

# Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan

## Annual Report 2019



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Front cover photo: Planting trees at Langdon Park (see page 10) (Trees for Cities)

## Introduction

This is the final report on the Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for 2014-19. This LBAP was adopted by the Council's Cabinet in October 2014, to run for five years. This report covers delivery in the final year of the LBAP 2014-19, from October 2018 to September 2019 inclusive. A new LBAP for 2019-24 was approved by Cabinet in July 2019 and launched in October 2019.

The LBAP is developed and delivered by a wide range of organisations and individuals. These make up the Tower Hamlets biodiversity partnership, known as Tower Habitats. Membership of the partnership and its steering group is given on page 18 of this report.

The report provides a summary of the main achievements during the year, and some of the projects planned for the coming year (which will contribute to the new LBAP 2019-24), in each of the four Habitat Action Plans which make up the LBAP. These are built environment, gardens and grounds, rivers and standing water, and parks and open spaces. It then provides a similar summary for the promotion and monitoring of the plan. Finally, the extent to which each of the 36 objectives and targets for enhancing priority habitats and species was achieved is shown in a table, and the main reasons for success or failure, and implications for the new LBAP, are discussed.

Overall, over two-thirds of the targets were achieved, with many of these greatly exceeded. As the report demonstrates, lots of very exciting projects, which greatly enhance the borough for people as well as wildlife, have been delivered. This includes some major development schemes which demonstrate how biodiversity enhancements can be successfully achieved in, on and around new housing and commercial buildings.



Swedenborg Gardens (Michelle Lindson) see pages 10 & 13

## Built environment



Bug hotel outside the Dickens Inn (John Archer)

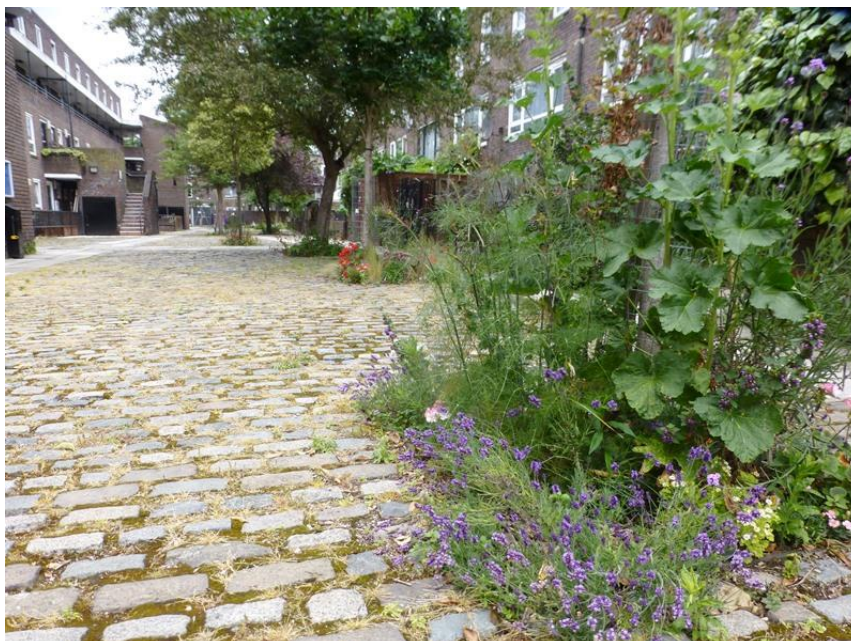
### Achievements in 2018/19

- Canary Wharf Group installed two nest boxes for Swifts in the park pavilion in Canada Square, along with a solar-powered system to play Swift calls to encourage Swifts to use the boxes.
- Phase 2 of the London City Island development was completed, creating 6295m<sup>2</sup> of biodiverse roofs, delivering half the target for open mosaic habitat, and a nest box for Peregrines on the tallest building.
- Seven further completed developments delivered an additional 2800m<sup>2</sup> of biodiverse roofs, 1 Peregrine box, 28 Swift boxes, 8 sparrow terraces, 2 Black Redstart boxes and 14 bat boxes.
- ACME Studios planted wild flowers and nectar-rich herbs in planters on the roof of their office.
- Malmesbury Residents Association planted nectar-rich flowers in beds and planters along streets on their estate, on the corner of Malmesbury Road & Coborn Road in spring 2019 and around Tom Thumb's Arch in the autumn, thanks to a Tower Habitats grant from the Tower Hill Trust.
- St Katharine Docks installed a large, purpose-built bug hotel outside the Dickens Inn (see photo above).
- Patriot Square & Mayfield House TRA created a green corridor leading from Approach Gardens through the estate, by planting along estate roads and enhancing small green spaces (see page 5).
- The Council's Clean & Green volunteers installed planters with nectar-rich flowers in Calvert Avenue, Bethnal Green Road and Driffield Road.

## Projects planned for 2019/20

- The Council's Green Team will install planters full of nectar-rich perennials along Orchard Place, Devas Street and Devons Road.
- The Council's Highways team will install extensive sustainable urban drainage systems around the junction of Cable Street and Sutton Street, with native trees and nectar-rich perennials.
- The Arboricultural Team, working with the Highways Team, will plant 300 new street trees across the Bow and Poplar areas as part of the Mayoral pledge to plant 1000 new street trees across Tower Hamlets.

### Case study: Patriot Square Green Corridor



Flowers along James Docherty Street (John Archer)

In spring 2019, Patriot Square & Mayfield House TRA completed a green corridor through the Patriot Square Estate. This is the first part of an ambitious and innovative project that seeks to create an attractive green link for people and wildlife between three of Bethnal Green's best small open spaces: Approach Gardens, Rocky Park and Bethnal Green Nature Reserve.

Immediately west of Approach Gardens, the main green of Patriot Square was little more than green desert with a path running across it. One side was a dog exercise area, the other hardly used at all. The outlook from the path has been greatly enhanced with mixed native hedges on both sides, and loads of colourful spring bulbs planted.

Beyond this, a pedestrian street between James Docherty and William Caslon Houses has been transformed with colourful, nectar-rich flowers in the tree pits, leading to more extensive nectar-rich planting on a disused area of hardstanding.

The project was funded by a Tower Habitats biodiversity grant from the Tower Hill Trust.

## Gardens and grounds



Edible Bow herb garden (John Archer)

### Achievements in 2018/19

- Public Works ran community planting days to plant nectar-rich herbs at two sites on the Old Ford Estate as part of the Edible Bow project (see photo above).
- The Council's Biodiversity Officer provided 50 bare-rooted saplings of Common Buckthorn, the caterpillar food plant of the Brimstone butterfly, to ten community groups and housing providers, who planted them on 17 sites during autumn 2018.
- EastendHomes worked with Trees for Cities and corporate volunteers to create 150m<sup>2</sup> of meadow in Swedenborg Square Orchard, and to plant bulbs to enhance 455m<sup>2</sup> of grassland on the St George's Estate.
- Tarling West TRA, Prospect Walk Allotments, St Lukes C of E Primary School, Cayley Primary School, Holland Estate Management Board, Stebon School and the E2 Collective all enhanced biodiversity in their estates, schools or gardens with the help of Tower Habitats biodiversity grants from the Tower Hill Trust (see page 7). This included nectar-rich flowers, hedges, climbers, and assorted bird, bat and insect boxes.
- Tower Hamlets Homes used Wildflower Earth to create four new meadows, totalling 360m<sup>2</sup>, on its estates, along with three orchards totalling 195m<sup>2</sup>, two new annual wild flower patches, and planting nectar-rich bulbs on seven sites to enhance 850m<sup>2</sup> of grassland.
- Eight development schemes completed during the year created a total of 500m<sup>2</sup> of meadow, 115 metres of mixed native hedge and 62m<sup>2</sup> of orchard.

## Projects planned for 2019/20

- At least eight schools and seven community groups will complete biodiversity projects funded by Tower Habitats biodiversity grants.
- Tower Hamlets Homes will complete the re-landscaping of Kingsward House open space on the Chicksand Estate, including 300m<sup>2</sup> of meadow, native trees and insect habitats.
- Malmesbury Residents Association will refurbish Ambrose Walk Garden, with wild flowers and lots of nectar-rich planting.

### Case study: Tower Habitats biodiversity grants



Community planting day at Tom Thumb's Arch (Paul Bratton)

Many of the projects listed on pages 4, 6 and 8 of this report were funded by Tower Habitats biodiversity grants from the Tower Hill Trust. This scheme offers grants of up to £2000 to schools and community groups to enhance biodiversity in school grounds, housing estates and community gardens. At least 50% of the grant must be spent on things that directly deliver Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives, such as creating ponds, wildflower meadows, mixed native hedgerows or orchards; enhancing existing grassland with wildflower plugs and/or bulbs; planting native trees (at least three species), nectar-rich and night-scented flowers and climbing plants; installing bat boxes, "sparrow terrace" nest boxes, hedgehog homes or features for invertebrates e.g. loggeries, bug houses and habitat walls. The rest of the grant can be spent on other biodiversity enhancements, and educational initiatives to study wildlife in school grounds.

The application process is fairly simple, and applications are assessed by the Tower Hill Trust's secretary with assistance from the Council's Biodiversity Officer. There are usually three deadlines for application each year, in February, June and October, but applications can be assessed at other times if necessary. See [www.towerhabitats.org/your-habitats/tower-habitats-biodiversity-grants/](http://www.towerhabitats.org/your-habitats/tower-habitats-biodiversity-grants/) for full details of how to apply.

## Rivers and standing water



Wildlife pond at Prospect Walk Allotments (John Archer)

### Achievements in 2018/19

- The Lower Regent's Coalition installed 40 metres of vegetated rafts in the Regent's Canal beside Old Ford Lock, and planted 20m<sup>2</sup> of reed bed above Ben Johnson Lock in autumn 2018, with funding from the Tower Hill Trust's main grants scheme.
- Approach Gardens, working with corporate volunteers, installed two new ponds, created by burying old sinks. These are already being used by frogs.
- Plot-holders at Prospect Walk Allotments created a wildlife pond, along with nectar-rich planting, hedge and a loggery, with a Tower Habitats grant from the Tower Hill Trust (see photo above).
- Biomatrix Water added two floating planters of native wetland vegetation to the existing planters below Ben Johnson Lock at the end of the Water City London conference.
- The Lower Regents Coalition combined with The Wildlife Gardeners of Haggerston to secure a grant from the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund, and installed 23 metres of floating ecosystems in the canal in Mile End (see page 9).
- Consortium 50 and the Burcham Street Gardeners installed a small pond in the garden of the Burcham Street Centre, along with bird, bat and insect boxes, thanks to a Tower Habitats grant from the Tower Hill Trust.



## Projects planned for 2019/20

- Winterton House Organic Gardeners will complete a raised pond surrounded by nectar-rich planting.
- The Lower Regents Coalition will plant nearly 4000 bulbs to enhance grassland and woodland along the Regents' Canal in autumn 2019.
- Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre will install a tern raft in Shadwell Basin, funded by a Tower Habitats biodiversity grant.
- Canary Wharf Group will install a habitat wall to benefit fish and aquatic invertebrates in South Dock beside the 1 Bank Street development.
- The Friends of Meath Gardens and Queen Mary University hope to adopt the section of Regent's Canal north of Mile End Road and introduce a programme of enhancements similar to that run by the Lower Regents Coalition south of Mile End Road.

### Case study: green links along the Regent's Canal



Launching the rafts (Lower Regent's Coalition)

The Lower Regent's Coalition has done great work improving wildlife habitats in its adopted section of the Regent's Canal between Limehouse Basin and Mile End Road over the last few years. The Coalition is now widening its vision, and has linked up with the Wildlife Gardeners of Haggerston, who have adopted a section of the canal further north in Hackney. The two groups aim to create a chain of diverse aquatic vegetation that will eventually connect their two patches, significantly enhancing the canal as a green corridor.

The first collaboration between the two groups was a successful joint application to the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund. This saw the two groups combine over a weekend in May 2019 to install 23 metres of floating ecosystems by the Gunmakers Arms Bridge in Mile End, followed by another 32 metres in Hackney. The rafts will improve the look of the canal, as well as providing valuable habitat for birds, aquatic invertebrates and fish. Further joint projects are expected to follow.

## Parks and open spaces



Community tree planting in Langdon Park (Trees for Cities)

### Achievements in 2018/19

- The Bromley by Bow Centre worked with the Orchard Project to plant a 250m<sup>2</sup> community orchard in Bob's Park.
- The Council's Green Team installed bird and bat boxes in Poplar Recreation Ground and Trinity Gardens.
- Re-landscaping of Paradise Gardens in Bethnal Green as part of an adjacent development included 280m<sup>2</sup> of meadow, created using Wildflower Turf.
- The Friends of Meath Gardens ran a series of community planting days to create new habitats in Meath Gardens (see page 11).
- The Council's Arboricultural Team planted three orchards in Mile End Park and another in White Horse Road Park, totalling almost 2700m<sup>2</sup>, in autumn 2018, funded through the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund and Section 106 money from the Ocean Estate.
- The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park worked with corporate volunteers to create 460m<sup>2</sup> of new flower-rich grassland and enhance around 1.7 hectares of woodland in Cemetery Park.
- Trees for Cities ran two community planting days in spring 2019, planting a 3000m<sup>2</sup> orchard of 20 fruit trees in Victoria Park, and 16 trees, mostly native species, in Langdon Park (see photo above).
- Crossrail installed two pictorial meadows (one perennial, the other annual) in Stepney Green Park as part of the restoration works of the area used for a works depot.
- The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park enhanced over 1000m<sup>2</sup> of grassland and 425m<sup>2</sup> of woodland in Swedenborg Gardens and Shandy Park through their Nature and Us project (see page 13).

## Projects planned for 2019/20

- The Council's Green Team will create a new meadow in Poplar Recreation Ground, a mixed native hedge in Mile End Park and a large flower bed of nectar-rich perennials in Dockers Tanner Open Space.
- The Council's Arboricultural Team, working with the Parks Service, will plant 11 native trees to extend Haverfield Woodland Walk in Mile End Park as part of the Woodland Trust's "Big Climate Fightback".
- Trees for Cities will run community planting days to plant native trees and bulbs in Jolly's Green and Langdon Park.
- The Council's Arboricultural Team, working with the Parks Service and local community, will plant native trees and an orchard in Ion Square Gardens and Stonebridge Wharf.
- The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park will enhance around 3000m<sup>2</sup> of grassland in Shandy Park with wildflower plugs, seeds and bulbs as a follow up to the Nature and Us project.
- The Council's Arboricultural Team will plant about 15 Black Poplars in Victoria Park, Mile End Park, Meath Gardens and Ion Square Gardens in autumn/winter 2019.

### Case study: transforming Meath Gardens



Meath Gardens volunteers (Friends of Meath Gardens)

Between November 2018 and February 2019, the Friends of Meath Gardens held a series of community planting days, with volunteers planting an astonishing 59 trees, 790 shrubs and 8500 bulbs to create and enhance wildlife habitats in the park. This created 450 metres of mixed native hedge, around almost the whole perimeter of Meath Gardens, and 700m<sup>2</sup> of orchard, as well as enhancing about 1000m<sup>2</sup> of woodland. This wonderful joint effort has been recognised with a Green Flag Award, a Community Tree Planting Award from the Forestry Commission, and a Tower Hamlets in Bloom Award of Excellence for Community Engagement and Participation.

The Friends aren't finished with their plans to transform Meath Gardens into one of the best places in the borough to enjoy nature. Forthcoming plans include a sizeable new wild flower meadow, as well as installing bird and bat boxes, and planting a Black Polar to replace the ancient tree which sadly died recently.

## Action plan promotion and monitoring



Small Blue at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (Mathew Frith)

### Achievements in 2018/19

- A new Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan was developed and adopted by the Mayor in Cabinet in July 2019. The new LBAP will run from October 2019 to September 2024 inclusive.
- The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park joined London's team for City Nature Challenge, an international competition between cities to find the most wildlife across the city over a four-day period in April 2019. London's entry was led by the Natural History Museum, and the Friends contributed with a range of activities, such as moth trapping, birdwatching, minibeast hunts and guided walks, in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Swedenborg Gardens and Shandy Park.
- The Biodiversity Officer commented on around 190 planning applications during the year, ensuring that almost all of these will provide biodiversity enhancements.
- The importance of biodiversity is recognised in the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2021. It is one of five key themes under "Clean and Green" strategic outcome. It is monitored through four strategic measures: area of priority habitat created or enhanced; area of biodiverse green roofs; proportion of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in active management; and number of biodiversity enhancement projects involving residents, community groups and volunteers.
- The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park completed their Nature and Us community cohesion project (see page 13).
- The regular butterfly transect surveys, conducted at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park by Terry Lyle, proved that the nationally rare Small Blue is breeding in the park, its only inner London site (see photo above).

## Projects planned for 2019/20

- The Mayor will launch the new Local Biodiversity Action Plan in early October 2019.
- The Tower Hill Trust will continue to provide Tower Habitats biodiversity grants, and plans to add a larger biodiversity grant to the scheme.
- The Council's Parks Service will introduce new wildlife-themed interpretation signs in a number of parks.

### Case study: Nature and Us



Wildflower training in Swedenborg Gardens (Michelle Lindson)

Throughout the year, the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park delivered Nature and Us, a community cohesion project funded by the Council. Its aim was to bring the community together using nature as a focus, in two parts of the borough: Aldgate East, Whitechapel and Shadwell, based around Swedenborg Gardens; and Mile End and Stepney, based around Shandy Park. The project has sought to enhance green spaces for people to enjoy, develop people's skills in local nature and deliver fun nature-based activities. A series of events, including bulb planting, minibeast hunts, natural arts and crafts, and courses to improve people's nature-based skills, were free and open to all who live, work or study in the areas listed above.

From a biodiversity point of view, the project has enhanced about 1200m<sup>2</sup> of grassland and over 450m<sup>2</sup> of woodland in the two parks, as well as confirming the presence of bats in Swedenborg Gardens.

Nature and Us has also been a great success as a community cohesion project. When the project started, people were reluctant to visit the parks, and Swedenborg Gardens in particular suffered badly from anti-social behaviour. But developing partnerships with local organisations and listening to the needs of local residents has led to well-attended events, project staff being recognised and greeted by dog walkers, elderly residents and other park users, and a definite decrease in drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. Though the project funding has now ended, the Friends of THCP intend to maintain links with both parks, and have found funding for more biodiversity enhancements in Shandy Park in the coming year.

## Performance against objectives and targets

The final achievement against all the enhancement objectives and targets in the LBAP 2014-19 is summarised in Table 1 below. Objectives to maintain existing features are not included in the table.

Objectives are colour-coded as follows:

Green – target achieved

Yellow – target missed (50% or more achieved)

Amber – target missed (10-49.9% achieved)

Red – target missed (under 10% achieved)

**Table 1: Performance against LBAP 2014-19 targets**

Objective	Target	Units	Total completed	Total identified but not completed	Failed to identify	% completed	% identified
Grassland enhanced	1.0	hectares	1.4	0.5	0	139.4	187.9
New meadow	1.0	hectares	1.3	1.6	0	125.5	281.2
New chalk meadow	none	hectares	0.13	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Restore chalk grassland	0.25	hectares	0	0.08	0.17	0.0	30.0
New Open Mosaic Habitat	1.00	hectares	3.4	3.4	0	337.7	674.2
Woodland enhanced	5.00	hectares	4.5	0.2	0.3	90.0	93.4
New native woodland	0.20	hectares	0.8	0.005	0	397.2	399.7
New orchard	0.50	hectares	0.9	0.3	0	177.9	228.1
New hedge	0.50	kilometres	1.6	1.5	0	306.1	604.1
River enhanced	0.20	kilometres	0.25	0.36	0	122.5	302.5
Canal enhanced	0.25	kilometres	1.4	0.35	0	558.0	699.2
Dock enhanced	5	sites	5	4	0	100.0	180.0
New pond	5	ponds	17	6	0	340.0	460.0
Reed bed enhanced	0.10	hectares	0.02	0	0.08	19.2	19.2
New reed bed	0.25	hectares	0.04	0.06	0.15	16.2	41.2
Bat box	20	sites	46	66	0	230.0	560.0
Night-scented plants	none	sites	13	19	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hedgehog home	none	sites	3	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Otter holts	2	sites	1	0	1	50.0	50.0

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Black redstart box	5	sites	<b>10</b>	21	0	200.0	620.0
Tern rafts	10	rafts	<b>3</b>	9	0	30.0	120.0
Artificial House Martin nests	5	sites	<b>4</b>	5	0	80.0	180.0
Sparrow terrace	20	sites	<b>24</b>	58	0	120.0	410.0
New dense climbers	none	sites	<b>17</b>	26	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kingfisher bank	3	banks	<b>3</b>	5	0	100.0	266.7
Peregrine box	5	sites	<b>4</b>	8	0	80.0	220.0
Sand Martin bank	3	banks	<b>1</b>	4	0	33.3	166.7
Swift box	15	sites	<b>22</b>	45	0	146.7	446.7
Terrestrial habitat around pond	none	sites	<b>10</b>	7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eel pass	1	sites	<b>0</b>	0	1	0.0	0.0
Plant buckthorn	25	sites	<b>33</b>	12	0	132.0	184.0
Plant birdsfoot trefoil	10	sites	<b>38</b>	41	0	380.0	790.0
Plant nectar-rich flowers	50	sites	<b>230</b>	128	0	460.0	716.0
Bee box/insect hotel	20	sites	<b>27</b>	53	0	135.0	400.0
Loggery	15	sites	<b>29</b>	31	0	193.3	400.0
Plant black poplar	25	trees	<b>48</b>	17	0	192.0	260.0

## Summary of achievements

A huge amount has been delivered for priority habitats and species over the five years of the LBAP. In total, almost 13 hectares of priority habitat has been created or enhanced, and over 400 boxes and other structures have been installed to provide nesting or roosting opportunities for priority mammals, birds and insects. As well as benefitting biodiversity, this has made parks, housing estates, community gardens, schools and streets throughout Tower Hamlets more attractive places for people, with colourful flowers, trees and more wildlife to enjoy.

These enhancements have been delivered by around 420 projects (including 80 completed development schemes), of which 214 involved community groups, local residents or volunteers. A further 250 or so projects (including around 170 development schemes with planning permission) are in the process of being delivered and will contribute to the 2019-24 LBAP.

All of this has been achieved thanks to the contribution of a wide range of partners, indicating that Tower Habitats is a thriving biodiversity partnership. Not counting those involved only as developers implementing planning consents, at least 54 organisations were directly involved in project delivery. These include the Council, London Legacy Development Corporation, six social housing providers, 21 local community groups, six larger charities, 13 schools, two churches and four businesses. Numerous other businesses contributed through corporate volunteering days. Another key partner is the Tower Hill Trust, which funded at least 30 projects, mostly through the Tower Habitats biodiversity grants scheme.

Turning to the specific objectives and targets in the LBAP, over two-thirds of the targets were met (21 out of 31). Many of these were greatly exceeded, with over three times the target delivered for seven objectives. Of the ten targets missed, three were very narrowly missed, but less than 50% of the target was achieved for six objectives.

The reasons why these targets were missed are discussed below. It should be borne in mind, however, that this was the first time that specific targets had been set for most of the LBAP objectives, and hence a large element of informed guesswork was involved in setting them. It is, therefore, perhaps not surprising that some targets were greatly exceeded and others missed. The lessons learned from this LBAP have been taken into account in the setting of targets in the 2019-24 LBAP.

Grassland-related projects were far more numerous than those for any other habitat, with 45 completed meadow creation projects (including eight chalk meadows) and 59 grassland enhancement projects. The largest areas of new meadow were created in the Olympic Canal Park, Meath Gardens, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Queen Mary University of London and Goodmans Fields. Significant areas of grassland enhancement took place at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Mudchute, Swedenborg Gardens, Shandy Park and on Tower Hamlets Homes and EastendHomes estates.

Almost no progress was made towards the target to restore chalk grassland at Mudchute. This was due to underestimating the difficulty of restoring



grassland at Mudchute. The steep, uneven slopes have proven very difficult for people to work on, or even for farm animals to graze safely.

All of the new open mosaic habitat was created on biodiverse roofs, with 45 completed development schemes contributing to the target. The largest areas were at London City Island, Goodmans Fields, Ocean Estate, St Paul's Way, Leopold Estate, St Clement's Hospital, Stainsby Road and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, all of which included over 1000m<sup>2</sup> of biodiverse roof.

Seven projects created new native woodland, with significant areas planted at Jolly's Green, Allen Gardens, Meath Gardens and London City Island. A further 35 projects enhanced existing woodland, mostly in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Mile End Park and Mudchute – hardly surprising given that these sites contain a very large proportion of the borough's woodland.

The target for woodland enhancement was very narrowly missed, despite almost half the woodland in the borough (4.5 of 9.6 hectares) being enhanced during the five years of the LBAP. The target will be reduced for the 2019-24 LBAP.

New orchards were planted by 16 projects, with the largest areas in Victoria and Mile End Parks. 26 projects planted mixed native hedges, with the longest being in Meath Gardens, Patriot Square and Woolmore and St Luke's Schools.

All the river enhancements were undertaken in Bow Creek around the London City Island development. Canal enhancements were included in 14 projects along the Regent's Canal, Limehouse Cut, Lea Navigation and Wapping Ornamental Canal. The five docks enhanced were Millwall Inner Dock, South Dock and the three basins of St Katharine Docks.

Of the 17 new ponds, six were in Bethnal Green Nature Reserve, six in community gardens, two in schools and three in new developments.

There were seven reed bed creation projects and one enhancing an existing reed bed. All of these were along the Regent's Canal, Lea Navigation and Limehouse Cut. Both reed bed targets were missed by a long way. This was largely due to simple overestimate of the opportunities for reed bed creation, and the generally good condition of the borough's small area of existing reed beds.

Most of the targets relating to priority species were met, with features for birds, bats and insects delivered in a wide variety of places, many of them through new developments. Of the targets that were missed, sufficient tern rafts, Peregrine boxes, Sand Martin banks and artificial House Martin nests to meet the targets were secured through the development management process, but the developments were not completed in time to contribute to the 2014-19 LBAP.

The final two targets which will be missed are those for Otter holts and an Eel pass. These are most likely to be delivered by new development. One artificial Otter holt has been created in Bow Creek at London City Island, but no opportunities were found for a second holt or an Eel pass. Efforts will continue to be made to find opportunities for these during the implementation of the 2019-24 LBAP.

## Tower Habitats partners

A great many organisations and individuals have contributed to the development and delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and together make up Tower Habitats, the biodiversity partnership for Tower Hamlets. They include Tower Hamlets Council, Approach Gardens, Bethnal Green Nature Reserve Trust, Cable Street Community Gardens, Canal & River Trust, Canary Wharf Group plc, Clarion Housing Group, EastendHomes, East London Business Alliance, Friends of Mile End Park, Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Froglife, Gateway Housing Association, Grass Roof Company, Greening Brownfield Community Garden, Greenspace Information for Greater London, London Bat Group, London Beekeepers' Association, London Natural History Society, Lower Regents Coalition, Malmesbury Residents Association, Mudchute Park & Farm, Nomad Projects Ltd, Parish of Poplar, Peabody Housing Association, Poplar HARCA, Queen Mary University of London, Spitalfields City Farm, Stepney City Farm, Swift Conservation, Teesdale & Hollybush TRA, Thames21, Tower Hamlets Community Housing, Tower Hamlets Homes, Tower Hill Trust, Trees for Cities, Wen, Winterton House Organic Garden and local residents.

### Steering Group membership

The following people are members of the partnership's Steering Group at the time of publication of this report (January 2020):

John Archer (LBTH Biodiversity Officer, Chair)  
John Swindells (local resident, Vice-Chair)  
Adam Armstrong (LBTH Senior Arboricultural Officer)  
Kristina Arsenievich (Canary Wharf Contractors)  
Allan Cousens (local resident)  
Sam Dundas-Dunbar (LBTH Clean & Green Volunteer Co-ordinator)  
John Bryden (Thames21)  
Tom Davis (Mudchute Association)  
Ken Greenway (Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park)  
Michael Hime (LBTH Green Team)  
Matus Holecko (Tower Hamlets Homes)  
Kristina Jansons-Binns (Trees for Cities)  
Abidah Kamali (LBTH Business Assurance Team)  
Ellie Kuper Thomas (LB Tower Hamlets Strategic Planning)  
Terry Lyle (Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park)  
Joanna Milewska & Tunde Morakinyo (Friends of Meath Gardens)  
Sue-Jane O'Keefe (Gateway Housing Association)  
Cath Patrick (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority)  
Matthew Quin (LBTH Public Health Team)  
Mohammed Raja (LBTH Parks)  
Clare Richmond (LBTH Environmental Impact Assessment Officer)  
Felicity Scott (Poplar HARCA)  
Jonathan Taylor (LBTH Sustainable Development Team)  
Matthew Twohig (LBTH Green Team)  
Selina Uddin (East London Business Alliance)  
Paul Wilson (EastendHomes)

The following additional people were also members of the partnership's Steering Group during part of the period covered by this report: Klaudija Alasauskaite, Danny Tompkins.

**The Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan is led by the Biodiversity Officer in the Council's Sustainable Development Team. For more information contact John Archer (phone 020 7364 7478 or e-mail [john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk))**