



Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Biodiversity Duty Report

February 2024 – January 2026



Contents

1. Introduction
2. Current Policies and Guidance
3. Biodiversity Net Gain Monitoring
4. Collaborative Projects
5. Awards and Achievements
6. Future Actions

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report relates to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021. The Act strengthens the biodiversity duty by requiring all public authorities to publish the actions they have taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- 1.2. As a Local Planning Authority, OPDC must comply with this duty, including by documenting any policies and actions that have been implemented through a Biodiversity Duty Report.
- 1.3. This report sets out OPDC's current and future actions to improve the environment and will be used by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in future reviews of the Environmental Improvement Plan.
- 1.4. The report demonstrates the actions that OPDC has taken over the period 12th February 2024 to 1st January 2026, including:
 - Current biodiversity policies and guidance;
 - Details of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) resulting from biodiversity gain plans approved in planning applications;
 - Ongoing and completed biodiversity projects;
 - Achievements relevant to nature recovery and species conservation; and
 - Future actions to meet biodiversity duty.

About OPDC

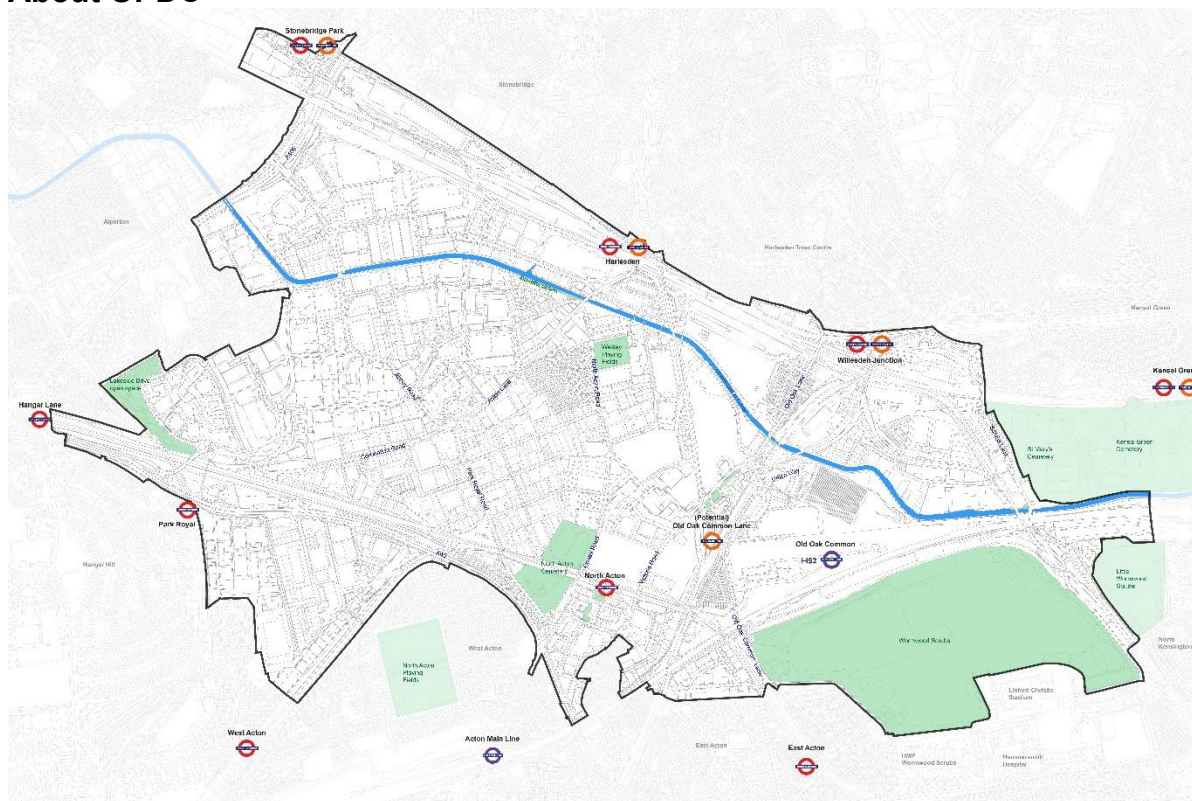


Figure 1: The OPDC Area

- 1.5. OPDC was established by the Mayor of London on the 1st of April 2015. The Mayoral Development Corporation aims to ensure that the maximum benefits for London are achieved through the development of a major new transport hub in the area which will connect the Elizabeth Line with High Speed 2 and National Rail services.
- 1.6. OPDC covers the Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area in the Mayor's London Plan (2021). OPDC's Local Plan identifies the area as having a capacity to deliver a minimum 25,500 homes and 55,000 jobs, making it one of the largest regeneration projects in the UK.
- 1.7. Upon its establishment, OPDC also became the Local Planning Authority for the area, giving it responsibility for planning decisions, the preparation of a Local Plan and the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 1.8. OPDC is committed to delivering a well-designed, biodiverse-rich green infrastructure and open space network. Plans for regeneration in OPDC offer a unique opportunity to enhance biodiversity and nature recovery across the natural blue, green and urban environment.
- 1.9. OPDC supports the integration of biodiversity early into the design process for planning applications. This helps to secure net gains in biodiversity, by protecting and enhancing existing habitats and creating ecological networks of green spaces across the Old Oak and Park Royal Area.

2. Current Policies and Guidance

- 2.1. This section outlines the planning policies and guidance produced to support OPDC's objectives to enhance biodiversity and contribute towards nature recovery, including:
 - The [Local Plan 2022](#);
 - The [Industrial Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\) 2023](#);
 - The [Old Oak West SPD 2024](#);
 - The [Public Realm and Green Infrastructure \(PRGI\) SPD 2024](#);
 - The [Revised Planning Obligations SPD 2025](#); and
 - The [Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan 2019](#)
- 2.2. OPDC's biodiversity and greening policies and guidance conform with the London Plan (2021) biodiversity and natural environment policies:
 - Policy G3 (Metropolitan Open Land);
 - Policy G4 (Open space);
 - Policy G5 (Urban greening);
 - Policy G6 (Biodiversity and access to nature); and
 - Policy G7 (Trees and woodlands).
- 2.3. OPDC Local Plan policies related to urban greening and biodiversity include:
 - Policy SP3 (Improving Health and reducing health inequalities);
 - Policy SP7 (Connecting People and Places);
 - Policy SP8 (Green infrastructure and open space);

- Policy P3 (Grand Union Canal);
- Policy P12 (Wormwood Scrubs);
- Policy EU1 (Open space);
- Policy EU2 (Urban greening and biodiversity);
- Policy EU3 (Water); and
- Place Policies.

2.4. The OPDC area covers parts of Harlesden, and as such the Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan 2019 forms part of OPDC's development plan in support of biodiversity and greening. The Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan biodiversity and greening policies are contained in Chapter 8 (Environment and Open Space):

- Policy E1 (Public open space provision);
- Community Aspiration 5 (Roundwood Park recreation space);
- Policy E2 (Food growing space provision); and
- Policy E8 (Tree provision).

Green Infrastructure

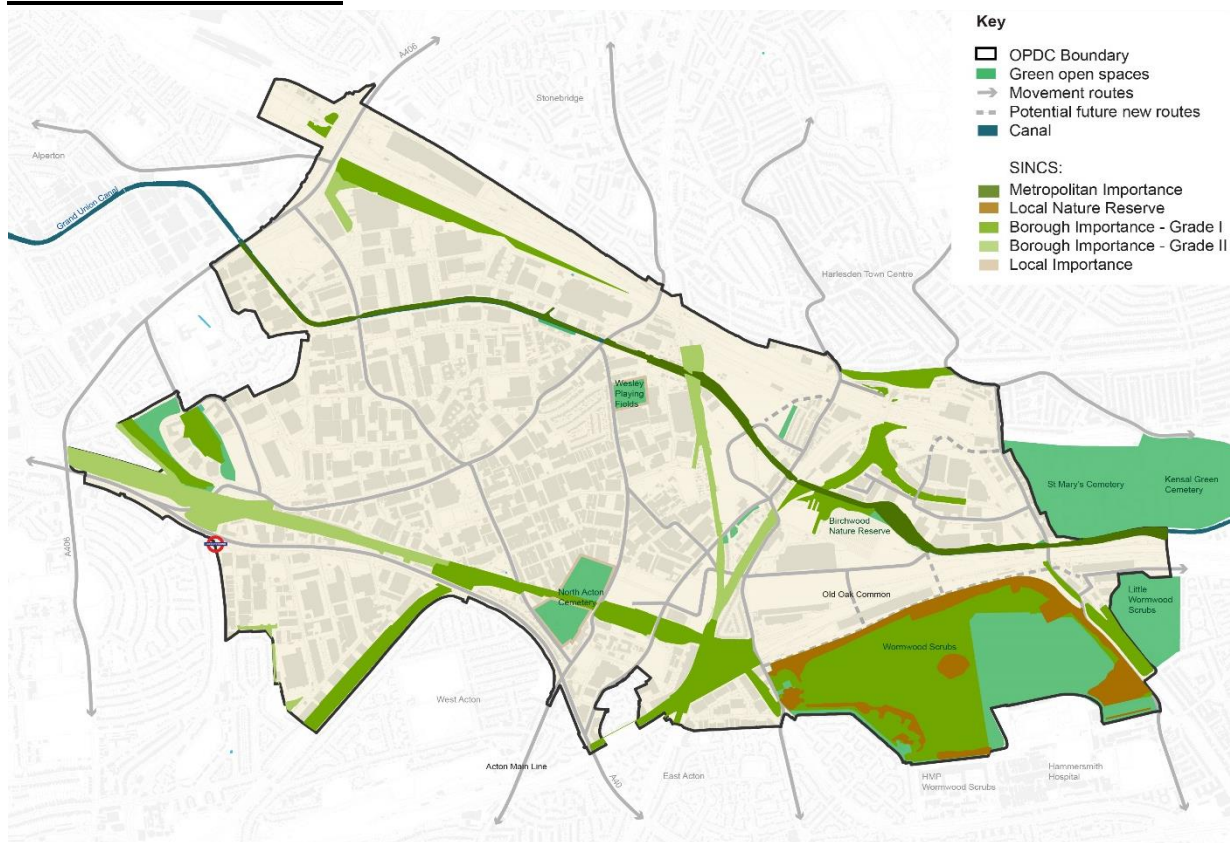


Figure 2: Green open spaces and SINC in OPDC

2.5. The following section sets out OPDC's policies and guidance demonstrating our commitment to:

- Secure an increase in biodiversity in developments;
- Protect, enhance and create new green infrastructure in open spaces; and

- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)



Image 1: Wormwood Scrubs Open Space

- 2.6. OPDC's MOL policies and guidance conforms with London Plan Policy G3 (Metropolitan Open Land)
- 2.7. Local Plan Policy EU1 (Open Space) identifies Wormwood Scrubs as MOL and a major environmental asset, with protection from loss or harm. In the Mayor's London Plan 2021, MOL is afforded the same protections as Green Belt. Proposals which result in loss or harm, including the reduction in quality will only be permitted in very special circumstances set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024.

Local Parks and Small Open Space



Image 2: Midland Terrace Playground, an improved local park in North Acton.

- 2.8. Local Plan Policy SP8 (Green Infrastructure and Open Space) and EU1 (Open space) support biodiversity through the delivery of both new and enhanced small open spaces and pocket parks with high quality green infrastructure.
- 2.9. The Local Plan Places policies identify various existing open spaces requiring the protection and sensitive enhancement of their green infrastructure. The policies also support developments which expand or deliver new green local parks, pocket parks and linear open spaces along streets contributing towards creating a biodiverse open space network.
- 2.10. The Public Realm and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (PRGI SPD) provides further guidance for delivering urban greening and biodiversity in open spaces. The guidance provides measures and supports best practice through Principle LOSGIBP1 (Delivering urban greening and biodiversity in linear open spaces) and Principle LSP-GIBP1 (Delivering urban greening and biodiversity in parks) by requiring the design of green spaces that engage the local community and visitors in parks. Examples include providing naturalistic play areas, information boards and edible planting.

Publicly Accessible Open Space

- 2.11. Local Plan Policy EU1 requires the delivery of a minimum of 30% of developable area outside of Strategic Industrial Location (SIL) as publicly accessible open space. This supports greening on site to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and nature recovery opportunities. Where it is not feasible for a development to make provision on-site, a financial contribution is sought towards delivering its overall provision in accordance with OPDC's Revised Planning Obligations SPD open space contribution obligation OB3D.
- 2.12. Policy SP3 (Improving Health and Reducing Health Inequalities) requires the design and operation of external spaces that reduce health inequalities, improve wellbeing and enable healthy lifestyles.

Public Realm and Green Streets

- 2.13. Local Plan policies related to public realm support developments which contribute towards and/or deliver:
- Local Green Streets that are fully accessible, have embedded green infrastructure, and form part of a wider grid of connected green routes (Policy EU1);
 - High-quality biodiversity and urban greening provision (Policy EU1);
 - High-quality, attractive, accessible, and inclusive public realm (Policy SP7: Connecting People and Places); and
 - Publicly accessible and improved canalside (Policy P3: Grand Union Canal).
- 2.14. The PRGI SPD sets out further guidance on:
- Delivering a comprehensive approach to protecting, improving, delivering and connecting the natural environment;

- Delivering a coherent and high-quality response to the design and delivery of public realm and green infrastructure;
- Delivering a multitude of benefits and diverse functionality for people and nature; and
- Ensuring conformity at an early stage to inform development proposals thereby improving resilience and supporting local, Mayoral and national targets.

Urban Greening Factor (UGF)



Image 3: A ladybird in the flora of Wormwood Scrubs



Image 4: Planting along the railway cottages in Old Oak

- 2.15. Local Plan Policy EU2 (Urban Greening and Biodiversity) requires major development proposals to optimise urban greening on site by achieving the UGF target in line with London Plan Policy G5 (Urban Greening).
- 2.16. Moreover, the Local Plan and Industrial SPD set out an ambition to go beyond the London Plan targets to encourage industrial developments in SIL to achieve an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) score of 0.3. Many proposals have been able to achieve this, as reported in the [Authority Monitoring Report 24/25](#).

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- 2.17. Local Plan Policy EU2 (Urban greening and biodiversity) requires development proposals to achieve a net gain in biodiversity. The policy supports proposals which would not result in a loss of existing biodiversity and avoid environmental disturbance during and post construction.
- 2.18. The PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1 (Conserving, restoring, enhancing and delivering urban greening and biodiversity) supports the Biodiversity Mitigation

Hierarchy to guide the treatment of irreplaceable habitat, and on-site and off-site provision. OPDC has set out a local Spatial Mitigation Hierarchy as follows:

- Retaining valuable habitat(s) on-site,
- Mitigating loss on-site, and
- Where demonstrated that delivery on-site is not achievable, proposing off-site compensatory measures delivered:
 - a. within the OPDC area, or
 - b. within the host boroughs.

2.19. Industrial SPD Principle GIP1 and PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1 both aim for a minimum of 50-70% of planting to be native species, which contribute to resilient biodiversity. Furthermore, the Industrial SPD states that this planting should be:

- Of known value to wildlife,
- Locally relevant, and
- Account for the need for climate resilience.

2.20. To support the monitoring of biodiversity provision, OPDC procured Exacom Systems Limited BNG Module in February 2025. This web-based application allows OPDC to efficiently and effectively monitor the biodiversity measures achieved by planning applications against the DEFRA BNG Metric.

Nature Recovery

2.21. Beyond UGF and BNG requirements, OPDC policies and guidance support development proposals which contribute to nature recovery in various other ways, such as:

- Planting connected tree pits (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1);
- Installing artificial nesting features such as green roofs, bat boxes, and flower planters (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP4: Water management through greening);
- Optimise the provision of green roofs such that they are biodiverse and facilitate the safe movement of and access for wildlife. (Industrial SPD Principle GIP2: Green roofs and boundaries);
- Increasing biodiversity by identifying locations where green infrastructure is poor (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1);
- Maintaining existing biodiversity habitats (Local Plan Policy SP8);
- Ensuring that proposed or retained habitat areas can support a wider range of species (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP2: Delivering resilience and high-quality greening);
- Removing invasive non-native species during construction and maintenance (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1);
- Replacing trees that die within 5 years with trees of equal size, having taken into consideration whether an alternative species is appropriate for long-term sustainability (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP2);

- Incorporating two or more age classes of trees to add maturity to the development (PRGI SPD Ambition GIBA1: Optimising urban greening and biodiversity); and
- Delivering adequate and sensitive lighting that supports commuting and foraging routes for bats (PRGI SPD Principle LOS-GIBP1).

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

2.22. There are 19 SINC's within the OPDC area and are accorded strong protection as either sites of metropolitan or borough importance. Local Plan Policy EU2 (Urban greening and biodiversity) states that where it is not possible to protect a SINC, applicants will be expected to deliver alternative biodiversity habitats of an equivalent or greater quantum and quality or provide financial contributions to offset for its loss.

Local Nature Reserves

2.23. The Wormwood Scrubs meadow located to the north-west area of the Scrubs, gained Local Nature Reserve status in 2025. Local Plan Policy P12 (Wormwood Scrubs) and EU2 (Urban greening and biodiversity) require that proposals plan to conserve and sensitively enhance Local Nature Reserves.

2.24. PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1 sets out that proposals should enhance sites that support improvement of existing Local Nature Reserves and enhance the biodiversity network by identifying new areas that may qualify as Local Nature Reserves.

Blue Infrastructure

2.25. The following policies and guidance contribute to OPDC's objectives to manage water, improve water quality and support biodiversity by:

- Protecting and enhancing habitats;
- Increasing ecological connectivity; and
- Delivering multifunctional green and blue features.

Water Management

2.26. OPDC's Local Plan Policy EU3 (Water), requires developments to implement effective water management measures to reduce flood risk through Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and green or blue roofs.

2.27. PRGI SPD Principle GIBP4 highlights valuable opportunities within the public realm and open spaces for the integration of SuDS into the design of streets and open spaces across the OPDC area to:

- Improve water quality and water discharge;
- Manage flooding and water run-off; and

- Support open mosaic biodiversity and habitat creation.

2.28. The PRGI SPD further provides measures for mitigating the impact of drought and flooding through the combined benefits to biodiversity. Examples of measures include:

- Planting trees which are tolerant to periodic flooding within SuDS elements (Principle GIBP1);
- SuDS integrated through tree pits and linear planting strips (Principle GIBP1);
- permeable surfacing and soft landscaping above soil strata (Principle GIBP1); and
- Applying mulch to the earth surrounding trees (Principle GIBP4 Supporting Text).

2.29. Industrial SPD Principle MIP4 sets out that industrial developments should:

- Separate runoff from potential areas at high risk of contamination from hazardous substances and, where feasible, treat these on-site prior to being discharged to SuDS;
- Ensure that non-trafficked paved areas, including footpaths and parking, are permeable;
- Incorporate rills, channels and depressions into any hardscape with planting, to provide water features and attenuation; and
- Consider and demonstrate the feasibility of reusing and recycling water from industrial premises, such as collection for use as cooling or alternative reuse of grey water in toilets.

2.30. Ambition MIA4 in the Industrial SPD encourages industrial developments to:

- Utilise opportunities for smart metering and leak detection; and
- Aim to improve water efficiency above the London Plan standards by greater than 25% through the use of greywater recycling, rainwater harvesting, and other water efficiency measures.

The Grand Union Canal



Image 5: Sharks Canoe Club in the Grand Union Canal

2.31. Local Plan Policy P3 (Grand Union Canal) identifies the canal's SINC designation and role as an ecological corridor in the area.

2.32. As a SINC, developments are required to ensure that its ecological value is protected and improved. Policies and guidance include measures such as:

- Development land within 10m of the Grand Union Canal must carry a baseline condition assessment of the watercourse (PRGI SPD Principle LOS-GIBP1));
- Delivery of a 10% net gain in watercourse biodiversity units (PRGI SPD Principle LOS-GIBP1);
- Considering impacts of water-based transport on biodiversity and water quality (Local Plan Policy P3);
- Intercepting and filtering run off from hard surfaces before entering the Grand Union Canal (PRGI SPD Principle LOS-GIBP1);
- Include maintenance plans that seek to control colonising invasive species (Industrial SPD Principle GIP3: Canalside Edges);
- Develop proposals in consultation with lighting consultants and ecologists to ensure that light spill does not damage the SINC (Industrial SPD Principle GIP3);
- Consulting Canal and River Trust prior to any new surface water discharges into the Grand Union Canal (PRGI SPD Principle LOS-GIBP1); and
- Where possible, provide a riparian zone with measures (PRGI SPD Principle LOS-GIBP1) including:
 - a. New reedbeds or marginal planting;
 - b. Native vegetation appropriate to the location and soil water regime; and

- c. Undertaking a River Condition Assessment survey by accredited consultants.

Long-Term Management and Maintenance

2.33. The following section sets out OPDC's policies and guidance related to the long-term management and maintenance of green assets to secure the sustainability and resilience of green infrastructure.

The Green Infrastructure and Open Space Strategy and Management Plan (GIOSSMP)

2.34. Local Plan Policy SP8 (Green infrastructure and open space) requires major applications to submit a Green Infrastructure and Open Space Strategy and Management Plan (GIOSSMP). This sets out plans for the long-term asset management and maintenance of green infrastructure provision on-site.

2.35. Furthermore, PRGI SPD Principle MMP1 (Long term management and maintenance) expands on what the GIOSSMP should address, including:

- Establishing regular inspections;
- Regularly monitoring the health and functionality of green infrastructure elements;
- Using environmentally friendly cleaning products;
- Providing signage for the public to report maintenance issues;
- Securing a stable and adequate financial revenue for long-term maintenance and management; and
- Consulting with professionals, such as landscape architects, arborists and maintenance experts, to ensure that public realm and open spaces are managed effectively.

Low Maintenance Greening

2.36. PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1 and GIBP2 provide guidance for developments to design for low maintenance, by planting naturalistic, resilient green elements that connect habitats without requiring intensive upkeep. This low-maintenance green infrastructure helps to support wildlife within constrained urban settings in the long-term.

Climate Resilience

2.37. The following policies and guidance support OPDC's commitment towards planning for a climate resilient environment. This is achieved by supporting developments that consider resilient urban greening to withstand, protect against and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Trees and Hedgerows



Image 6: Linear planting along railways in Old Oak



Image 7: Tree planting throughout North Acton Road and surroundings

2.38. OPDC applies London Plan Policy G7 (Trees and woodlands) in relation to trees and provides guidance for development proposals in the PRGI SPD.

2.39. To support resilient biodiversity, Local Plan Policy EU2 (Urban greening and biodiversity) requires selections of tree species to consider current and future site conditions to adapt to and help mitigate climate change. Recommendations include achieving the 'right place, right tree' in line with Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) guidance.

2.40. Further guidance in the PRGI and Industrial SPDs include:

- Prioritisation of native and climate change resilient species (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1);
- Appropriate selection and mixture of trees that provide multi-benefits including air quality improvements and shading characteristics (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1);
- Providing long-lived varieties with known value to local wildlife (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1);
- Consideration of soil volume size and planting connected tree pits to facilitate future tree growth (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP3: Delivering replacement and compensation for greening);
- Limiting mortality rates for newly planted trees through a carefully considered post planting and maintenance plan (Industrial SPD Principle GIP4: Trees and PRGI SPD Principle GIBP3 Supporting Text);
- Considering the existing Arboricultural and ecosystem value, soil suitability and canopy cover when replacing trees (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP3);
- Ecologically responsible lighting to minimise the negative impact of artificial lighting on the natural environment (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP3 Supporting Text);

- Provision of artificial refuges and nesting can help to support species and provide a continuous wildlife corridor (PRGI SPD Principle GIBP3 Supporting Text);
- Inclusion of dense closed canopy trees and edible fruiting trees within outdoor staff/visitor non roadside amenity spaces in industrial developments (Industrial SPD Principle GIP4); and
- Restoring relationships with the local context, character and heritage through tree species choice in industrial developments (Industrial SPD Ambition GIA4: Trees).

Microclimate

2.41. Local Plan Policy SP8 (Green infrastructure and open space) and the PRGI SPD Principle MPP1 and Ambition MPA1 (Improving microclimate and pollution) emphasise the crucial role of green infrastructure in improving and maintaining favourable microclimates in urban areas. The guidance supports the strategic use of greening elements that can contribute to:

- Providing shade from the sun,
- Providing shelter from the wind,
- Slow wind speeds,
- Cooling through transpiration, and
- Dissipating solar glare.

Extreme Weather

2.42. The Supporting Text of the PRGI SPD Principle MMP1 recognises the crucial role of green infrastructure in improving and maintaining favourable microclimates in urban areas. It identifies the importance of strategic planning of greening elements to manage environmental conditions.

2.43. PRGI SPD Principle MMP1 sets out support for developments which plant trees and vegetation to help mitigate extreme weather events such as heat waves, cold snaps and heavy rainfall.

Pollution

2.44. PRGI SPD Principle GIBP2 provides guidance for the use of high pollution dispersion and tolerant plant species. Developments should also use responsibly sourced biochar in roadside planting pits where they are needed to remediate water and soil pollution.

2.45. PRGI SPD Principle GIBP1 encourages the use of pollution-mitigating measures, especially for the sensitive ecological receptors which form the natural environment.

Other Strategies

Sustainability Charter

- 2.46. OPDC published its [Sustainability Charter](#) in April 2025, which sets out the environmental, social and economic vision for the OPDC area.
- 2.47. The Charter sets out OPDC's green pledge to foster a "clean, green, and healthy environment" by working collaboratively with local authorities, communities and partners to:
- Re-connect splintered nature networks, in support of nature recovery;
 - Integrate blue and green infrastructure, creating green links and habitats through the natural environment;
 - Revitalise underutilised spaces and re-connect with nature recovery routes emerging from Wormwood Scrubs to deliver an increase in biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity; and
 - Ensure resilience to and integrate long-term nature-based solutions to climate change, which will preserve and enhance existing biodiversity.

Old Oak Masterplan Framework

- 2.48. The [Old Oak Masterplan Framework](#) was developed by OPDC in its role as Delivery Agent. It was endorsed by OPDC's Board in November 2025. This framework presents OPDC's vision for the future of Old Oak to facilitate the coordinated regeneration of the area into a comprehensive mixed-use community, "underpinned by new connectivity and green infrastructure."
- 2.49. The Masterplan's Sitewide Spatial Principles support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Old Oak through a variety of measures such as:
- Incorporating linear planting along the Old Oak Mile, including SuDs, mature trees, and pockets of green space;
 - Planting greenery which connects natural assets of Old Oak South Park, Wormwood Scrubs and the Grand Union Canal;
 - Developing a new pocket park at the junction of Wells House Road and Old Oak Common Lane;
 - Utilising the Old Oak Line to connect a 'green spine' of spaces including Old Oak South Park, a new park in Acton Wells, and Acton Cemetery;
 - Delivering and connecting Channel Gate and Acton Wells Park with integrated resilient habitats and multifunctional water features; and
 - Creating a network of biodiverse landscape corridors which will form green and blue threads throughout Old Oak by:
 - a. Establishing a green movement network with naturalistic and layered planting structures connecting parks and ecological habitats;
 - b. Creating a connected landscape network and ecological corridor which links accessible and inaccessible green spaces;
 - c. Activating the Grand Union Canal, including enhancing and protecting its 'wild' qualities and biodiversity whilst establishing softer planted edges; and

- d. Creating an ecological asset at Sunny Banks that strengthens ecological resilience through the inclusion of green linear spaces and pocket parks.

3. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Monitoring

- 3.1. This section outlines the details of BNG resulting from OPDC's review and monitoring of planning applications subject to the biodiversity gain condition.
- 3.2. OPDC has approved one Biodiversity Gain Plan located in Park Royal Centre in the reporting period February 2024 to January 2026, which secured BNG through on-site contributions.
- 3.3. Using the Defra BNG module, OPDC has recorded a net gain of 0.6 biodiversity units and percentage increase of 896.8% from this approved BNG plan.
- 3.4. The approved Biodiversity Gain Plan has not negatively impacted any irreplaceable habitat.
- 3.5. The largest recorded post-development habitat gains were in individual trees, with a net gain of 0.345 units, followed by heathland and scrub, with a net gain of 0.152 units.
- 3.6. A summary of the breakdown of habitat types is presented in Figure 1 and can be viewed in Appendix A – BNG Quantitative Data 12Feb2024_01Jan2026.

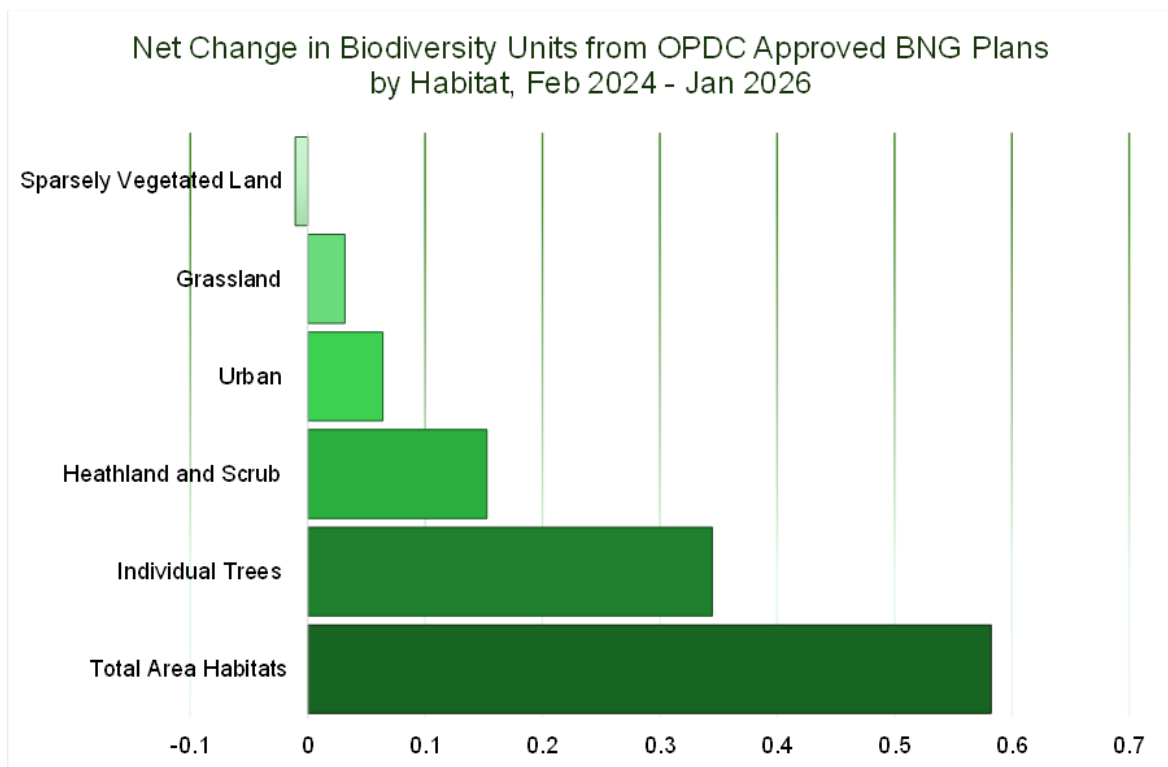


Figure 1: A bar chart breaking down the net change in biodiversity units by habitat type from Biodiversity Gain Plans which OPDC has approved during the reporting period.

4. Collaborative Projects

4.1. The following table highlights the collaborative projects which OPDC has undertaken to protect, enhance and deliver new biodiversity in the area over the reporting period. These projects have utilised a range of approaches from community engagement to planting to educational programmes and have been facilitated by several teams across the organisation and in collaboration with a variety of external partners.



Image 8: Grand Union Canal Biodiversity



Image 9: Midland Terrace Playground



Image 10: North Acton Square Planting



Image 11: Wesley Playing Fields



Image 12: Harlesden Canalside Project

Project name	Dates	Project summary	Interventions
Wesley Playing Fields Redesign	2024 – 2026	Improvements to Wesley Playing Fields in collaboration with - Jonathan Cook Landscape Architect, - Alan Baxter, - Accertum, and - London Borough of Ealing.	Redesign of Wesley Playing Fields; proposals aim to create a greener environment, foster climate resilience, and enhance the quality of the green space through: a) Improved planting; and b) The incorporation of nature-based water management functions. Focus group and public consultation feedback showed a desire to provide welcoming spaces to encourage people to use the green space for recreation. The full improvements are planned to be delivered in 2026, however early wins have been delivered in 2025 including new wildflower meadow planting and tree planting.
Wesley Playing Fields Community Orchard	Winter 2025 – 2026	Delivery of a community orchard in collaboration with - Earthwatch, - The Orchard Project, and - London Borough of Ealing.	Delivery of a community orchard in Wesley Playing Fields; including approximately 10 fruiting trees and a collection of edible plants.
TITRA Community Garden	July 2024	Development of an OPDC-funded community garden by The Island Triangle Resident Association (TITRA).	Assisted in the development of a community garden in the Old Oak Common area by providing S106 monies to TITRA. Members of the local community have planted a wide variety of vegetables and plants that encourage insects and biodiversity.
Blue and Green Strategy	Summer 2024	Education programme delivered by the Young Brent Foundation (YBF), funded by OPDC's Small Grants Programme.	Provided the YBF with a grant from the Small Grants Programme for an educational programme where YBF used the John Lyon Canal boat as a floating classroom to educate young people on the Grand Union Canal and its importance for the natural environment.

Project name	Dates	Project summary	Interventions
Harlesden Canalside Project	2024	Delivery of Improvements to Harlesden Canalside in collaboration with • London Borough of Brent, and • Canal & River Trust.	Completed works on a new local improvement project designed to make Harlesden Canalside a more welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable place. Supported by the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, this project is in a series of improvement works, designed to make the spaces and places in Old Oak and Park Royal more welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable for the community. We have undertaken work to deliver: • A widened towpath to provide better access for everyone; • A new amphitheatre for people to sit and enjoy the canal which is large enough to host community outdoor events; • New planting and seating; • Improved canoe facilities for the Sharks Canoe Club; and • Dedicated spaces for local community organisations to moor their narrow boats.
Biodiversity Volunteering Programme – Greening Park Royal	2023 – 2026	Volunteering programme to improve biodiversity in the Park Royal area, in collaboration with • Groundwork London, • London Borough of Brent, and • London Borough of Ealing.	Improving biodiversity and greening in the Park Royal industrial area as part of OPDC's ongoing Biodiversity Volunteering Programme. Greening Park Royal Volunteering includes: • Green space maintenance activities; • Nature walks; • Educational workshops; • Planting sessions; • Vegetation clearance; • Bird box making; and

Project name	Dates	Project summary	Interventions
			Constructing planter boxes and seating from recycled materials. This programme continues to help enhance the quality and biodiversity of Park Royal's green spaces, as well as create places for people to sit and enjoy being outside within the industrial context.
Biodiversity Volunteering Programme – Grand Union Canal	2021 – 2026	Volunteering programme to improve biodiversity in the Grand Union Canal; in partnership with - Mayor of London, - The Local Enterprise Partnership, and - Canal and River Trust.	Improving biodiversity along the canal as part of OPDC's Biodiversity Volunteering Programme. Since September 2023, the programme has: - Gathered over 260 volunteers; - Improved over 215m of public realm; - Cleared over 485 bags of rubbish; - Made 6 new planters from scratch; - Planted over 100 trees; and - Created new floating ecosystems. Current improvements include creation of a community garden at the Collective and new planting at the towpath ramp.
Midland Terrace Playground Planting	2024 – 2025	Playground upgrades including new planting in collaboration with the London Borough of Ealing. - London Borough of Ealing, and - Cultivate London.	Improved the playground with new play equipment and planting including wildflower meadows, new border plants, hedgerows and bird boxes. Much of the planting was delivered in collaboration with the community through a series of planting workshops.
North Acton Square	2025 – 2026	Improvements to North Acton Square in partnership with London Borough of Ealing,	The underutilised public square has been improved by accommodating new business to bring life to the square and implementing several enhancements to the setting.

Project name	Dates	Project summary	Interventions
		• City Docklands, • Imperial College London, • Downing Students, • ADD Properties, and • The Republic Community Projects.	New landscaping improves the character of the square by providing a greener environment and enhancing the biodiversity of square. Landscaping is expected to be completed in 2026.
North Acton Square Community Gardener's Shed	Autumn 2025	Construction of a new community gardener's shed in partnership with • London Borough of Ealing, • City Docklands, • Imperial College London, • Downing Students, • ADD Properties, and • The Republic Community Projects.	As part of the improvements to North Acton Square, OPDC has facilitated the delivery of a new Community Gardener's Shed in North Acton Square. The gardener's shed has been installed to provide a space for community gardening groups to meet and store equipment to enable the stewardship and enhancement of green spaces on the square and the wider North Acton area.

5. Awards and Achievements

The Island Triangle Residents Association (TITRA) Community Garden

- 5.1. The Community Garden was delivered in partnership with TITRA and consists of a wide variety of vegetables and plants maintained by the local community.
- 5.2. The garden won 1st place for street and community gardens in the Ealing Biodiversity Awards for Gardens and Green Spaces 2025. The garden was awarded based on how it created a sense of community and exhibited excellence in wildlife support.

Public Realm and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (PRGI SPD)

- 5.3. OPDC adopted the PRGI SPD in June 2024, which provides guidance on how to deliver high-quality public realm and green infrastructure from a nature recovery, biodiversity, EDI and sustainability perspective.
- 5.4. The guidance has been praised by several award judges for exemplifying teamwork, leadership, embedding EDI principles, inclusive consultation processes, sustainability, and its positive long-term impact on green infrastructure.
- 5.5. The Public Realm and Green Infrastructure SPD has achieved the following awards:
 - Planning Awards 2025 – Award for Best Plan-Making;
 - Regional RTPI London Awards for Planning Excellence 2025 - 'Best Plan';
 - National RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2025 – Best Plan Making Practice;
 - Landscape Institute Awards 2025 – Finalist in the Landscape Legacy Award;
 - Pineapples Awards 2025 – Finalist in the Award for Best Strategy; and
 - National RTPI Award for Planning Excellence 2025 – Finalist for the Silver Jubilee Cup.

Industrial SPD

- 5.6. OPDC adopted the Industrial SPD 2023, which provides guidance on how to deliver sustainability and biodiversity in industrial developments.
- 5.7. The guidance has been praised for tackling issues with large floorplate and multi-storey industrial premises; described as “leading the way by... optimising the delivery of green infrastructure and sustainable drainage appropriate to an industrial context; and securing environmental benefits.”
- 5.8. Following its 2023 adoption, the SPD has achieved the following awards:
 - RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2024 – Commended for Excellence in Plan Making Practice; and
 - Planning Awards 2025 – Award for Best Plan-Making.

6. Future Actions



Image 13: An Illustration from the PRGI SPD of a linear open space

- 6.1. OPDC will continue to fulfil its biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021.
- 6.2. Future actions for the next reporting period will include continuing to work collaboratively across the organisation as well as with the host boroughs and stakeholders to continue existing and initiate new biodiversity projects. This work will include the ongoing improvements to North Acton Square and Wesley Playing Fields redesign; and the upcoming delivery of the North Acton Gyratory Meanwhile Planting and Harlesden Canalside Community Garden.
- 6.3. OPDC will conduct studies and create an evidence base to support nature recovery and biodiversity and inform the Local Plan Review. This includes a new OPDC Tree Strategy.
- 6.4. The Local Plan Review will also reflect the priorities in the Greater London Authority's Local Nature Recovery Strategy and OPDC's SPDs.
- 6.5. Finally, OPDC is currently securing further evidence of statutory credit purchases from other planning applications. The BNG information for these applications will be included in the next Biodiversity Duty Report.

Image Credits

Cover Image: An aerial view of Wormwood Scrubs and surroundings. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 1: Wormwood Scrubs Open Space. Image credit: TRFIHI Parks. [Trfihi Parks | Wormwood Scrubs](#).

Image 2: Midland Terrace Playground, an improved local park in North Acton. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 3: A ladybird in the flora of Wormwood Scrubs. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 1: Planting along the railway cottages in Old Oak. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 5: Sharks Canoe Club in the Grand Union Canal. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 6: Linear planting along the railways in Old Oak. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 7: A sky view of planting throughout North Acton Road and surroundings. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 8: Grand Union Canal Biodiversity Volunteering. Image Credit: Canal River Trust 2024. [Grand Union volunteering and biodiversity | Canal & River Trust](#).

Image 9: Midland Terrace Playground Planting. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 10: North Acton Square Planting. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 11: Wesley Playing Fields Improvements. Image credit: Zute Lightfoot.

Image 12: Harlesden Canalside Project. Image credit: OPDC 2024. [Harlesden Canalside | OPDC have your say](#).

Image 13: An Illustration of the Green Open Space Vision for OPDC. Image Credit: OPDC and Publica.

Appendix A: BNG Quantitative Data 12Feb2024_01Jan2026.