



Pollinator Action Plan 2021–2025

A commitment from Lambeth Council

July 2021



POLLINATOR ACTION PLAN 2021–2025

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Lambeth Council is committed to helping to conserve the UK's pollinators by ensuring the council will consider the needs of pollinators in the delivery of its duties and work.

Lambeth will seek to protect and enhance the amount and quality of pollinator habitat and manage our green spaces to provide greater benefits for pollinators. We will ensure residents are provided with opportunities to make Lambeth more pollinator friendly and we will actively support the national B-lines project.

Lambeth declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 and this Pollinator Action Plan forms one aspect of Lambeth's response to addressing the current global ecological crisis.

Our vision: Our local environment will contain abundant nectar-rich habitats, helping support sustainable pollinator populations and making places more attractive for people to live and work in.

Aims: The Council will work with partners to:

1. Develop plans, policy, and guidance to include the needs of pollinators.
2. Protect, increase, and enhance the amount of pollinator habitat in Lambeth.
3. Improve our knowledge and understanding of pollinators in our local area.
4. Increase awareness of pollinators and their habitat needs among residents, businesses, and other landowners.
5. Increase the contribution to pollinator conservation of land managed by Lambeth.



Background to the Pollinator Action Plan

The Importance of Pollinators

Our native pollinators include bumblebees and other bees (250 species), butterflies and moths, flies, beetles, and wasps. In all there are over 4,000 species of insect in the UK that carry out pollination of our native wild plants and food crops. Insect pollination is extremely important to the UK economy, with an estimated value of £691m annually. Without pollinators we would struggle to grow many of our vegetables, fruits, and other crops, including apples, pears, strawberries, beans, peas, and oilseed rape. 90% of crop species are insect pollinated and wild pollinators account for 80% of pollination. 62% of wildflower populations are already constrained by the lack of pollinators and we are missing £5m of Gala apples in the UK because there are no longer enough pollinators.

Pollinators are also important in terms of their contribution to the overall insect biomass that supports populations of birds, bats, mammals and reptiles.

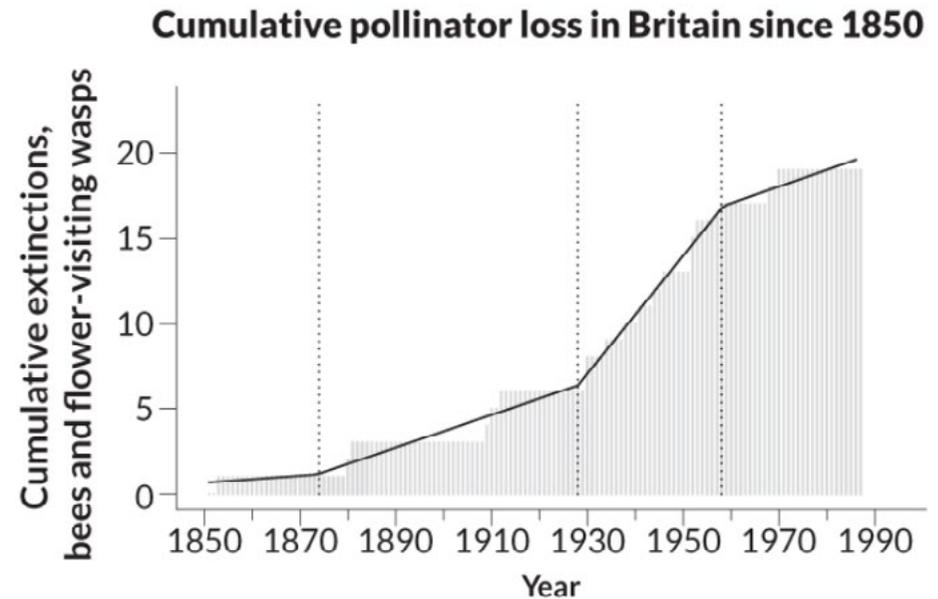
Pollinating insects also have significant cultural value, particularly in urban areas, as they are some of the most frequently encountered and noticeable types of wildlife.

Pollinators under threat

Our pollinators are in trouble:

- Half of our 27 bumblebee species are in decline.
- Three of these bumblebee species have already gone extinct.
- Two-thirds of our moths are in long term decline.
- Across Europe 38% of bee and hoverfly species are in decline.
- A study published in 2017 found a 75% decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas in Germany, which is thought to be representative throughout similar habitats and landscape across Europe.
- 71% of our butterflies are in decline.

Figure 1: loss of pollinator species in Britain. Source: www.sciencenews.org



Nationally, the most significant factors leading to these declines in pollinator numbers include:

- 1. Habitat loss** – The most significant cause of decline is the loss and degradation of habitats which provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for pollinators. The loss of wildflower-rich grasslands is one of the most important issues. Over three million hectares of these habitats have been lost in England alone since the 1930s because of intensive farming and urban/ industrial development.¹
- 2. Pests and diseases** – Bacterial infections and parasitic mites can result in the death of any bees, but especially colonial species, including the honeybee.
- 3. Pesticides** – There is growing evidence that the use of pesticides is having harmful effects on pollinators including honeybees, wild bees, and butterflies. Wider effects throughout ecosystems are also of concern and pesticides have been implicated in other declines such as farmland birds and soil organisms. The use of neonicotinoids (neonics) is of particular concern. These are systemic

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320787901212>

pesticides which can be applied as a seed dressing (the preferred delivery mechanism) or spray and have a high toxicity to insects.

The use of neonics as a preventative measure against insect infestation is however, contrary to the long-established principles of integrated pest management where a variety of non-chemical controls may be utilised to reduce the potential for infestation such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of agricultural practices and the use of resistant plant varieties along with minimal use of pesticides. Advice from the UK government’s advisory body on pesticides says scientific evidence now suggests the environmental risks posed by neonicotinoids – particularly to our bees and pollinators – are greater than previously understood, supporting the case for further restrictions.

4. Climate Change – Long term changes can deprive pollinators of food supplies at times when they need them, increase their exposure to parasites and diseases, or change habitats so that they are no longer suitable. There may be gains as well as losses but a resilient network of good pollinator habitat across the area is needed for them to be able to adapt and take advantage of changes. In London, with the added impact of the heat island effect, the growing season is longer than in the countryside and is extending. This heightens the need for food sources both earlier and later in the season.

In Lambeth, the key factors have been a lack of open space managed for biodiversity, habitat fragmentation, air pollution (for example high levels of nitrogen dioxide found in urban areas cause plants to produce more defensive chemicals in their leaves, which weakens insect feeders), nitrification of soils, use of pesticides and a shortage of both skills in, and funding for, appropriate ecological management of sites and species.

What pollinators need

Pollinators need many of the things we need – food, shelter and nesting areas.

Food – Pollinators need food (nectar and pollen) throughout the season from March through until September. Many plants and trees can provide these food resources, including many so called ‘weeds’ such as dandelions and thistles. In addition to flowers, many pollinators need other food resources to support their different life stages – for example butterfly and moth caterpillars need particular plants to feed on.

Shelter and nesting – Dense vegetation such as tussocky grassland, scrub, mature trees, and piles of wood and stone can provide essential habitat for hibernating pollinators. Many species overwinter as adults including queen bumblebees, and some butterflies and hoverflies; others as eggs, larvae or pupae. Old burrows and dense vegetation are used by bumblebees, with sunny slopes and dry ground used by ground-nesting bees such as mining bees.



National Pollinator Strategy

The Government's National Pollinator Strategy for England (2014) sets out a 10-year plan to help pollinating insects survive and thrive across England.

The Strategy outlines actions to support and protect the many pollinating insects which contribute to our food production and broader biodiversity. It is a shared plan of action which looks to everyone to work together and ensure pollinators' needs are addressed as an integral part of land and habitat management. In particular, the Strategy asks local authorities to take a lead across many of their work areas and duties, including their role in local planning and as managers of public and amenity spaces, brownfield sites, schools, car parks, roadside verges, and roundabouts.

The Strategy includes the following outcomes:

1. More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter) supporting our pollinators across the country.
2. Healthy bees and other pollinators, which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events.
3. No further extinctions of known threatened pollinator species.
4. Enhanced awareness across a wide range of businesses, other organisations, and the public of the essential needs of pollinators.
5. Evidence of actions taken to support pollinators.

In particular the Strategy asks local authorities to take a lead across many of their work areas and duties, including their role in local planning and also as managers of public and amenity spaces, brownfield sites, schools, car parks, roadside verges and roundabouts.

Working with partners and partners initiatives

Lambeth will actively seek to join partnerships and participate in other local, regional, or national pollinator programmes or projects. Such partners include, or are likely to include: Allotment groups, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation

Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Father Nature, Friends of Parks groups, Friends of the Earth, Incredible Edible Lambeth, Lambeth Street Champions, London Beekeepers' Association, London Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Natural History Museum, neighbouring boroughs, Open Orchard, Plantlife, schools, Tenant & Resident Associations and Urban Growth London. However, further collaboration within the community and other groups is anticipated. More joined up collaborative action for pollinators will help ensure a future for these very important species. Key national initiatives include Friends of the Earth's Bee Cause campaign to reverse bee decline in the UK, Buglife's B-Lines programme which aims to create a network of wildflower-rich areas across the UK and Plantlife's campaign to protect wildflowers and nature on roadside verges.

Pollinators in Lambeth

This plan has been developed to raise awareness of the plight of pollinators and to ensure the Council and its residents, businesses and landowners are provided with information to help us all protect and increase our pollinator populations. This plan is designed to ensure the needs of pollinators are enshrined across the breadth of Council work and to increase awareness and understanding of pollinators across our local community.

In terms of bees our Action Plan focuses on supporting wild bee populations and focuses on wild pollinators in general. Honeybees are not in decline and in fact the number of colonies in London has been increasing rapidly to the extent that colony density is unsustainable² in some areas and may be impacting negatively on wild populations.

Contributing to our Borough Plan

One of our Borough Plan ambitions is that: Lambeth is a place people want to live, work, and invest. Our goals under this include making our neighbourhoods and town centres attractive, maintaining our award-winning parks, and investing in green spaces to support wellbeing, as well as reducing our environmental impact. Research has demonstrated the benefits that flowers and access to nature bring – so good management of our flower beds to attract pollinators and creating and maintaining new vibrant horticultural features will support several Borough Plan goals.

² Urban Trees and Bees <https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ppp3.10143>

Health and Wellbeing Effects of Flowers

A 2008 study³ found that patients in hospital rooms decorated with flowers needed less post-operative pain medication, had lower systolic blood pressure and pulse rates, lower heart rates, lower pain rates, were less anxious and tired, and generally were in a more positive psychological state than patients in rooms without flowers.

The B-lines project

The B-lines project is led by the charity Buglife and constitutes a series of wide insect pathways covering the entire country. The aim is to restore and create wildflower-rich habitat stepping-stones along the entire B-lines network. The UK B-lines map is shown right.

There is increasing evidence that urban habitats with their mosaics of gardens, allotments, transport corridors, waterways, parks, and amenity spaces can be just as important for pollinators as the countryside. London, with its high percentage of green space provides amazing opportunities to benefit pollinators, through the provision of new or enhanced habitat. The city's parks, gardens, and wildlife sites all play an important role in helping pollinators and other wildlife, along with other areas such as brownfield sites, school grounds, road verges, allotments, and railway embankments. There are already many pollinators in London, including both common and rare species. In fact, over 370 insect species have been recorded in London which are important at a national or local level.

Organisations and councils across London are already taking action for pollinators and a report [London's Pollinators – Creating a buzz](#) for the capital was developed in 2014.

The 'Making a B-Line for London' partnership has developed B-Lines across London, aiming to increase the diversity and abundance of pollinating insects across green spaces, gardens and the wider public realm. The Partnership also aims to raise awareness of the benefits of pollinators and encourage everyone to play their part in conserving these important insects.

B-lines network



³ Park, S-H and Mattson, R.H. (2008) HortTechnology 18(4): 563-568

The Making a B-Line for London partnership aims to:

- increase the area of habitat available for pollinating insects by promoting simple changes to the ways we manage London’s parks, gardens, and other green spaces;
- provide advice to help everyone improve spaces for pollinators; and
- monitor the changes in the abundance and diversity of pollinating insects in response to greater habitat availability.

Progress so far...

- The Making a B-Line for London partnership has identified a London B-Line, which runs roughly north to south from Enfield to Croydon and passes right through Lambeth.
- The London B-Line includes many current pollinator hotspots and aims to create new habitats which will link and support these existing areas. The partnership will work with the managers and owners of parks, gardens, allotments, and green spaces to seek changes to management of existing flower-rich areas, and also create new areas to link these together.
- An online toolkit is being developed to enable Londoners to identify and create local B-Lines, so in the longer-term we hope to see a grid of B-Lines developed across London.
- Every person and every organisation that lives, works or has influence over land within the B-Lines network can take action to help.

The Making a B-Line for London partnership comprises the following organisations: [Bee Collective](#), [Buglife](#), [Forestry Commission](#), [Greater London Authority](#), [Greenspace information for Greater London](#), [London Wildlife Trust](#), [Natural England](#), [RSPB](#) and [University of Sussex](#). The partnership will expand during delivery to include a range of greenspace managers, landowners, community groups, households, schools, businesses, allotment associations, beekeeping associations and the public.

The B-line running through Lambeth encompasses or makes direct contact with a number of our parks and open spaces including: Archbishop’s Park, Bernie Spain Gardens, Brockwell Park, Emma Cons Gardens, Hatfields Green, Holmewood Gardens, Jubilee Gardens, Kennington Park, Lambeth Walk Doorstep Green, Larkhall Park, Loughborough Park, Max Roach Park, Myatt’s Fields Park, Old

The London B-line running through Lambeth



Paradise Gardens, Palace Road Nature Garden, Pedlars Park, Rosendale Road Sports Ground, Rush Common, Ruskin Park, St John’s Churchyard, Slade Gardens, Ufford Street Gardens, Vauxhall Park, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, Waterloo Millennium Green, West Norwood Cemetery, Windmill Gardens and Wyck Gardens.

Pollinator Positives – some good news stories!

Over the last two years we have implemented several projects to support pollinators at sites on the London B-line. These include:

1. Brockwell Park – large new wildflower meadow
2. Kennington Park – new orchard in meadow grassland
3. Old Paradise Gardens – new wildflower meadow strips in partnership with the Garden Museum
4. Palace Road Nature Garden – new wildflower meadows
5. Ruskin Park – improvements to wildlife area and complete replanting of the English Border with native perennials
6. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens – planting of 200,000 spring bulbs

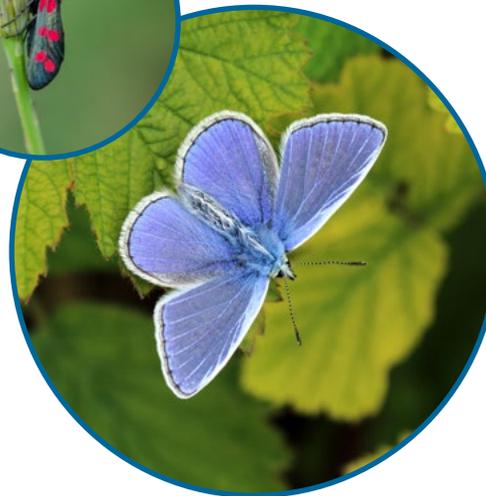
Consultation and Engagement

A number of key organisations were asked to comment on an initial draft of the Pollinator Action Plan and helped shape the document prior to public consultation. An online consultation was undertaken between 1 March and 11 April 2021 and 105 people responded to the survey.

Delivery commitments

The table below lists the specific delivery commitments Lambeth is making under our Pollinator Action Plan. The Plan will be subject to an annual review which will be published and will detail progress against these commitments.

The majority of these actions will be led on by Parks and Leisure Services. Where another team is the lead, this has been noted. At present there is no specific budget for implementation, or the resources for detailed monitoring of progress. References to parks and open spaces cover public open space only, excluding Housing land.



Key Delivery Commitments 2021 to 2025

Aim	Key Delivery Commitments 2021 to 2025	Timescales
1. Develop plans, policy, and guidance to include the needs of pollinators	[1.1] Lambeth's Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 makes specific reference to habitats crucial for pollinators such as meadow grassland and orchards. We will monitor implementation and delivery against the plan through six-monthly reports	Reports will be produced in November and June each year and made public
	[1.2] Maintain an Integrated Pest Management Policy to demonstrate pollinator-friendly approaches to dealing with problem species of plants and animals	The policy for dealing with weeds is complete and public. The policy for animal pests will be completed by 2023
	[1.3] Ensure the Grounds Maintenance Specification for parks and open spaces includes pollinator-friendly approaches to management	This is reviewed annually and made public
	[1.4] Ensure reviews of Lambeth's Green Infrastructure Strategy include specific reference to actions which will support pollinators. Lead: Planning	Parks officers will provide appropriate input to any reviews of the GIS
	[1.5] Ensure the five-year Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Plans contain specific high-level references to supporting pollinators	The 2020-2025 document includes a commitment to produce this Pollinator Action Plan
	[1.6] Review options for the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents to include policies and guidance to support pollinators. Lead: Planning	Parks officers will initiate discussions with Planning in 2021
	[1.7] Ensure the new Tree Strategy planned for 2021 makes specific reference to supporting pollinators through appropriate species selection	Developing the strategy will take place during 2021/22
	[1.8] All new Park Management Plans will include specific reference to opportunities for implementing pollinator-friendly actions; as well as linking to the Biodiversity Action Plan	This has largely been achieved during 2020 and will be ongoing as management plans are created or reviewed
	[1.9] Seek the inclusion of pollinator-friendly actions or commitments in relevant new contracts and Service Level Agreements. Lead: Sustainability	The Sustainability team will consider this as part of their ongoing remit to comment on key decision reports. This will also be monitored by the Resident Services representative on the corporate Procurement Board. Other opportunities will be sought through assessing the Procurement Plan

Aim	Key Delivery Commitments 2021 to 2025	Timescales
<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <p>1. Develop plans, policy, and guidance to include the needs of pollinators</p>	<p>[1.10] Minimise the use of pesticides across the entire public realm. Leads: Parks & Leisure Services, Environmental Services and Housing</p>	<p>Pesticides are not used within Parks and Housing except in exceptional and highly targeted circumstances (e.g. Japanese Knotweed treatment). Highway spraying ended May 2021</p>
	<p>[1.11] Support the London Beekeepers Association approach of ‘Bees and Flowers Go Together’ maintaining an awareness among officers and stakeholders of sustainability issues relating to honeybee colonies</p>	<p>All apiaries on Lambeth land will be licensed. Requests for siting new or expanded apiaries will be discussed with the LBKA before a decision is made</p>
	<p>[1.12] Aim to buy plants grown in peat-free compost. Where this is not possible, we will put pressure on suppliers over this issue</p>	<p>This will commence with approval of the Action Plan</p>
	<p>[1.13] Maintain an ambitious Air Quality Action Plan, which will have benefits for pollinators, as well as more broadly</p>	<p>Lambeth’s Air Quality Action Plan is an established document</p>
	<p>[1.14] Lambeth will not permit apiaries in any of its Local Nature Reserves; and will not permit any new apiaries in Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)</p>	<p>This will come into effect when the Pollinator Action Plan is adopted</p>
<p>2. Protect, increase, and enhance the amount of pollinator habitat in Lambeth</p>	<p>[2.1] Include information on the needs of pollinators within advice provided to the owners/managers of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) not managed by Lambeth</p>	<p>This will be undertaken on an ongoing basis</p>
	<p>[2.2] Encourage community growing schemes to include pollinator-friendly plants via licences and engagement</p>	<p>A specific clause will be added to all new community garden licences. This plan will be sent to all community garden groups once approved to request their support</p>
	<p>[2.3] Work with a range of partners, including private landowners to support successful B-line implementation</p>	<p>Links will be established as part of the process of finalising this plan and will be maintained on a permanent basis</p>
	<p>[2.4] If resources allow we will map key pollinator habitats across the borough and record changes over time</p>	<p>This will be resource dependent</p>

Aim	Key Delivery Commitments 2021 to 2025	Timescales
3. Improve our knowledge and understanding of pollinators in our local area	[3.1] Support and encourage ongoing monitoring by Butterfly Conservation across public realm land	This will be managed through ongoing relationships
	[3.2] Work proactively with wildlife organisations to encourage new monitoring and recording of pollinators within parks and open spaces, for example moth-trapping sessions	Opportunities will be pursued from spring 2021 onwards
	[3.3] Ensure that data from commissioned monitoring exercises is fed back to Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)	This is an already established and ongoing process
	[3.4] Work with GiGL to assess changes over time in pollinators, where records exist	This will start from 2022
4. Increase awareness of pollinators and their habitat needs among residents, businesses, and other landowners	[4.1] Promote national and regional schemes and guidance which provide information about the importance of pollinators and how to support them. We will add material to Lambeth's website, publicise information using park noticeboards, Friends groups and other stakeholders and work with our Communications team to publicise schemes through a range of media	This works will start from summer 2021 and be ongoing
	[4.2] Encourage Lambeth schools to participate in local or national pollinator award schemes	We will work with partners and our schools' team on an ongoing basis to implement this action
	[4.3] Include specific reference to support for the B-lines project and pollinator-friendly actions within the six-monthly reviews of Lambeth's Biodiversity Action Plan	This will first be included within the 2020/21 end of year report
	[4.4] Work with Butterfly Conservation to support their four-year NLHF-funded Big City Butterflies project	This launches in 2021, with Brockwell Park set to be one of the key sites for engagement
	[4.5] Add and separately label pollinator-friendly habitats and schemes to open-mapping systems used by Lambeth	This will be investigated with IT colleagues during 2021
	[4.6] Pursue opportunities to organise educational workshops run by charities and wildlife organisations, e.g. at community events in parks	This will be investigated from summer 2021 onwards
	[4.7] Attempt to engage with private landowners or other public sector organisations, to encourage them to manage their land more favourably for pollinators	This will commence from autumn 2021

Aim	Key Delivery Commitments 2021 to 2025	Timescales
5. Increase the contribution to pollinator conservation on land managed by Lambeth	[5.1] Ensure the needs of pollinators are accounted for within the management of all Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SNCIs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) managed by Lambeth	This will be an ongoing consideration within management plans and new initiatives
	[5.2] Undertake a review of all highway verges with recommendations for improving their management to benefit pollinators. We will allocate a specific sum within the Parks Capital Investment Plan 2020-2025 to fund implementation	This work commenced in 2020 and will be completed by summer 2021 with implementation commencing autumn 2021
	[5.3] Ensure that all new herbaceous planting schemes created within the public realm contain a minimum of 70% ‘pollinator-friendly’ species as defined by the RHS, London Beekeepers Association or other appropriate organisations. All schemes will include at least some native species	This will be implemented from 1 January 2021
	[5.4] As funding and resources allow, convert existing planting schemes with the aim of changing them to meet the 70% pollinator-friendly composition target	This will be implemented from 1 January 2021
	[5.5] Ensure all new herbaceous planting schemes within the public realm are designed to have an extended flowering season, with early spring and autumn nectar sources to maximise nectar availability through the year	This will be implemented from 1 January 2021
	[5.6] Wherever possible create conservation areas within all parks and open spaces, minimising the management regime. Consideration will be given to expanding the presence and range of larval food plants for pollinators found locally	This is an ongoing activity, already achieved in most parks
	[5.7] Encourage Lambeth schools to develop ‘bee-friendly’ gardens or planted areas within their grounds	This would be a partnership project to launch from autumn 2021
	[5.8] Support TRAs and residents with the creation and management of wildflower areas, orchards, and other pollinator friendly habitats across Housing land	We will make suggestions regarding new initiatives to Housing officers for consideration; and where these areas exist, or Housing have approved changes we will positively adapt our maintenance regime. Housing officers will be encouraged to promote the creation of new pollinator-friendly habitats and schemes and actively promote them with residents

Aim	Key Delivery Commitments 2021 to 2025	Timescales
<p><i>(Continued)</i> 5. Increase the contribution to pollinator conservation on land managed by Lambeth</p>	<p>[5.9] All estate teams will work proactively with partners to develop biodiversity and pollinator action plans for those estates with green spaces. Lead: Housing</p>	<p>This will be an ongoing project and during 2021 Housing are supporting the GLA-funded Grow Back Greener Estates initiative being co-ordinated by Incredible Edible Lambeth across four Lambeth estates</p>
	<p>[5.10] Identify opportunities to install green roofs with pollinator friendly flowers and/or pollinator nesting sites on council buildings or appropriate built structures within parks and open spaces</p>	<p>We will review buildings during 2021, keep all opportunities under constant review and seek funding for new schemes on an ongoing basis</p>
	<p>[5.11] Identify areas across the wider Lambeth estate where pollinator-friendly planting can be created and maintained. This may even be on a temporary basis, for example areas awaiting development</p>	<p>During 2021/22 officers will approach other relevant teams across the authority</p>
	<p>[5.12] Encourage apiaries within our parks and open spaces and run a licensing scheme</p>	<p>Several apiaries are in place and licences are being progressed. During 2021/22 all licences will be finalised, and additional opportunities will be reviewed and discussed with stakeholders</p>
	<p>[5.13] Where practical, felled wood will be left within parks and open spaces as habitat, either as large trunks or stacked habitat piles</p>	<p>This practice is in place and will continue on an ongoing basis</p>
	<p>[5.14] Manage at least 25% of our parks and open spaces land primarily for wildlife and seek to increase this to 30% by 2025</p>	<p>The 25% target was achieved during 2020/21. Work to scope out additional opportunities will take place during 2021/22</p>
	<p>[5.15] Seek to minimise light pollution within parks and open spaces during the night, to reduce disturbance to moths.</p>	<p>Maintain the existing approach of only operating lamp columns on rights of way or major thoroughfares</p>
	<p>[5.16] Aim to include pollinator friendly planting within all new public realm investment schemes; and liaison with TfL</p>	<p>This will be actioned from summer 2021</p>
<p>[5.17] Implement specific measures for threatened or endangered pollinators found in or close to Lambeth</p>	<p>This will be implemented when the Plan is adopted</p>	



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