

Appendix 7.5. Designated Sites Citation

SITE NAME AND DESIGNATION	REASON FOR NOTIFICATION/ DESIGNATION	DISTANCE & ORIENTATION FROM APPLICATION SITE	REASON FOR SCOPING IN OR OUT OF ASSESSMENT
Statutory Designated Sites			
Inner Thames Marshes SSSI	The Inner Thames Marshes form the largest remaining expanse of wetland bordering the upper reaches of the Thames Estuary. The site is of particular note for its diverse ornithological interest and especially for the variety of breeding birds and the numbers of wintering wildfowl, waders, finches and birds of prey, with wintering teal <i>Anas crecca</i> populations reaching levels of international importance. The Marshes also support a wide range of wetland plants and insects with a restricted distribution in the London area, including some that are nationally rare or scarce.	Adjacent to the northeast boundary.	Scoped in - located immediately adjacent.
Rainham Marshes LNR	The grasslands, fringing reedbeds and network of ditches here support a number of rare plants, insects and birds and are also home to a large population of water voles <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> . In summer the reserve supports reed <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> and sedge warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> and large flocks of lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> overhead during the winter. Notable species include plants like golden dock <i>Rumex maritimus</i> and scarce emerald damselfly <i>Lestes dryas</i> .	0.345km northwest	Scoped in – potentially linked via hydrological connections.
Crossness LNR	A network of ditches and open water, scrub and rough grassland. The reserve is a water vole stronghold, and over 130 different species of bird have been recorded at Crossness Nature Reserve. A number of rare aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates are present, as well as some important flora species.	1.8km west	Scoped out - separated from Site by River Thames.

Ingrebourne Marshes SSSI	The Ingrebourne Valley supports the largest and one of the most diverse coherent areas of freshwater marshland in Greater London. The variety of habitat includes extensive areas of reed sweet-grass <i>Glyceria maxima</i> and common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> swamp; wet neutral grassland, and tall fen. Nowhere else in London do these habitats occur on such a large scale or in such intimate juxtaposition. These habitats also support a rich assemblage of associated invertebrates and a diverse breeding bird population with 61 species of bird regularly breeding in the area, 14 of which are particularly associated with wetlands.	2.1km north	Scoped out – separated from Site by major road infrastructure and no hydrological connection.
Ingrebourne Valley LNR	The local nature reserve has a range of habitats including secondary woodland, rough grassland, acid grassland, river, marshes, wetland grazing, and reedbeds. It is important for a wide range of plants, animals, birds including an active heronry, insects, and reptiles. Species include great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>, slow worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>, harvest mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>, water vole, bumblebees, green woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>, grey partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>, house martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>, pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>, reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>, skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i> and song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>.	2.3km north	Scoped out – separated from Site by major road infrastructure and no hydrological connection.

Lesnes Abbey Woods LNR	Ancient woodland and coppice with wildflowers and spring bulbs with one of the most important populations of wild daffodils <i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> in the southeast. Other habitats include parks and open spaces, heathland, wetlands and hedgerows. Also, bluebells <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> and wood anemones <i>Anemone nemorosa</i>. There are stag beetles <i>Lucanus cervus</i>, song thrush, bats and newts as well as a wide range of other woodland and parkland birds, animals and insects. A recent comprehensive study of the site has found 906 species of invertebrate, 46 birds including red data book redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i> and fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>, 59 species of fungi, 292 species of plants and 12 species of mammal.	2.9km southwest	Scoped out - separated from Site by River Thames.
Beam Valley (Environment Agency) LNR	Land leased by LBBB from Environment Agency and consists of neutral grassland, scrub and former Romford Canal.	3.2km northwest	Scoped out – separated from Site by major road infrastructure and no hydrological connection.
Scrattons Ecopark and extension LNR	Former marshland and allotments with small areas of recently planted woodland areas of open grass, leaving blocks of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> and preserving existing shrubs and trees. The overall aim being to create a diverse range of habitats for plants, birds, insects and mammals.	4.3km northwest	Scoped out – separated from Site by major road infrastructure and no hydrological connection.

West Thurrock Lagoon & Marshes SSSI	The most important sites for wintering waders and wildfowl on the Inner Thames Estuary. The combination of extensive intertidal mudflats together with a large and secure high tide roost, attracts waders in nationally important numbers, with significant populations of other bird species. The adjacent Stone Ness saltmarsh is noted for the size and character of its high marsh plant community. Large reed beds with abundant common reed and sea club-rush <i>Scirpus maritimus</i> border its south and eastern perimeter where reed warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>, sedge warbler <i>A. schoenobaenus</i> and the notable bearded tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> breed. In addition, locally important numbers of teal, snipe and grey heron roost on the shallow waters, grassy islands and lagoon margins. In addition to providing a vital feeding area for the birds which roost on the lagoon, it is also regularly used as a low tide roost by migrant common <i>Sterna hirundo</i>, black <i>Chlidonias niger</i> and arctic terns <i>S. paradisaea</i>.	4.5km southwest	Scoped out – separated from Site by major road infrastructure and no hydrological connection.
Dagenham Village Churchyard LNR	Main importance for wildlife lies in its invertebrates, including butterflies and crickets, which provide food for bats. Woodpeckers feed on an avenue of lime trees, and a family of foxes live in the churchyard.	4.7km northwest	Scoped out – separated from Site by major road infrastructure and no hydrological connection.

The Chase – Barking LNR	Offers a diverse mix of habitats. Shallow wetlands, woodland, grassland and the River Rom support an abundance of wildlife. Kingfishers <i>Alcedo atthis</i> , skylark, little ringed plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i> and lapwing all breed here but The Chase is best known for its rare visitors during the migration periods such as pine bunting <i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i> , great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> and spotted crake <i>Porzana porzana</i> . Other animals include water voles, great crested newts, slow worms and badgers <i>Meles meles</i> .	4.9km north	Scoped out – separated from Site by major road infrastructure and no hydrological connection.
Non-statutory Designated Sites			
M031 River Thames and tidal tributaries SINC	The mud-flats, shingle beach, inter-tidal vegetation, islands and river channel itself support many species from freshwater, estuarine and marine communities, which are rare in London. The site is of particular importance for wildfowl and wading birds. The river walls, particularly in south and east London, also provide important feeding areas for the nationally rare and specially protected black redstart. The Thames is extremely important for fish, with over 100 species now present. Further downstream are small areas of saltmarsh, a very rare habitat in London, where there is a small population of the nationally scarce marsh sow-thistle <i>Sonchus palustris</i> . Wetlands beside the river in Kew support the only London population of the nationally rare and specially protected cut-grass <i>Leersia oryzoides</i> . The numerous small islands in the upper reaches support important invertebrate communities, including several nationally rare snails, as well as a number of heronries.	Adjacent to southwest and southeast boundary.	Scoped in - located immediately adjacent.

M039 Wennington, Aveley and Rainham Marshes SINC	The largest remaining expanse of wetland bordering the upper reaches of the Thames Estuary. The grasslands support uncommon plants, including the nationally scarce divided sedge <i>Carex divisa</i>, a characteristic species of the Thames Estuary. The drainage ditches and seasonally wet areas support several regionally uncommon plants; marsh dock <i>Rumex palustris</i>, golden dock <i>R. maritimus</i>, soft hornwort <i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i>, brackish water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus baudotii</i>, as well as the nationally scarce stiff saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia rupestris</i>. Ditches and other habitats also support an important invertebrate assemblage which includes many nationally rare, scarce and local species, such as the scarce emerald damselfly <i>Lestes dryas</i> and several water beetles, molluscs, wetland moths and the salt-marsh spider <i>Baryphyma duffeyi</i>. The site supports important populations of breeding, passage and wintering birds, including several species of conservation concern. The marshes are also a nationally important site for the specially protected water vole. The terrestrial invertebrate fauna includes a large population of the brown-banded carder-bee <i>Bombus humilis</i>, a UK and London Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.	Adjacent to northeast boundary.	Scoped in - located immediately adjacent.
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M107 Crayford Marshes	One of the few remaining extensive examples of grazing marsh in Greater London, with some fringing saltmarsh habitat adjacent to that within the River Thames Metropolitan site. The flora of the ditch network, flooded pasture and saltings is diverse, and includes several local and nationally restricted species. These include brookweed <i>Samolus valerandi</i>, marsh and sea arrow-grasses <i>Triglochin palustre</i>, <i>T. maritima</i>, brackish water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus baudotii</i>, marsh dock <i>Rumex palustris</i>, pink water-speedwell <i>Veronica catenata</i>, wild clary <i>Salvia verbenaca</i>, slender hare's-ear <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>, annual sea-blite <i>Suaeda maritima</i>, sea purslane <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>, and the nationally scarce divided sedge. Dry grassland on the sea-wall is also of interest, with further rare plants including knotted hedge-parsley <i>Torilis nodosa</i> and corn parsley <i>Petroselinum segetum</i>. The site's avifauna is equally important. Breeding birds include redshank, lapwing, yellow wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>, skylark and corn bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>, while wintering species include many wildfowl and waders, short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> and hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>, as well as large flocks of finches and thrushes. The aquatic invertebrate fauna of the ditches is also exceptional and includes many nationally rare and scarce species. An important population of specially protected water voles is present in the ditches.	0.850km southeast	Scoped out – >0.250 km
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BxB102 Belvedere Dykes SINC	The drainage dykes are well vegetated, dominated by common reed, great reed mace <i>Typha latifolia</i>, reed sweet-grass; and surrounding wet woodland and rough land areas. The nationally scarce yellow vetchling <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i> is also present. A wetland area was created along the east ditch within the waste recovery facility. Some ditches hold populations of the nationally scarce marsh dock <i>Rumex palustris</i>. The ditches support the specially protected water vole, a priority species in the UK and London Biodiversity Action Plans. Breeding birds include reed warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>. Some also have important populations of fish and invertebrates.	1.1km west	Scoped out – >0.250 km
BxBI120 St John the Baptist Churchyard, Erith SINC	This small churchyard contains moderately species-rich grassland; importantly it also has a large colony of ivy broomrape <i>Orobancha hederæ</i>, a nationally scarce species, growing on Atlantic ivy <i>Hedera helix ssp hibernica</i>; 378 flower spikes were counted in 2009.	1.1km west	Scoped out – >0.250 km

BxBI132 Parish's Pit Woodland	Habitats on site include predominantly species-rich broad-leaved woodland with a developed scrub layer. Abundant elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>, hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, elm <i>Ulmus sp.</i>, oak <i>Quercus robur</i>, Buddleja <i>Buddleja davidii</i>, sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>, jasmine <i>Jasminoides sp.</i>, blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>, and hops <i>Humulus lupulus</i> are present. The ground flora includes dominant ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> with abundant bramble. The undisturbed nature of the woodland is of benefit to wildlife and could support potentially important populations of breeding birds, roosting and foraging bats and invertebrates. Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> have been recorded within the woodland and deadwood habitats on site are suitable for supporting populations of this species. This woodland is a notable area of rail side habitat, forming a relatively wide section of the railway corridor compared to the width of vegetation elsewhere. The position of the site along the railway cutting provides added value of connectivity. This habitat is species rich, structurally diverse and hard to recreate.	1.2km southwest	Scoped out – >0.250 km
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HvBI142F Rainham Railside SINC	Havering's railsides form a network of valuable undisturbed habitats, acting as corridors to facilitate the movement of wildlife around the borough. The total area of railside land makes them a significant habitat in their own right. There are good areas of habitat along all the borough's railways, with cuttings and embankments generally supporting the widest and best habitats. Scrub of elder and hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, or grey willow <i>Salix cinerea</i> and osier <i>S. viminalis</i> in wetter areas, occurs in patches south-east of Rainham station. Rough grassland and tall herbs are widespread, mainly dominated by false oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>, nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, rosebay willowherb, cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> and Chinese mugwort <i>Artemisia verlotiorum</i>, often intermingled with bramble. This rough land habitat can be found in places all along the line on both sides of Rainham station. Swamp of common reed, reed sweet-grass and great reedmace occurs in ditches on both sides of the line, especially near Aveley Marshes.	1.8km north	Scoped out – >0.250 km
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BxBI04 Erith Quarry and Fraser Road	This former quarry supports a rich mosaic of habitats, including woodland, tall ruderal, scrub and semi-improved neutral grassland habitats. The grassland and woodland are habitats of principle importance. The woodland edge habitat is relatively species rich. The London notable species southern wood-rush <i>Luzula forsteri</i>, knotted hedge-parsley <i>Torilis nodosa</i>, fern-grass <i>Catapodium rigidum</i>, reflexed saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia distans</i> and dittander <i>Lepidium latifolium</i> have previously been recorded at the site, but were not identified in a 2014 survey. The grassland and woodland periphery habitats are important for breeding and foraging bird species. The Red List species house sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i> and song thrush are considered to breed here. These habitats also support reptiles such as slow worm, common lizard and grass snake, amphibians, and a rich assemblage of invertebrates including abundant populations of common butterfly species and yellow meadow ant.	1.9km southwest	Scoped out – >0.250 km
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