

Appendix 7.3 Summary of Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance within 2km of the Site

Site name, designation and status (information on statutory sites is derived from the Magic website and information on non-statutory site is provided by GiGL)	Reasons (where know) for designation	Proximity to application site
Statutory sites		
Hampstead Heath Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), ancient woodland	<p>"Hampstead Heath Woods are examples of long-established high forest woodlands with an exceptional structure comprising an abundance of old and over-mature trees providing dead wood habitat for a range of invertebrate species. The site also includes an adjacent small valley containing an acid flush with developing bog-moss communities.</p> <p>The woods, comprising North Wood and the much larger Ken Wood to the south, lie of the upper slopes of Hampstead heath where a residual capping of Bagshot Sands overlies the Claygate Beds. These give rise to acidic sand and loam-based soils which are generally free-draining, although, localised impedance occurs particularly in the small valleys.</p> <p>The sandy soils of the Bagshot Beds on the upper slope of North Wood and to the south of Ken Wood support stands of acid sessile oak-beech woodland, an uncommon stand-type in Greater London. Lower down on the sandy loam-based soils of the Claygate Beds, and particularly in a series of minor valleys where the drainage is poor the stands grade into sessile oak woodland.</p> <p>The canopy of both woods is heavily dominated by sessile oak and beech although pendunculate oak occurs occasionally and wild service tree, a species associated with ancient woodland rarely. In open areas where trees have fallen young downy birch is frequent.</p> <p>The shrub layer is dominated by holly with rowan, hazel and the locally abundant introduced shrubs rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> and cherry laurel. This frequently dense understorey coupled with the acidic soils produces a typically limited ground flora which is dominated by bramble and bracken. Other species recorded include bluebell and species indicating long-established woodland such as wood anemone and pignut.</p> <p>Adjacent to Ken Wood is a small valley containing an acidic flush dominated by soft rush and bog-moss species. Six bog-mosses have been recorded and water horsetail, a species scarce in Greater London, is also present. The drier fringes of the flush are dominated by grasses such as common bent, creeping soft-grass and tufted hair-grass with scattered silver birch and alder.</p> <p>The abundance of over-mature trees with decaying heartwood and dead standing and fallen timber provides suitable conditions for a specialist invertebrate fauna. Several beetles which are dependent on dead wood have been recorded here, including rare jewel beetle whose larvae develop in and under the bark of oak. This species is rare in Britain and is listed as vulnerable in the British Red Data Book". [description from SSSI citation]</p>	Hampstead Heath Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), ancient woodland
Belsize Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) This site is also a Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: Ca BII01)	<p>"This Local Nature Reserve is a reserve of two halves. The northern end allows public access and is thus (because of trampling) poorly vegetated at ground level. . Ash, sycamore and Swedish whitebeam are the most common canopy trees in the north. The understorey is chiefly hawthorn and elder. Ivy dominates the ground flora, sometimes climbing high up tall trees. The whole of this area is in deep shade.</p> <p>There is a noticeable difference in the southern half of the reserve where people are generally not admitted. The area is relatively species rich. The canopy has been opened up and new native plantings undertaken. Here, ash is joined by a variety of trees including oak, wild cherry and horse chestnut. Because of the more open canopy and lack of trampling, the ground flora is well established, and includes butcher's broom, enchanter's nightshade, nettle, cow parsley, hedge woundwort, wood avens, ivy and ground ivy. The understorey it mostly composed of elder, hawthorn, buddleia, dogwood and elm.</p> <p>The site regularly hosts numbers of common birds such as great tit, wren, robin and blackbird". [description from LNR/SINC citation]</p>	Belsize Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) This site is also a Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: Ca BII01)
Parkland Walk Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	<p>"The predominant habitat at Parkland Walk is secondary woodland. A large area of naturalised wild plum is present in the Islington section of Parkland Walk. English elm is occasionally present and most abundant in the Islington section.</p> <p>The Islington stretch is also very important for a range of wildlife and includes the borough's only area of acidic grassland which is home to several rare plants and insects". [description from LNR citation]</p>	Parkland Walk Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Queen's Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR), ancient woodland	<p>"The wood is an ancient oak-hornbeam woodland. English oak and occasional beech stand above hornbeam, midland hawthorn, hazel, mountain ash, field maple, cherry, holly and both species of lowland birch.</p> <p>The ground flora is particularly rich for somewhere so close to central London. It includes a large population of wood anemone, native bluebells, wood goldilocks and a thriving population of wood sorrel.</p> <p>Over one hundred species of spiders have been spotted and a nationally rare jewel beetle is widespread". [description from LNR citation]</p>	Queen's Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR), ancient woodland
Non-statutory sites (listed in order of proximity to Proposed Development)		

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Hampstead Heath Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: M072)	"Just over six kilometres from central London, this extensive site is well known for its unique mix of semi-natural and formal habitats. Ancient woodlands contain an exceptional number of old and over-mature trees, providing dead wood habitat for a range of specialist invertebrates, including the nationally rare jewel beetle <i>Agrilus pannonicus</i> . Another important habitat is the small wet flush (or bog) containing several species of bog-mosses (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp) and water horsetail (<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>), all very rare in London. Acid grassland occurs on the upper slopes, supporting heath bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>), pill sedge (<i>Carex pilulifera</i>), pignut (<i>Conopodium majus</i>) and other characteristic plants. In several places heathland restoration is being attempted, using heathers (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> , <i>Erica</i> spp.). Relict heathland invertebrates include the tube-web spider (<i>Atypus affinis</i>) at its only known London site. The many ponds and watercourses on the site are of further botanical, entomological and ornithological interest. Other rare plants include creeping willow (<i>Salix repens</i>), lemon-scented fern (<i>Oreopteris limbosperma</i>) and hard fern (<i>Blechnum spicant</i>). One of north London's most popular open spaces, the Heath has been skillfully managed to integrate wildlife and recreation over the last decade. Owned by the City of London with the exception of the Kenwood Estate, which is owned by English Heritage; part Site of Special Scientific Interest". [description from SINC citation]	The Site falls within this SMI
Kentish Town City Farm, Gospel Oak Railsides and Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: CaBI04)	"The railsides of the complex junction at Gospel Oak support a mosaic of habitats. Sizeable blocks of secondary woodland, dominated by sycamore and silver birch are interspersed with scrub, grassland and tall herbs. Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve is managed by the London Wildlife Trust. It is mostly sycamore woodland, though a wide range of native trees and shrubs have been planted, as have bluebells and other woodland flowers. Kentish Town City Farm has a good wildlife garden with a pond planted with native marginal plants such as reed sweet-grass, yellow iris and water mint. This is home to a healthy population of common frogs. Most of the hedges and trees planted on site are native species although self-established sycamore is quite common. There are sheep-grazed pastures with plants of disturbed ground at their edges. The farm has an excellent bog-garden where insectivorous plants have grown, including all three native species of sundew. A new area of land has recently been leased to the farm, 'Kiln Place Embankment'. This is covered chiefly in tall herbs typical of wastelands. A few scattered trees also occur (mostly sycamore). The farm is a good place to see butterflies and one of the few places in Camden that still supports a healthy population of house sparrows". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 150m south
Holly Lodge Gardens Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: CaL01)	"The site consists of two formally managed parkland areas separated by a wide wooded avenue of mature common lime and other (mostly non-native) trees. A variety of native shrubs and wild flowers can be found beneath the trees, including elder, wood avens, enchanter's nightshade and foxglove". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 350m east
Bishops Wood Ancient woodland	No further information available	Approximately 420m north west
Highgate Cemetery Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: M088)	"This site comprises the paired Victorian cemeteries at Highgate, of great historic and cultural interest. Secondary woodland of ash and sycamore has become established amongst the ornate tombs and mausolea, and the stonework supports a diversity of lichens, ferns and mosses. A rich assemblage of plants, invertebrates and birds occurs in the woodland and glades, including many unusual species for this central location. Examples include great horsetail, prickly sedge and the nationally scarce ivy broomrape; spotted flycatcher and willow warbler. The nationally scarce liverwort <i>Luisier's</i> tufa-moss has recently been found here at its easternmost site in the UK". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 550m east
Branch Hill Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: CaBI02)	"Branch Hill consists of several individual blocks of woodland, interposed with small areas of grassland. It also incorporates the private grounds of three large houses: Coombe Lodge, Oak Hill House and Heysham House. Branch Hill Allotments are also included in the site. The largest individual block of woodland is Oak Hill Wood, this is secondary woodland which includes sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, sycamore, oak, white poplar, common lime and holly. Other species have colonised, including silver birch, downy birch, elm, ash and elder. Connected to Oak Hill Wood by wide wooded avenues of common lime, poplar and yew is a smaller area of woodland and scrub in the north-west corner of the site. To the south is the wooded ground of Oak Hill House (mostly composed of sycamore and oak). To the north east is another large house and wooded grounds and a high density of mature trees. This connects with the private wood area (chiefly composed of sycamore, oak, yew and lime) aside Firecrest Drive. Adjacent to Frognaal Rise and Oak Hill Way are the well-used Branch Hill Allotments". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 600m west
Highgate Golf Course Site Borough Grade II of Importance for Nature Conservation Site Ref: HgBII08)	"The grasslands are only moderately diverse, but contain a few plants indicative of acid or wet grasslands. There is a small woodland of oak, birch and sycamore, and trees scattered throughout the golf course include hornbeam, rowan, poplar and oak". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 700m north

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Waterlow Park Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: CaBI03)	"The park has a good variety of habitats. There are three spring-fed ponds with overhanging trees and shrubs. Marginal plants include great willowherb, jointed rush, water figwort and bittersweet. Waterfowl present include coot, moorhen, mallard, mute swan, tufted duck and Canada goose. Beside the smallest of the ponds, to the north, is an area of damp grassland. Here marsh foxtail, floating sweet-grass, hairy sedge, creeping buttercup and common sorrel occur. Beneath this damp grassland is an area of waste ground, a result of placed pond dredgings over an old council yard. A flora composed of tall herbs, ruderal and ephemerals and neutral grassland is present. Plants include fool's parsley, scarlet pimpernel, mugwort, wild turnip, shepherd's purse, great willowherb, hoary cress, annual mercury and various goosefoots. The park has a number of specimen trees, which include some fine copper beeches, maidenhair tree, Indian bean tree, oak, ash and crack willow, and extensive dense planted shrubberies. Birds to be found here include nuthatch, kestrel and goldcrest". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 800m east
Dartmouth Park Hill and Reservoir Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: IsBI01)	"Part of this Victorian covered reservoir, originally built in 1855, has been managed as open space by Islington Council since 1972. A variety of grassland communities is present here, which grade from neutral to acidic types. Locally uncommon plants include burnet saxifrage, grey sedge, sheep's and common sorrels and field wood-rush. Associated fauna includes the small copper butterfly, which feeds on the sorrels. Scrub on the western and southern banks of the reservoir is composed mainly of non-native species". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 950m east
Yeatman Road Allotments Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: HgL19)	"All allotments in Haringey have been identified as being of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. Allotments provide a valuable resource for wildlife, as well as giving contact with the natural world for allotment holders. They can support important populations of amphibians and reptiles, especially slow worms and grass snakes (grass snakes are known from at least two allotment sites in the north of the borough), as well as birds, mammals and invertebrates. Yeatman Road Allotments are generally well used. The few disused plots support rough grassland and bramble scrub, and a diverse range of 'weeds' manage to survive among the cultivation". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 975m north
Parkland Walk Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	"The predominant habitat at Parkland Walk is secondary woodland. A large area of naturalised wild plum is present in the Islington section of Parkland Walk. English elm is occasionally present and most abundant in the Islington section. The Islington stretch is also very important for a range of wildlife and includes the borough's only area of acidic grassland which is home to several rare plants and insects". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 1.5km north east
Queen's Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR), ancient woodland	"The wood is an ancient oak-hornbeam woodland. English oak and occasional beech stand above hornbeam, midland hawthorn, hazel, mountain ash, field maple, cherry, holly and both species of lowland birch. The ground flora is particularly rich for somewhere so close to central London. It includes a large population of wood anemone, native bluebells, wood goldilocks and a thriving population of wood sorrel. Over one hundred species of spiders have been spotted and a nationally rare jewel beetle is widespread". [description from SINC citation]	Approximately 1.7km north east
Hampstead Parish Churchyard Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: CaBI08)	"This churchyard contains a number of fine mature trees including yew, horse chestnut, holm oak and sycamore, and dense planted shrubberies. The grassland is interesting. In addition, to perennial rye-grass,, sweet vernal-grass, field wood-rush and sheep's sorrel are present. This is indicative of old slightly acidic meadowland. There are patches of diverse and well-established tall herbaceous vegetation, which includes both native species and exotic ones planted on graves. Some of the older tombstones, particularly those composed of limestone, have covering of various mosses and lichens, as well as a number of types of fern including hart's tongue and the uncommon lady fern". [description from SINC citation]	1km west
Turner's Wood Ancient woodland, Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation (Site Ref: BaBII24)	"This small ancient wood, very close to Hampstead Heath, is owned and managed as a bird sanctuary by residents of the surrounding properties. The canopy is dominated by sessile oak, suggesting acidic soils. Other trees include pendunculate oak, hornbeam, sycamore, beech and downy birch. A particularly diverse shrub layer includes common and Midland hawthorns, rowan, wild service tree, hazel, wild cherry, holly, elder and yes. There are also a few ornamental species, reflecting past management as a Victorian woodland pleasure garden. The ground flora is dominated by bramble and bracken, with carpets of native and hybrid bluebells in spring. Other woodland wild flowers include wood anemone, ramsons, foxglove and enchanter's nightshade. Breeding birds include tawny owl, nuthatch, coal tit and green and great spotted woodpeckers. A good range of mammals includes hedgehog, field vole, woodmouse and bats". [description from SINC citation]	1km north west