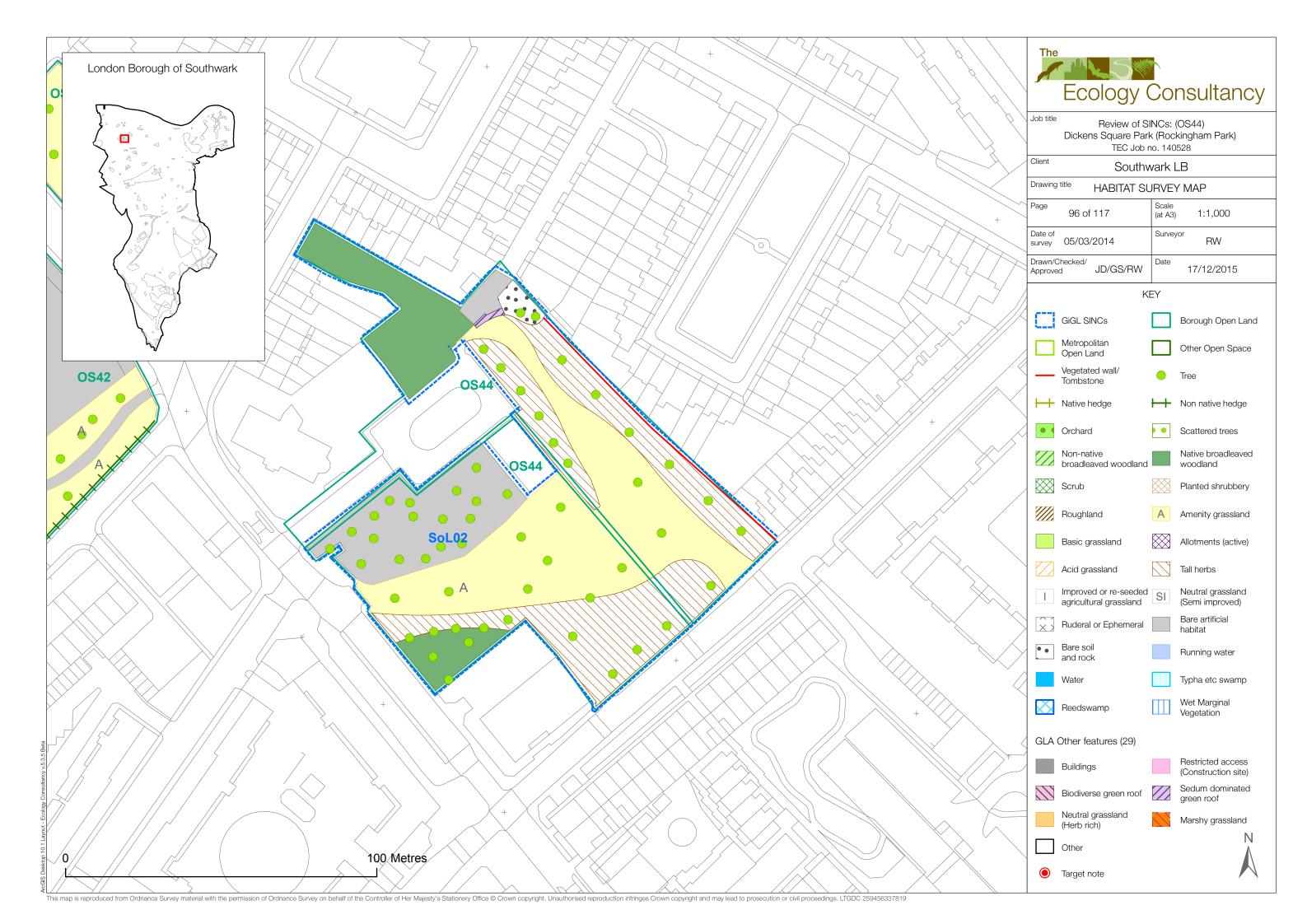


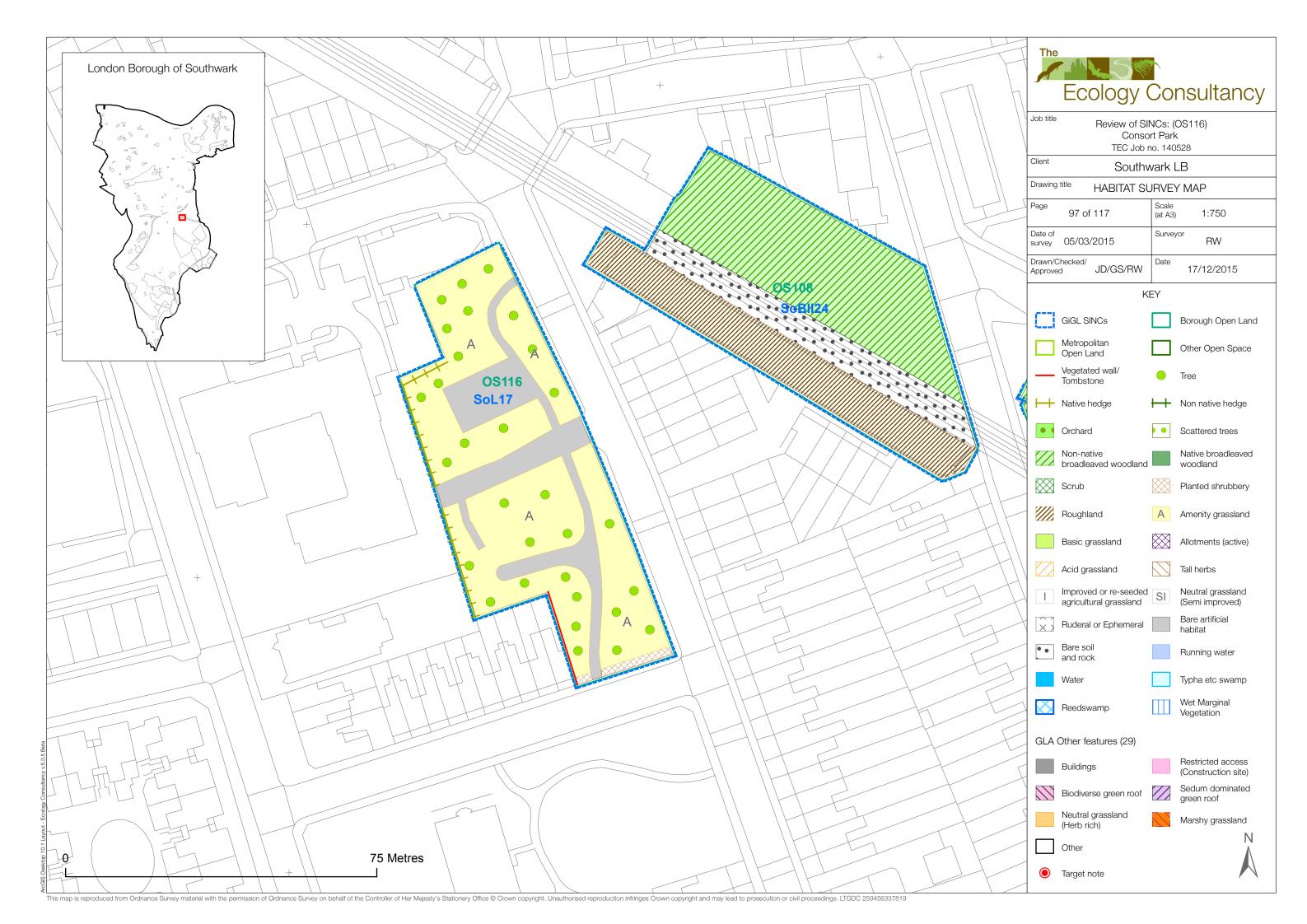


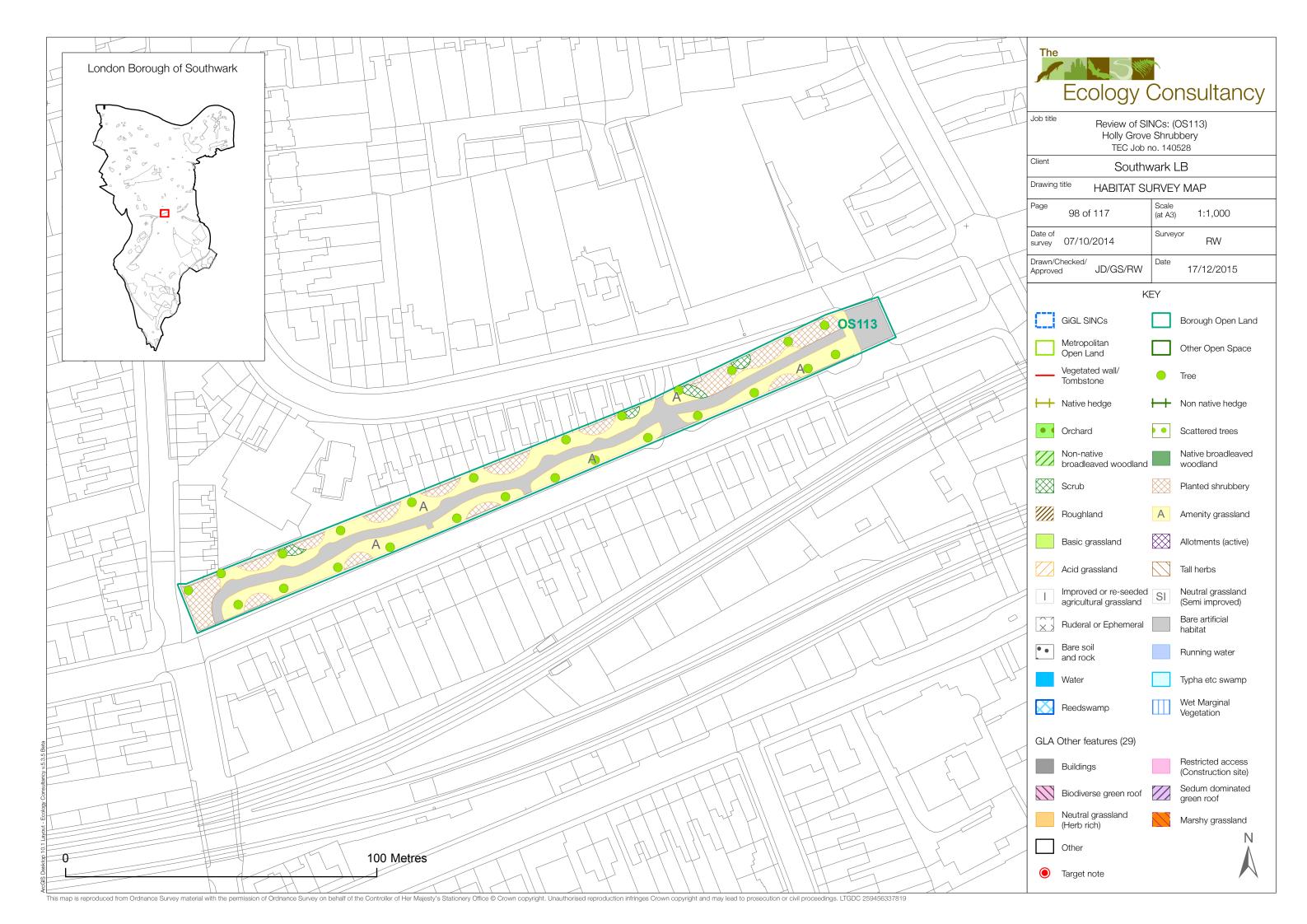


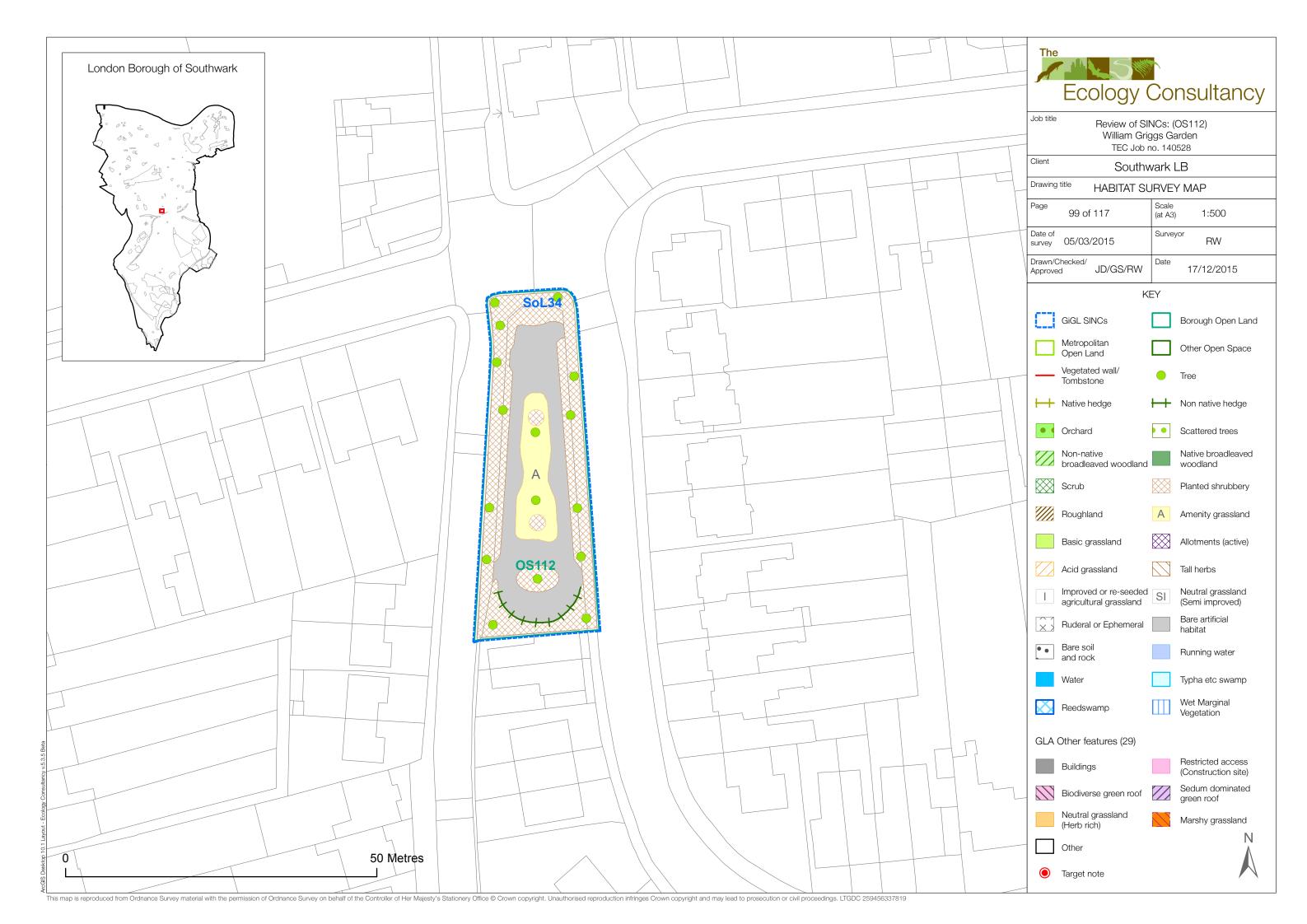


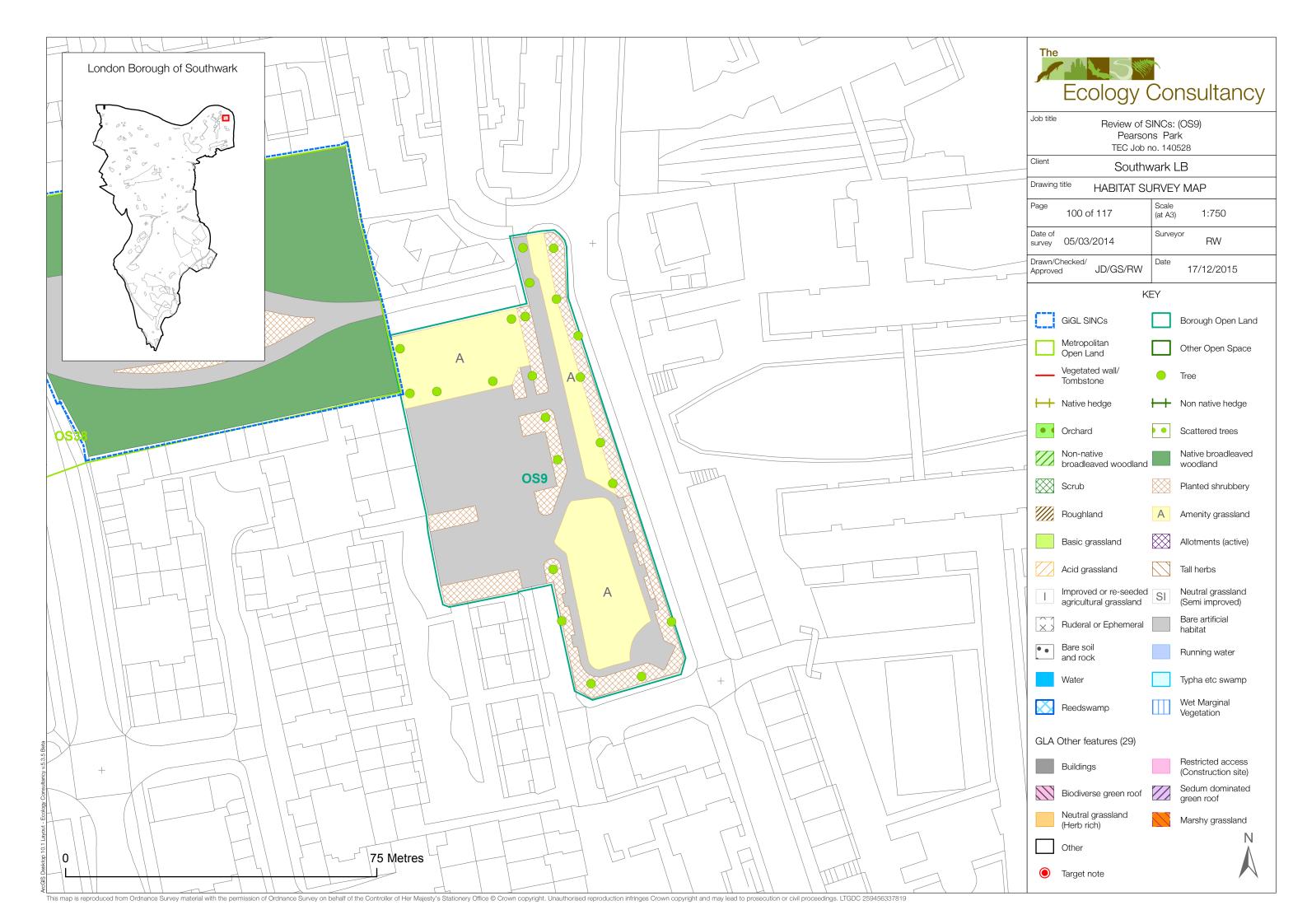


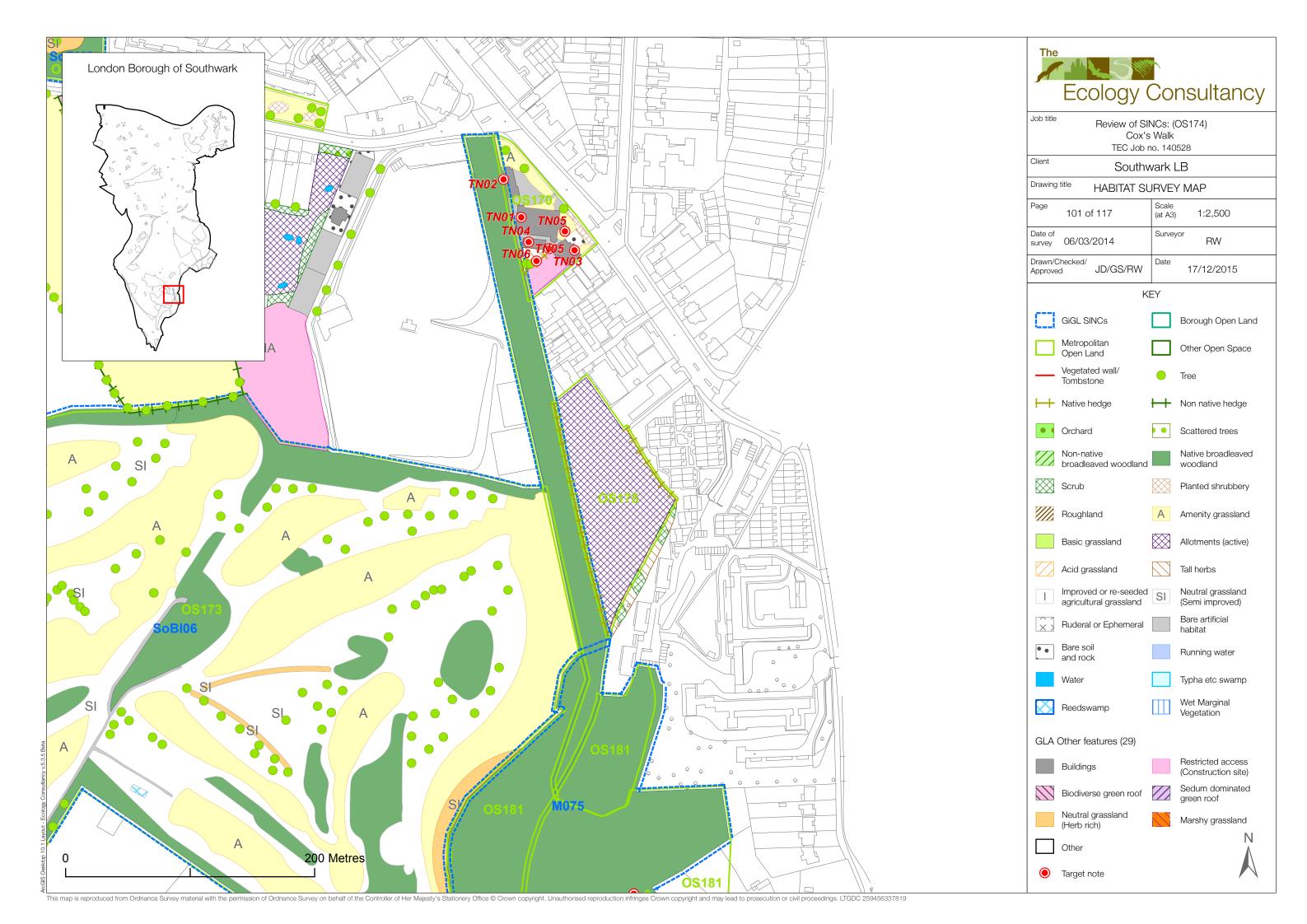


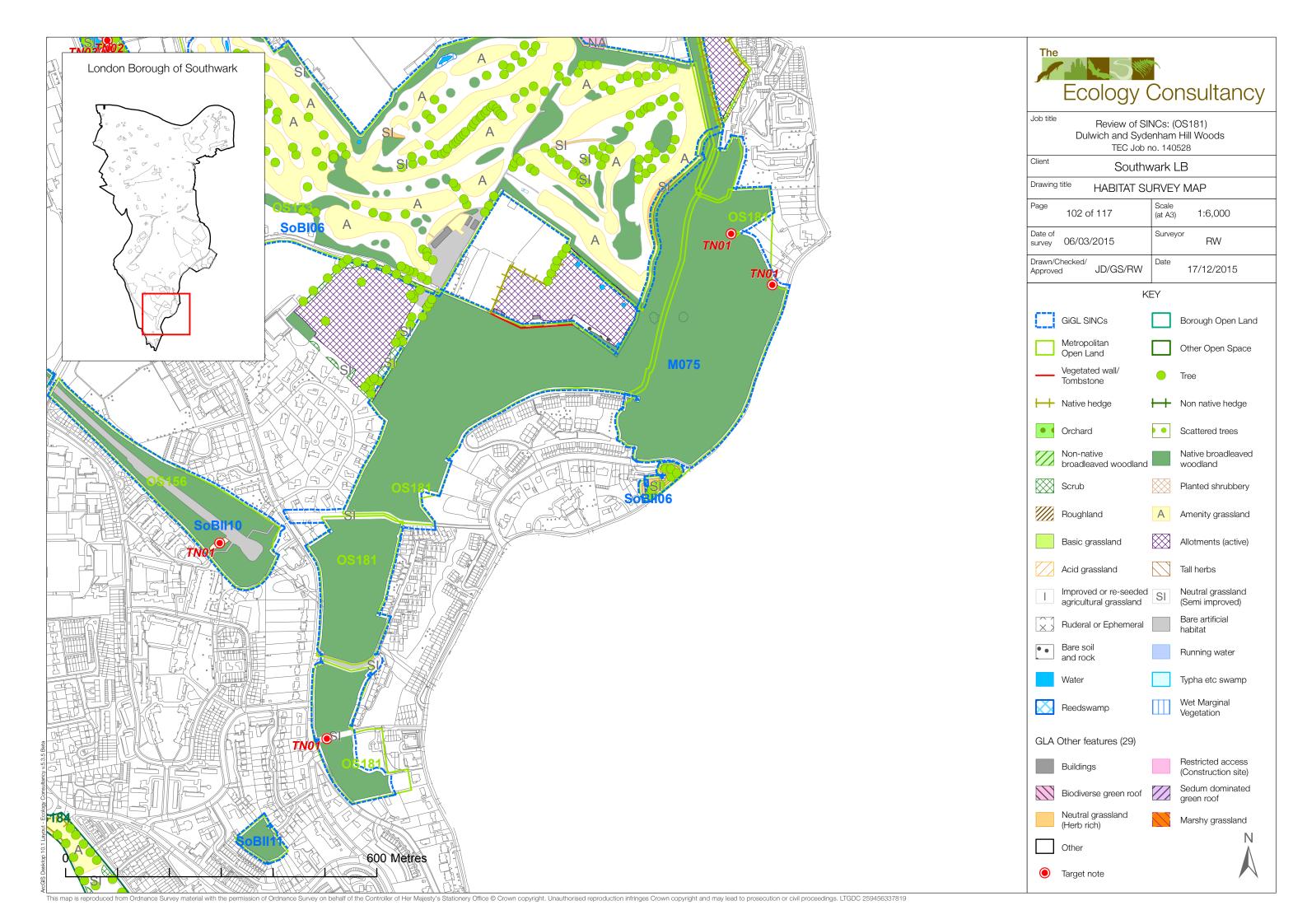


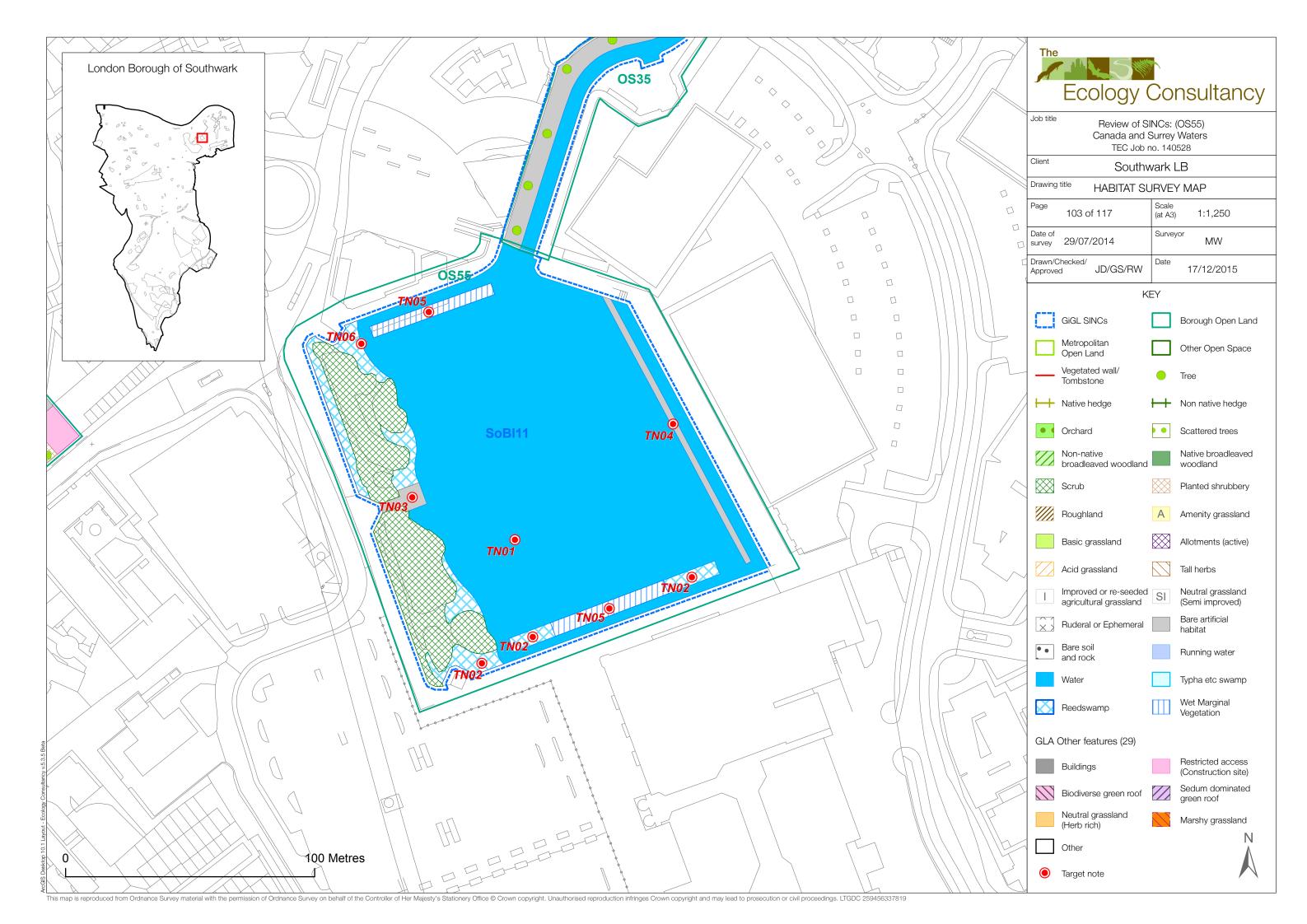


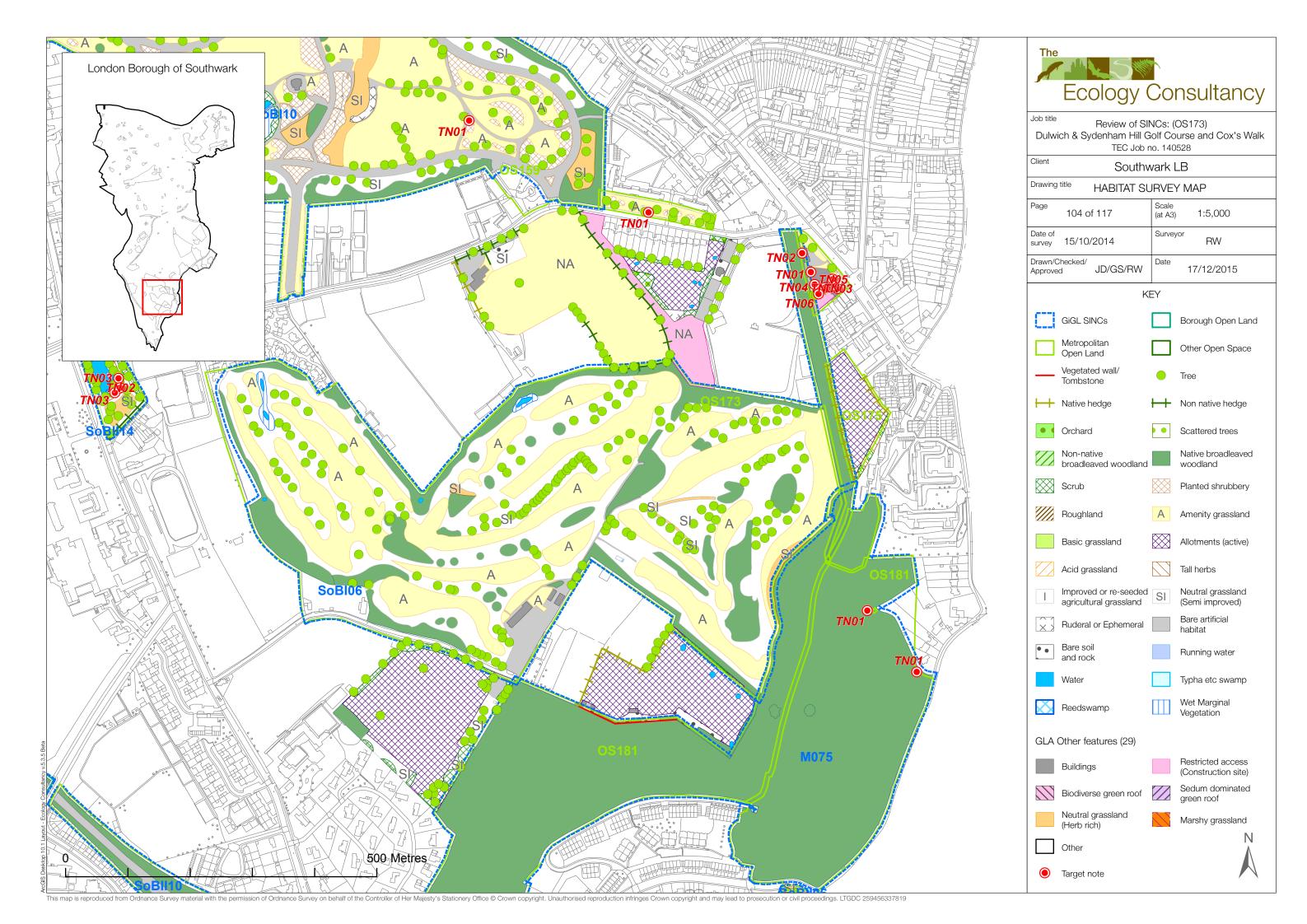




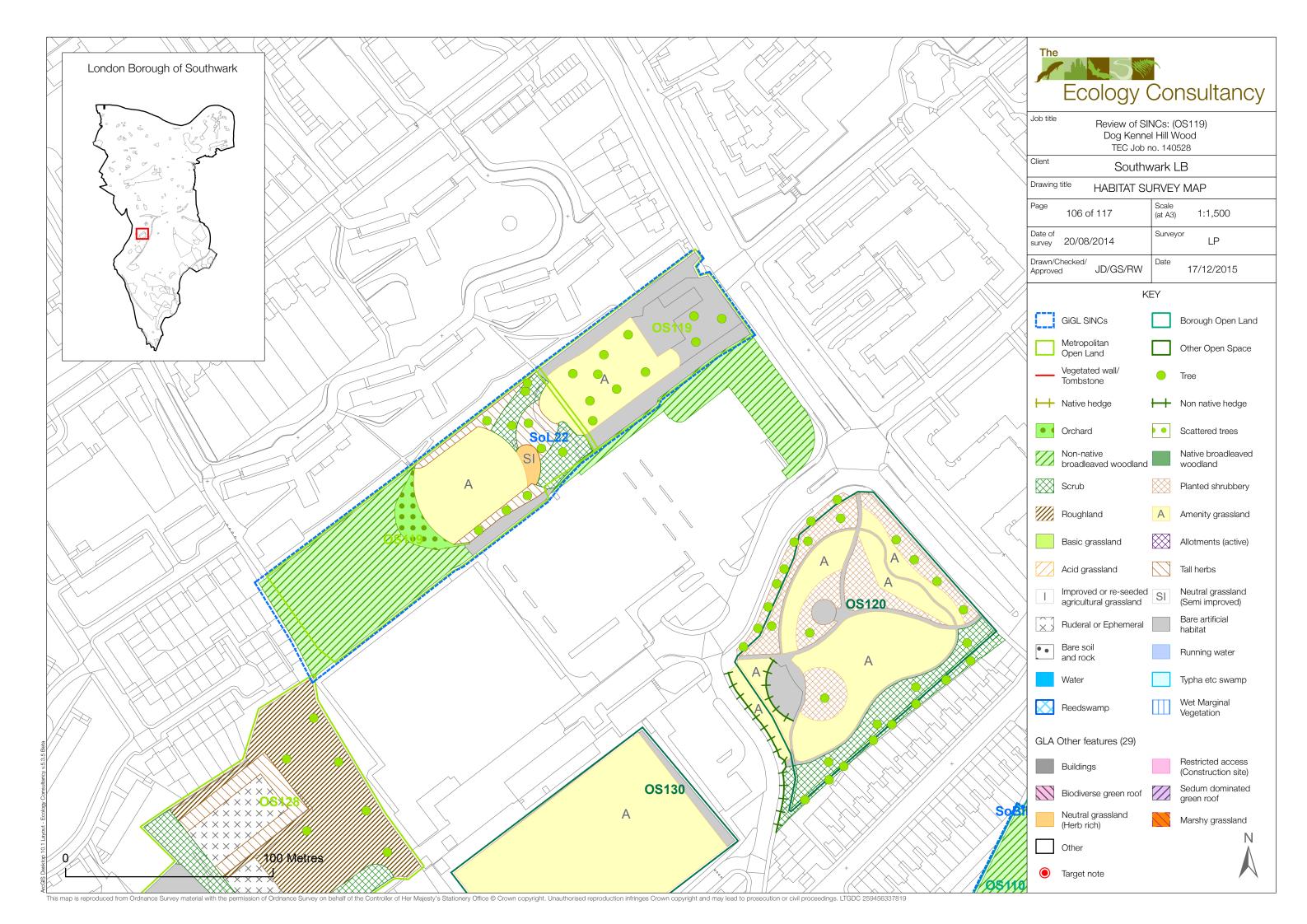


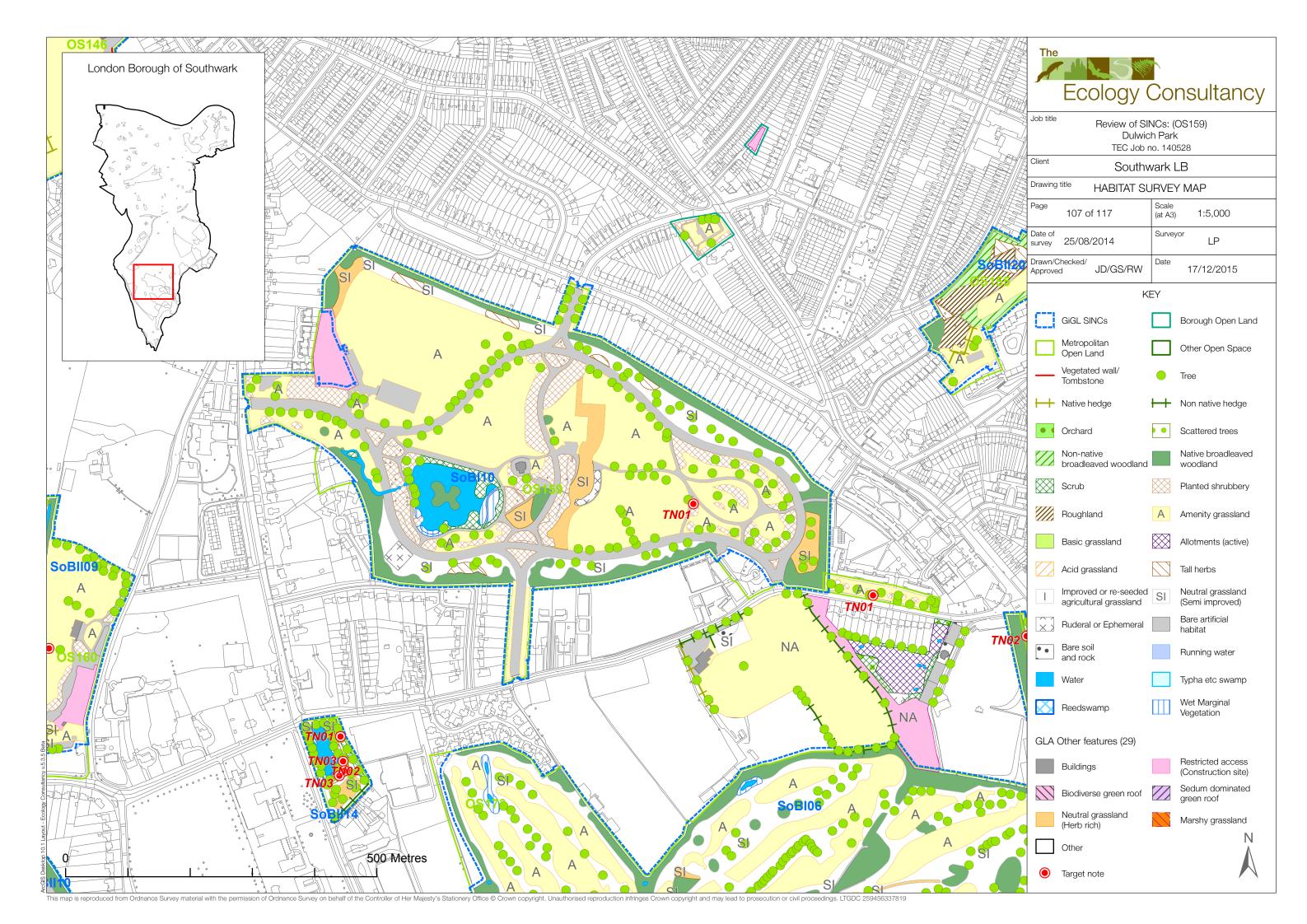


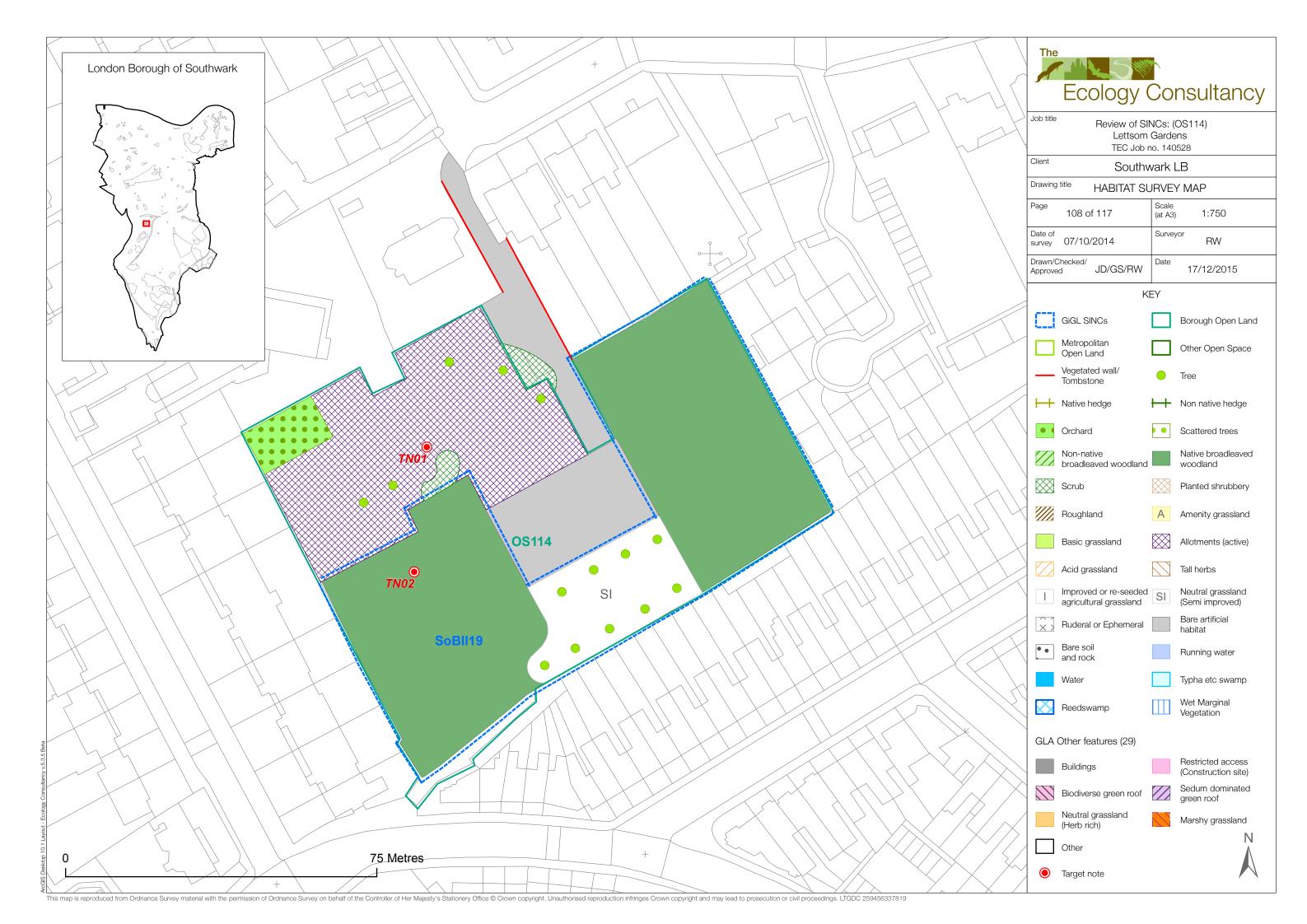


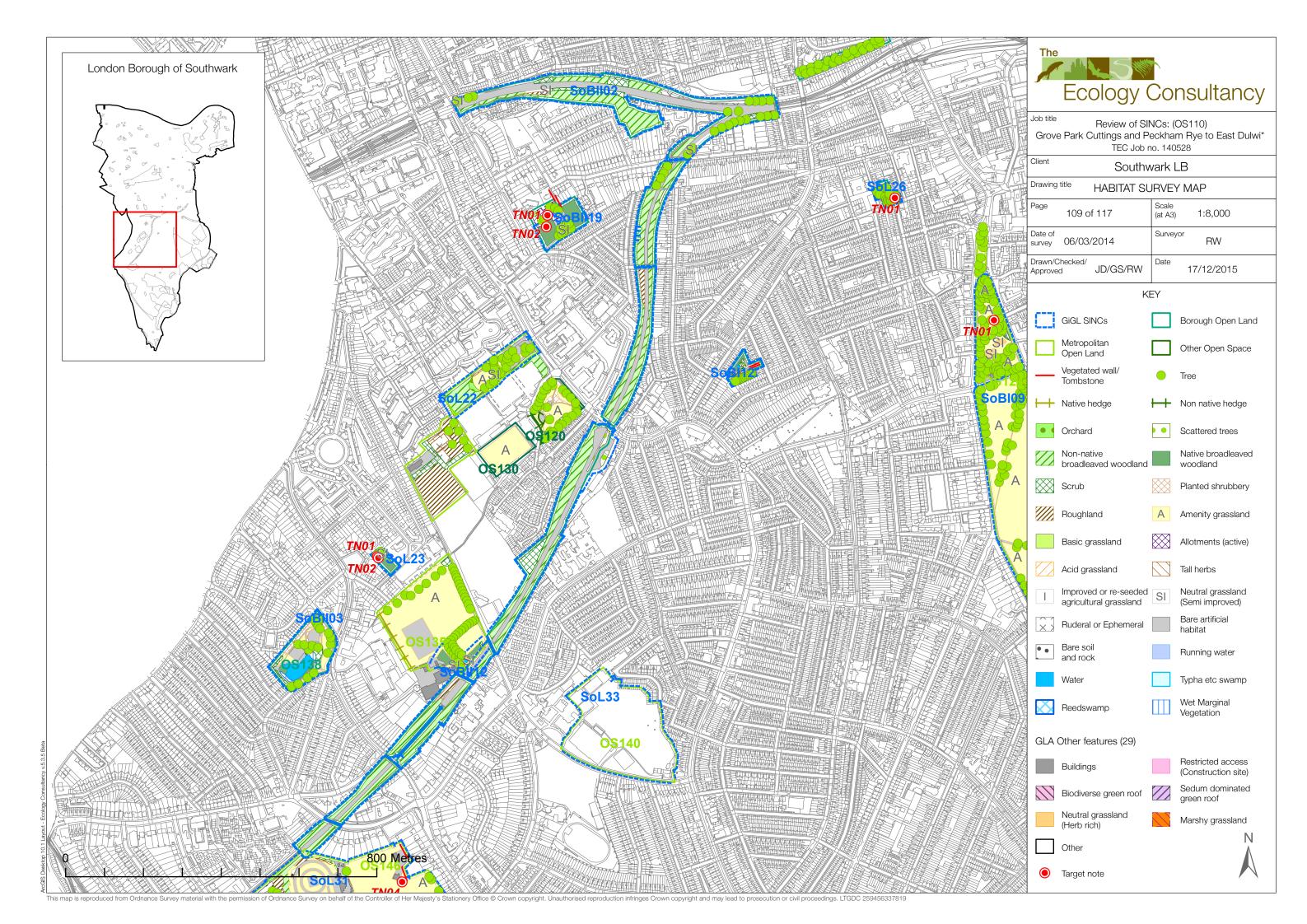


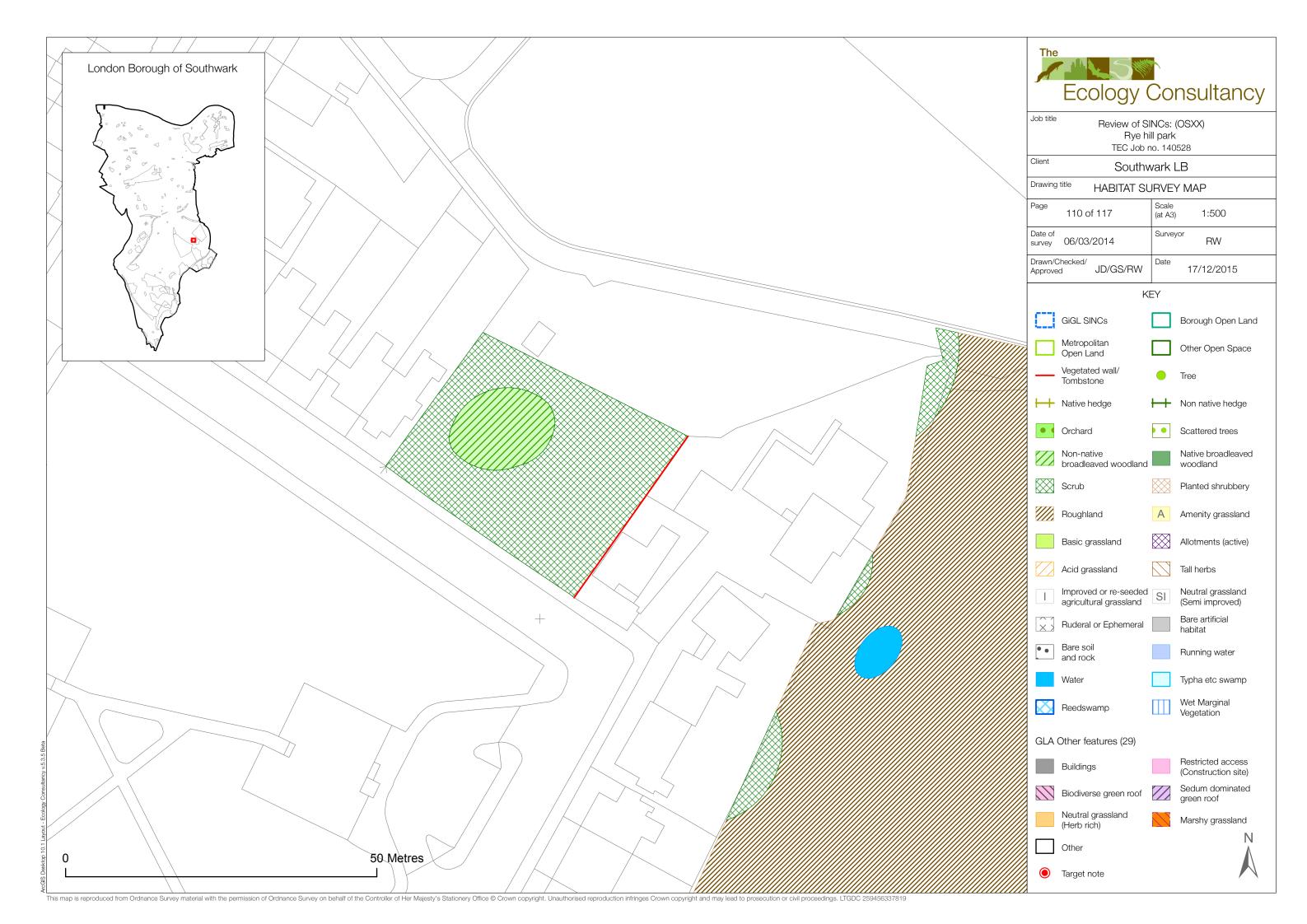




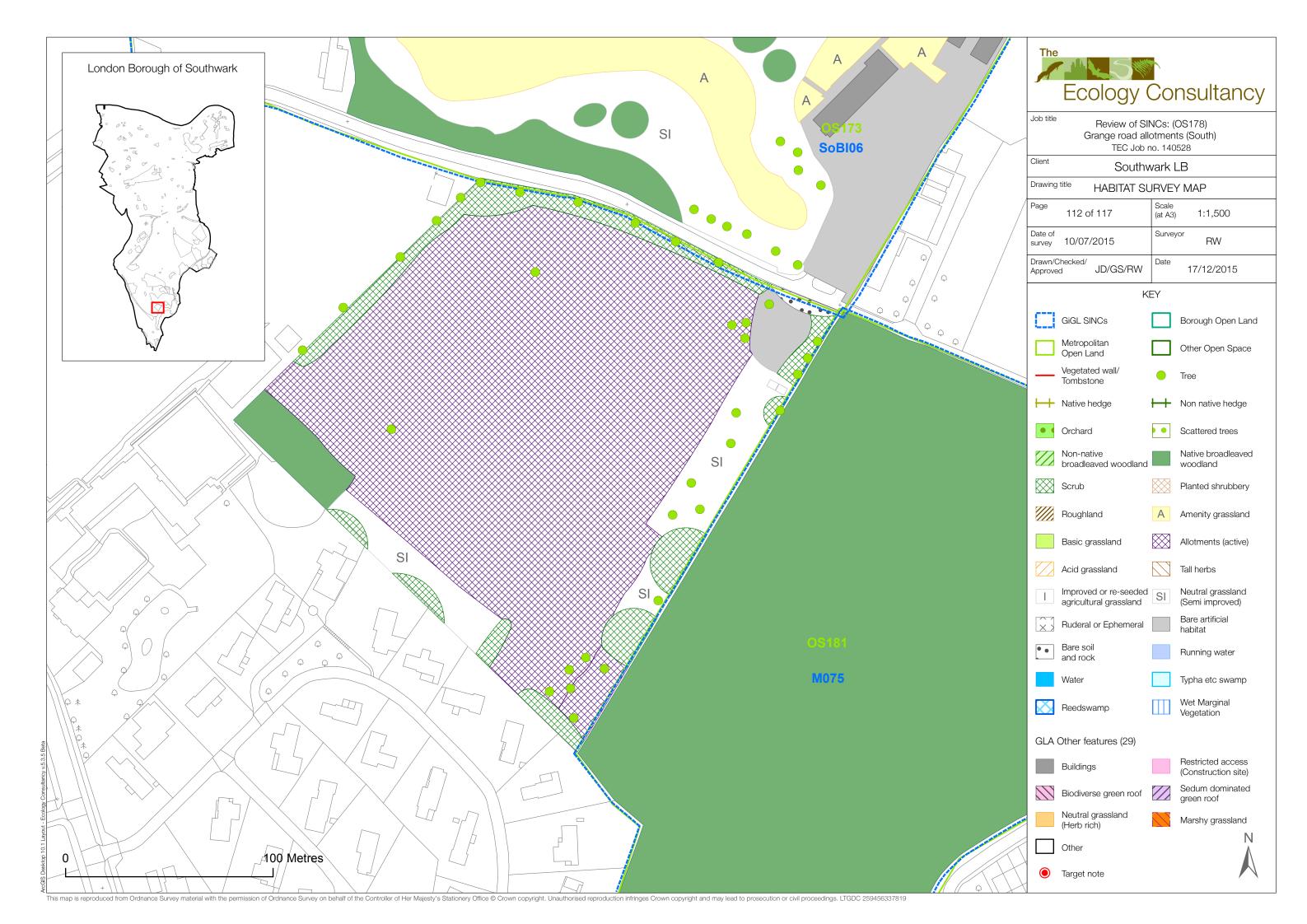


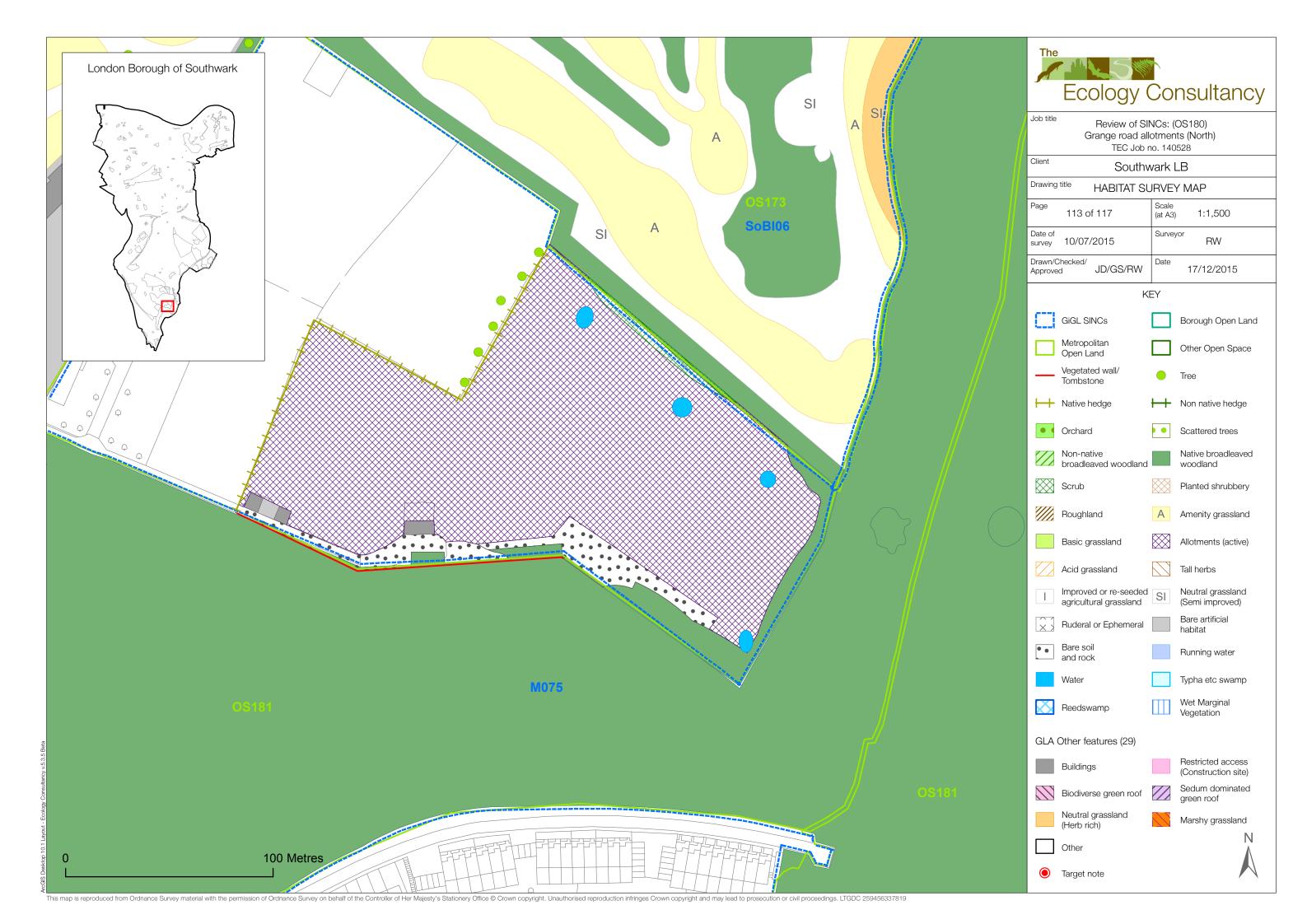


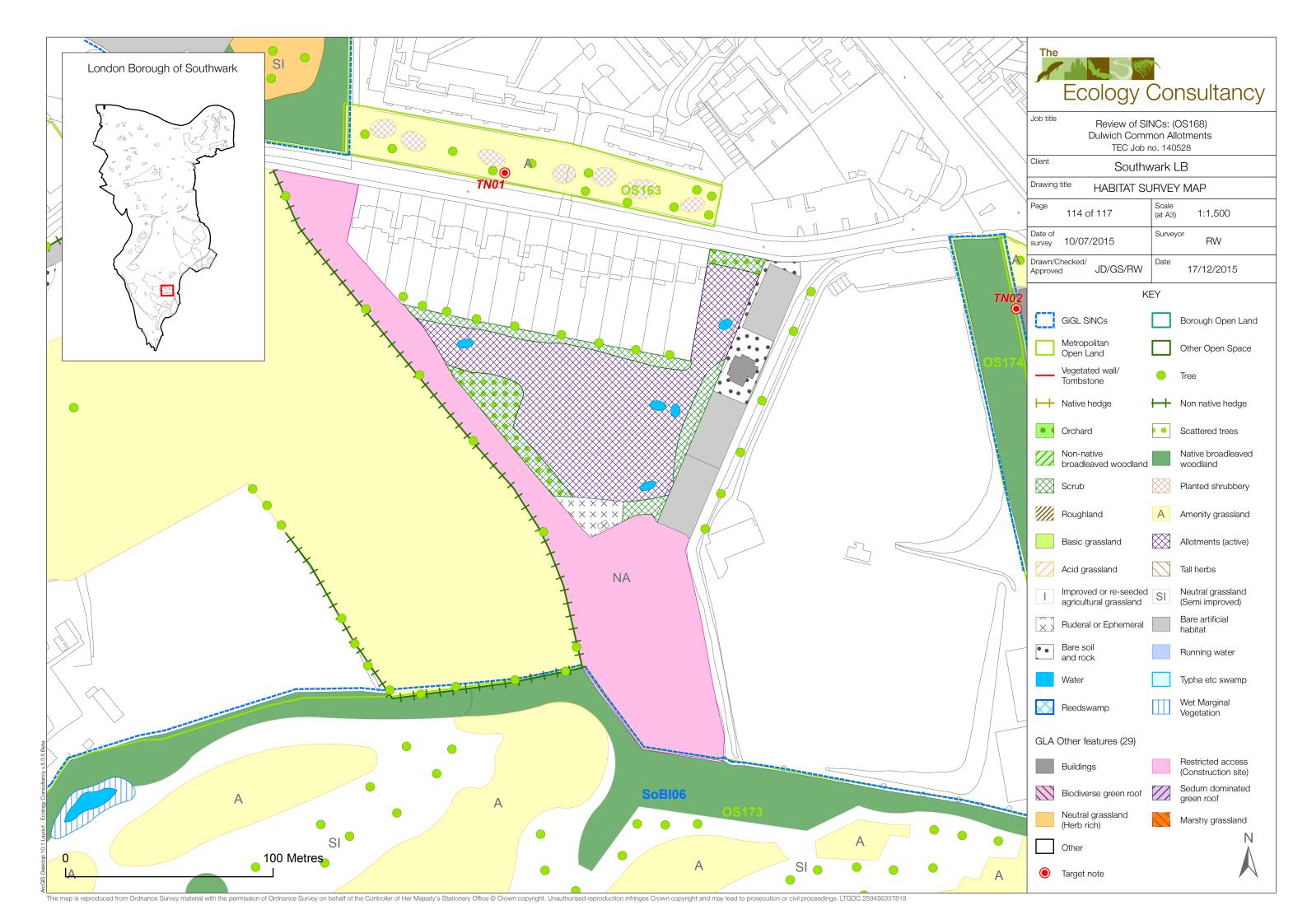


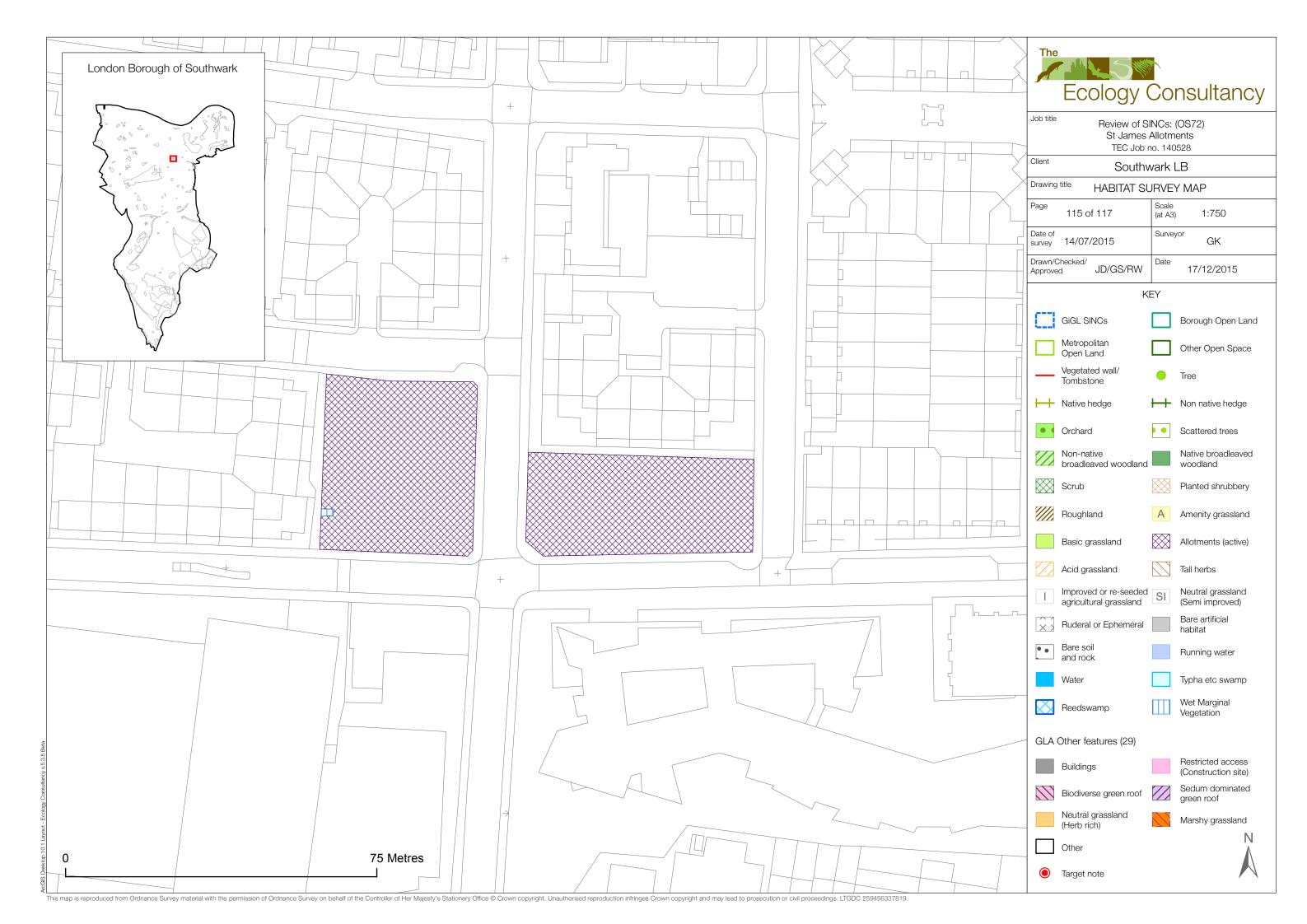


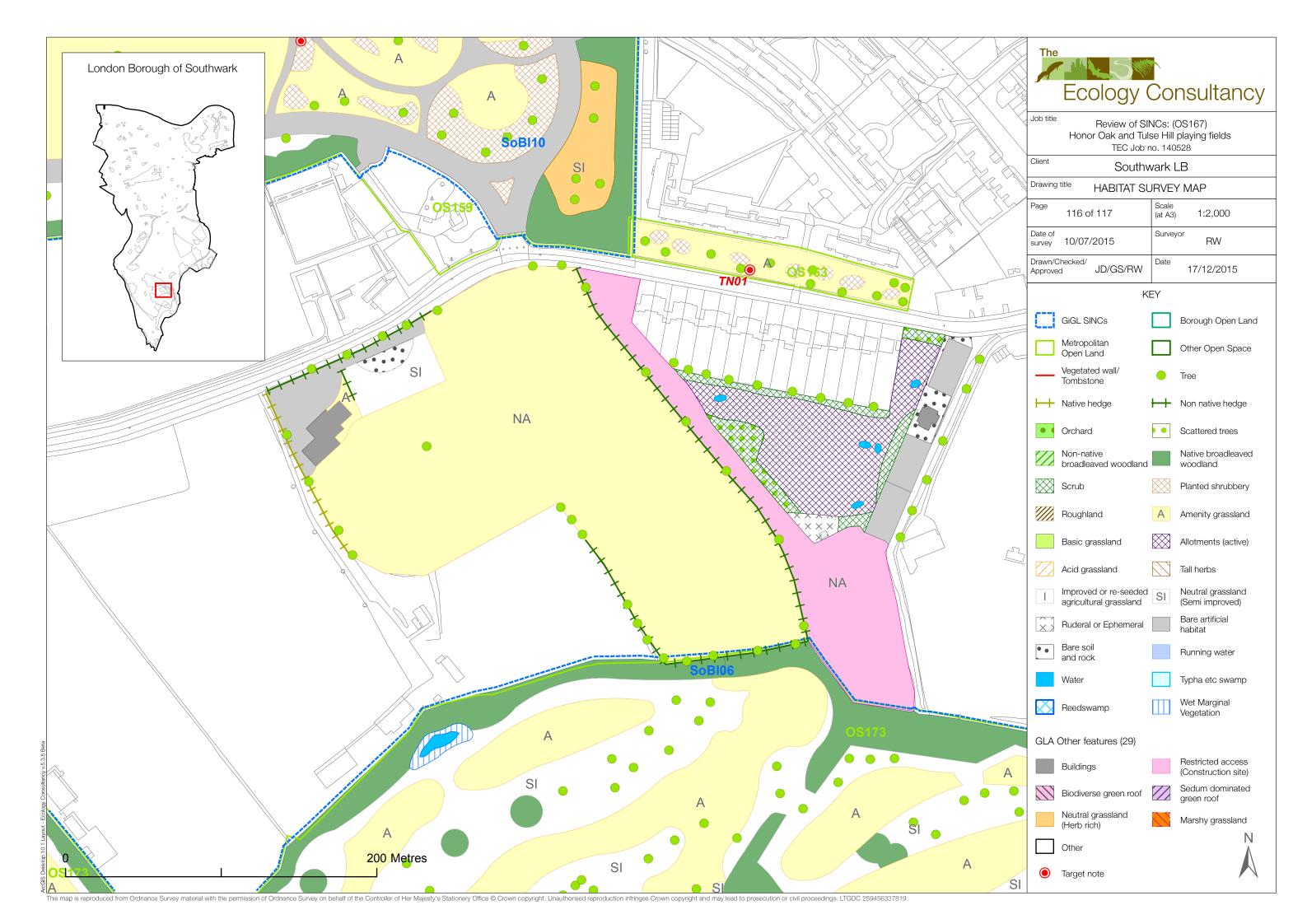


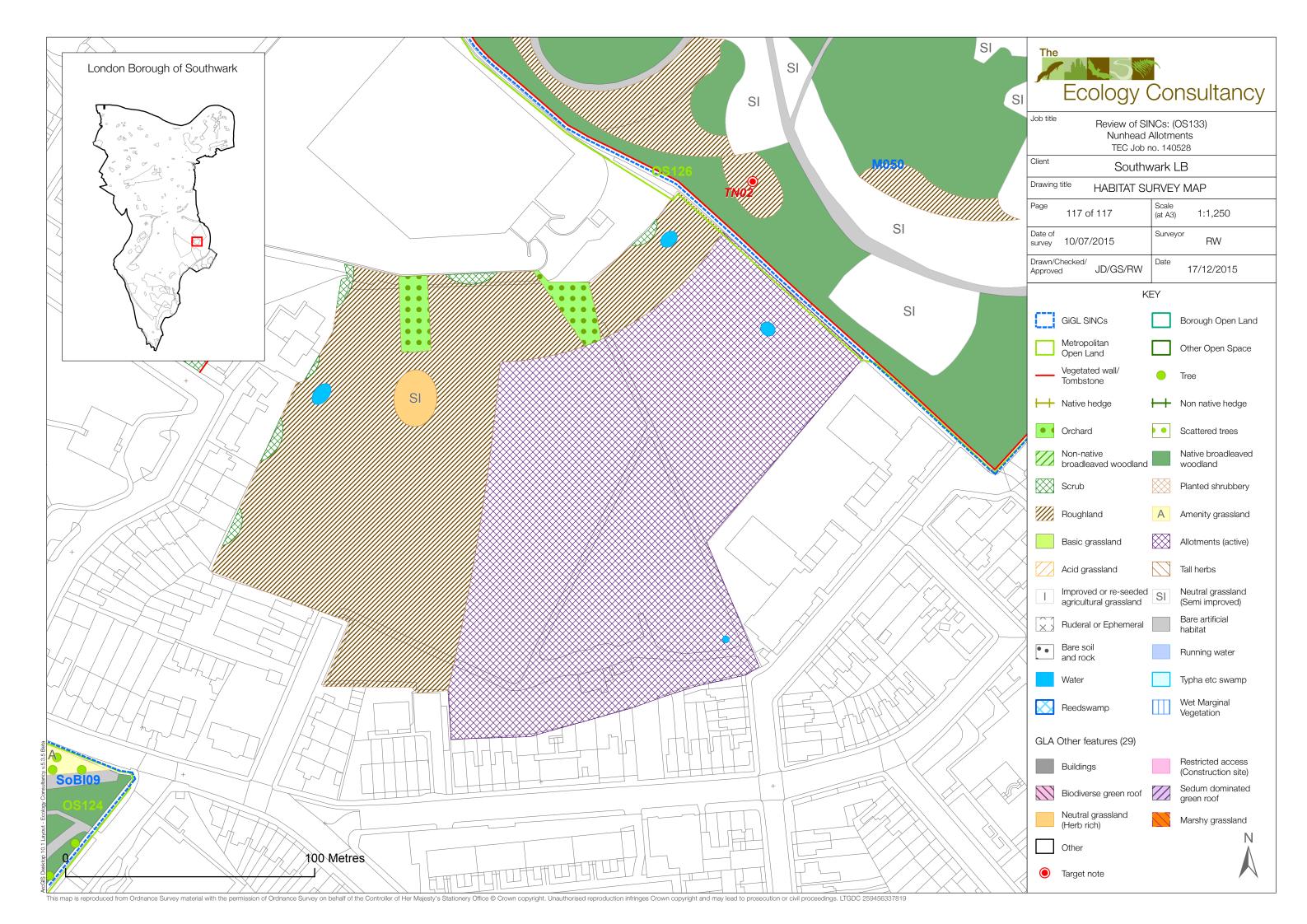


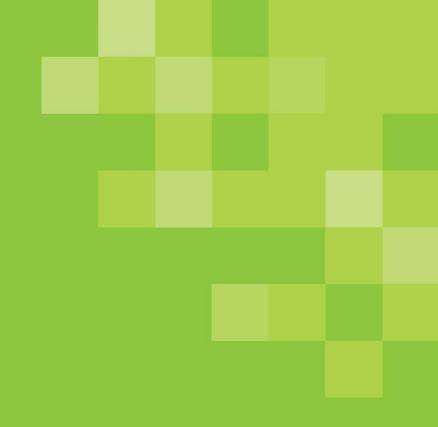














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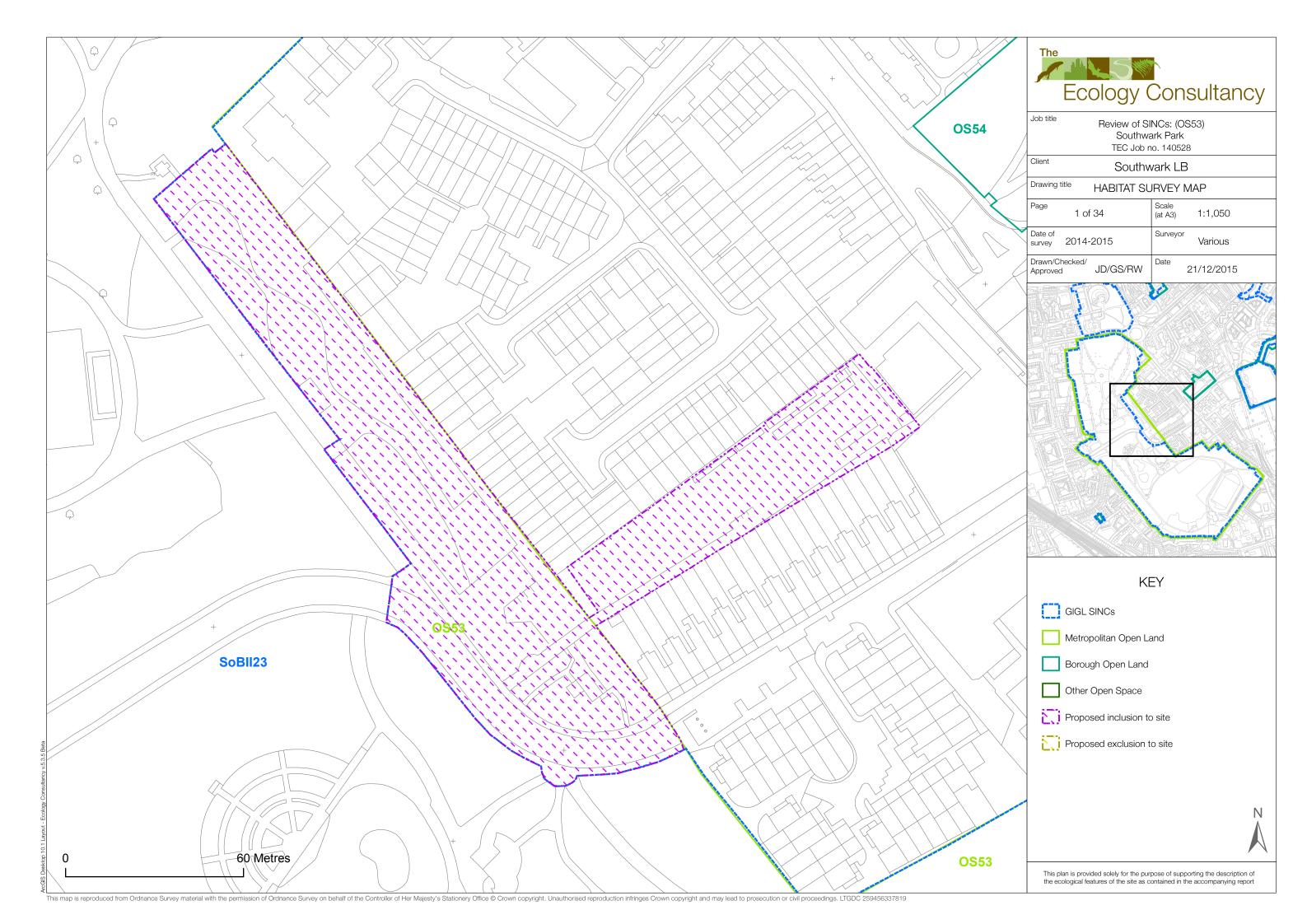


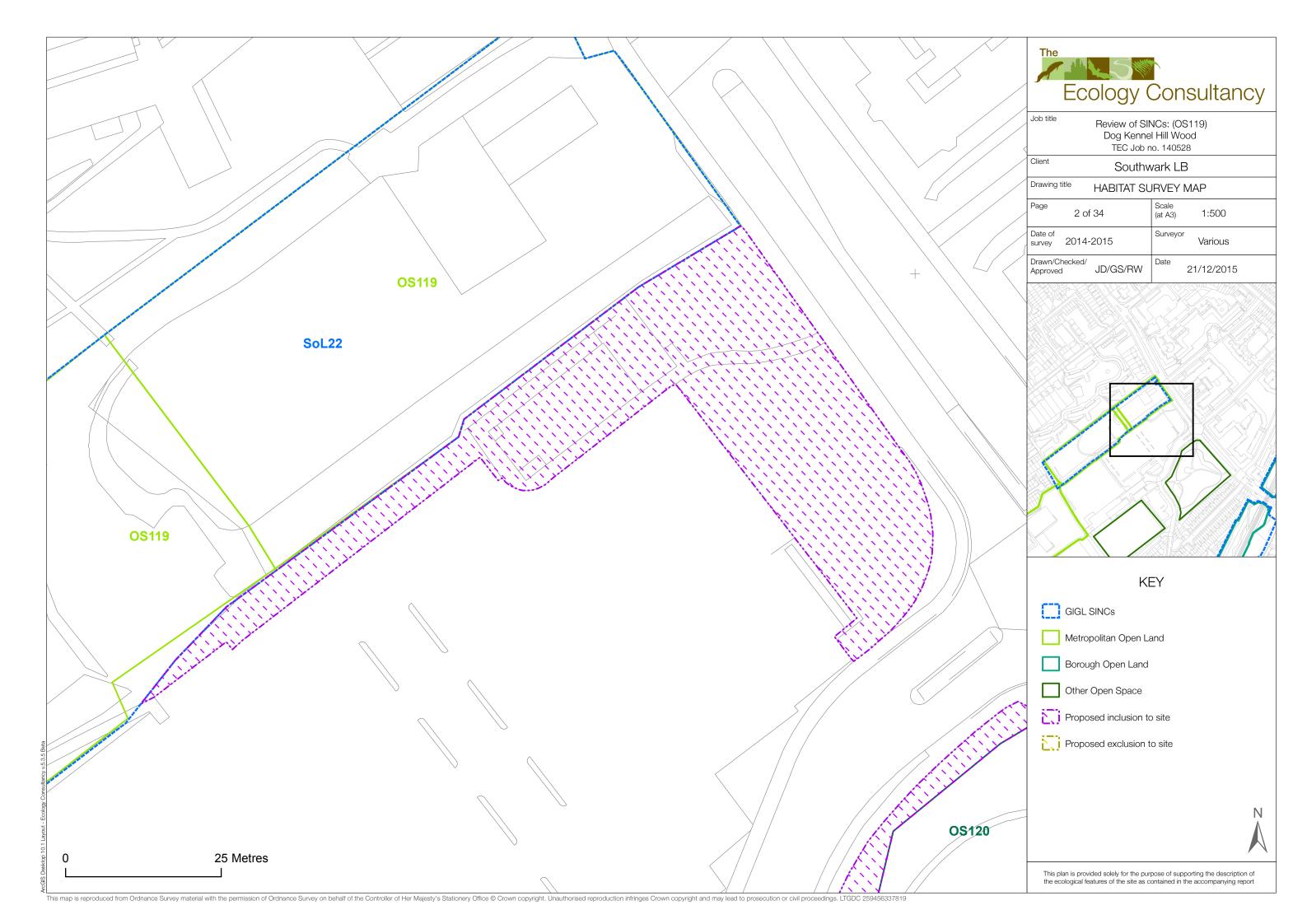
Appendix 3: Boundary changes

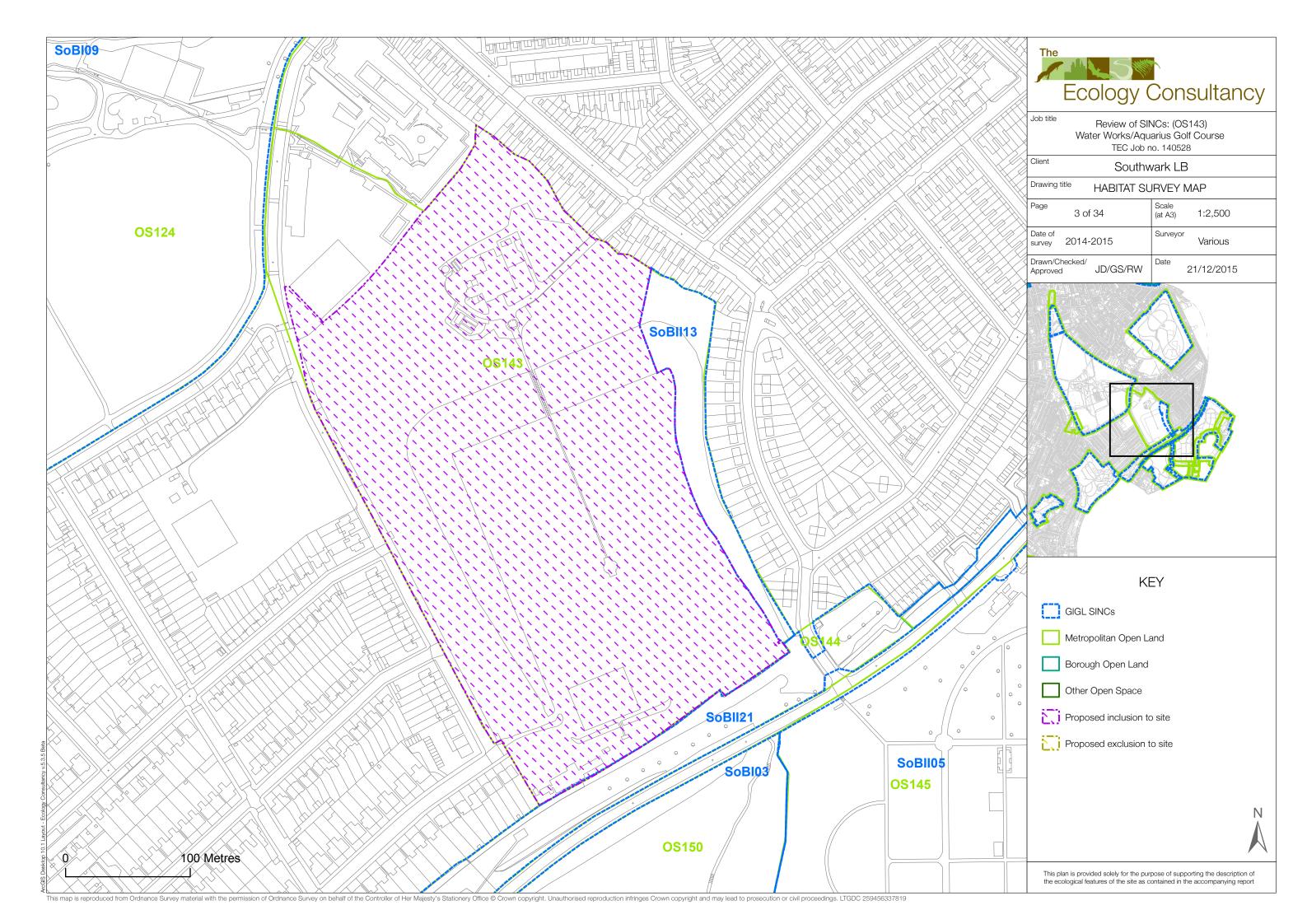
Corrections:

Please note a number of errors and corrections provided for a number of completed maps and GIS data. These are as follows:

- Southwark Park and the Old Nursery Site: There is no gap between the two sites.
 The small inlet should also be part of Southwark Park;
- Dog Kennel Hill Wood: The small area to the southeast is not part of this SINC site but relates to an existing "other Open Space" OS120" St Francis Park.
- In case colour printing is not possible –refer to Table 11, which clarifies the areas to be excluded or included.
- OS7 Carlton Place Copse is the wrong name for this site and should be called Surrey Docks Sports Ground. The area shown is to be excluded, whist the area mapped as woodland and grassland (see habitat map) is to be included with Russia Dock Woodlands SINC located adjacent and contiguous with this site;
- Lettsom Gardens No boundary changes are being proposed. The driveway leading
 to Lettsom Gardens is to be included in the adjacent proposed borough site named
 Grove Park Allotments. The area to the northwest (shown to be included) is already
 included and a GIS error.
- St Francis' Park A proposed SINC that did not meet the SINC criteria. The "other open space" boundary of the park is poorly mapped along three boundaries and needs amending.
- Greenland Dock This area is to be included within this adjacent SINC and connected via a canal under Finland Street.
- New proposed extension to Faraday Gardens, which includes a recently created wildlife pond and herbaceous / shrubs contiguous with the park.
- Cox's walk allotments A proposed SINC that did not meet the SINC criteria. A slither of land exists between the adjacent housing estate boundary wall and the allotment fence. Area is not managed. Proposed inclusion with the allotment.
- Grove Park allotments: -This map is not correct. This area is part of the allotment already.

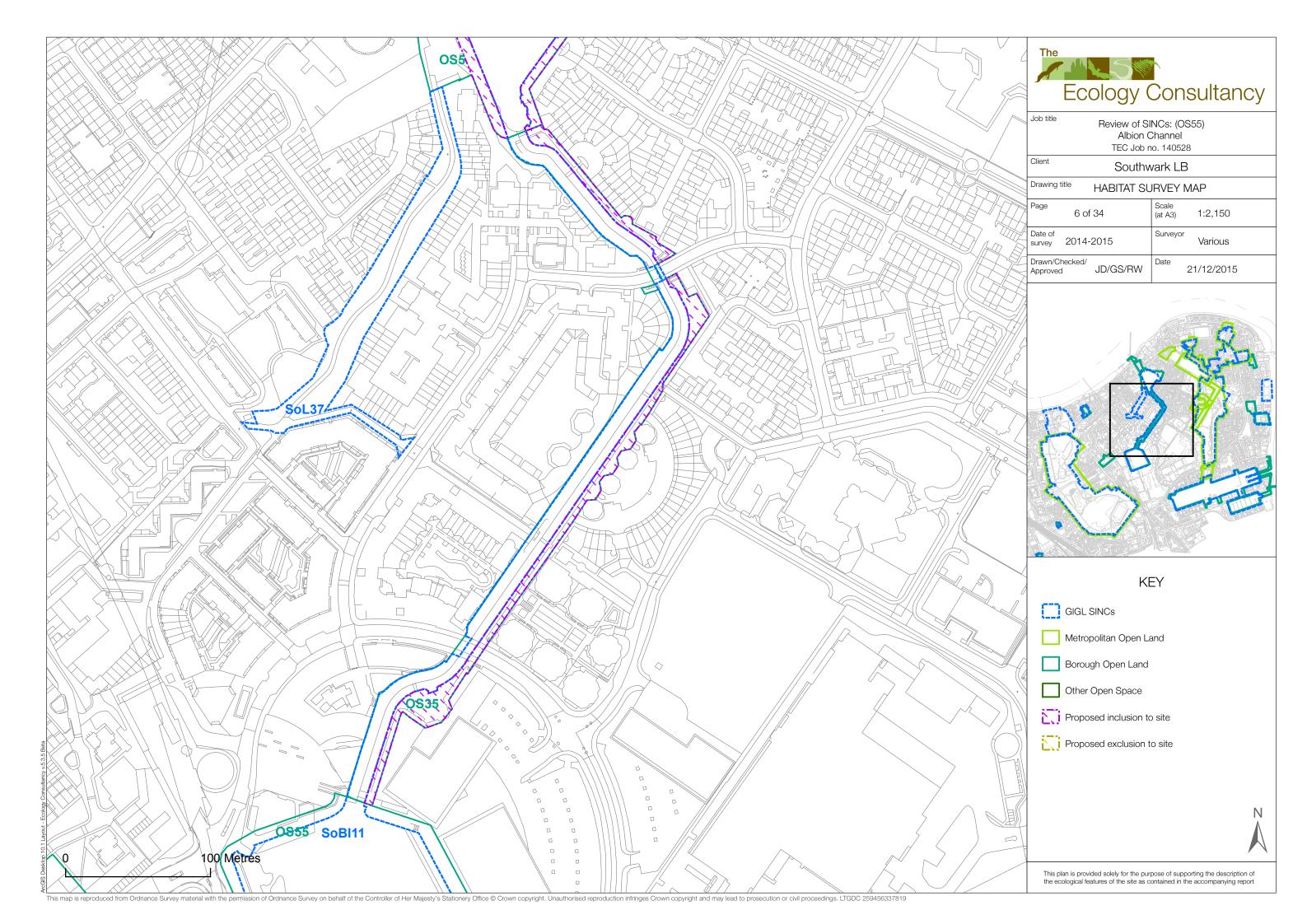


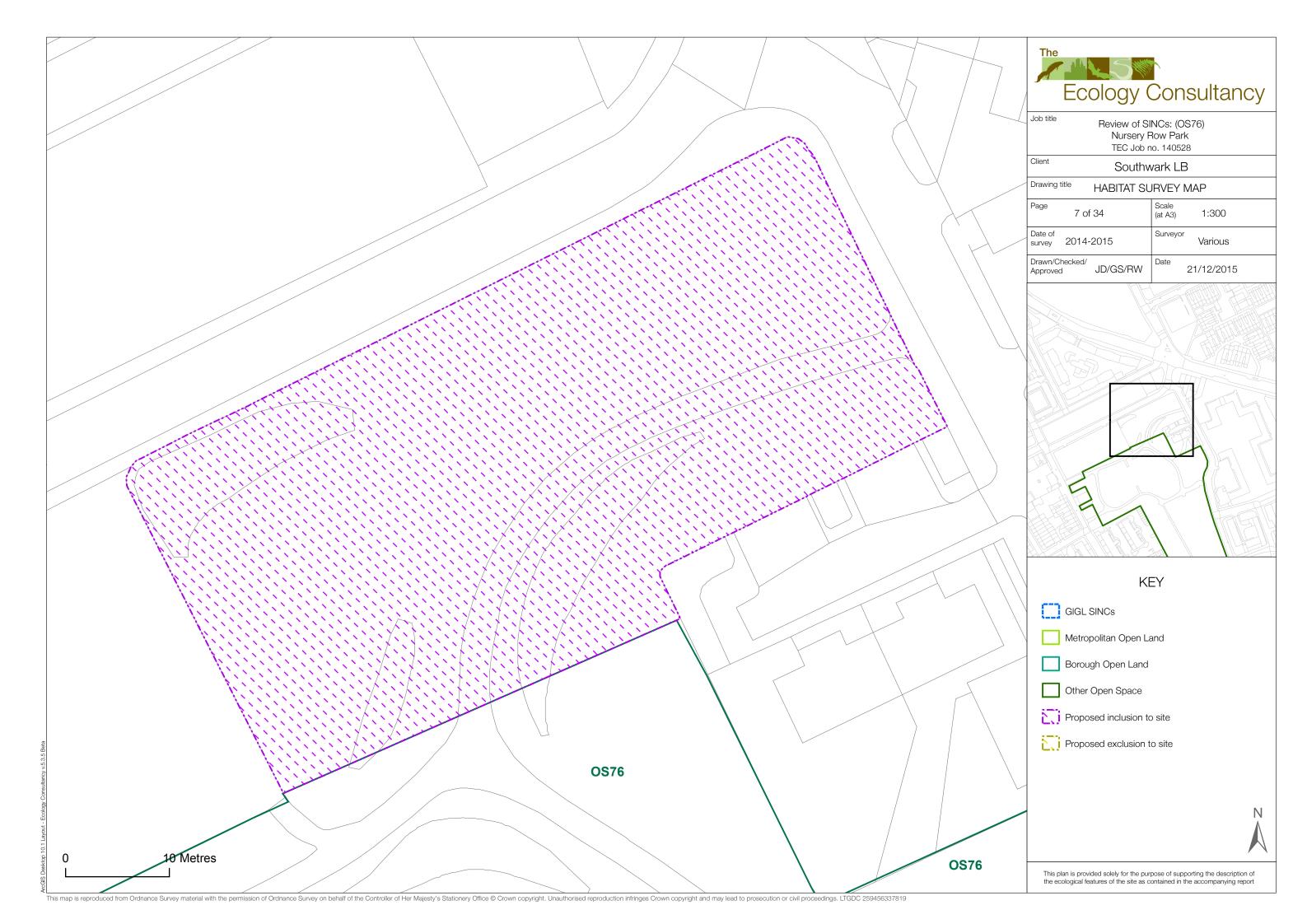


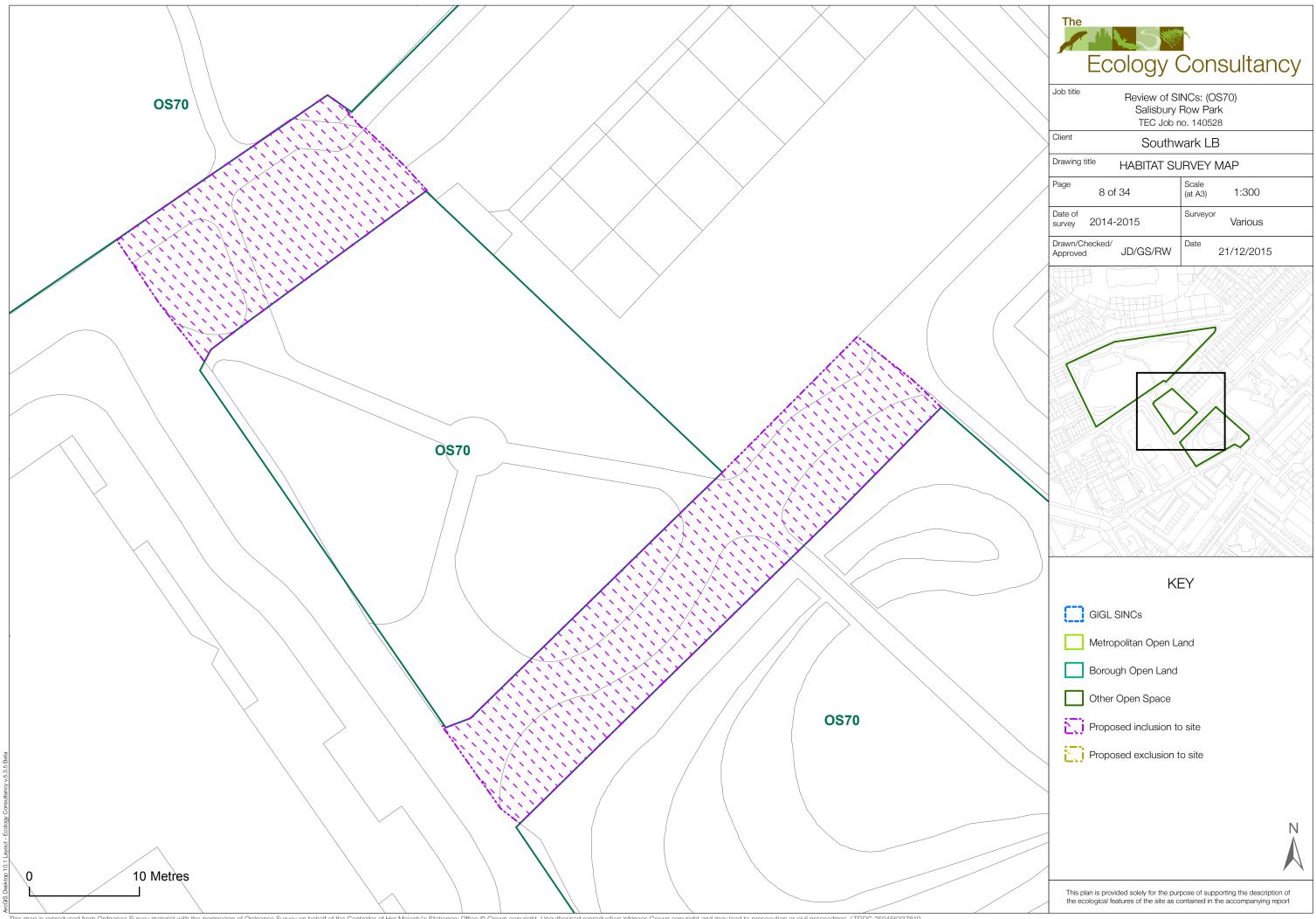




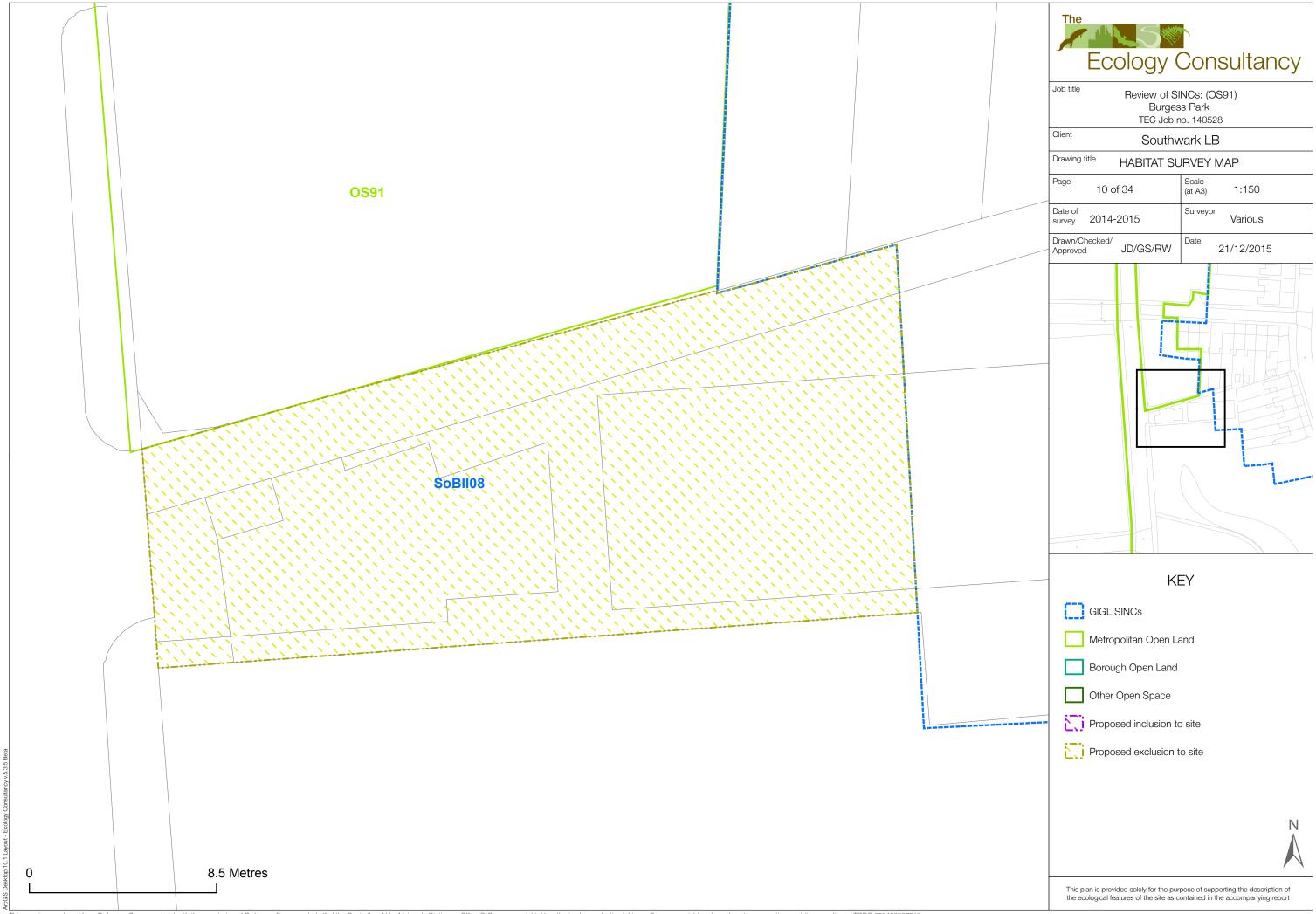


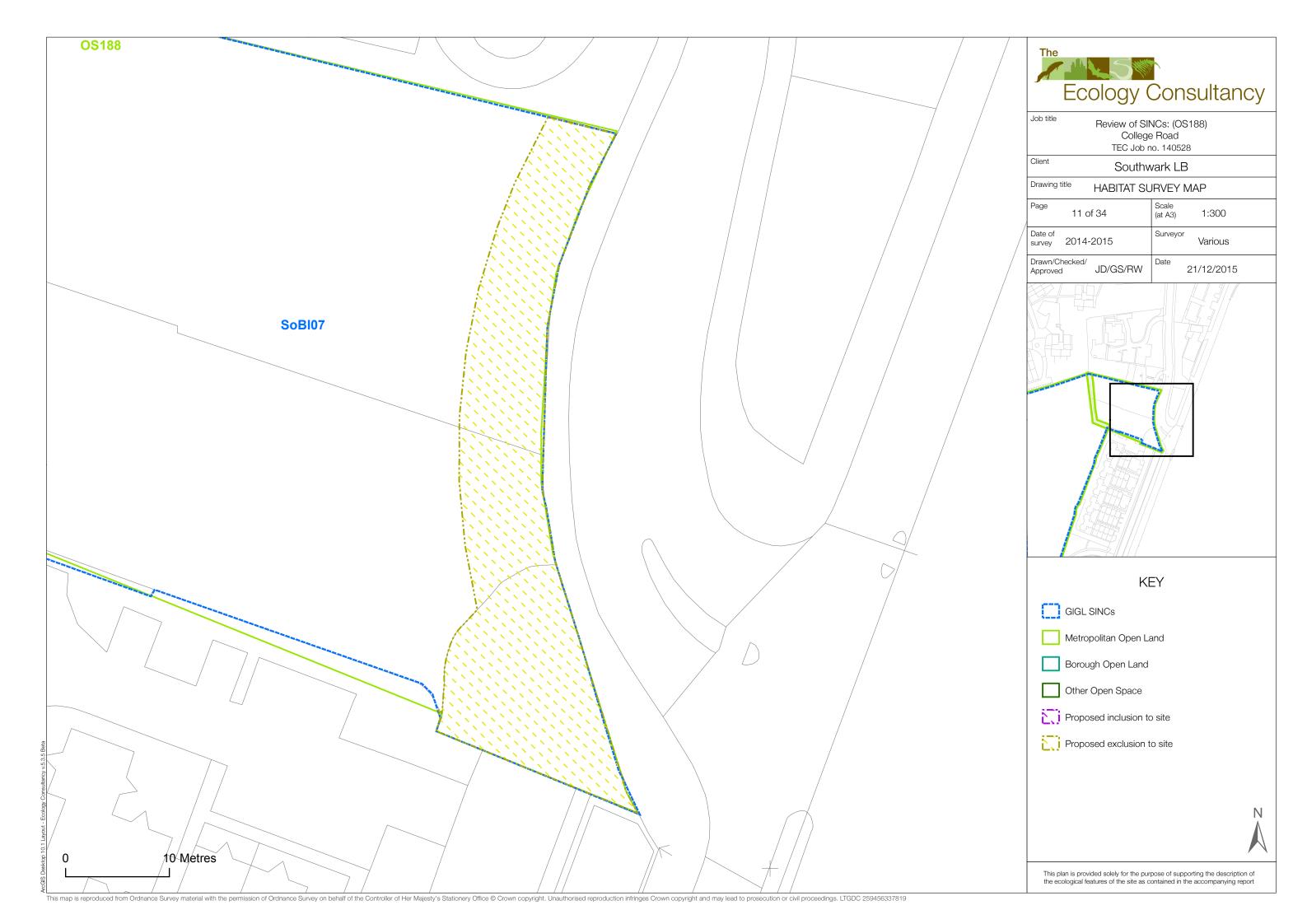


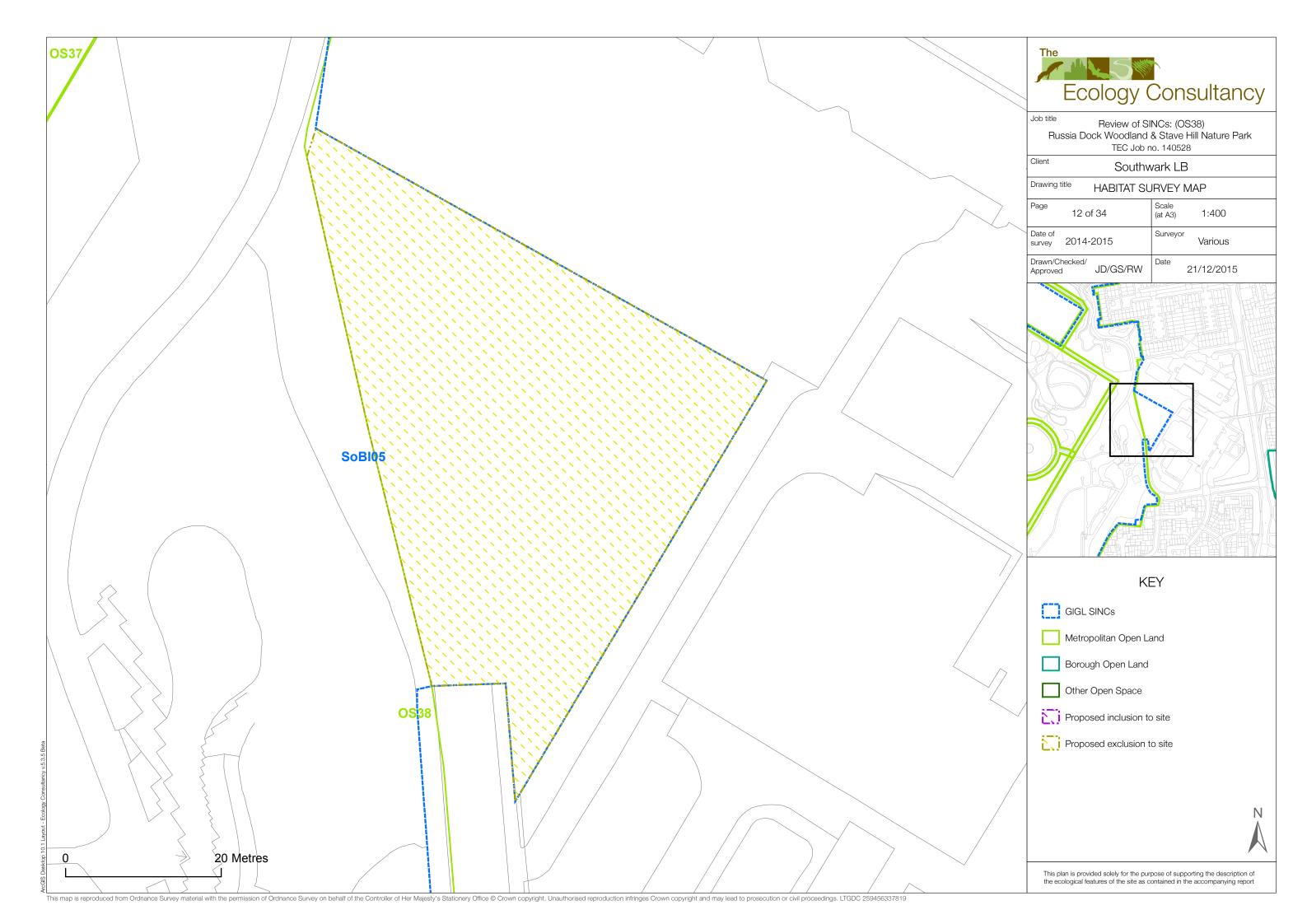


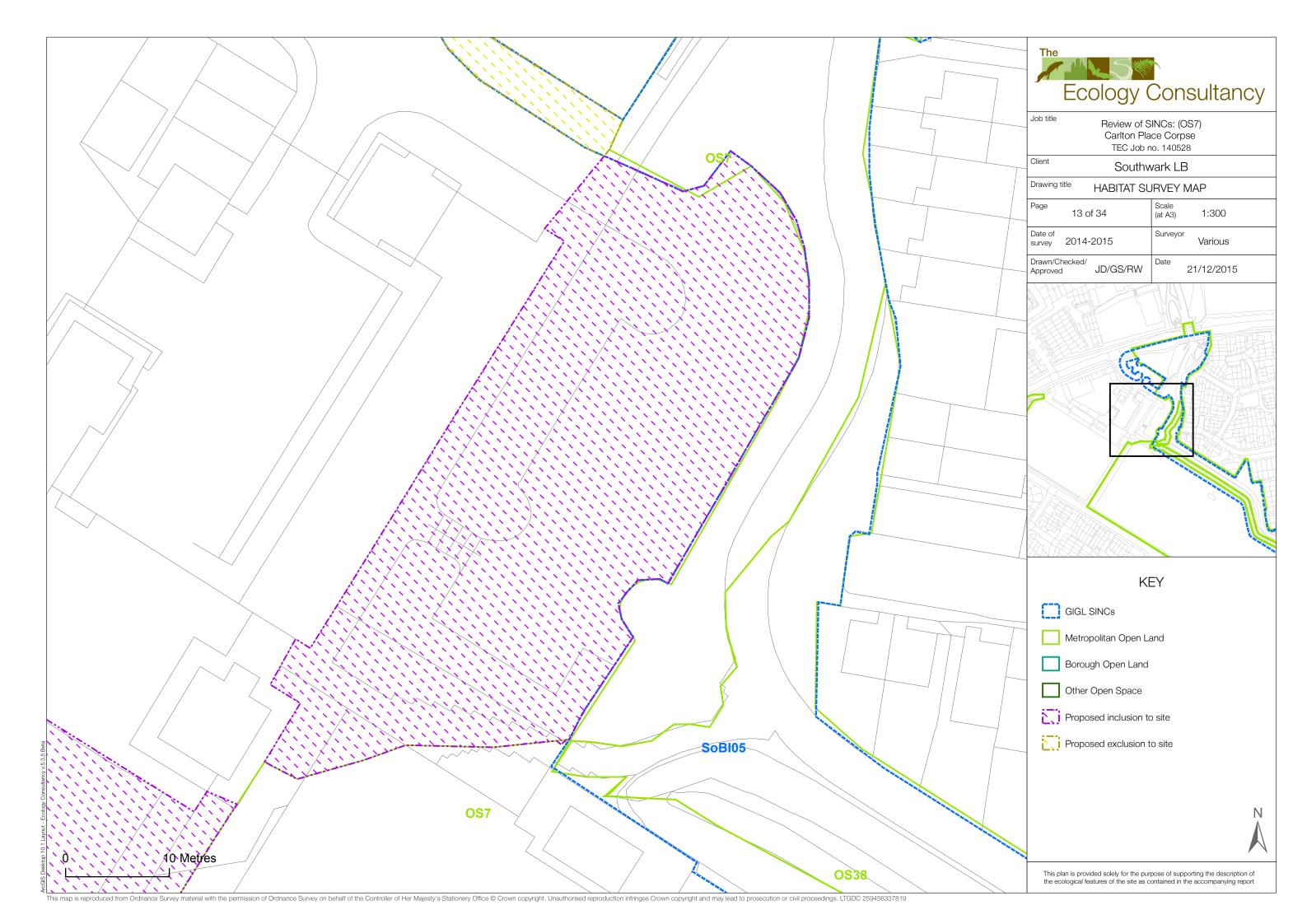


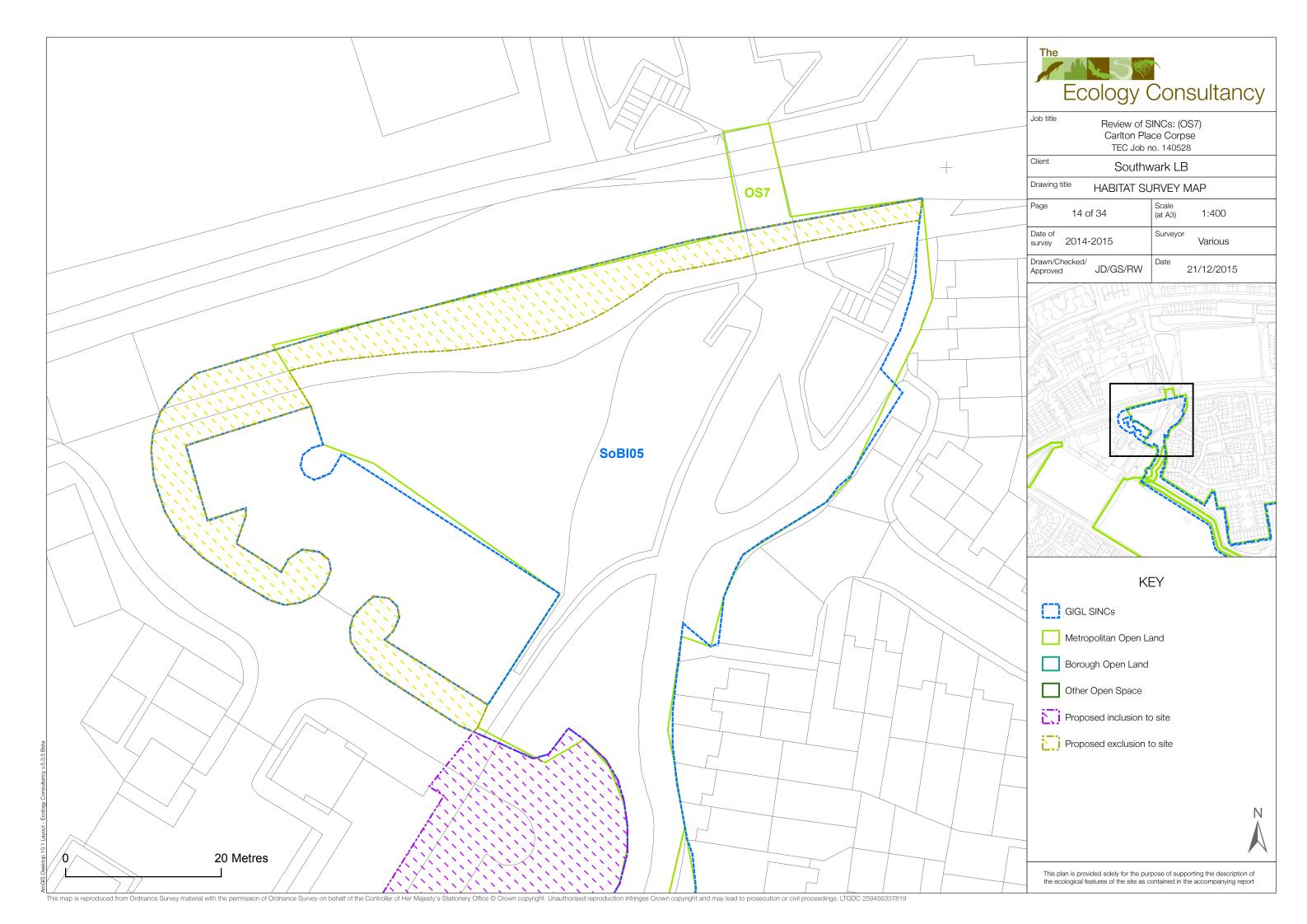


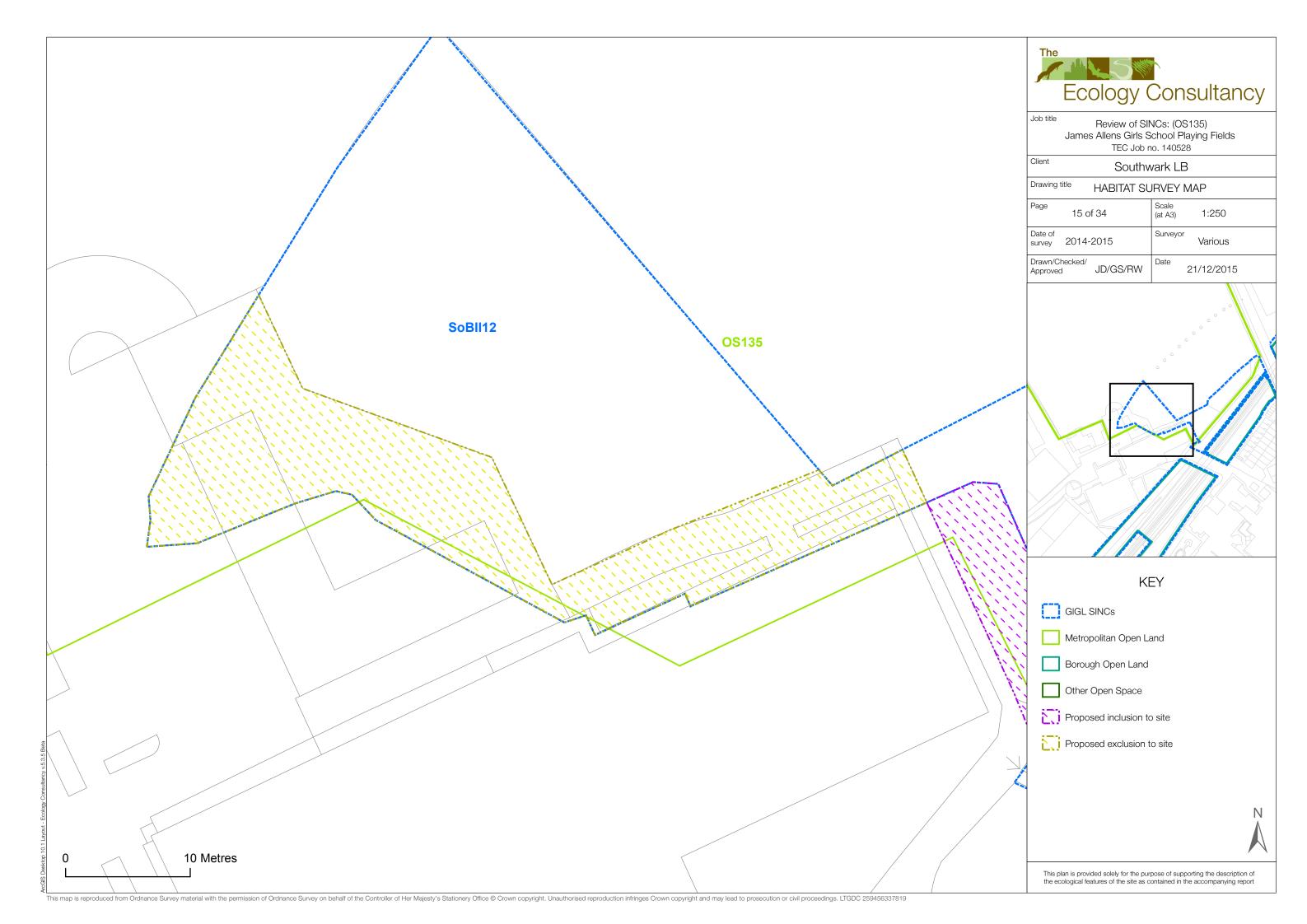


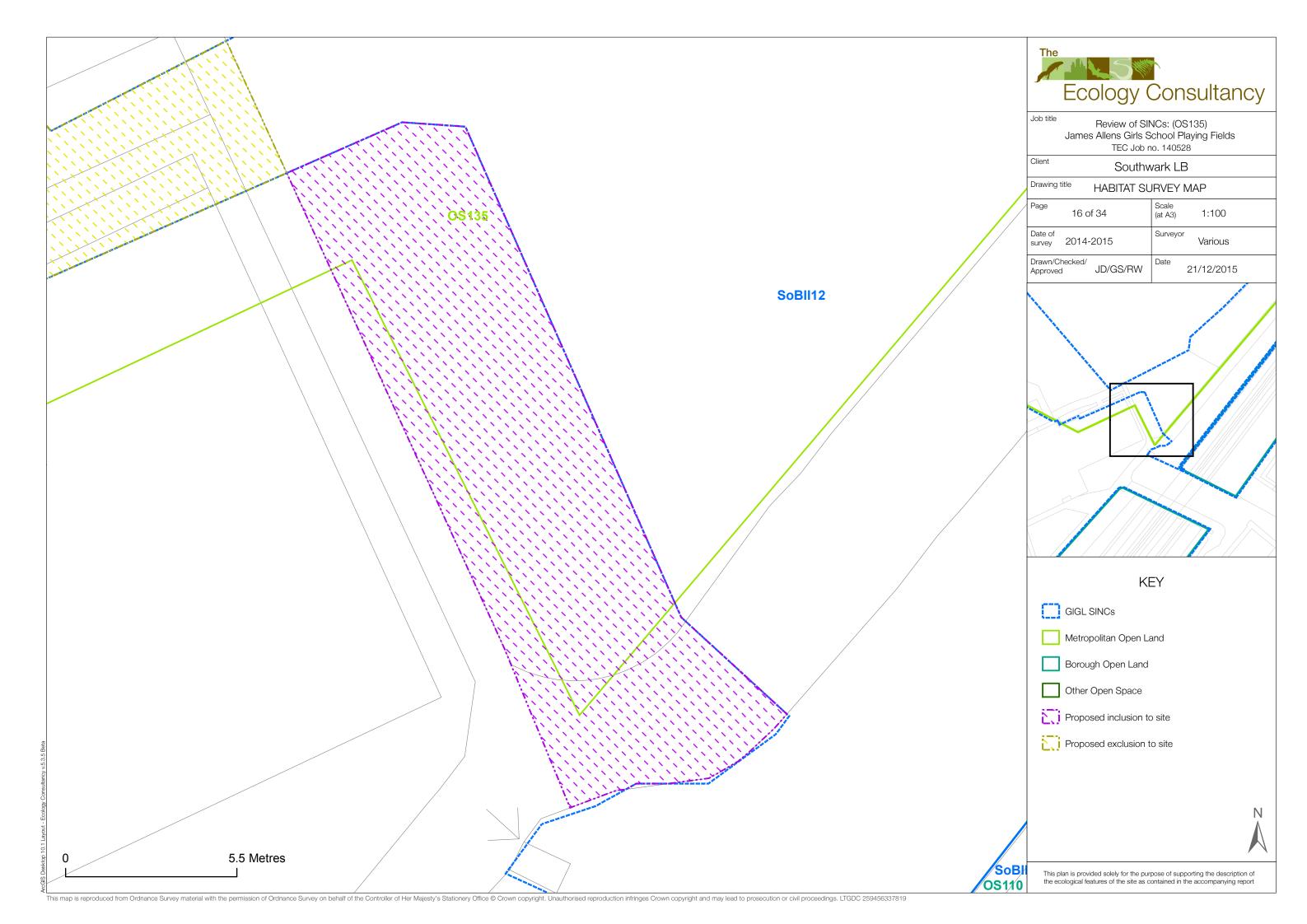


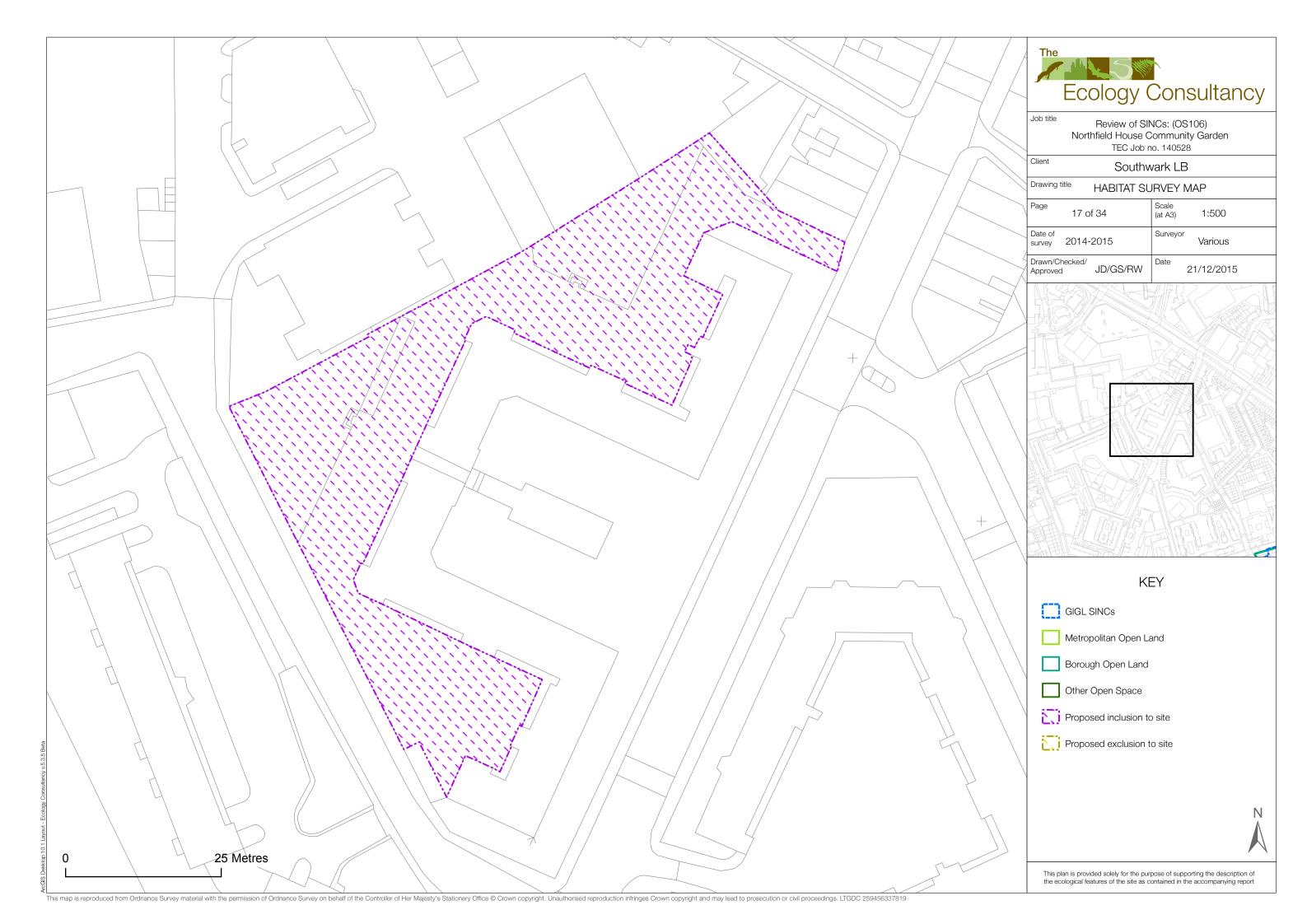


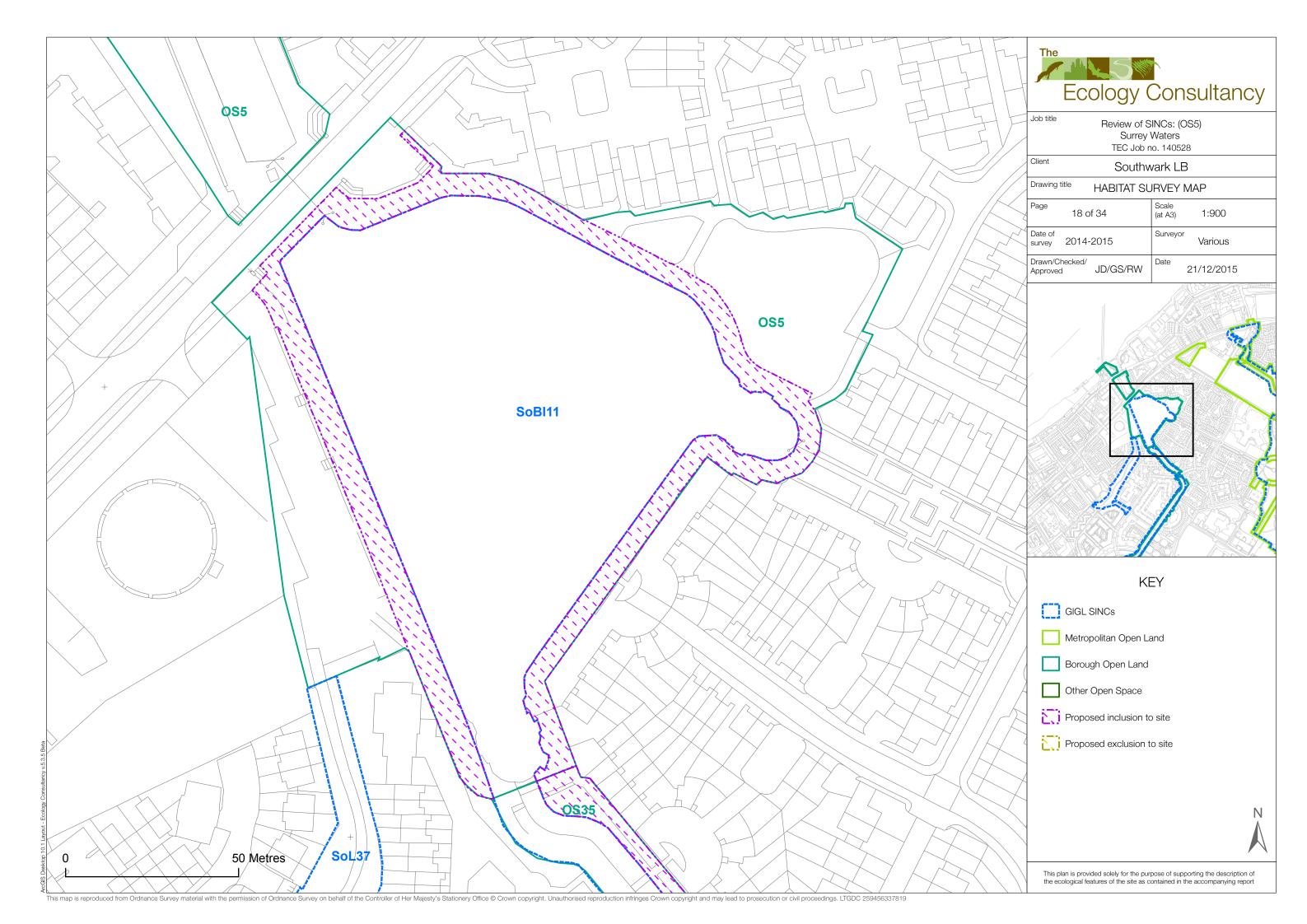


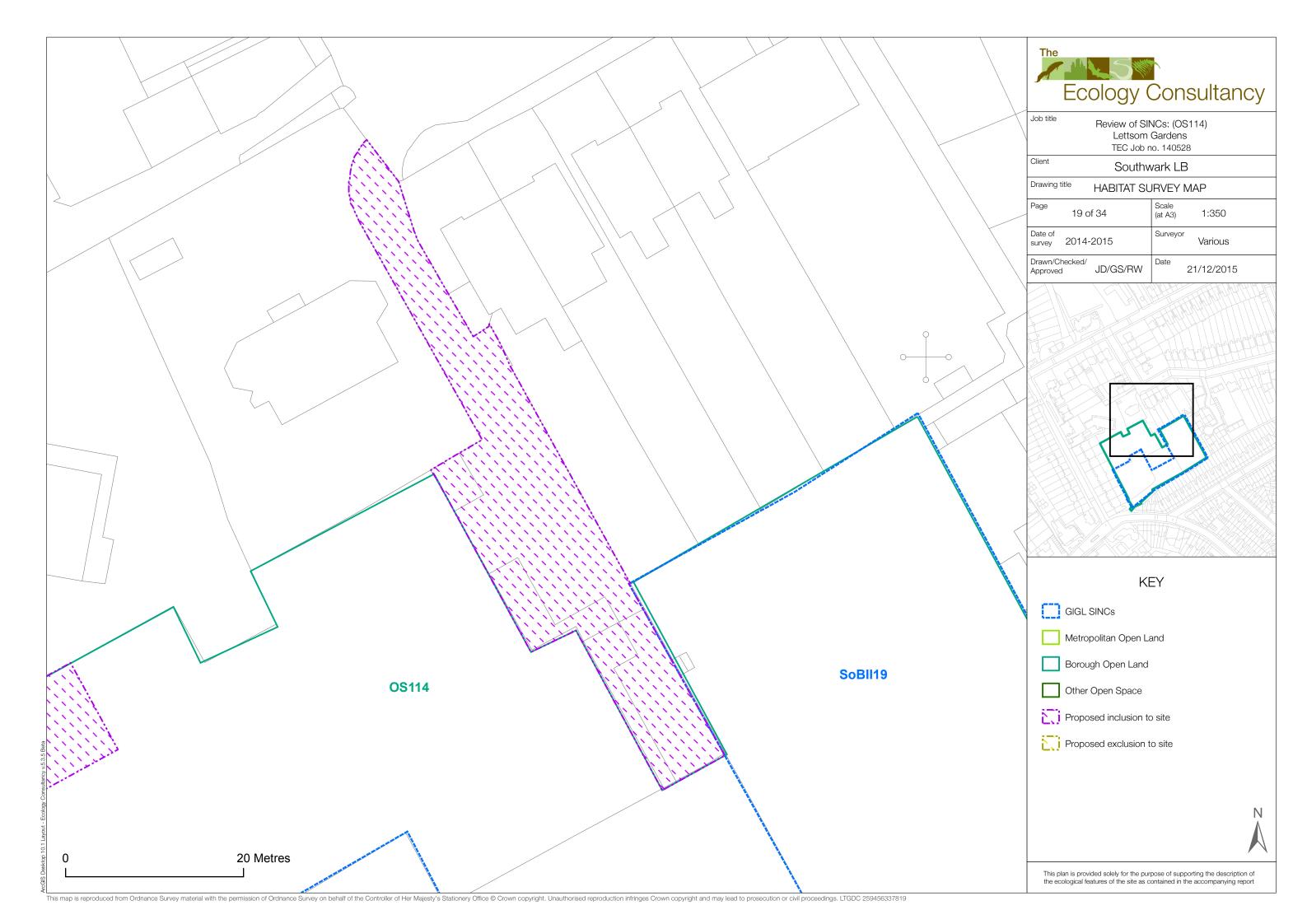




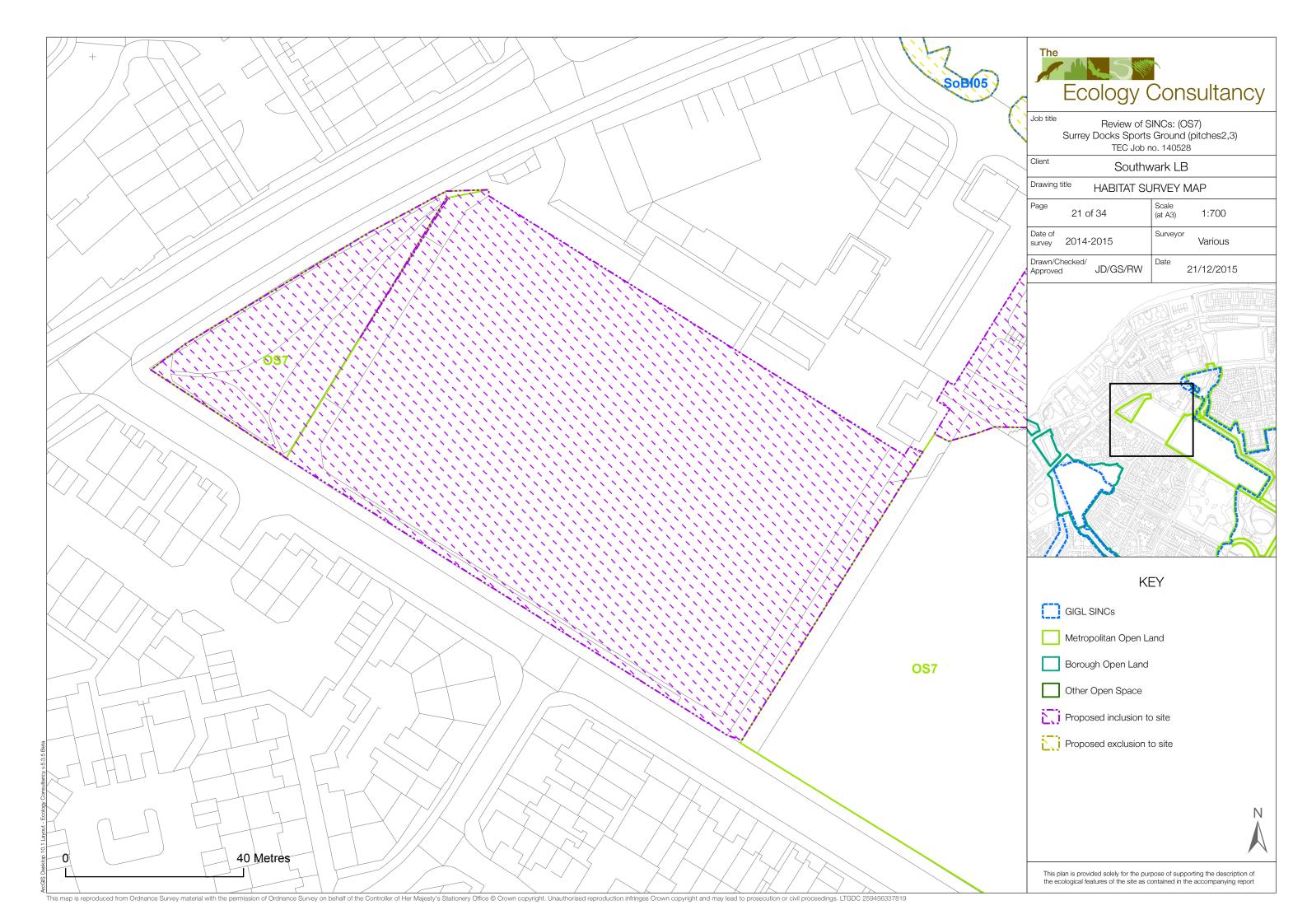






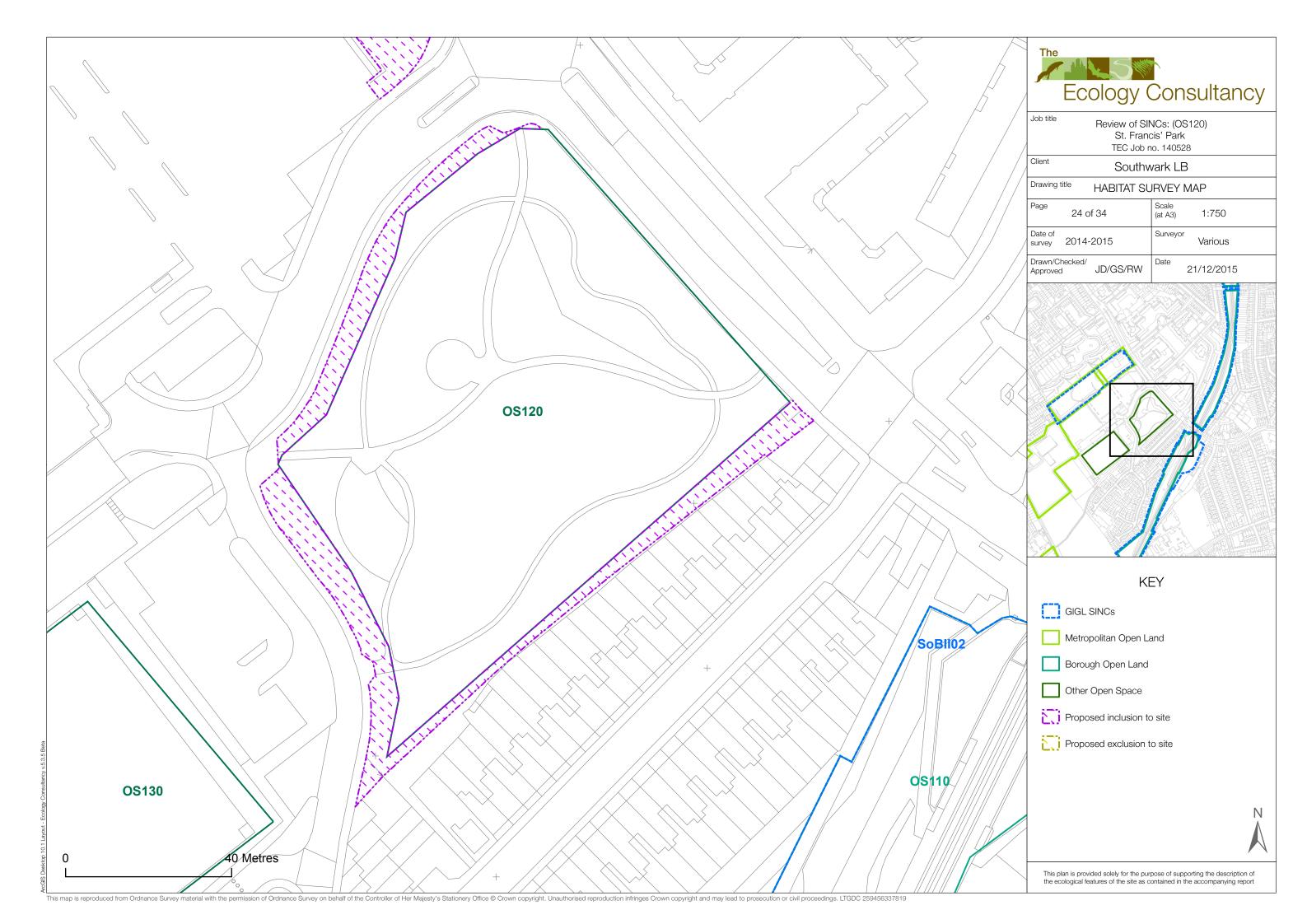


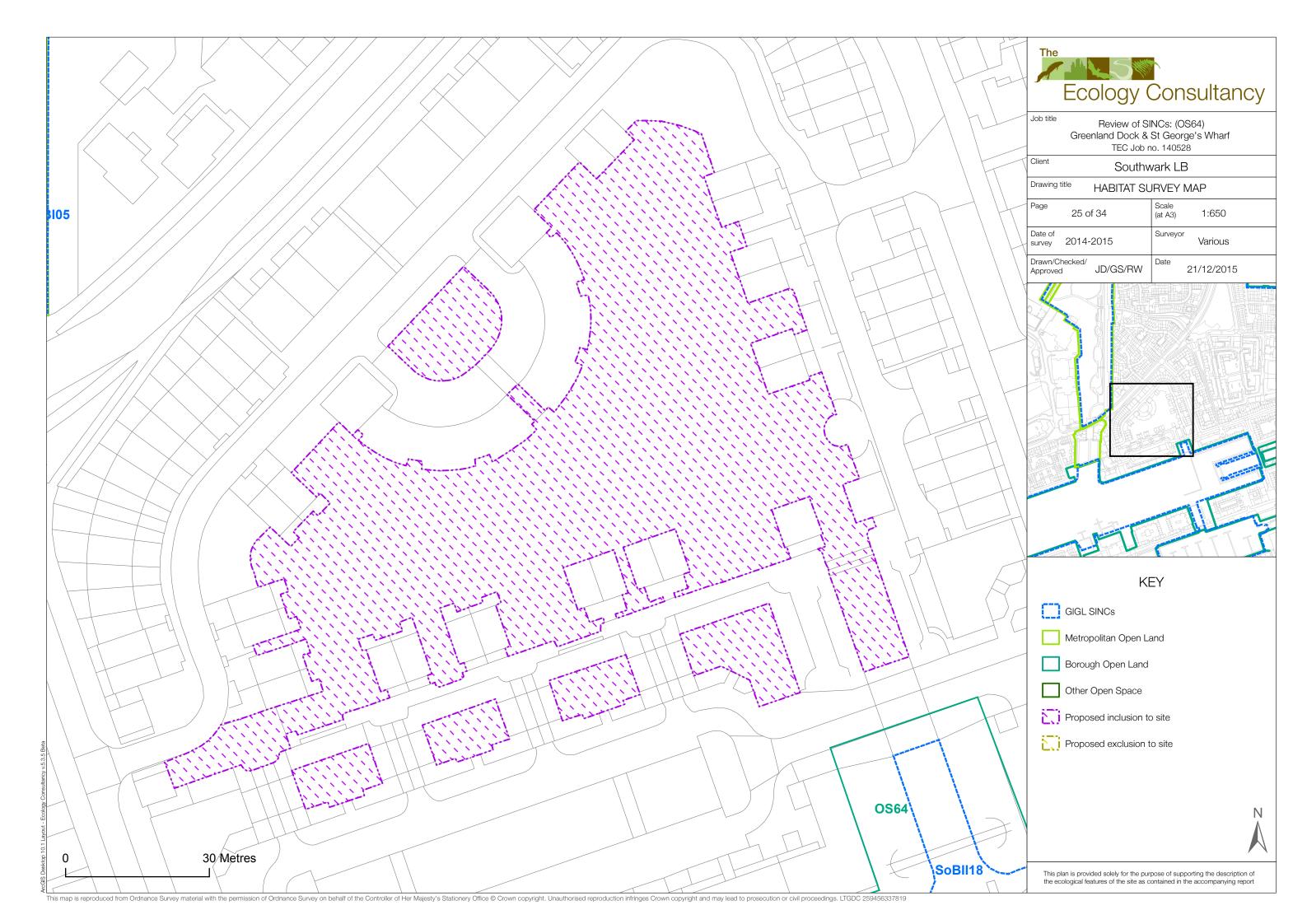






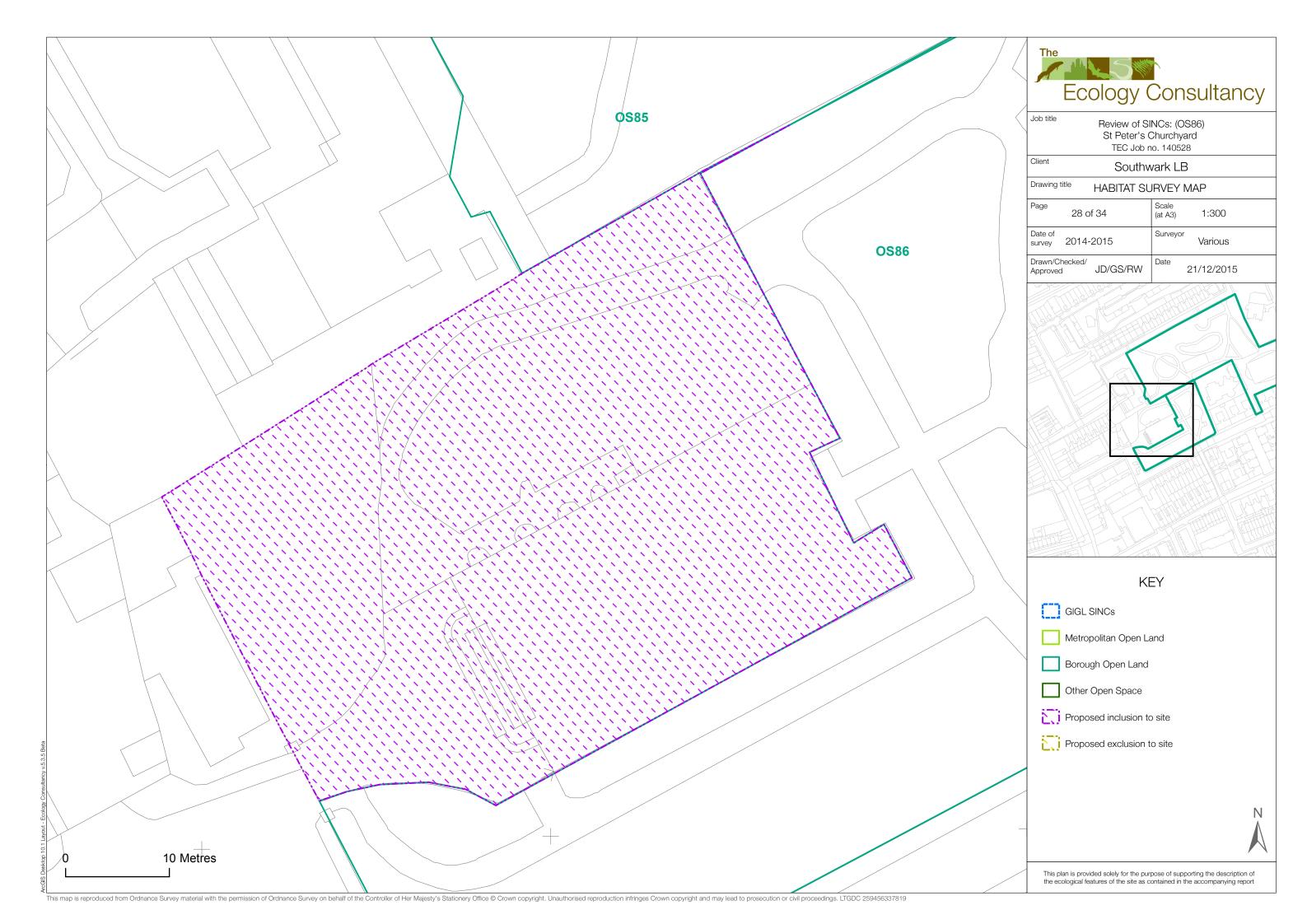


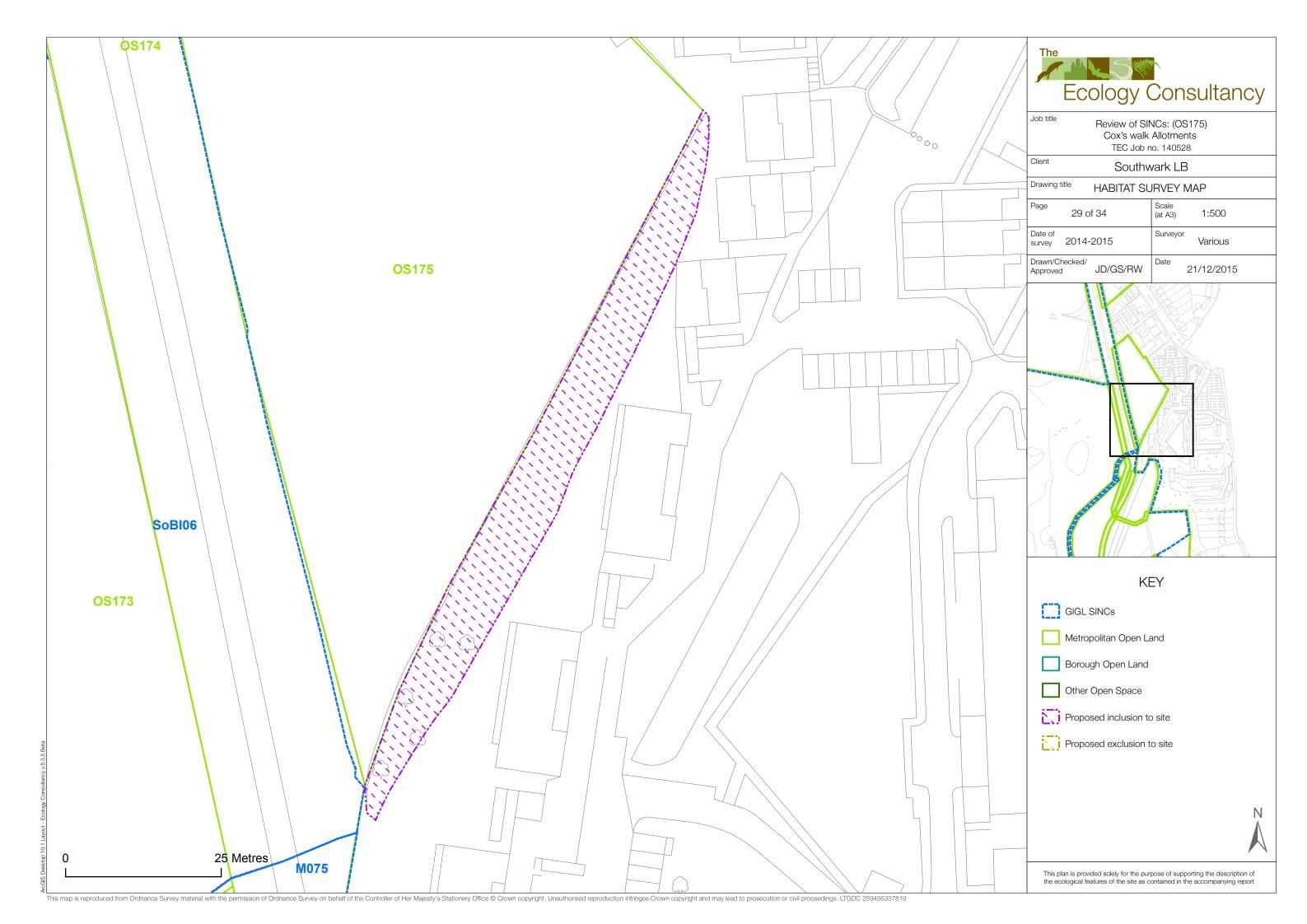


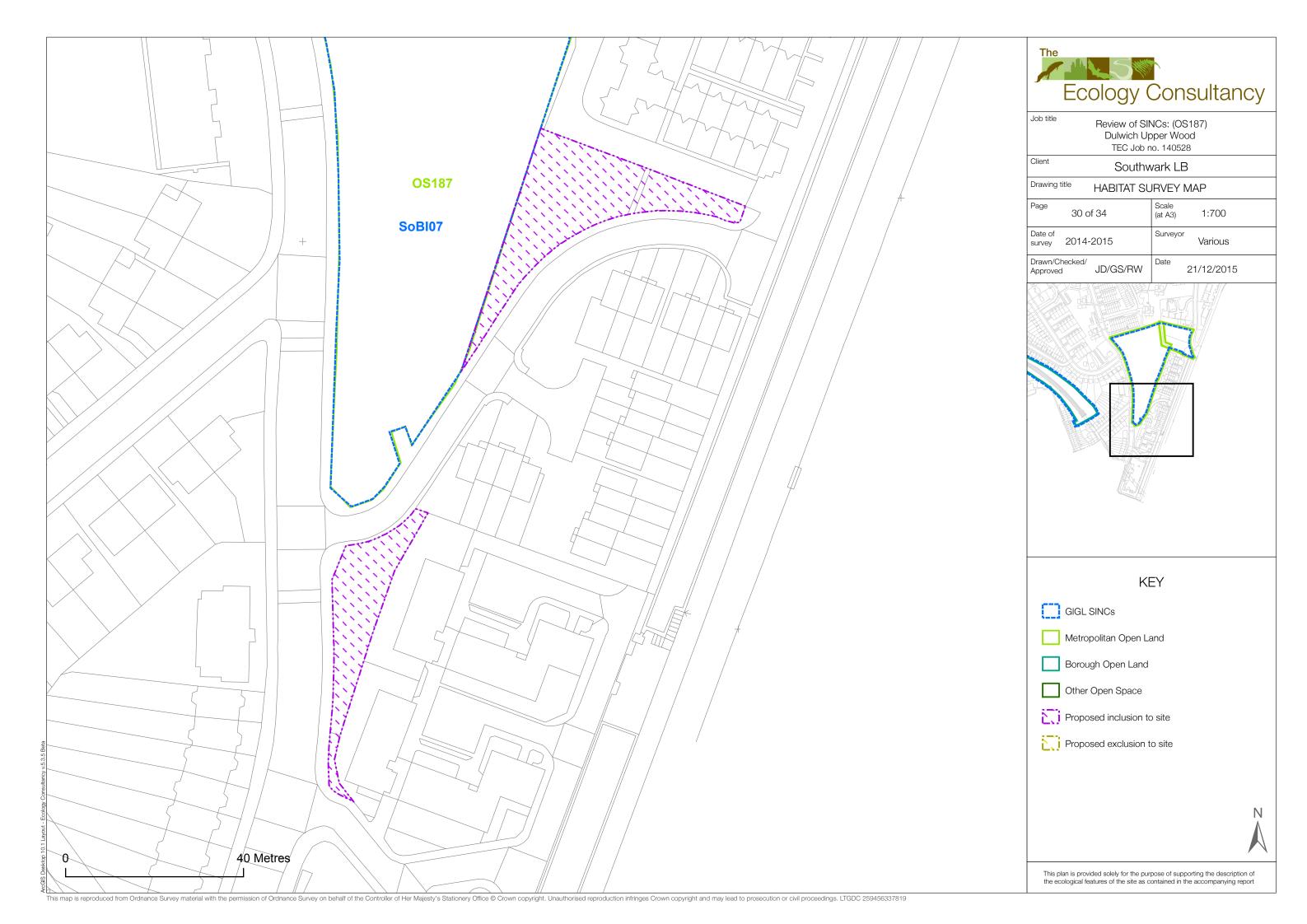


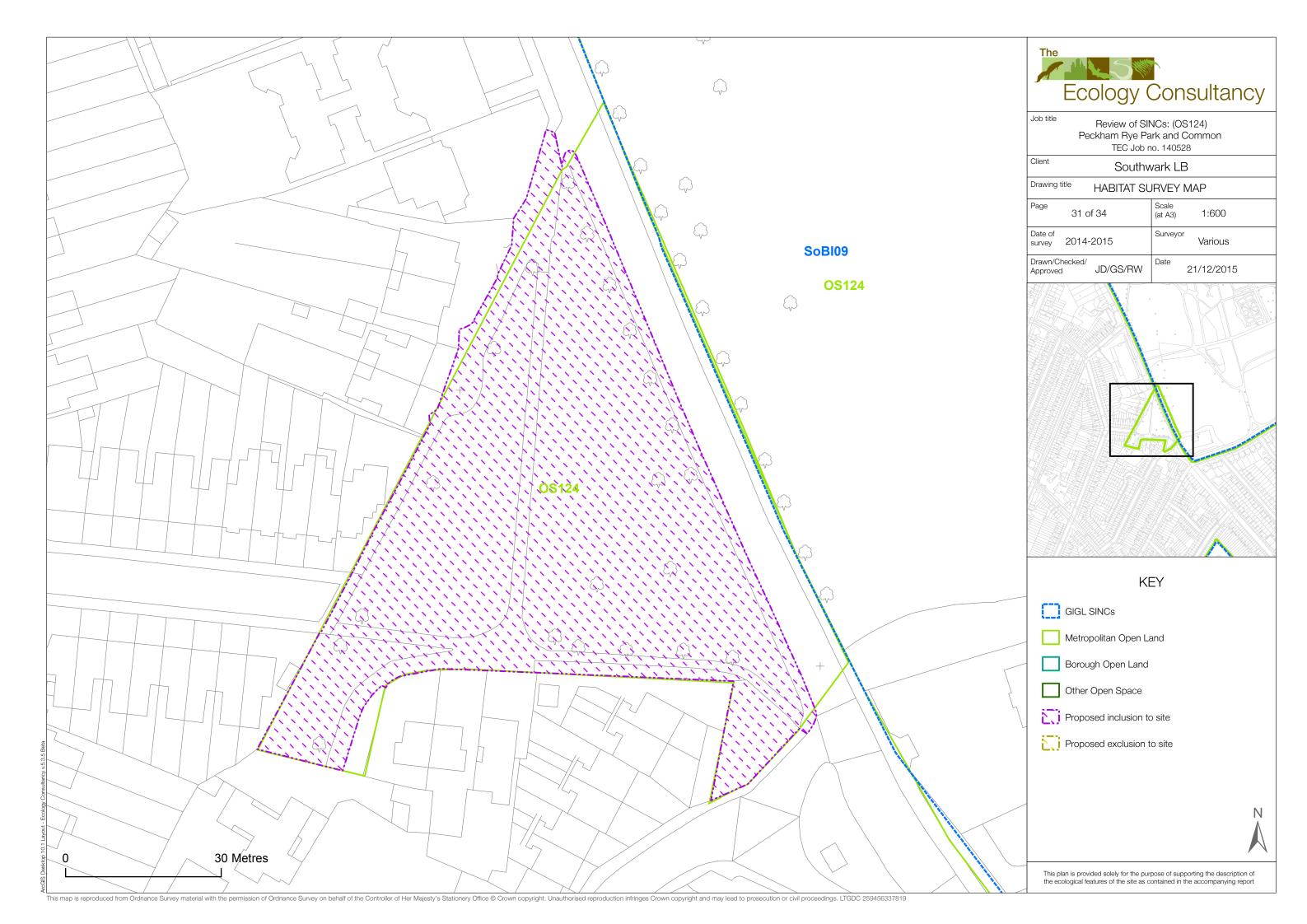




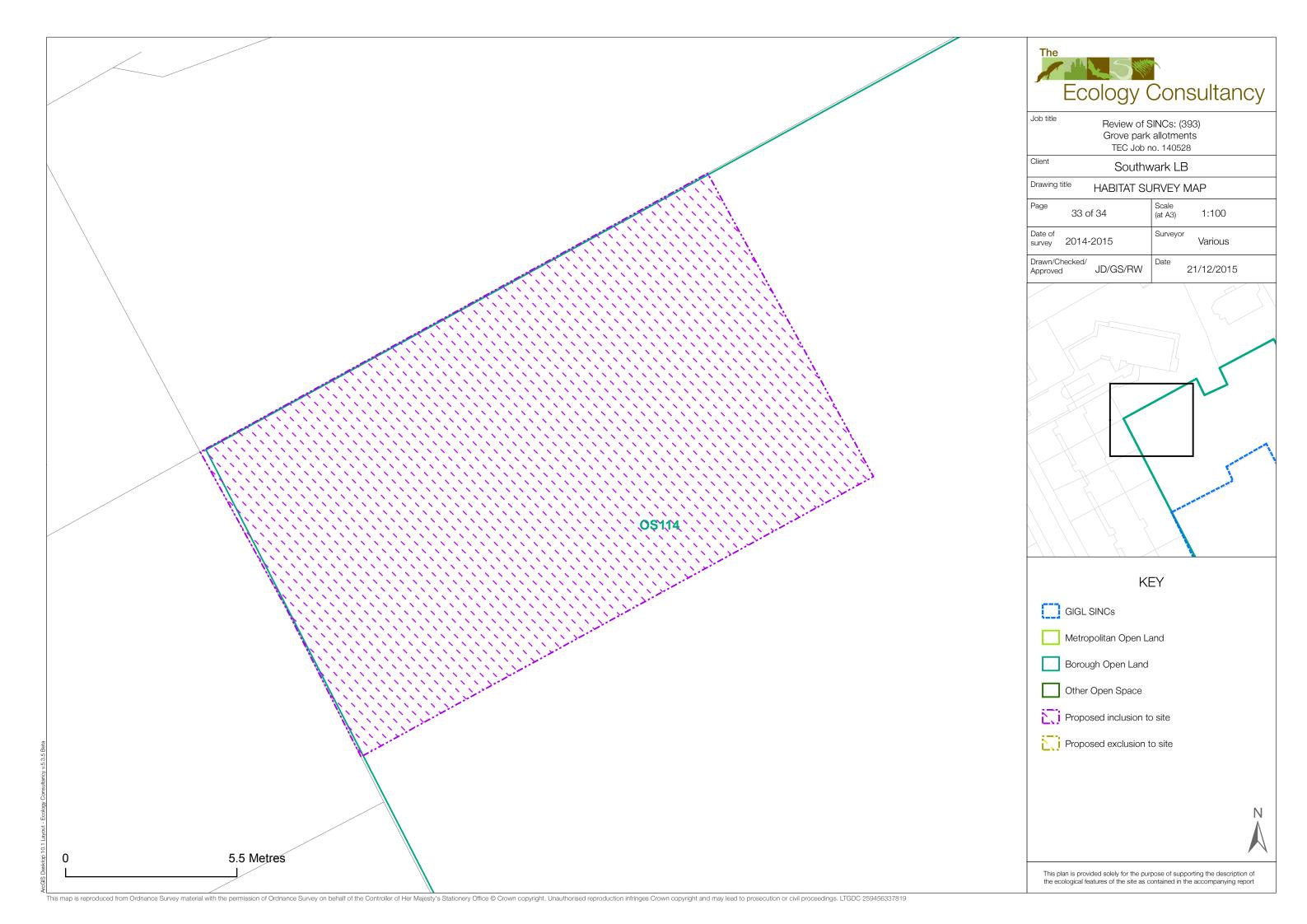




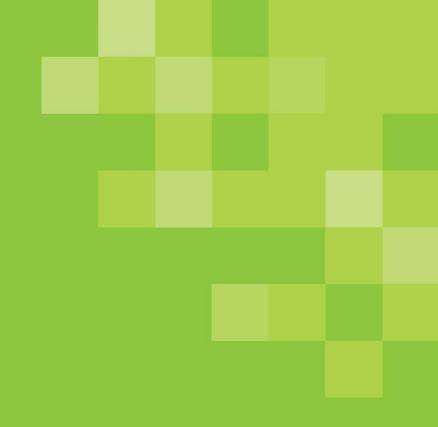














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Appendix 4 Updated and new SINC citations

Site Reference: SoBII13

Site Name: Waterworks / Aquarius Golf Course

Summary: A variety of habitats on the banks of a covered reservoir.

Grid ref: TQ 353 746

Area (ha): 2.4

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): herb rich neutral grassland, secondary woodland, amenity grassland, tall herb, scrub

Access: No public access

Ownership: Thames Water

Site Description:

The steep eastern bank of this golf course, supports herb rich neutral grassland, thought to be the best in the borough. A sward dominated by Yorkshire-fog contains a wide variety of wild flowers including agrimony, tufted vetch, bulbous buttercup, common dog-violet, black knapweed, red clover and bird's foot trefoil. Meadow barley and both subspecies of grey sedge (Carex divulsa) have also been recorded; the latter occurs nowhere else in Southwark.

Smaller patches of herb-rich grassland also occur on bunds and in rough areas around the perimeter of the site. The scarce great horsetail (Equisetrum telmateia) has been recorded next to the golf club. Secondary woodland and scrub around the northern perimeter provide habitat for birds and invertebrates. Mature oak and ash trees provide potential roosting for bats. Several species noted in the Southwark BAP have been recorded including stag beetle, and house sparrow. Geese and starlings also feed on the short grassland in the center of the golf course. The site provides a habitat link with nearby Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. These include Peckham Rye Park in the north and Brenchley Gardens and One Tree Hill in the south. The size, connectivity and variety of habitats could support species of reptile – a Southwark BAP species, which is known to be present in adjacent SINCs.

The golf course is owned by Thames Water Utilities and there is no public access.

Opportunities

Maintain and enhance the habitat corridor along the north and eastern boundary. This could be achieved by reducing the mowing frequency, allowing scrub to develop or planting native trees or shrubs.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 20/03/2015

Citation last edited: 23/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL24

Site Name: Aspinden Road Nature Garden

Summary: A small nature garden with a woodland and dense nettle beds.

Grid ref: TQ 349 788

Area (ha): 0.04

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Pond, secondary woodland, tall herbs

Access: Locked site – access only with password / organized groups

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

South-west of Southwark Park, this small nature garden was a remnant of bomb damage and has developed naturally, with semi-mature sycamore woodland, dense nettle beds and a shallow pond. Shrub species include elder, bramble field maple, blackthorn and hawthorn. Snowdrops and rampions are also present. The pond was dominated by floating sweet grass. Several Southwark BAP species have been recording including Pipistrelle bats common toad and common frog. A mature sycamore tree has potential to support roosting bats.

The nature garden is owned by the Council and is now leased to Bede House Association and has a small group of committed local residents managing the site.

Threats and Opportunities

The invasive Virginia creeper is beginning to invade from adjacent gardens.

There would be value in improving the existing pond, so that it was less prone to drying out. It would then be able to support marginal plants and provide habitat for a wider range of invertebrates including dragonflies.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 18/12/2006 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Importance

Site Reference: SoBII09

Site Name: Belair Park

Summary: An historic landscaped park with a lake fringed with woodland, and some fine pollarded oaks.

Grid ref: TQ 328 735

Area (ha): 9.98

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Wet woodland, lake, scattered trees, herb-rich grassland, amenity grassland, native

hedgerows.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

The main feature of nature conservation interest in Belair Park is the lake surrounded by wet alder woodland and marginal vegetation. The woodland canopy is dominated by alder with pedunculate oak, goat and grey willow and an understory of holly, hawthorn and bramble. Similar woodland covers the island. Wet woodland is a UK Habitat of Principal Importance and a rare habitat in London. The lake's more open margins support marginal vegetation such as lesser pond-sedge, gipsywort, purple-loosestrife and common reed. The lake supports a number of breeding waterfowl including tufted duck, mallard, coot, moorhen and Canada goose. It is likely that the lake and surrounding habitats support common amphibians and invertebrates.

The rest of the park is mostly amenity grassland, but contains some fine mature trees, including oak pollards dating from before 1750. Stag beetle, a Southwark BAP species has been recorded. Two flood-defense bunds have been created on either side of the lake and recently planted with a wildflower mix. A number of native species rich hedgerows are present, with one delineating the entire western boundary of the park. Other bird species recorded include mistle and song thrush, stock pigeon and common starling. The bat species: Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule have also been recorded. The site forms part of a larger area of open space contiguous with Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation including Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railway line (contiguous with the parks western boundary) and Dulwich Park (to the east).

Belair is owned and managed by the Council with free public access. There is an active Friends of Belair group. The park is of considerable historic and horticultural interest, and is a Grade II* Listed landscape.

Threats and Opportunities

Bank erosion around the lake.

Native hedgerows should be laid using a traditionally method to ensure they maintain their value to nesting birds and invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 22/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL34

Site Name: Bellenden Road Nature Garden (formally known as Bellenden Road Tree Nursery)

Summary: Small nature garden with scattered trees, shrubs and grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 340 766

Area (ha): 0.3

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Scattered trees, shrubs, tall herb, hedgerow and semi-improved grassland.

Access: No public access unless by prior arrangement

Ownership: Owned by the Council and licensed to the London Wildlife Trust

Site Description:

The small, nature garden contains several mature trees and shrubs with small areas of tall herbs and herb-rich grassland. Species comprise frequent sycamore and ash with a good mix of native shrubs including spindle, hawthorn, dogwood, hazel and cherry plum. Old man's beard and honeysuckle are also present. Herbs include common knapweed, field scabious, garlic mustard, red campions and cow parsley. It is likely to be a haven for the local bird population due to it being relatively undisturbed. Dead hedges around the perimeter of the garden and stone banks provide refuge for insect life including bees.

Owned by the Council and licensed to the London Wildlife Trust, who manage it with the help of the Probation Service, the garden has considerable educational potential and as such is used by students from Highshore School for wildlife investigations. It is not open to the public but can be easily viewed from the road.

Threats and Opportunities

There are signs of anti-social behavior.

Improving visibility to the street may help to reduce anti-social behavior. Consider laying the hedge using a traditional method. The temporary pond could be better established to provide water all year round.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 20/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL05

Site Name: Benhill Road Nature Garden

Summary: Nature garden used primarily by school children

Grid ref: TQ 328 771

Area (ha): 0.21

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Scrub, native woodland, pond, herb-rich grassland, native hedgerow

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

One of the oldest nature gardens in the Borough, which has been heavily overgrown but contains a mixture of scrub, young woodland and rough grassland. Species include traveler's-joy, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel coppice, ash, birch and buddleia. The site has recently being restored with a new pond (created by Froglife), wildflower meadow and a native hedgerow.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/2003

Citation last edited: 20/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL16

Site Name: Bird-in-Bush Park

Summary: An imaginatively-landscaped small park with long grass, plenty of trees and shrubs, and an

ecology area.

Grid ref: TQ 346 774

Area (ha): 0.45

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Bare ground, ephemeral, scattered trees, shrubs, amenity grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small park, which is less intensively managed than most. It has long grass and plenty of trees and shrubs. An ecology area in the north-east corner consists of native shrubs and trees including hawthorn, elder, field maple, dog rose and wild privet. A BMX track supports short ruderal species such as Canadian fleabane. Bare south facing banks provide potential nesting opportunities for solitary bees and other invertebrates. Speckled wood butterfly and several birds including robin and goldfinch have been recorded. The park had new community beds installed in 2005.

Opportunities

Sow a wild-flower ephemeral/annual seed mix around BMX track to provide an additional nectar source for invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 17/01/2007 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBII21

Site Name: Brenchley Gardens

Summary: A linear park established on an old railway line, with secondary woodland and species rich

grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 353 743

Area (ha): 3.63

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Secondary native woodland, herb-rich neutral grassland, scattered trees, amenity grassland.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This linear park has a narrow strip of secondary native woodland along its north-western edge, with a good structure and wide variety of trees, the canopy of which is dominated by pedunculated oak, ash and aspen, the latter is a rare species in Southwark. Great horsetail, scarce in London, is common in the ground flora. There are some fine mature trees, including a line of pollarded ash and aspen (a former railway boundary feature). To the north-east of the park, the linear strip of vegetation continues into an amenity area around housing, supporting herb-rich neutral grassland on the steep slopes. Some areas are tussocky, with frequent anthills and dominated by coarser grasses such as Yorkshire fog and tall fescue. Short grassy area are more species rich with frequent black knapweed, mouse-ear hawkweed, ox-eye daisy, sweet woodruff, bird's foot trefoil and cowslip. A substantial population of cowslip is supposed to occur in the short grass, the origins of which are not known, but they are the only ones in the Borough which might be wild. Mare's tail (Equisetum arvense) an uncommon species in Southwark, has also been recorded on the boundary with Aquarius Golf Course. The site is known to support a number of locally important species including common kestrel pipistrelle bats. This site is contiguous with Aquarius Golf Course Site of Borough Importance and is separated by Brenchley Gardens Road from One Tree Hill and Camberley New Cemetery.

Threats & Opportunities

Regular mowing by contractors typically reduces the value of grassland to wildlife. Consider modifying the management contracts of social housing estates to allow herbs and grasses to flower. Where road improvements are required, consider installing underpasses to allow movement for small mammals and reptiles between adjacent SINC sites.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 20/03/2015

Citation last edited: 20/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBI08

Site Name: Camberwell Old Cemetery

Summary: A Victorian cemetery with a fine collection of mature trees and range of other habitats.

Grid ref: TQ 348 741

Area (ha): 11.61

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Non native woodland, scattered trees, roughland, herb-rich neutral grassland, vegetated

wall/tombstones.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This is a Victorian cemetery containing an excellent selection of mature trees, including several old oak pollards, presumably old boundary markers pre-dating the cemetery, a particularly fine pear tree and a single native blackpoplar, a nationally scarce and declining tree. The secondary non-native woodland, which covers almost half of the site is dominated by sycamore and ash. The canopy is thick with young trees with scattered older standards and coppiced trees along the rides. The ground layer is dominated by ivy and bramble. The rides comprise of herb-rich grassland supporting species such as meadow vetchling, red clover and common knapweed. The former is an uncommon species in Southwark. Another area of flower-rich grassland is noted in the north-east corner of the cemetery, where older, tightly-packed graves probably inhibits regular mowing. Here species such as bird's foot trefoil and red clover are frequent. The cemetery's north-west area consists largely of goat willow, regenerating ash and sycamore, pedunculate oak and horse chestnut. Scarlet pimpinelle and enchanted nightshade (two ancient woodland indicators) were recorded in this area. There is also a large area of roughland (mix of scrub, tall herbs and ruderal vegetation) that may meet the criteria for a Habitat of Principal Importance in England known as Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land. A number of species noted in the Southwark BAP have been recorded including stag beetle, house sparrow and the common blue butterfly. Other invertebrates include bufftailed and tree bumblebee and meadow brown butterfly. The range and maturity of habitats within the cemetery is also likely to support foraging and roosting bats and a wide range of breeding birds. The remainder of the cemetery grounds is dominated by species-poor amenity grassland with is closely-mown on a regular basis, limiting its ecological value. Smaller areas of semi-improved grassland, have a more relaxed mowing regime, allowing common grasses to flower, but species composition is still limited.

Threats and Opportunities

Over management of grassland to retain "tidy" appearance. A woodland burial method should be considered to minimise loss of existing mature woodland habitat and provide a wildlife-friendly / ecosystem services driven habitat alternative to that of intensively mown grassland.

The invasive Japanese knotweed is present within areas of roughland, bare ground and woodland to the north-west of the site, with potential to spread further if not controlled. The potential presence of asbestos was also noted in the areas cleared for new graves. Relaxing of the mowing regime in certain areas would improve habitat structure of value to invertebrates (whilst still retaining a managed appearance to visitors). Grassland in the north-east corner of the site could easily become meadow quality with additional plug planting. Scrub habitat along the southern boundary would be of greater value to wildlife if adjacent grassland could be allowed to grow long. Isolated pockets of species-rich habitat in the southwest part of the site could be enhanced for wildlife by linking together (through additional scrub, shrub or tree planting).

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBI12

Site Name: Centre for Wildlife Gardening

Summary: An educational center in Peckham, run by the London Wildlife Trust, which demonstrates

how to make gardens more attractive to wildlife.

Grid ref: TQ 338 755

Area (ha): 0.22

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native woodland, chalk grassland, planted shrubbery, hedge, pond, ephemeral/short

perianal, scrub, herb-rich neutral grassland/ biodiverse green roof, tall herb,

Access: Access at limited times

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark. Leased to London Wildlife Trust

Site Description:

Created as a tree nursery in 1989 by the London Wildlife Trust, the Centre for Wildlife Gardening now plays a major role in promoting greening of the environment, as well as being greatly valued by the local community and schools. Apart from the nursery, there are many types of habitats, demonstrating what can be created to encourage wildlife in gardens and window boxes. These include three ponds with good marginal vegetation and which support thriving populations of common frogs, toads and smooth and palmate newts, as well as several species of dragonflies. The fairy shrimp has also been recorded in one pond. Other habitats include a chalk bank – the only chalk grassland in Southwark, a hedgerow, spring and summer meadows, urban roughland, two living (biodiverse) roofs, raised beds and ephemeral / tall herbs. Eight species of butterflies breed on the site and a wide range of common bird species use the site to forage and breed. An on-site building, designed to very high environmental standards and an educational feature in itself, contains a classroom and meeting room, interpretation, and office space for the full-time project manager and assistant. Owned by the Council and managed by the London Wildlife Trust, the Centre is normally open to the public on Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday from 10.30am to 4.30pm, and sometimes at other times (phone 020 7252 9186 for details). The Trust runs numerous events, and the center provides large numbers of trees to organisations and individuals in the Borough and beyond.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL17

Site Name: Consort Park

Summary: A natural looking, small park with scattered scrub of goat willow.

Grid ref: TQ 347 761

Area (ha): 0.34

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, native hedgerow

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small undulating, informal park characterized by scattered goat willow scrub. The catkins provide an important early source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects and provides foraging for birds. Goat willow is also an uncommon species in Southwark. The grass is allowed to grow long and contains typical 'wasteland' wild flowers such as lucerne. A young, native hedgerow borders the western boundary and contains frequent hawthorn, blackthorn and elder. A range of other native semi-mature tree species are also present. The parks mounds, steep, short slopes and climbable trees are likely to be a valuable natural play resource for local children. The park is located adjacent to Nunhead Railway Embankments Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation and may provide additional foraging habitat for bats.

Opportunities

Additional Woodland features such as a willow tunnel and logs would provide habitat for invertebrates and additional play features for local children. The hedgerow would benefit from being traditionally laid in a few years to provide denser vegetation for nesting birds and refuge for invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 03/04/2007 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Site Reference: SoBII20

Site Name: Dawson's Heights (Dawsons Hill)

Summary: A small open space on the side of a steep hill with woodland and scrub habitat.

Grid ref: TQ 343 738

Area (ha): 2.68

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native and non-native woodland, roughland, native hedgerow, scattered trees, amenity

grassland.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This public open space on the side of a steep hill comprises predominantly roughland (an intimate mix of semi-improved grassland, scrub, scattered trees and tall herbs) and secondary woodland dominated by sycamore and hybrid black poplar with occasional ash, wild cherry and small leaved lime, the latter is an ancient woodland indicator and a rare species in Southwark. The woodland understory is dominated by hawthorn, with a ground flora (much of it planted) of ramsons, lords-and-ladies and native bluebell. A small area of native woodland dominated by a rich mix of shrubs is located along the south-west corner of the site. Species include field maple, rowan and Midland hawthorn (also a rare species in Southwark). Grassland is dominated by tussock grasses such as Yorkshire fog and false oat grass. Ant hills are a notable feature. The abundance of scrub provides good habitat for breeding and foraging birds with goldfinch and linnets recorded. Roughland provides habitat for hedgehogs, common reptiles and common invertebrates such as the speckled wood butterfly. There are also number of old fruit trees, at the top of the hill near the tennis court. Southwark Council manage the site with support from a local voluntary group called The Friends of Dawson's Hill. There is also much school use of the site. The site is used for local events, and a number of educational leaflets have also been published.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 12/10/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL02

Site Name: Dickens Square Park (Rockingham Park)

Summary: An informal and pleasant little open space

Grid ref: TQ 324 793

Area (ha): 1.01

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scrub, tall herb, scattered trees, secondary woodland, semi-improved

neutral grassland.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

An informal, natural-looking site providing a wildlife haven in an area otherwise urban area with limited habitats for wildlife. Many small open spaces in Southwark are heavily-managed and so the informality of Dickens Square Park provides a valuable refuge to birds and invertebrates, particularly during winter. The edges of the park have evolved into woodland of sycamore and hybrid black poplar, with hawthorn, hazel, bramble and elder in the undergrowth. Rough grassland, bramble scrub and tall herbs such as cow parsley, mugwort and nettles provide further habitat and a gradual transition between woody vegetation and mown grassland. In a recent survey of bird life in almost 300 of London's smaller parks and squares, this site scored among the top ten, with 11 species recorded. These included some very uncommon species for central London such as blackcap and green woodpecker. Robin, wren, great tit and long-tailed tit can also be found here and jay and chiffchaff have been recorded. This site is valuable in its own right but it also forms a stepping stone allowing some species to move between other nearby parks such as Such as Tabard Gardens and Newington Park.

Threats and Opportunities

Potential loss of informal habitat types including tall ruderal, scrub and secondary woodland in order to improve the site for amenity use. Presence of invasive plant species including a small amount of Japanese knotweed. The site suffers from some anti-social behavior.

Opportunity to plant native climbers in woodland area and around the perimeter of the site to provide additional nesting habitat and nectar for birds and invertebrates. Enhance the adventure playground with natural wildlife-friendly play features.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBI06

Site Name: Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course

Summary: A large golf course with some fine old oaks, native oak woodland and ponds

Grid ref: TQ 338 728

Area (ha): 33.79

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native woodland, veteran trees, semi-improved grassland, standing open water.

Access: Accessible to members only

Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

This large golf course contains pockets of mature, oak woodland, and numerous fine old /veteran and dead standing oaks scattered between the fairways. There are also several ponds and small lakes on the lower slopes (created to drain the fairways) and which support diverse scrub, marginal, emergent and floating vegetation. Woodland areas are generally even —aged with numerous mature oak standards with an understory dominated by ivy, bramble and elder. Other tree species include ash, sycamore, Norway maple and wayfaring tree. In some places the trees are covered by large growths of ivy and dead standing and fallen wood is abundant. Other woodland areas are more open with scattered scrub of hawthorn, broom and gorse, grassland, tall ruderal or used as an area to store soil and arising's.

The fairways grade quickly into species-poor grassland dominated by Yorkshire fog, bents and red fescue, whilst smaller areas are more herb -rich with common knapweed, frequent hypcharis species and ladies bedstraw. Numerous dry ditches crisscross the golf-course -the remains of old field boundaries and may support small areas of acid grassland, due the sparsely vegetated banks. Numerous ponds provide diverse wetland habitats supporting species such as water horsetail (Equistrum palustre), lesser and greater pond sedge, flowering rush, arrowhead, lesser cats tail (Typha latifolia) and flag iris, many of which are uncommon species in Southwark. Larger ponds along the western boundary are also fringed with willows. The golf course has a large number of mature, /veteran native oak trees, that provide ideal habitat for a wide range of bats, of which five species (Pipistrelle, Noctule, Natterer's, Brown-long-eared, soprano pipistrelle) have been recorded. The woodland areas, partly as a result of being contiguous with Sydenham Hill Woods to the south supports good populations of birds including lesser spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, tawny owl and hobby. The large areas of grassland and adjacent scrub are likely to provide foraging for birds: the house sparrow, song thrush and mistle thrush have all been frequently recorded. Other species also include hedgehog and the stag beetle, both species noted on the London and Southwark BAPs. The ponds are likely to support amphibians and potentially grass snake. The purple hairstreak butterfly and scarce silver-lines moth have been recorded in the past. Other invertebrates present are likely to be at least of local significance. The London Wildlife Trust currently provides advice to the site manager on favourable management and undertakes bat surveys.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: M075

Site Name: Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods

Summary: The closest ancient woods to central London, with a good range of woodland plants, fungi

and birds.

Grid ref: TQ 344 724

Area (ha): 28.11

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Pond/lake

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Dulwich Estate, leased to London Borough of Southwark sub leased to LWT.

Site Description:

The largest remnant of the historic Great North Wood, and one of the closest ancient woods to central London. Mostly sessile oak-hornbeam woodland, with a wide variety of other tree and shrub species, including numerous exotics planted when the wood included parts of large gardens. The flora includes numerous indicators of long-established woodland with wood anemone, lily-of-the-valley and hairy wood-rush present. The last two of these are uncommon in London. All three British woodpeckers breed, along with nuthatch, treecreeper, tawny owl and sparrowhawk. Hawfinches are recorded occasionally and may also breed. Invertebrates are well recorded and include the purple hairstreak butterfly and several nationally scarce bees and wasps. Fungi are also well recorded (174 species) and mosses include Mnium punctatum at its only known London locality. Two ponds contain aquatic vegetation and support amphibians and dragonfiles. The section of disused railway line in the east supports predominantly mature ash with oak (of more recent origin) and ivy and pendulous sedge dominates the ground cover. The now disused tunnel at the southern end is a known bat hibernation roost. Sydenham Hill Wood is a Local Nature Reserve and managed by London Wildlife Trust.

Site first notified: 19/09/1988 Boundary last changed: 28/10/1990

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed: 25/11/2002

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBII14

Site Name: Dulwich Mill Pond

Summary: This is the oldest pond in the Borough of Southwark.

Grid ref: TQ 332 731

Area (ha): 0.86

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Lake, herb-rich grassland, native hedgerow, scattered trees

Access: Locked, can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Dulwich Estate

Site Description:

As the oldest pond in Southwark, the mill pond is fringed with mature alder trees, tall marginal and bank side vegetation, surrounded by herb-rich grassland and a mature tree-lined hedgerow. Marginal vegetation is located on the eastern bank and dominated by stands of yellow iris, greater reedmace and common club rush. Bank side vegetation is left uncut and comprises a rich mix of herbs including greater bird's foot trefoil, salad burnet, agrimony and ladies bedstraw along with more common ruderal species including creeping thistle and hemlock. The grassland to the south supports common sorrel, common knapweed and mouse-ear hawkweed, with some patches remaining uncut. There are numerous mature scattered horse chestnuts and a large mature oak next to the pond. The eastern boundary is delineated by an overgrown native hedge with a number of mature ash trees with potential value to roosting and foraging bats. The site is likely to provide suitable foraging habitat for a wide range of common birds, amphibians, invertebrates and foraging bats. A large number of waterfowl have been recorded using the pond, including Canada geese, tufted duck, moorhen and mallard and pochard. The latter is a rare species in Southwark.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/04/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2017

Site Reference: SoBI10

Site Name: Dulwich Park

Summary: A fine landscaped park with some magnificent old oak trees and a sizeable lake.

Grid ref: TQ 336 735

Area (ha): 29.58

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, pond/lake, scattered trees, semi-improved neutral

grassland, veteran trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large park with some magnificent old trees, particularly pollarded oaks, which may have been old boundary markers. One group of oaks has been fenced off and is infrequently mown, supporting species-rich neutral grassland. Several other areas of the park have recently been transferred into meadow management, with a corresponding increase in butterflies and other invertebrates seen foraging in the area. A sizeable lake, supports a diverse range of native emergent and marginal vegetation surrounded by broadleaved woodland, scrub and tall ruderal. Waterfowl such as tufted duck, coot, mallard and Canada goose are known to breed. The park has a whole contains a large diversity of bird species including thrush, pigeon, teal and warbler species. Pipistrelle bats are regularly seen, and there are unconfirmed reports of Daubenton's bats (a rare species in London) feeding over the lake. Dulwich Park is a Grade II* Listed Landscape of considerable horticultural and historic interest, and has recently received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for its restoration. A Friends group has recently been established.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBI07

Site Name: Dulwich Upper Wood & College Road Wood

Summary: A very attractive woodland nature reserve.

Grid ref: TQ 337 711

Area (ha): 2.14

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Secondary woodland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site), including wheel-chair access.

Ownership: The Dulwich Estate, leased to London Borough of Southwark and sub leased to TCV.

Site Description:

Dulwich Upper Woods (OS187), Local Nature Reserve. The site is a small fragment of ancient oak woodland, surrounded by secondary woodland of oak, sycamore, lime and ash, with a good variety of other trees and shrubs. Coppiced hazel is a distinctive component of the shrub layer. The ground flora in the ancient part includes wood anemone, bluebell, ramsons and yellow pimpernel, the latter is the only site in Southwark. Other species include male fern, hart's tongue fern and pendulous sedge. A large population of ivy broomrape of around 200 plants is present throughout the wood. A good selection of breeding birds have been recorded including Eurasian hobby, hawfinch, turtle dove and wood warbler. Notable a tawny owl was recorded in 2010. Fungi are particularly well recorded, with over 200 species noted. Amphibians are also reported present, potentially using the small pond on site. Species include common toad, common frog and palmate newts. The site is managed as an educational nature reserve by The Conservation Volunteers, who have an office on site and employ a full-time warden. On-site facilities include classroom/interpretive centre, an invertebrate friendly shipping container, stag beetle loggery and a small edible garden. Dulwich Upper Wood was declared a statutory Local Nature Reserve in August 2005. College Road Woods located to the north east and up a steep slope (OS188) comprises predominantly of semi-mature sycamore with abundant ivy. It is unmanaged and access is limited.

Threats and Opportunities

Spotted laurel is spreading through the southern part of the woodland. Management of this species and other non-native would be recommended.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/10/2017 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL15

Site Name: Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park

Summary: Best known as the park which surrounds the Imperial War Museum, with a large number of

mature trees.

Grid ref: TQ 313 792

Area (ha): 6.17

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Scattered trees, native woodland, **o**rchard, amenity grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site), the nature garden is locked and accessible only with

prior arrangement.

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark, IWM.

Site Description:

The largest open space in the north-west of the Borough and surrounding the Imperial War Museum. The majority of the park is dominated by a large number of mature and tall London plane trees. There are also a number of other species, including (supposedly) the only white mulberry in the Borough. The hairy buttercup a London rarity has also been recorded in the grassland areas in the past. More recent tree planting has featured a higher proportion of native species including silver birch, hornbeam and oak. In the south-east corner of the park, The charity "Trees for Cities" has created a trail of 'Ice age trees' with labelled specimens. In the same area, is a small orchard (native and exotic fruits) with an understorey of closely mown grass and common wild flowers including garlic mustard, wood avens and common mallow. In the southeast corner of the park (proposed extension of the SINC boundary) there is a small area of native woodland, with a canopy dominated by pedunculate oak and both silver and downy birch the latter is rare in Soutwark. The ground flora is quite diverse with native bluebell and agrimony. A walled garden in the north, contains a wildlife pond, surrounded by beds of nectar-rich herbaceous plants. This park is well used by visitors who come to visit the museum. A 'Peace Garden' offers a quiet spot for reflection and there is also a small playground.

Threats and Opportunities

There is great potential for this park to become a site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. However, current features of ecological value are located around the periphery of the site and limited in size. It would be beneficial to reduce the mowing regime underneath the trees and seed with wildflowers and or spring bulbs, to improve the value of these large areas for invertebrates. A new hedgerow or small woodland could be planted along the northern boundary to provide potential nesting and foraging habitat for birds. This would provide a buffer from the adjacent road (noise and fumes) which get particularly bad during rush hour and detracts from the Peace Garden located in the same area.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 11/08/2015

Citation last edited: 05/01/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Site Reference: SoBII17

Site Name: Gipsy Hill Railway Cutting

Summary: A steep railway cutting with a mix of scrub, roughland and scattered mature trees.

Grid ref: TQ334711

Area (ha): 1.25

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, scrub, scattered trees

Access: No public access

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

A steep railway cutting in the far south-west of the borough contains typical railway roughland. The lower slopes have recently been cleared, leaving a mature tree line at the top of the cutting dominated by pedunculate oak, sycamore, ash and hazel. Native scrub dominates the eastern end. Potentially due to its close proximity to Dulwich Upper Wood Local Nature Reserve, the site has a good range of bird species recorded including Eurasian hobby, turtle dove, hawfinch, wood warbler and tawny owl. Amphibians including common toad, frogs and palmate newts have also been recorded. Although only a small section is within Southwark, the railway line continues west into Lambeth and is well treed all the way to Norwood Park and beyond. This is likely to make it a foraging and commuting corridor for bats, reptiles and possible hedgehogs. There is no public access, but the vegetated cutting forms a pleasant backdrop for rail travelers.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2005 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL12

Site Name: Goldsmith Road Nature Garden

Summary: A small nature garden, close to the center of Peckham.

Grid ref: TQ 345 769

Area (ha): 0.09

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): swamp, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This small nature garden, situated in a densely built-up part of Peckham, offers one of very few opportunities for local people to have contact with nature. A good mix of native scrub and young trees consisting of dense blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and silver birch surrounded by rough grassland and a concrete-lined pond with a small dipping platform. A number of common birds have been recorded including robin and blue tit and it is likely to provide important nesting habitat for other common birds. There are some wood carvings and seating in the garden.

Threats & opportunities

The pond would benefit from more regular management.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/2003

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII18

Site Name: Greenland Dock & adjacent wharfs

Summary: A large dock basin & adjacent wharfs good for wintering birds.

Grid ref: TQ 364 791

Area (ha): 11.31

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Standing water

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Greenland Dock (OS64) is a large basin; used primarily for boating, and hence is less suitable for birds compared to other docks in the area. Nevertheless, great crested grebes have nested in recent years, and it is regularly used by gulls and cormorants, and occasionally by waterfowl, particularly in hard weather, when the brackish water stays open when other freshwater lakes have frozen. An American ring-necked duck was a rare visitor to this site during freezing weather in the mid-1990s. During summer small-vegetated pontoons provide nesting habitat for coots and moorhens. Kingston wharf to the north is proposed to be included within the SINC, due to its sheltered and well vegetated margins, which are likely to support a good range of plant species, and provide habitat for birds, invertebrates and amphibians. To the south, lies St George's Wharf also known as South Dock (OS65), which is currently used as a boat-yard. All three waters connect to each other and to The River Thames via a number of locks and may be important waters for nursery fish and foraging bats.

Threats & Opportunities

Boat activity is increasing and this is likely to reduce the value of the waters for birds. The provision of floating habitats (on a large pontoon in the corner of the docks) could increase habitat value to fish and a range of common waterfowl.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 03/24/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII02

Site Name: Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides

Summary: Thickly-wooded railsides form an important green corridor for wildlife.

Grid ref: TQ 335 759

Area (ha): 10.64

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland, scrub

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

Southwark's longest railway corridor stretching from Peckham roughly in the center of the borough to just beyond North Dulwich. At its broadest part at Grove Park, between Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill stations, the vegetation is largely dense sycamore woodland, with a shrub layer of elder and hawthorn and ground flora of ivy, cow parsley and bramble. The woodland has a good structure. There are also areas of roughland consisting of a typical mix of coarse grasses, tall herbs, bramble and elder scrub. The railway running south from this cutting through East and North Dulwich stations to Herne Hill Stadium runs through a narrow cutting, then on an embankment, both of which contain a similar mix of sycamore - ash woodland and roughland. The habitat corridor supports a good range of bat species with records for soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle, noctule and lesser noctule bats being present. Common frog and stag beetle have also been recorded. The site forms a strategic habitat corridor through a residential part of the borough, connecting a number of SINCs and open spaces together including Herne Hill Velodrome in the south, then James Allen School, Greendale fields through to Dog Kennel Hill Estates and Warwick Gardens in the north. For this reason, it is of high value as a foraging and dispersal corridor for wildlife. Hedgehogs have been recorded around Greendale fields and reptiles are likely present in the area. Owned by Network Rail, there is no public access to the site, but the railsides form a pleasant backdrop for train travelers.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL31

Site Name: Herne Hill Velodrome

Summary: A sizeable area of roughland which can be visited when there are events on at the

Velodrome.

Grid ref: TQ 327 741

Area (ha): 8.3

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland, scattered trees, amenity grassland, native hedge.

Access: Access at limited times

Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

The most interesting part of the site for nature conservation is a sizeable area of land along the south western boundary of the velodrome, which consists mostly of roughland with smaller areas of non-native sycamore woodland to the north-west. The mosaic of habitats are likely to provide foraging and refuge for invertebrates (particularly butterflies), nesting birds, hedgehogs and common reptile species. The stag beetle, a London and Southwark BAP species has been recorded on site. Notable bird species have included lesser spotted woodpecker, hobby, meadow pipet, common and mistle thrush and willow warbler. A wide range of perennial, ephemeral and ruderal species are present including scrub and scattered trees, which may meet the criteria for the Habitat of Principal Importance known as open mosaic habitat on previously developed land. Wasteland is also noted in the London and Southwark BAP. The whole of the open space around the stadium is included in the SINC; most of this is amenity grassland, but there are scattered trees and hedges. The site is located adjacent to Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides and may provide additional foraging habitat for bats.

The Velodrome is owned by the Dulwich Estate, and managed on a day to day basis by VC Londres Cycling Club. Now that the original Wembley Stadium has been demolished, Herne Hill Velodrome is the last remaining venue from the 1948 London Olympic Games that is still in active use. It is one of the best cycling tracks in the United Kingdom. There is access when the playing fields and stadium are open for events, as well as in the summer months when it is open most weekday evenings and weekends, with some of the paths being used for off-road riding. In winter it is generally only open on Saturdays.

Threats and Opportunities

Grassland habitat could be improved for invertebrates by additional tree planting and reduction in mowing frequency around the perimeter of the site.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/03/2004

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII11

Site Name: Hitherwood (Carlton Place Copse)

Summary: A small fragment of ancient woodland, surviving in the middle of a housing estate.

Grid ref: TQ 336 715

Area (ha): 0.37

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland

Access: No public access

Ownership: Dulwich Estates

Site Description:

A small area of ancient woodland, with mature pedunculate oak and ash dominating the canopy with occasional hornbeam and sycamore. The understory is dense with abundant holly, and hawthorn along with non-native shrubs (most likely garden escapees) and butterfly bush. The ground flora is limited to bramble and hedge bindweed, although the native bluebell has been recorded in the past. The maturity of the habitat provides high potential for roosting and foraging bats and birds. Abundant dead wood and log piles are highly likely to provide habitat for the stag beetle, a Southwark BAP species and other deadwood dependent invertebrates. Although the woodland is small and located in the middle of a housing estate, the surrounding built environment (streets, social housing land and back gardens) contain a large number of mature trees either closely spaced or forming interlocking canopies. This provides habitat connectivity with ancient woodland located a few streets away at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Dulwich Upper Woods (LNR). Access is restricted to local residents, who have keys.

Threats and oportunities:

The Site suffers from neglect and dumping from the housing. The site has not had positive woodland management for a few years.

The site is included in the Great North Wood action area so engagement with residents could turn the site management to a positive.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 21/10/17 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 21/10/2017

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII12

Site Name: James Allen's Girls' School Botany Gardens

Summary: Woodland and garden within school grounds.

Grid ref: TQ 330 746

Area (ha): 0.37

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native woodland, pond, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity

grassland.

Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: James Allen's Girls' School

Site Description:

A corner of the school grounds comprises mature native woodland, herb-rich neutral grassland, a pond and planted shrubbery. Of particular value is a copse of native woodland dominated by even-aged, mature pedunculate oak, with a good native understory including holly, yew, spindle and wild cherry. The presence of butcher broom and bracken are notable components of the ground flora and are rare species in Southwark. The woodland is known to support a wide range of birds including greater spotted woodpecker. The mature trees have the potential to support roosting bats and the adjacent garden, pond and scattered trees are likely to foraging foraging for bats, particularly due to its location next to a wooded railway corridor (part of Grove Park Cuttings and Peckham Rye to East Dulwich Railsides Site of Borough Importance). A recently planted nuttery and fruit trees have been planted along the western boundary of the SINC. A smaller, open and predominantly native woodland is located in the centre of the site and consisted of broom, scots pine, birch and pedunculate and sessile oak. Adjacent is a recently created pond, with seeded banks, consisting of common knapweed, bird's foot trefoil and greater knapweed. The latter is a rare species in Southwark. The gardens are well used by the school.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL36

Site Name: Kingstairs Gardens

Summary: A medium sized river front park with mature trees and meadows

Grid ref: TQ 349 797

Area (ha): 3.46

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Parkland, meadows, hedges, mature trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Kingstairs Gardens is a river front site situated in the north of Southwark. The site acts as an important green link between the Thames and the larger Southwark Park.

The great majority of the site comprised amenity grassland, planted trees, shrub, hedges and herbaceous perennials as well as smaller areas of recent secondary broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal vegetation.

In the southern section of the site recent secondary woodland dominated and is composed of young field maple Acer campestre, hazel Corylus avellana, hazel Corylus avellana, and Norway maple. The ground flora was sparse and dominated by Norway maple and sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus saplings with occasional wood avens Geum urbanum, and cow parsley Anthriscus sylvestris.

The park has had new habitat creation including pollinator gardens, two meadows, one traditional and one exotic show meadow.

A laurel and mixed native shrub border is situated along the Jamaica Road boundary.

Threats and Opportunities

Laurel is considered a non native invasive species and should be replaced.

Site first notified: 01/06/2010 Boundary last changed: 01/05/2011

Citation last edited: 01/05/2011 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/11/2016

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Grade Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBI01

Site Name: Lavender Pond Nature Park

Summary: A wonderful pond, managed as an educational nature reserve.

Grid ref: TQ 362 803

Area (ha): 0.73

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Pond/lake, reed bed, wet grassland, secondary non-native

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

By far the best pond in the borough, with luxuriant and diverse growths of submerged, emergent and marginal vegetation. Associated mosaic of damp habitats have been created, including reed bed, damp meadow supporting uncommon species such as purple loosestrife, greater reed mace and marsh woundwort. Reed bed is a Habitat of Principal Importance and noted in the London and Southwark BAP. An area of young, native woodland borders the pond, comprising predominantly of field maple and locally abundant alder. Habitat restoration/ enhancement was currently being undertaken on part of the site in 2015. Breeding birds include reed warbler and reed bunting, species that require a sizeable area of reed habitat, which is present here. A good range of invertebrates, including the broad body chaser dragonfly and common blue, red admiral, speckled white and large heath butterflies have been recorded. There is good cover for amphibians including common frog, common toad and smooth newt. Rudd and carp fish are also present. Small numbers of pipistrelle bats are regularly seen. The proximity to Russia Dock Woodlands to the south and the River Thames to the north, is likely to provide complimentary habitat and linkages for foraging bats and birds. The site is a Local Nature Reserve and managed as an educational nature reserve by The Conservation Volunteers, who employ a full-time warden. Numerous stag beetle loggeries have been created. There is an educational center in nearby pump house and is well used by schools.

Threats and opportunities:

Remove the invasive snowberry bush from within the woodland.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 23/10/2017 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 23/10/2017

Site Reference: SoL01

Site Name: Leathermarket Gardens & Community Park

Summary: A small and very popular park in the far north of the Borough, much frequented by office

workers in their lunch breaks.

Grid ref: TQ 330 797

Area (ha): 1.23

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, herb-rich neutral grassland, young native woodland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description

A small park located in the far north of the borough, close to London Bridge station. The gardens are mostly formal, with some mature trees, but the recently created Community Park is informally landscaped, with many young trees and shrubs forming a small patch of secondary woodland in one corner. Some of the grassy areas have been sown with wildflower mixes, but these are now kept short. A small wildflower area with planted fruit trees has been created by the Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST). It is one of few green spaces that provide access to nature in an otherwise densely built up area. It is very popular with local residents and office workers at lunchtime.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII19

Site Name: Lettsom Gardens

Summary: An attractive, wooded community garden.

Grid ref: TQ 333 758

Area (ha): 0.54

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Non-native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, vegetated walls

Access: No public access. The gardens are owned by the Council and managed by the Lettsom

Gardens Association. Access is restricted to members of the Association.

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

The garden is predominantly non-native, sycamore woodland with frequent semi-mature pedunculated oak and ash. There is also a mature and very large evergreen oak in the western corner. The understorey is overgrown with bramble, ivy, hawthorn with some exotic species including highclear holly, bay and several mature mulberry and fig trees. The latter probably a relic of the time when this site was the garden of the 18th century botanist John Coakley Lettsom. The ground flora is dominated by ivy, but several uncommon species are present including stinking iris, false wood brome, broad-leaved meadow grass and wood sedge. An open area comprising semiimproved grassland is supposed to contain a colourful selection of wild flowers, including wild angelica, which is rare in Southwark. The site is accessed via a driveway off Grove Park Road, where several semi-mature apple trees and fig tree have established along the boundary walls. Numerous climbers and recently planted fruit trees are also present. The garden is well used by member's children, where the dense undergrowth, climbable trees and aging garden features have become an endless source of imaginative play. The nature of vegetation is likely to support a wide range of common breeding birds. 4 bat species including notcule, lesser noctule, pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle have also been recorded and the site is likely to provide good foraging habitat. The site is located adjacent to Grove Park Allotments a proposed SINC site, surrounded by a number of mature gardens and Grove Park and East Dulwich Railway Cuttings Site of Borough Importance to the north and southeast, making this area particularly valuable area for birds, bats and potentially hedgehogs.

Threats and Opportunities

Ivy is particularly dominant as a ground cover / shrub layer in parts of the woodland and is becoming dominant at the cost of other grassland species. Consider localised removal / management.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2013 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Site Reference: SoL07

Site Name: Lucas Gardens

Summary: A small and well-used park, right opposite the Town Hall.

Grid ref: TQ 332 765

Area (ha): 1.72

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A very pleasant small park in a heavily built-up part of Peckham, right opposite Peckham Town Hall, with a fine selection of mature trees and planted shrubbery. Pipistrelle and soporano Pipistrelle bats have been recorded and may use the site for foraging and potentially roosting. A wide range of common birds are also likely to forage on site. In the south-west corner an herb-rich wildflower meadow has been created, left uncut with native scrub and standing dead wood. In the context of the site this is likely to be important foraging habitat for pollinators and provide cover for invertebrates over winter.

Opportunities

Plant a species rich hedgerow along the Western boundary and allow the adjacent grass fringe to be left uncut.

Impove Eastern boundary with planting to provide forage for bats.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL26

Site Name: McDermott Grove Nature Garden

Summary: A delightful little garden designed by Charlie Dimmock.

Grid ref: TQ 341 759

Area (ha): 0.13

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, native hedgerow, planted shrubbery,

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This site is a little gem and this is no surprise when it is realised that it was extensively made over by the garden celebrity, Charlie Dimmock. It includes a semi-formal garden, a wildflower meadow and scattered trees - the latter includes mature native trees of birch, field maple, ash and pedunculate oak. Scrub species include hazel, common hawthorn, elder, dogwood and dog rose. A native hedgerow along the southern boundary consists of wild privet and hawthorn. New planting of apple and pear trees is planned in the south east corner. The garden is much used by Bellenden Primary School, located across the road and replaces the one lost within the school grounds. It is owned by the Borough's Housing Department and managed by a Friends group.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/032015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: M050

Site Name: Nunhead Cemetery

Summary: A wonderful Victorian cemetery of unique character, combining wildlife and historical interest.

It is the nearest large woodland to central London.

Grid ref: TQ 355 755

Area (ha): 20.16

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native secondary woodland, roughland, herb-rich neutral grassland, spring-fed pond,

Vegetated wall/tombstones

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

One of London's most important Victorian cemeteries of historical and wildlife interest that has developed a character that is almost unique. The nearest large area of woodland and scrub to south-central London, and an outstanding site for its location. It is largely an ash-sycamore woodland, natural in structure and growing amongst gravestones, with many remnants of the Victorian plantings also remaining, including mature horse chestnut, holm oak, turkey oak and pedunculate oak. There is also a well-developed shrub layer with native and non-native shrubs. The ground flora is limited in dense shade but in opens areas along rides and in proximity to the spring-fed pond, a wide range of herbs area present including most notably yellow loosestrife, agrimony, old man's beard, false wood-broom, cowslip, reed sweet grass and meadowsweet. A good list of breeding woodland birds includes at least 60 pairs of wrens, chiffchaff, blackcap, great spotted woodpecker, tawny owl, sparrow hawk and jay. The invertebrate fauna includes the nationally scarce white-letter hairstreak butterfly. Foraging and roosting bats are highly likely. A borough-owned site, managed in partnership with the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery. The friends organise a conducted tour of the cemetery on the last Sunday of each month at 2.15 p.m., starting at the Linden Grove gates. Nunhead Cemetery is a Local Nature Reserve and a Grade II* Listed landscape.

Site first notified: 19/09/1988 Boundary last changed: 01/03/1994

Citation last edited: 12/10/2005 Mayor Agreed: 25/11/2002

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 09/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII24

Site Name: Nunhead Railway Embankments

Summary: Two steep, narrow railway embankments covered in dense woodland.

Grid ref: TQ 350 760

Area (ha): 5.2

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

Two steep, narrow railway embankments covered mostly in dense woodland of sycamore with occasional wild cherry and ash. A few open areas contain roughland of bramble, tall herbs and false oat-grass or grassland dominated by false oat-grass. The site forms part of much larger habitat corridor, which extends eastward towards Brockley (linking with the northern tip of Nunhead Cemetry) and is thus likely to be an important foraging and commuting route for bats. Other uncommon species may also use the habitat including hedgehogs and reptiles. There is no public access, but the woodland forms a pleasant landscape feature for train travellers.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBI03

Site Name: One Tree Hill

Summary: A wooded hill, overlooking the City and interesting for its history as well as relic acid

grassland and native woodland.

Grid ref: TQ 354 742

Area (ha): 6.92

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native woodland, acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This is a steep hill with wooded slopes and pockets of acid grassland. The acid grassland is a mixture of re-seeded rye-grass and the original acid grassland, which contains heath-grass (Danthonia decumbens), which is scarce in London, and compact rush (Juncus conglomeratus), which is rare in Southwark, among a sward of bents and fescues. This is one of only two sites in the Borough with acid grassland. Towards the southern part of the site (at the top of the hill), acid indicators are largely absent, the sward being dominated by tussock-forming grasses such as cocksfoot and false oat grass. The woodland is dominated by pedunculate oak and ash, but there are also a large number of mature London plane and hybrid black-poplar, relics from the former landscaping. The latter bearing numerous woodpecker holes, providing roosting opportunities for bats. The woodland has a good structure with a wide variety of other trees and shrubs. The ground flora includes male fern and native bluebell. Being part of a hilly ridge, forming a green chain with other wooded SINCs and open spaces (such as Sydenham Hill Woods and Nunhead Cemetery), it is a traditional migratory route for birds. Warblers (black cap, chiff chaff, willow and garden) visit in summer, whilst redwing, fieldfare and firecrest arrive in winter. Over 50 species of birds have been recorded including swifts, starlings, dunnock and song thrush along with sightings of birds of prey such as red kite and common kestrel. Common lizard, slow-worm, and stag beetles are also present. The numbers and range of species present are indicative of the variety of habitats present and the size of the site. The Site was designated Local Nature Reserve in 2007 and has considerable historical interest. The Friends of One Tree Hill have been helping Southwark Council implement the management plan by planting native hedgerows, woodland bulbs and plants, clearing bramble from glades and looking after the bird boxes.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Site Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII08

Site Name: Burgess Park

Summary: A large park, which includes several features of interest for nature conservation, such as the

lake and the nature area on New Church Road.

Grid ref: TQ 332 777

Area (ha): 48

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): amenity grassland, scattered trees, pond/lake, secondary native and non-native woodland,

herb rich and semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large, comparatively recently-created park with several features of nature conservation interest. This includes the lake, scrub, woodland and semi-improved grassland as well as newly created wetland habitats, diverse herbaceous planting and flower-rich grassland. It is an excellent example how to manage a strategically important open space for recreation and wildlife.

The lake supports a diverse range of common breeding and wintering water birds including tufted duck, great crested grebe, mallard, coot and mute swan, and is use by large numbers of foraging bats. Newly created marginal planting of reeds and other emergent vegetation provide cover for invertebrates and nesting waterfowl. New ponds support a rich mosaic of wetland vegetation, and reedswamp and wet woodland and provide suitable habitat for amphibians and invertebrates such as dragonflies. Notable native plant species include dittander, aspen, cyperus sedge, flowering rush and hemp agrimony, most present due to recent replanting. Several large landforms have been recently created near Albany Road and seeded with herb rich neutral grassland and pictorial meadow mixes, that provide good habitat for bees and butterflies including the common blue which is a declining species. The remainder of the park is predominantly tightly mown amenity grassland and scattered trees but patches of herb rich grassland are present and include abundant bird's foot trefoil, common knapweed and wild carrot. There are also several old sycamore trees and a single black mulberry. The nature area near New Church Road contains a good variety of trees and shrubs, and rough grassland with a reasonable floristic diversity. Elsewhere there are several scattered areas of woodland, scrub and rough neutral grassland that provide habitat for birds such as song thrush and green finch. Intensively managed sports pitches to the east of Peckham Hill Street support winter flocks of fieldfare and redwing as well as large numbers of gulls. The park is owned and managed by the Borough, with free public access.

Threats and Opportunities

Anti-social behavior is an issue in some of the peripheral wooded areas. Light spillage from night time use of sports pitches affects lake and may have an adverse effect on bats. The long-term success of new wetland and pictorial meadows will require appropriate and potentially high-intensity management. The presence and spread of invasive plant species including giant bramble, Japanese knotweed, Virginia creeper and Russian vine should be monitored to avoid them spreading.

Grassland management could be improved for invertebrates by reducing the mowing frequency, particular those areas that are herb-rich or in the shade of mature trees.

Phased development of the park will provide opportunities to create significant new areas of habitat for biodiversity.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 27/01/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 27/01/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Conservation

Site Reference: SoBII06

Site Name: Countisbury House Lawns

Summary: The lawns of this large block of council flats comprise of species rich, damp neutral

grassland supporting rare species

Grid ref: TQ 343 722

Area (ha): 0.18

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): herb-rich neutral grassland, scattered trees

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

The lawns of this large block of Council flats comprise of species rich, damp, neutral grassland containing a large population of the nationally scarce plant corky-fruited water-dropwort (Oenanthe pimpinelloides), one of only about six sites in London, as well as cuckooflower (Cardamine pratensis) which is rare in Southwark. Other species include tall fescue, common and black bent, greater bird's foot trefoil and cowslip. The grassland is left uncut until autumn to allow it to set seed. The site is owned and managed by the Council's Housing Department. The lawns can easily be viewed over low walls from Sydenham Hill.

Threats and Opportunity

Prune trees to minimise shading on grassland. Extend areas of species-rich grassland into adjacent grassland areas. Provide engagement opportunities with local residents.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 06/02/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 06/02/2015

Borough Grade: Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBI09

Site Name: Peckham Rye Park and Common

Summary: A large and popular open space, with many areas that are good for wildlife within the historic

landscape.

Grid ref: TQ 347 750

Area (ha): 41.6

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Running water, pond/lake, secondary woodland, herb-rich grassland, amenity grassland,

planted shrubbery, scattered trees.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large park with several valuable habitat features. The most important of these is the only remaining above-ground section of the River Peck and the most natural stream in the borough. The stream is heavily shaded by native, unmanaged native wet woodland dominated by alder, ash and pedunculated oak with a ground cover of pendulous sedge and bramble. Alder dominated woodland is a rare habitat in Southwark. Although somewhat altered with weirs, other artificial structures and ornamental planting, some sections are still in their natural banks and includes yellow flag, watercress, water figwort and cuckooflower. The largest of three ponds supports marginal vegetation including hemp agrimony, a variety of waterfowl, including tufted duck, coot, Canada goose and mallard, nest on the wooded island. Substantial flocks of gulls visit the park in winter and bats are likely to forage over the water. A small block of predominantly native woodland, on the boundary between the Park and the Common, is dominated by oak and ash with a well-developed understory, but sparse ground flora. Spring bulbs have been planted. This and several dense shrubberies support a good bird population. Small numbers of pipistrelle bats are present.

Infrequently mown grassland is located in three large areas. The two within the common are thought to be natural relics, whilst the third was seeded in 2009. All had a similar composition including giant fescue, ladies bedstraw meadowsweet, black knapweed and wild carrot with frequent anthills in the common areas. The rest of the park, and most of the Common, consist of amenity grassland, with some fine mature trees. The nationally-scarce musk stork's-bill (Erodium moschatum) occurs in short turf in the north of the Common. A small community garden managed by the Friends of Peckham Rye supports a small pond with good marginal vegetation, a stag beetle loggery and a range of nectar rich herbaceous planting. The Park is a Grade II Listed landscape, and has recently been restored with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The SINC boundary is to be extended in two places. Firstly in the southwest corner to include Peirmont Green, which comprises amenity grassland and mature native and ornamental trees. The second area is located in the northern corner of the SINC, to include an area that comprises mature trees and hard standing, and located on the central reservation (where the A2215/ Peckham Rye road splits in two).

Threats and Opportunities

The park has limited ground-level connectivity to adjacent SINCs, due to being surrounded by busy main roads. Where road improvements are required in the future, such as along Homestall Road, adjacent to Aquarius Golf Course SINC, and along the A2215/Peckham Rye road, consider constructing an underpass for mammals / amphibians, and enhancing boundary vegetation. Retrofitting sustainable drainage features could also help provide structural diversity and habitat in areas currently not in active use (e.g. central reservation where the A2215 splits south of Peckham).

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL08

Site Name: Plough Lane Pond

Summary: A pond located in a private garden.

Grid ref: TQ 339 741

Area (ha): 0.04

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): standing water, marginal vegetation, scrub.

Access: Private – no public access

Ownership: Private landowner

Site Description:

A wildlife pond located within the back garden of a private house, located off Plough Lane, north of Dulwich Park. Ponds are valuable for a wide variety of wildlife, including foraging birds, amphibians, reptiles and a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. Small ponds are particularly under threat in Southwark, as they are often seen as a safety risk to children and can be come unmanaged and unsightly. This is a densely residential area, but back gardens form corridors of habitat, that are likely to of value to a wide range of common but declining species of birds and invertebrates, including dragonflies. Back garden land may also provide foraging habitat for bats within proximity to nearby SINCs - Dulwich Park (to the south) and Camberwell Old Cemetery (in the east), which are both of borough importance for nature conservation.

Site first notified: Boundary last changed:

Citation last edited: Mayor Agreed:

Defunct:

Last Updated: 09/12/2015

Site Reference: SoB

Site Name: Albion Channel

Summary: A canal connecting Surrey Water and Canada Water.

Grid ref: TQ 35771 79728

Area (ha): 0.88

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Canal, reed swamp, typha swamp, marginal planting, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A canal, with a series of floating pontoons spaced approximately 2m apart and planted with a range of species including abundant common reed, greater reedmace, flag iris, common bulrush, galingale (Cyperus longus) and white water lily. The hard-edges of the canal are lined with semi-mature white willow. At least 3 species of dragonfly and common species of amphibian are known to breed in the canal. The vegetated pontoons are valuable nesting habitat for coots and moorhens. The water and trees are likely to be an important foraging / commuting route for bats, with pipistrelles bats recorded in the area. Other common birds are likely to be attracted to the water and tree line. Species that have been recorded include house sparrow and grey wagtail, the former is noted in the Southwark BAP. The canal forms and important habitat corridor between Surrey Water and Canada Water which are Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. There is free public access along either side of the canal.

Threats and Opportunities

Potential for duckweed to spread if left unmanaged for too long, which could reduce the oxygen levels in the water (and value to aquatic invertebrates). Accumulation of litter should be removed on a regular basis to avoid injury to birds.

Joining two or more adjacent pontoons to create a larger area of reed swamp, could provide habitat for reed bunting and reed warbler, less common species, which have been recorded in the area.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL25

Site Name: Redcross Gardens

Summary: An imaginatively-designed nature garden with a variety of habitats.

Grid ref: TQ 323 799

Area (ha): 0.08

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Pond, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees.

Access:

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark. Leased to BOST

Site Description:

Redcross gardens is located in an heavily built-up area, close to London Bridge and within an area of deficiency. It supports one of the best small ponds in the borough for wildlife, along with good herbaceous and shrub planting, scattered trees and a sedum, green roof. The pond is a good size and has natural banks with well-developed marginal, emergent and floating vegetation. Dominant emergent vegetation includes yellow flag iris, common reed, and water plantain, lesser spearwort and water forget-me-not. White water lily covers one third of the water surface. Marginal vegetation along the banks includes dense meadowsweet, marsh marigold, ornamental astible, golden rod, Michaelmas daisy and ornamental grasses. A small patch of semi-improved (mown) herb rich grassland is located around the peripheral of the pond and includes greater birds-foot trefoil, black medick and devil's bit scabious. Many of the native plant species listed above are found in very few other places in Southwark and their presence at this small site is particularly important for a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. The pond supports a population of smooth newts, a rare species in Southwark and provides breeding and foraging habitat for common frog, common toad and potentially a number of odonata species including darter, broad-bodied chaser and blue damselfly. Butterflies include small white, red admiral and comma (the latter is known to breed on the native hop growing on one of the walls within the garden. The pond and garden is frequented by a number of wildfowl species including mallard. House sparrow, a Southwark BAP species has been recorded, along with green finches and goldfinches. The remainder of the garden is laid out to amenity grassland (well used at lunch-time by city workers), and herbaceous borders with a good range of nectar-rich plants. Species include lavender, California poppy, red valerian, rosemary, hollyhocks, bear's breeches and cat mint. Three mature hornbeam trees provide bird nesting opportunities (boxes attached) and the perimeter walls, provide additional cover, and nectar sources for invertebrates and birds.

Formally the garden of Octavia Hill (one of the founders of The National Trust and the Occupational Health Organization) the garden was first created to provide a place for factory workers to rest and play (as conditions for the working class were particularly bad in the late 1800s). Over the years it has fell into disrepair, but in 2006, with funding and local support has been gradually restored to a garden that reflects Octavia's original intentions, and is a fine example of community effort. It is now managed by Bankside Open Spaces Trust, BOST. It is a popular garden for city workers and is used for events in the summer. It also has an "outdoor meeting room" - perhaps the only one of its kind in the borough.

Site first notified: 24/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 24/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/04/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 09/12/2015

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Cherry Gardens

Summary: One of few places along the River Thames in Soutwark, where vegetation overhangs the

Thames river wall.

Grid ref: TQ 34553 79740

Area (ha): 0.312

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native scrub, scattered trees, planted shrubbery

Access: Open access

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A linear garden planted with a mix of native and non-native trees and shrubs and located next to the River Thames Site of Metropolitan Importance. The eastern area contains the majority of the native species including hazel, wild cherry and weeping birch, forming a closed canopy in parts. A number of large willows line the river front, their canopy reaching over the river wall, providing a more natural transition between aquatic and terrestrial habitat. This is one of the few places along the Thames where access down to the River is safe and within an existing open space. Other parts of the garden to the east contain a mix of semi-mature, non-native trees, under planted with shrubs an herbaceous species some of are of known value to wildlife. The gardens are likely to be of value to a range of common birds and invertebrates. The gardens are well used by local residents as well as tourists that walk along the Thames path, or take boats trips from the Cherry Gardens Pier, located in the middle of the gardens.

Threats and Opportunities

Improving, formalising and providing safer access (and safety information) about the River Thames foreshore would be encouraged at this location. Currently access is possible but not advertised. Potential to remove areas of hardstanding between the trees (not affecting walking route) to provide additional habitat / places to sit. Installation of bat, bird and invertebrate boxes. New lighting from new development or streets could detract from the habitat.

Site first notified: 10/08/2015 Boundary last changed: 10/08/2015

Citation last edited: 10/08/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Site Reference: SoLXX

Christchuch Gardens Site Name:

Summary: A mature, shaded churchyard garden in a very heavily built-up area.

Grid ref: TQ 316 802

Area (ha): 0.91

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Christchurch garden is located in the north of the borough, a block away from the River Thames and in a heavily built up area. A large brick church is surrounded by mature trees, scrub, herbaceous, shrub planting and amenity grassland. It is has under gone recent enhancement through active management by Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), which have added new planting and dead wood habitat for stag beetle and other invertebrates. There is a wide strip of native shrub planting underneath the tree canopy on the northern perimeter including dogwood, beech, hawthorn, wayfaring tree and hazel. Woodland ground flora includes cow parsley, common dog violet, and wood spurge. Other species present include teasel, false oat grass, pendulous sedge and honeysuckle. Mature trees include London plane and common lime - the latter having potential for bat roosting features. The garden is likely to provide a good habitat resource for common invertebrates and foraging for common bird species. The Southwark BAP species house sparrow has been recorded on site along with blue tit and the speckled wood butterfly. It is likely to be a well-used by office workers at lunch-time during hot weather.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 **Boundary last changed:** 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Cossal Park

Summary: A medium-sized park in a residential area

Grid ref: TQ 346 765

Area (ha): 1.121

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, acattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A medium sized park in a residential area comprising amenity grassland with scattered trees, native scrub and climbers. Trees include mature London planes and common limes with semi-mature cherry, English oak, crack willow and apple. The majority are located along the south-west and south eastern boundaries and almost form a closed canopy. Scrub include hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn, with climbers of old man's beard, clematis and burnet rose around the perimeter of the park. There are also a number of food growing beds managed by the local community. Together these habitats provide shelter, breeding and foraging habitat for widespread species of birds and invertebrate. The local BAP species house sparrow has been recorded in the park. An area of scrub and roughland (fenced off) borders the park along the north boundary.

The site is located in close proximity to Nunhead railway corridor (a site of Borough Importance), which forms part of a strategic habitat corridor in the borough.

The site is likely to regularly used by local residents in nearby flats. The large area of amenity grassland provides opportunities for enhancement such as pond creation and/or native hedge wildflower planting.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Faraday Gardens

Summary: A church with unmanaged secondary woodland

Grid ref: TQ 325 782

Area (ha): 1.230

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): native woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Faraday Gardens is a small park containing areas of native woodland, scrub, planted shrubbery and amenity grassland. The native woodland is dominated by hornbeam, ash and horse chestnut, with an understory containing scattered holly, hawthorn and box. Scattered scrub occurs along the western perimeter and includes dogwood, elder and hawthorn. The southern wall supports maidenhair spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* and hart's tongue fern. Planted borders contain a diverse range of perennial plants providing a rich nectar source to invertebrates. For a small space, a good range of species and habitats are present and are likely to provide a good habitat resource for common birds and invertebrates. The southeast corner of the site comprises hard standing and a fenced play area mature climbers and planted shrubbery surrounding the fenced area provide good cover and nectar source for pollinators. The park is located within a residential area and is likely to be popular with local people. St Peter's Churchyard, also a proposed local SINC shares part of the southern boundary.

Threats and opportunities

Habitat features (e.g. an invertebrate logger, unmanaged grassland) could provide overwintering habitat for invertebrates – complimenting the existing nectar source. Similar features could provide natural play for local children.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Grange Lane North (Gunsite) Allotments

Summary: An informal allotment site with numerous wildlife ponds

Grid ref: TQ 342 725

Area (ha): 3.049

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Active allotments, native woodland, ponds, scrub, semi-improved grassland

Access: Private site but not locked

Ownership: The Dulwich Estate

Site Description:

A large, informal allotment site, with a number of wildlife-friendly features. The allotment beds had been laid out to form almost continuous belts of vegetation, which comprise a good range of herbaceous and cultivated crops of known value to pollinators. There were numerous small areas of tall, semi-improved grassland (some being unmanaged plots), with a range of common meadow species such as cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, meadow buttercup, common knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, creeping thistle and teasel, Individual plants of male and ladies fern and wood melick and bracken were also recorded and may be self sown from adjacent woodland. Ponds were typically small but frequent, with good marginal vegetation and sloping sides, providing habitat for common frogs and toads. A narrow strip of predominantly native woodland and scrub was present along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site with the adjacent Metropolitan SINC – Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods. Species consisted of pedunculated, sessile oak, beech, hazel, common birch, grey willow, sycamore and Norway Maple. A hawthorn hedge lines the western boundary, whilst the northern boundary is lined by an old boundary of mature, oak trees (base of trees located in adjacent land – part of the SINC site Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Course).

Threats and Opportunties

Formalising the allotments would reduce the value to foraging and sheltering wildlife. Use of slug pellets should be discouraged to provide foraging habitat for ground feeding birds such as song thrush.

Site first notified: 10/08/2015 Boundary last changed: 10/08/2015

Citation last edited: 10/08/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Grange Lane north (South) Allotments

Summary: A large allotment site with ancient boundaries and native woodland

Grid ref: TQ 337 726

Area (ha): 4.246

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Active allotments, native woodland, scrub, semi-improved grassland

Access: Private site

Ownership: The Dulwich Estate

Site Description:

A large, well maintained allotment site located contiguous with Sydenham Hill Woods Metropolitan SINC, which forms its southern boundary. The site supports a number of features of high nature conservation value, comprising a mature oak boundary hedgerow (along Grange Lane), and an mature, native oak woodland in the north-eastern corner of the site. These habitats may providing supporting habitat for bat, bird and invertebrate populations located in Sydenham woods. The woodland on site appeared unmanaged with a dense understory of bramble, common nettle, and young tree regrowth of sycamore, elder and ash. Plots are generally well tendered and neat with mown, improved grassland. Allotment rules allow for a third meadow, a third vegetables and a third flowers – which is likely to provide a good range of foraging habitat for common but declining invertebrate's species.

Threats and Opportunities

Use of slug pellets should be discouraged to provide foraging habitat for ground feeding birds such as song thrush. Creation of one or two wildlife ponds would provide habitat for invertebrates and common amphibians.

Site first notified: 09/09/2015 Boundary last changed: 09/09/2015

Citation last edited: 09/12/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct:

Last Updated:

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Grove Park Allotments

Summary: Allotments managed with wildlife in mind

Grid ref: TQ333759

Area (ha): 0.365

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Active allotments, native hedgerow

Access: Restricted access to members of allotment

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

An active allotment located adjacent to Lettsom Gardens, accessed via the entrance from Grove Park road and managed by the same organization. The allotments have a good range of native and non-native perennials and shrub species. There are approximately nine semi-mature - mature apple trees and a recently planted native orchard, of value to invertebrate species. In-between the allotment beds, the grassland is left long and consists of a range of grassland species including perennial rye grass and Yorkshire fog. An overgrown hedge in the middle of the allotment contains a number of edible and native species including plum, walnut, English oak, elder and bramble. At the northern end of the hedge is a large, mature ash tree, which has numerous cracks and crevices of potential value to bats as roosting habitat. Three species of bat, have been recorded foraging in the vicinity of the allotments and include Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and common Pipistrelle. All bat species are noted in the London and Southwark BAP. The Southwark BAP species common frog and common toad have also been recorded on site. The allotments are likely to provide complimentary habitat to Lettsom Gardens, of value to wildlife including bats, birds and invertebrates.

Current plans are to create a pond, reduce the use of slug pellets to favour birds such as the song thrush and plant an edible hazel hedgerow along the eastern wall.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Holly Grove Shrubbery

Summary: An urban green lane with shrubs and mature trees

Grid ref: TQ 341 763

Area (ha): 0.322

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Planted shrubbery, scattered trees, native scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Holly Grove Shrubbery is a linear site comprising a winding footpath, with scattered mature trees and planted shrubbery, with by a mix of native and non-native shrubs including holly, blackthorn, and hazel, sunshine bush and laurel. A large number of mature, Norway maple trees are scattered through the site. The maturity and range of shrubs provide ideal habitat for nesting birds and pollinating invertebrates. Although currently managed for amenity purposes, there is an opportunity to plant a great proportion of native hedgerow species (particular edible varieties) to provide greater foraging value for wildlife and people. The site joins onto an open area to the east which forms a continuation of this site (with scattered trees, blub planting and seats). Located in the densely urban center of Peckham it provides local people an attractive route to walk to the shops and is well used.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Holy Trinity Church

Summary: A church with unmanaged mature, non-native woodland

Grid ref: TQ 364 795

Area (ha): 0.612

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Non native woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub, tall herb

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Private

Site Description:

Holy Trinity Church supports a small area of mature, non-native woodland with a canopy of hybrid black poplar and sycamore. A dense understory comprises of elder and cherry laurel with a ground flora dominated by ivy and bramble. A small open glade comprises amenity grassland and tall herbs dominated by nettle. The site provides good foraging habitat for bats and potentially suitable bat roosting featrues within dense ivy on trees and on adjacent building. The mature trees on site also form part of a habitat corridor with street trees along Salters Road and Bonding Yard Walk to the south. There is plenty of nesting and foraging habitat for birds, as is dead wood for ground-dwelling invertebrates. The Southwark BAP species house sparrow has been recorded on site. A relatively little-used and relaxed site in contrast to the adjacent Surrey Docks Farm, it offers local residents a tranquil alternative for accessing nature.

Threats and Opportunities

The woodland could benefit for regular management, including thinning and removal of non-native species.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct:

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Long meadow

Summary: A fragment of the open countryside between two main roads.

Grid ref: TQ 332 715

Area (ha): 1.458

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, native hedgerow.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Long meadow is a fragment of the former countryside surrounded by residential development. It represents quite a large area of informal grassland an uncommon habitat in Southwark providing refuge and foraging habitat for invertebrates, birds, bats and possible small mammals. The northern half is more intensively mown. Scattered mature trees line the site's perimeter, providing a commuting and foraging resource for bats. A native hedgerow dominated by hawthorn with other native species forms the northern boundary. It is likely to be a well-used open space for local people.

Threats and Opportunities

The meadow could be enhanced by additional wildflower planting.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct:

Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Mint Street Park

Summary: The largest park in the north-west of the borough popular with city workers

Grid ref: TQ 322 798

Area (ha): 0.91

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Planted shrubbery, amenity grassland, scattered trees,

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Mint Street Park is the second largest open space in the north-west of the Borough comprising areas of amenity grassland, herbaceous and shrub planting and scattered trees. The planted boarders are particularly diverse in the south-eastern corner and include tall perennial planting and crevice and rock garden planting. Species such as evening primroses, Verbena spp, great mullein, teasel, wild and ornamental thymes, rock roses and Mexican fleabane are particularly good for pollinators. A small area of roughland and scrub dominated by nettles, bramble, hawthorn and dog rose provide shelter and nesting habitat for common birds and invertebrates throughout the year. Recent habitat enhancements undertaken by Bankside Open Space Trust (BOST) include a large stag beetle loggery. The site is regularly used for holding events and is popular at lunch-time for city workers.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: Nunhead Allotments (also known as St James Allotment)

Summary: A large, informal allotment site with a mosaic of grassland, scrub and ruderal species

Grid ref: TQ 353 751

Area (ha): 3.453

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Active allotments, orchard, roughland, pond

Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: Thames Water

Site Description:

A large, informal allotment site located on a slope with a number of wildlife-friendly features. The top half of the site is more akin to roughland (an intimate mix of scrub, semi-improved grassland and tall herb), due to the density of planting plots and slope (potentially older and longer established). Allotment beds support a good range of herbaceous and cultivated crops of known value to pollinators. Fruit trees including domesticated plum, apples, peaches and pear were frequent and densely planted in two locations - forming small orchards. Between the beds, areas of unmanaged grassland, comprised a good range of species including false oat grass, bents creeping cinquefoil, common couch, common mallow and timothy. Bare areas supported ruderal species including scarlet pimpinelle, annual dog's mercury, and creeping jenny. Ponds were typically small but frequent, with good marginal vegetation comprising marsh marigold, arrowhead and waterlily and sloping sides, providing habitat for common frogs and toads. Grassland composition varied across the site, some areas exhibiting species more typical of drier soils (potentially the result of dumped construction rubble from previous use of land) and herb rich including wild carrot, meadow vetchling and wild marjoram (although possible planted). The site is likely to provide foraging habitat for a wide range of birds such as song thrush, house sparrow. Grey heron are seen frequently and have been known to take fish from the ponds. The site forms a habitat corridor between Nunhead Cemetery - Site of Metropolitan Importance (which borders the site along its north-eastern boundary) and Peckham Rye Common -Site of Borough Importance, just beyond Peckham Rye Road in the south east. Nunhead covered reservoir forms the northern boundary.

Threats and Opportunties

Formalising the allotments would reduce the value to foraging and sheltering wildlife. Use of slug pellets should be discouraged to provide better habitat for song thrush and hedghogs.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Site Reference: B

Site Name: Nursery Row Park

Summary: A recently enhanced park with a good range of habitats

Grid ref: TQ 326 785

Area (ha): 1.450

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Mature Trees, Meadow, Community orchard, hedging and herbaceous planting.

Access: Free public access

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A medium sized park, located in the north west of the borough that has undergone enhancements and contains a number of habitats of value to wildlife including herb-rich grassland, an orchard, mature scattered trees, planted shrubbery and vegetated walls. The grassland covered a large area in the centre of the site and was managed as a meadow. Species included field scabious, wild carrot, ladie's bedstraw, salad burnet, bird's-foot trefoil, common toadflax, bladder campion and chicory. The butterflies meadow brown and common blue, (the latter a London BAP species) were recorded on site along with bumblebees and crickets. Gold finches and house sparrows were also recorded and likely using the site for foraging (these are uncommon species and the latter a Southwark BAP species). The orchard was located in the north (proposed extension), and contained a wide range of native fruit trees with scrub, including Callery Pear, wild cherry, crap and domesticated apple, hazel, wild service tree, privet, hawthorn and blackthorn. This area is valuable habitat for foraging birds and overwintering invertebrates, and complements the adjacent pollinator rich meadow. The south east part of the site contains a number of large, mature, London Plane trees. The trees form an almost complete tree canopy cover with amenity grassland underneath. This area is popular with local residents (during hot weather) and is has numerous log seats, and stag beetle loggeries. The remainder of the site has good cover of planted shrubberies, overgrown vegetated walls and more recent ornamental grasses and herbaceous planting. Climbers included abundant honeysuckle, wisteria, ivy, Virginia creeper, clematis and jasmine. Other shrubs included dogwood, weeping birch, hornbeam and elder.

Site first notified: 09/12/2015 Boundary last changed: 09/12/2015

Citation last edited: Mayor Agreed:

Defunct:

Last Updated:

Site Grade: Proposed Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoBXX

Site Name: Greendale Playing Field

Summary: Disused playing fields, that are undisturbed and unmanaged forming a mosaic of scrub,

rough grassland and scattered trees.

Grid ref: TQ 330 751

Area (ha): 2.123

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, ruderal and ephemeral, scrub and scattered trees

Access: free access (all/most of site), one entrance point

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

The main habitats at this site are a mosaic of species-poor semi improved grassland, scrub and tall herbaceous vegetation dominated by false oat grass, rough meadow grass and bramble. These habitats are common and widespread but the site contains a large amount of the area present in the borough. Anthills are numerous within the rough grassland and provide structural diversity. Plants recorded include hoary cinquefoil, ivy broomrape, dog rose, honeysuckle, evening primrose, welted thistle, and hop. A number of Southwark BAP species have been recorded on site including hedgehog, stag beetle, common frog and house sparrow. The site forms continuity of habitat between Dog Kennel Hill SINC to the north and open space and SINCs the south including James Allen School playing fields and rail-side habitats. This habitat corridor is likely to be of value to foraging bats and reptiles if present in the wider area. The site probably offers one of the few remaining accessible areas of natural habitat in the local area as most nearby open spaces are managed for amenity and recreation.

The site is owned by London Borough of Southwark, currently leased to Dulwich Hamlet Football Club and unmanaged. Access is informal and from a small secluded entrance in the north east corner.

Threats and Opportunities

Flood lights from adjacent sports ground could cause light spillage on habitats and may affect bat behavior. The little managed and semi natural nature of the site is what sets this site apart for nature conservation but litter bins, interpretation and management to maintain and enhance the habitat mosaic already present would be appropriate.

Site first notified: 27/01/2015 Boundary last changed: 27/01/2015

Citation last edited: 27/01/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Last Updated: 27/01/2015

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Site Reference: SoL

Site Name: Salisbury Row Park + Annex

Summary: A medium-sized park in a residential area

Grid ref: TQ 328 788

Area (ha): 1.141

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A medium-sized park of amenity grassland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery and a small fenced off area of native woodland. The planted shrubbery contains some species of known value to wildlife and are likely to provide some nesting opportunity for common bird species. The small area of broadleaved woodland is dominated by ash and sycamore with lime and cherry. A rich mix of native shrub species are present including gorse, dogwood, and rowen. Ground flora is notable quite diverse in one area comprising of flag iris, purple loosestrife and pendulous sedge (perhaps a dried out pond). Elsewhere cow parsley and nettle are frequent. Several habitat features have been created including a dead hedge and bird boxes. The site is located in proximity to a number of other open spaces, providing a habitat stepping stone for invertebrates, birds and potentially bats within this densely urban location.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: St James Churchyard

Summary: A church with a wildlife pond with native scrub and a wildflower meadow

Grid ref: TQ342793

Area (ha): 0.755

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Pond woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

St James Churchyard supports a pond of high nature conservation value due to its aquatic and riparian fauna including common newts and dragonflies. It has good variety of native marginal plants including flag iris and branched bur-reed. Adjacent to the pond is a large area of mixed native and non-native scrub with scattered trees. A wide range of species are are present including hawthorn and blackthorn providing good foraging and nesting habitat for birds. Goldfinch and house sparrow, species noted on the Southwark BAP have been recorded. An area of herb rich grassland, is managed as a wildflower area and provides a good source of nectar for bees and other invertebrates. The common carder bee has been recorded along with common blue and red admiral. Species present include black knapweed, cocksfoot, meadow foxtail and wild carrot. Crickets are audible. The church tower has potential to support roosting bats. The site is located within an densely urban area but within proximity to other small open spaces to the north and west. It is also within close proximity to the River Thames. The aquatic habitats on site are likely to provide a stepping stone for invertebrate species (particularly dragonfly species) in the local area.

Threats and Opportunities

Duckweed is abundant and may reduce oxygen levels of the water. Removal of the duckweed and planting of oxygenating species would increase the value of the pond to wildlife. A dipping platform and regular pond management would increase the value of the pond to local residents.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Site Reference: SoLXX

Site Name: St Peters Churchyard

Summary: A church with amenity grassland, scattered trees and planted shrubbery

Grid ref: TQ 325 781

Area (ha): 0.446

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Private

Site Description:

St Peter's Churchyard contains a church surrounded by amenity grassland, scattered mature London plane trees and planted shrubbery. Shrubs area largely non-native although occasional elder, hazel and hawthorn present. The mature trees provide some bat roosting potential. The park is located within a residential area and is likely to be popular with local people. The site is being extended to include the church building and area of mature trees, shrubbery and grassland in the east of the site. The variety and maturity of vegetation is likely to be of value to a wide range of common but declining bird species including house sparrow and invertebrates. Faraday Gardens also a proposed local SINC shares part of the northern boundary.

Site first notified: 02/04/2015 Boundary last changed: 02/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: No

Borough Grade: Proposed borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: SoL22

Site Name: Dog Kennel Hill Wood

Summary: An adventure playground with adjacent woodland.

Grid ref: TQ 331 755

Area (ha): 1.29

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Orchard, non native woodland, roughland, amenity grassland scattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site) except to adventure playground.

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small but varied site, comprising secondary woodland, an orchard and an adventure playground. The sycamore dominated woodland is quite species rich with a good understorey of native shrubs of hawthorn, silver birch and bramble and a ground flora including cow parsley, wood avens and native bluebell (the latter most likely planted). A recently planted orchard (within the adventure playground) has a good diversity of heritage fruit trees, infrequently mown herb-rich grassland and tall ruderal understorey. Grasses include giant fescue, meadow foxtail, and cocksfoot. Herbs include yarrow, black knapweed, bird's foot trefoil and ox-eye daisy. A good range of native shrubs are present including spindle, hazel, wild privet, wild cherry and alder buckthorn. There are also scattered mature oak trees. Numerous bat and birds boxes have been installed in the woodland and mature trees also provide potentially suitable roosting habitat for bats. An extension to the SINC is proposed along the road in the southeast, to include an area of semi-mature, native trees and shrubs. The site forms the northern end to a habitat corridor, which links through Greendale Playing fields, James Allen School and East Dulwich railway line to the south, of value to cocmmuting and foraging bats, hedgehogs and common reptiles, species that have been recorded in the area.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 09/09/2015

Site Reference: SoL25

Site Name: Galleywall Nature Garden

Summary: An imaginatively-designed nature garden with a variety of habitats.

Grid ref: TQ 347 785

Area (ha): 0.08

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Pond, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees.

Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Galleywall Road Nature Garden is located in a heavily built-up area south of Southwark Park, but has been imaginative designed to make best use of the space. Of most striking is the large invertebrate habitat wall, made out of recycled materials and gradually being built by volunteers. Its borders the site on all sides and when its finished is likely to be the largest of its kind in the Borough (or even London). Within the garden, an attractive pond has been created on one side with good marginal vegetation, including flag iris, mint, purple loosestrife, marsh marigold, flowering rush, water lilly speces and reed canary grass amongst others. whilst a smaller pond (less well-established) is located on the other side, with numerous native and non-native wetland species still in pots. The grassland is semi-improved but with a number of seeded native species including bird'sfoot trefoil, primrose and wild carrot. A good range of native shrub and trees are also present including a mature oak tree, young birch, dogwood and grey willow. The site is currently well used by the adjacent school, and raised beds, native climbers and a bee hive are proposed to encourage more public interest in the garden. The Garden Is Leased to the Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/04/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Borough Grade: Proposed Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (currently Site of Local Importance)

Site Reference: SoL23

Site Name: Nairne Grove Nature Garden – now known as Bressemer Nature Garden

Summary: One of very few aspen woodlands in Southwark.

Grid ref: TQ 328 750

Area (ha): 0.11

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Native woodland, pond, scrub

Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small nature garden in north Dulwich with abundant tall, semi-mature aspen and a well developed understorey of willow, wild privet, hazel and bramble. At the northern end, is a small pond, scattered trees and a large loggery (doubles up as a climbling frame). A range of species occur that are noted on the Southwark and London BAP including, common frog, house sparrow and stag beetle. A mature ivy clad ash has potential to support roosting bats. The woodland is regularly managed by a local tree surgeon, who has created some good dead-hedging along the paths. It is well used by the adjacent Bressemer school, who have recently added a small wildflower meadow, and a clay oven.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/08/2015

Site Reference: SoL18

Site Name: Northfield House Community Wildlife Garden

Summary: A community wildlife garden, managed and used by the tenants of the adjacent flats.

Grid ref: TQ 343 776

Area (ha): 0.6

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Scrub, herb-rich grassland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, native hedgerow, scattered

trees, planted shrubbery, vegetated walls.

Access: Free public access

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Just off the Old Kent road and located on the edge of a social housing estate, the grounds of Northfield House Council flats have been transformed into a wildlife haven, with three gardens supporting a range of habitats. The largest garden contains a wildflower meadow with a good range and frequency of herbs. Scattered trees include a large number of fruit bearing species, including apple and fig. A small pond overgrown with bramble scrub supports common frog. A long, native hedgerow dominated by hawthorn and elder forms the eastern boundary, adjacent to the road. Proposals are to lay an overgrown hedge along the eastern boundary to improve its value to nesting birds. If undertaken, it is likely to be one of very few laid hedgerows in Southwark, and probably the only one on a housing estate. Two other smaller gardens along the northern boundary support abundant herbaceous planting and shrubberies, raised beds, improved grassland and scattered trees. Some notable species include hop, hazel and fig, of value to pollinators including BAP priority species. Walls along the western and northern boundaries are over-spilling with abundant climbers including hop, Virginia creeper and shrubs of known value for wildlife. Even the wall adjacent to car-parking is not left bare. Wren and house sparrows have been recorded, the latter is noted in the Southwark and London BAP.

The garden is owned by the Council and managed by the Tenants Group with assistance from the London Wildlife Trust.

Threats & Opportunities

Although freely accessible, there could be better interpretation from Peckham Road bus stop – which views into the main garden to entice local bus users to visit (particularly if they have just missed their bus). The site could make an ideal demonstration garden to show local residents what can be achieved in their own community spaces and the value it could bring.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: Y

Site Reference: SoL32

Site Name: Snowsfield Primary School Nature Garden

Summary: A sizeable school nature garden in the shadow of Guy's Tower.

Grid ref: TQ 330 798

Area (ha): 0.13

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Hedge, roughland, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: No public access

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This sizeable school nature garden in the north-west of Southwark is within hearing distance of the loudspeakers on London Bridge station and overlooked by Guy's Hospital Tower. Containing scrub, rough grassland and a hedge, it is an excellent resource not only for Snowsfield School but also for other local schools which use the area by arrangement. The nature garden is quite wild with a good mix of native trees and shrubs including hazel, hawthorn, buddleia, silver birch, alder, dogwood, guilder rose, holly and bird cherry. Also to be found are foxglove, comfrey, fennel, teasel, bluebells, snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and periwinkle. There is a fair-sized pond containing water lilies, flag iris and sedge. Newts and frogs use the pond, and pipistrelle bats are often seen flying around the garden at dusk. This site is well used by birds. The school runs an after school club on Fridays to work in the garden. Current proposals include raising funds to make use of a large roof space for growing food.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 03/04/2007 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 03/04/2014

Site Reference: SoBII22

Site Name: South Bermondsey Railway Embankments

Summary: A network of active and disused railway embankments to the east of South Bermondsey

station, with a good mix of typical railway habitats.

Grid ref: TQ 351 783

Area (ha): 2.29

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads on by train.

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

A network of active and disused railway embankments to the east of South Bermondsey station extending into Lewisham, with a good mix of typical railway habitats. The area within Southwark is dominated by roughland vegetation, with scattered sycamore and large patches of Japanese Knotweed. From the platform, old man's beard (Clematis vitalba) was notable abundant at the top of the embankments and is likely to be of value to foraging and sheltering invertebrates. The nationally-rare Bermuda-grass (Cynodon dactylon) has been recorded beside the path leading down to the road from the station. Works are underway on the eastern half of the site as part of the Thames Link upgrade, so habitat is likely to change in the near future.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 15/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBII23

Site Name: Southwark Park

Summary: A large landscaped park with plenty of mature trees and a lake.

Grid ref: TQ 350 791

Area (ha): 26.571

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Hedge, lake, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A large park with very good tree cover, almost forming a closed canopy over much of the northern part of the park. The trees are mostly London planes and other exotics, but they support a good bird population, including breeding spotted flycatchers, and the park holds perhaps the closest speckled wood butterflies to central London. A small lake with a wooded island supports breeding tufted duck, mallard, coot and moorhen; it has little marginal vegetation, but concrete planters support emergent and other habitat enhancements are being made. The pond supports marginal vegetation and common amphibians. A small numbers of pipistrelle bats are regularly seen. Southwark Park is a Grade II Listed landscape of considerable arboricultural interest and has held a green flag award since 2006.

A nature garden was created in 2003 on an old playground (with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund). The created wildflower meadow has become overgrown and comprises herb-rich roughland, surrounded by scrub and scattered trees. This small area is managed by Southwark Council.

The old nursery site to the north east of the Park, is proposed to be included within the site. This area has been unmanaged for some time and has been colonised by common ruderal and ephemeral species including nettle and butterfly bush.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 24/04/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Site Reference: SoBII05

Site Name: Camberwell New Cemetery and Surrounds

Summary: A large area of open land, including a cemetery and the site of a former nursery, with a good

range of plants and animals.

Grid ref: TQ 358 745

Area (ha): 20.09

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Semi-Improved grassland, Amenity grassland, Hedge, Ruderal, Scattered trees, Scrub,

Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Most of Camberwell New Cemetery is fairly intensively managed, but there are small areas of mixed woodland, scrub and rough grassland in the south-west corner. Ant hills are frequent in the less disturbed grassland and support a number of herbs including ox-eye daisy and autumn hawkbit. The cemetery also contains some fine hedges and a wide variety of mature trees. The adjacent crematorium is formally landscaped, but contains plenty of dense shrubberies, which provide nesting habitat for birds, a small pond, and numerous mature trees. A number of species noted on the Southwark BAP have been recorded on site, these are pipistrelle bats, slow-worm, common lizard, stag beetle and house sparrow. Several of these are also Species of Principal Importance in England. Habitat (including trees and scrub) along the eastern edge of the Crematorium is likely to be provide supporting habitat to the adjacent Forest Hill to New Cross Gate railway cutting, a Site of Metropolitan Importance.

One other area is included in the site; known as the the former Honor Oak Nursery/Honor Oak Training Centre site. The nursery site is largely covered in ruderal vegetation, with a wide diversity of plants, some of them relics of the previous nursery use. The future of the nursery site is uncertain. Together these sites form a substantial block of open space, contiguous with One Tree Hill and separated only by roads from Benchley Gardens and Camberwell Old Cemetery, which provides a good diversity of habitats for birds and invertebrates.

Threats and Opportunities

Invading plants such as Japanese knotweed, buddleia and snowberry are a localised problem. The creation of woodland burial plots within currently intensively managed plots would provide valuable habitat to existing wildlife.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 23/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 09/03/2015

Site Reference: SoBI05

Site Name: Russia Dock Woodland

Summary: A linear park with interesting woodland and wetlands.

Grid ref: TQ 36181 79729

Area (ha): 9.67

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Non- native woodland, pond, running water, marsh, swamp, scrub, semi-improved neutral

grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Russia Dock Woodland is a linear park created in 1980, with belts of mixed woodland and scrub, containing a high diversity of mostly native species, areas of grassland which have been sown with wildflower mixes, and a linear water feature connecting a series of ponds and lakes. The latter is currently dry in places, as the water level was reduced for safety reasons, but still contains a good variety of wetland vegetation. Breeding birds include sedge warbler at its only Southwark site, reed warbler, reed bunting, mallard and moorhen. Kingfishers and mute swans are seen occasionally. The range and interconnectivity of habitats are known to support a good range of species, including the specially protected great crested newt, along with other amphibians, hedgehogs, and reptiles. Its linear shape connects to the River Thames in the north to Greenland Dock to the south making it an important foraging/commuting route for bats. Russia Dock Woodland is owned by the Council and managed with assistance from the Trust for Urban Ecology, which run volunteer work days. The site is a proposed Local Nature Reserve.

The site is to be extended to include Metropolitan open land (part of open space OS7) along Legado Mews and Salters Road in the north east, which will be contiguous with vegetation along Beatons Walk (part of this site). A triangular-area of semi-mature native woodland comprising abundant field maple is located along Salters Road, and will be contiguous with a proposed park comprising amenity grassland, scattered native trees and hedgerows.

Threats and Opportunities

A number of non-native species including holm oak, snowberry, false acacia, and Japanese knotweed are particularly abundant in places. The site suffers from vandalism, including damage to bird boxes and tipping from adjacent gardens. Remove snowberry from within native woodland. Localized vegetation thinning, particularly around standing water would increase macrophyte cover.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 12/10/2005 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Site Reference: SoBI05

Site Name: Stave Hill & The Ecological Park

Summary: A park with an excellent range of habitats including herb rich grassland and a short section of

chalk stream.

Grid ref: TQ 36158 79904

Area (ha): 2.06

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Scrub, secondary woodland, herb-rich neutral grassland, orchard

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark leased to The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

Site Description:

Stave Hill and the Ecological Park have been developed since 1987 and now contain an excellent range of habitats, including several types of scrub, secondary woodland, orchard, herb-rich neutral grassland, two ponds with good marginal vegetation and a short section of chalk stream (A wind pump draws groundwater up from the chalk aquifer to supply the stream and ponds, and also the water feature in Russia Dock Woodland), as well as a butterfly garden. The mosaic of habitats are of high value to a range of wildlife, including less common species such as hedgehog, reptiles and foraging bats. Meadow brown, common blue and large heath butterflies have been recorded along with three species of dragonfly This site forms a habitat corridor with Russia docks woodland to the northeast and Surrey Dock to the west, via Docks Hill Avenue. Managed by TCV, it is well-used by local schools.

Threats and Disturbances

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 12/10/2005 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 10/03/2015

Site Reference: SoBI11

Site Name: Canada Water

Summary: A disused dock basin with swamp and willow carr along one side.

Grid ref: TQ 35583 79364

Area (ha): 1.8

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Lake / tyhpa swamp, reed swamp, fen/carr woodland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

The southern bank of Canada Waters has been landscaped and supports a mosaic of reed bed, reed-mace swamp and other emergent vegetation willow and alder carr. Reed bed and wet woodland (alder and willow carr) are Habitats of Prinicpal Importance and noted in the London and Southwark BAP. Lesser reed-mace, *Thypa latifolia*, a scarce plant in London has also been recorded. The site supports a large variety of breeding birds include mute swan, tufted duck, mallard, moorhen, coot and reed bunting, and large numbers of tufted ducks are present in winter. Kingfishers are reported occasionally. This disused dock basin is connected to Surrey Waters by Albion Canal (both Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation).

Threats and Opportunities

Butterfly bush is present but currently not invading. Increasing the size and breadth of the reedbed or wet woodland would be valuable additional habitats to wildlife and provide additional habitat to less common species such as reed bunting and potentially willow warbler. Interpretation of the ecology and heritage of the site would be beneficial, particularly due to its proximity to Canada Water Tube station and shops. Sustainable urban drainage features could be considered for new paving areas around the site – providing complimentary habitat and filtering surface water run-off before it runs into the Dock.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/2003

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 20/11/2014

Site Reference: SoBXX

Site Name: Cox's Walk

Summary: A green lane lined with mature oak trees

Grid ref: TQ 344 732

Area (ha): 1.083

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Scattered trees, veteran trees, semi-improved grassland,

Access: Free public access / part of the Green Chain Walk

Ownership: Dulwich Estates Leased to Southwark Council sub leased to LWT.

Site Description:

Cox's Walk follows the route of an old avenue and footpath, which runs from Dulwich Common (A201) in the north, through to Sydenham Hill Road in the south-east. The northern part is lined with mature pedunculate oaks, which forms a wide, wooded corridor, with an understory of native shrub species including elder, holly, ash, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, and hornbeam. Ground flora species include ground elder, wood aven, lesser celandine, and a few plants of the native bluebell. The southern part of the footpath narrows as it passes through Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods - Site of Metropolitan Importance and a Local Nature Reserve. A native, species-rich hedgerow has recently been planted along the footpath, within the wood. The northern half of Cox's walk is known to support a good bird population and includes less common species such as the nuthatch and green woodpecker. Mature oaks support rare invertebrate species including the Stag Beetle, noted on the London and Southwark BAP. Foraging bats are likely to benefit from the dark corridor and proximity to foraging habitat within adjacent grassland and allotments. Cox's Walk is regularly used by walkers and is part of the Green Chain Walk. The site is also protected under London's Squares Act.

Threats and Opportunities

Lighting in close proximity to the woodland corridor could reduce the value of the habitat for foraging bats.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 11/08/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Site Reference: SoB

Site Name: Honor Oak Allotment - also known as One Tree Hill Allotments

Summary: Mosaic of semi-natural habitats, allotment beds and with a good range of plants and animals.

Grid ref: TQ 356 742

Area (ha): 2.16

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, native broadleaved woodland, hedgerow, active allotment, scattered trees

Access: Restricted access (locked site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Less intensively managed allotments, which comprise a habitat mosaic of roughland, native woodland, scrub, grassland, tall herb and scattered trees. A good range of native trees and shrubs, including hawthorn, ash and pedunculate oak are present throughout. The grassland includes abundant cocksfoot, false oat grass, common nettle and common thistle, the latter forming tussocks in places. The site is known to support common lizard, one of only four sites in Southwark and is a Species of Principal Importance in England. Other species noted in the Southwark BAP that are present include common amphibians, stag beetle and house sparrow. The site is also likely to support numerous breeding birds and forms a habitat corridor between One Tree Hill in the southwest and Camberwell New Cemetery to the north.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoB

Site Name: Surrey Water

Summary: A disused dock basin

Grid ref: TQ 35688 80015

Area (ha): 3.87

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): potentially saline lake, marginal vegetation

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Surrey Water is a large disused dock with water (that could potentially be slightly brackish) and delineated by semimature trees. It is connected to the River Thames via a short section of canal and lock near The Old Salt Quay. Approximately 30 floating pontoons (connected in a line across the dock) support marginal vegetation including frequent greater reedmace and common reed. The open water and pontoons provide good foraging habitat for bats and birds and are likely to support fish and common amphibians. Dense submerged growth of rigid hornwort, fennel pondweed and Canadian waterweed have been recorded in the past and if still abundant are likely to make this an important fish nursery. At least two species of damselfly breed. The mature tree canopy surrounding the docks is likely to provide an important commuting and foraging route for bats travelling between Albion Channel, Dock Hill Avenue, Deal Porter's Walk and the River Thames. The disused dock basin is connected to Canada Waters by Albion Canal (both Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation).

Threats and Opportunities

Some plants have failed on the pontoons and need re-stocking. The occurrence of algae blooms reduces the value of aquatic habitat for fish. Re-establish aquatic, marginal vegetation to improve water quality and appearance.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 24/03/2015

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoL20

Site Name: St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Bermondsey

Summary: An attractive churchyard in the historic centre of Bermondsey.

Grid ref: TQ 333 794

Area (ha): 0.7

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, native hedge, roughland, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Diocese of Southwark

Site Description:

A churchyard now managed as a park, dominated by amenity grassland, scattered semi-mature trees and planted shrubbery. A mixed hedge of sweet briar and pycnantha runs along the northern boundary. Behind the hedge is a narrow strip of fenced-off roughland, which is allocated for use by the Scouts.

The churchyard is in the historic center of Bermondsey, close to the site of the Priory (later Abbey) of St Saviour, which was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537. The first church here dated from 1296 and was built to serve the workers at the Priory. The present church was completed by 1690, but there have been many subsequent alterations. Although it has busy roads on two sides, and the quieter Bermondsey Street on the west side where the church is, the churchyard is quite spacious and with its 18th century and later tombs still retains its historic atmosphere.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Site Reference: SoL19

Site Name: St Mary's Churchyard, Rotherhithe

Summary: A churchyard at the historic centre of Rotherhithe.

Grid ref: TQ 351 797

Area (ha): 0.23

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Diocese of Southwark

Site Description:

The churchyard now acts as a small park, with a good cover of non-native trees and planted shrubs. A small environmental allotment has been designed by the Trust for Urban Ecology, and is tended by local community groups from the Time & Talents Centre. It contains a good variety of nectar plants. The Church of St Mary, completed in 1716 by local shipbuilders to replace a 12th century church, is very much the historic centre of Rotherhithe. Its surrounding churchyard has many links to the sea in its memorials. Most notable is the sailing of the Mayflower in 1620 from Rotherhithe to America with the Pilgrim Fathers and three of the four owners of the Mayflower are buried in the churchyard. The 18th century pub 'The Mayflower', opposite the churchyard, also commemorates this event, although it was only given this name in 1957.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 03/04/2007 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Site Reference: SoBII03

Site Name: Sunray Gardens

Summary: A small park with a tree-lined, spring-fed pond, which provides a home for water birds.

Grid ref: TQ 327 748

Area (ha): 1.58

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Spring-fed pond, wetland, native wet woodland, scrub scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This small park in North Dulwich contains a sizeable spring-fed pond, one of very few natural ponds in Southwark and small area of wet woodland containing mature crack willow and alder a rare habitat in the borough. The pond supports breeding waterfowl, including tufted duck, mallard, coot and Canada goose, which nest on a wooded island. Small clumps of marginal vegetation contain yellow iris, pendulous sedge, lesser pond sedge, purple loosestrife and greater willowherb. A good variety of fish, including roach, crucian carp, common carp and sticklebacks, are present. The park is likely to be of value to other wildlife, including foraging bats, amphibians, notably common frog and toad, and invertebrates, particularly dragonflies and stag beetles. The rest of the park is currently of limited nature conservation value, although it contains a couple of fine old hornbeams, and a large dead wood feature. It is a Grade II Listed landscape.

Threats and Opportunities

Being spring-fed, the level of water in the pond (and the wildlife it supports) could be disrupted by underground works within proximity to the site (e.g. basement development). Willow spilling could improve bank stabilisation and provide additional refuge for amphibians.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBII16

Site Name: Surrey Docks Farm

Summary: A city farm with a variety of livestock and horticulture providing an interesting educational

experience.

Grid ref: TQ 36630 79688

Area (ha): 0.88

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Orchard, native woodland, improved grassland, pond, Scattered trees, allotment

Access: Access at limited times

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark Leased to Surrey Docks Farm

Site Description:

A livestock farm located on the banks of the River Thames, with a wide variety of non-native horticultural planting, an orchard, a small nature area and a grass-dominated living roof. The orchard, a Habitat of Principal Importance (except for its limited size), contains approximately 30 mature fruit trees (old varieties). The grassland is semi-improved and grazed by sheep. The small nature area includes a pond and a variety of native trees, shrubs and a recently seeded wildflower area. A laid hawthorn hedge borders the area. A large part of the farm is dedicated to the housing of livestock, with improved grassland paddocks, barns and a yard. The range of planting is likely to be of value to a wide range of common invertebrates. Breeding and foraging birds are also present, including the Southwark BAP species house sparrow. A range of water birds including greater scaup, herring gull, Eurasian teal, grey heron and mute swan have also been recorded on the site, but these were most likely flying over. Some old buildings provide potential for roosting bats. The site is managed by the Surrey Docks Farm Provident Society. The farm is open to the public from 10am to 5pm every day except Mondays. There is an organic cafe, which provides an excellent range of refreshments. Recent plans are to replace the café roof and install solar panels.

Threats and Opportunities

Improved access and habitat transition should be considered between the River Thames Site of Metropolitan Importance and the farm. This could include safer access during low tide and interpretation, river habitat enhancement such as reed beds or tree and shrub planting along the banks. There is likely to be a good educational interest and ecological gain in achieving this.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Site Reference: SoL28

Site Name: Pasely Park (formerly Surrey Gardens)

Summary: A small park with a nature conservation area in one corner giving a display of wild flowers.

Grid ref: TQ 319 780

Area (ha): 1.56

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees,

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

This is a small park in Kennington with a nature conservation area in one corner. The latter consists of an area of long grass, surrounding a children's playground. It has a reasonable variety of wild flowers which are mostly species of disturbed ground. Also here is a tiny plot of sycamore woodland into which several native trees have been planted. The site has recorded sighting of 4 London BAP species including house sparrow, and pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and Nyactalus bat species.

Opportunities

Extend the sycamore woodland and plant native hedgerows.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 18/12/2006 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 05/01/2007

Site Reference: SoL14

Site Name: Surrey Square Park

Summary: A small park, just off the Old Kent Road, which now includes a former nature area developed

by the neighbouring school.

Grid ref: TQ 332 783

Area (ha): 1.22

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Herb-rich neutral grassland, scrub, amenity grassland, scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

A small park in the Aylesbury Estate and just off the Old Kent Road, Surrey Square Park is less intensively managed than most. Two areas of rough grassland support a rich diversity of herbs including black knapweed, salad burnet, meadow cranesbill and field scabious. Native hedgerows and scrub support a good range of native species including buckthorn. The northeast corner has recently undergone improvement with sandy mounds planted with a non-native annual flower mix. Tall herbs and ruderals particular butterfly bush are also present. Three, large tree trunks provide innovative natural, climbing features in the center of the park. The range of plants and shelter are likely to be of value to common species of birds and invertebrates. The common blue butterfly has been recorded. The site is managed by Southwark Council and well used by local residents.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Site Reference: SoBII10

Site Name: Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich Railsides

Summary: The wooded railsides between Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich stations are a valuable

corridor for wildlife.

Grid ref: TQ 335 722

Area (ha): 9.86

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Roughland, non-native woodland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths, roads or from the train.

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

The broad cutting at Sydenham Hill station is densely wooded. Sycamore dominates, and other species include some fine old oak and ash trees. The woodland structure is good, with hawthorn, elder and young sycamore in the shrub layer, and ivy and cow parsley on the ground. The nettle leaved bellflower has also been recorded, which is a rare species in Southwark and possibly the only location for it (but potentially a garden escapee). Further north, the cutting narrows and becomes an embankment with a similar tree species and open areas compriseing of roughland (a mix of coarse grasses, tall herbs and bramble scrub). The continuity of habitat from Sydenham and Dulwich woods in the south to just below Herne Hill in the north, is likely to provide an important commuting/ foraging route for wildlife including bats, and potentially hedghogs and reptiles. Of the species recorded, Pipestrelle bats have been seen, along with birds such as song thrush, mistle thrush, house sparrow, hawfinch and tawny owl. The latter two species more likely to occur towards the south and in closer proximity to Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods — a site of Metropolitan Importance. Stag beetle has also been recorded. As much of the site is out-of-bounds to the public and only frequented by passing trains, the site is also releatively undisturbed, and of value to bird species less that prefer rougher habitats tolerant of disturbance, such as black redstart or linnet. A New Leaf educational garden is located at West Dulwich platform which contains a number of planted shrubs, scattered trees and a small pond.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/08/2015

Site Reference: SoL29

Site Name: Tabard Gardens

Summary: A welcome open space in a very heavily built-up area.

Grid ref: TQ 327 794

Area (ha): 0.91

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Quite a large park located between Great Dover Street and Long Lane and not far from Borough High Street, Tabard Gardens consists mostly of closely-mown amenity grassland with a line of ornamental semi-mature maple (Acer sp.) trees around the perimeter. Its main nature conservation interest lies in a dense thicket of native shrubs in the center of the park. This is the best part to look for birds, such as great tit, greenfinch, robin, blackbird, wren and flocks of house sparrow. The park also features two raised banks which have been sown with wild flowers and more recently an annual seed mix. Goldfinches visit to feed on the seed heads. The remainder of the park contains species poor amenity grassland with planted shrubbery. The gardens form a stepping stone between nearby open spaces including St Mary's Magdalen Church, Leathermarket Gardens (to the east and north) and Dickens and Newington Gardens (to the south and west).

Threats and Opportunities

Allowing the scrub to grow too large has encouraged anti-social behavior in the past. Potential solution might be to create a separate patch of scrub a distance away, so to retain sight lines but at the same time increasing habitat for birds.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 05/01/2007 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 11/03/2015

Borough Graded Local

Site Reference: SoL27

Site Name: Varcoe Nature Garden (also known as Bramcote Nature Garden)

Summary: A small park with some interesting landscaping, it is partly managed and used by the nearby

primary school.

Grid ref: TQ 350 780

Area (ha): 0.19

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, pond, semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Despite its name, this site, is more of an interestingly-landscaped small park than a nature garden. Plentiful shrub planting in informal groups provides good habitat structure, but consists almost entirely of exotic species. Some of the grass is allowed to grow long, but most is close-mown. A small pond suffers badly from rubbish dumping. The nature garden is protected by the London Squares Act and its urban location in south Bermondsey suggests its likely to be well used by local residents.

Opportunities

Management of the site could be improved for wildlife and local residents. Better stewardship could improve the pond habitat and reduce rubbish dumping.

Site first notified: 01/06/1995 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 05/01/2007 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 05/01/2007

Site Reference: SoL11

Site Name: Victory Park and Elba Place Nature Garden

Summary: A community park and nature garden in one of the most densely-developed parts of

Southwark, close to the Elephant & Castle.

Grid ref: TQ 325 788

Area (ha): 0.5

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Pond, Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, Hedge, Roughland, Scattered trees, Scrub,

Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Vegetated wall/tombstones

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark

Site Description:

Located in the soon-to-be-redeveloped Heygate Estate, between the New Kent Road and Walworth Road, this Community Park is informally managed, with a good range of herbaceous plants and shrubs of value to pollinators and nesting birds. Occupying a small area in the center is Elba Place Nature Garden, surrounded by native scrub and containing a pond, a wildflower bank and raised allotment beds. For such a small area, there is a wide range of native species and the pond is known to support common amphibians. Wren and house sparrow have been recorded and likely to benefit from the dense scrub/shrub habitat. Notable plants including purple loosestrife bracken, marjoram, wayfaring tree and tansy. The site is managed by the local Community Association, and a local school.

Opportunities

Provide additional cover for invertebrates by leaving a strip of uncut grass around the boundaries of the nature garden.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/06/1995

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N

Site Reference: SoBII15

Site Name: Walworth Garden Farm

Summary: This horticultural city farm is a valuable resource for environmental education in a densely

built-up area.

Grid ref: TQ 318 781

Area (ha): 0.17

Borough(s): Southwark

Habitat(s): Planted shrubbery, scattered trees, herbaceous planting, pond/, biodiverse roof, wall, native

hedgerow.

Access: Access at limited times

Ownership: London Borough of Southwark Lease to Walworth Garden

Site Description:

A small, well-tendered horticultural, city farm, with predominantly non-native shrubs and herbaceous species, along with three mini biodiverse green roofs (out-building roofs), amenity grassland, an orchard, and a nature area containing a pond (2m x 2m), native trees and shrubs. A laid, hawthorn hedgerow and three limestone walls (drystone) are notable features and valuable to invertebrates. A wide range of European, Asian and Afro-Caribbean vegetables are grown and are a valuable resource for environmental education, both for schools and for the long-term unemployed to whom it offers horticultural and ecological training. Trainees have carried out habitat creation in several parks and schools in the area. The site is owned by the Council and managed by a social enterprise.

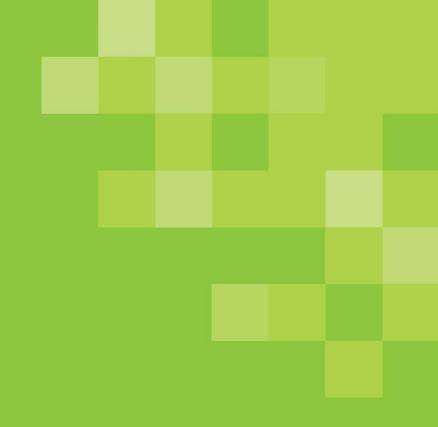
Threats and Opportunities

A number of non-native and potentially invasive species are present, including parrot feather – an invasive aquatic species. There is potential to retrofit a biodiverse green-roof on the office building. Plant native climbers along western boundary wall, which is currently bare.

Site first notified: 01/01/1989 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1989

Citation last edited: 24/03/2015 Mayor Agreed:

Defunct: N





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