

## Did you know?

- Brockwell Park is the second largest public open space in the Borough of Lambeth and contains a wide variety of buildings, features and facilities, many of which provide homes or 'habitats' to numerous different wild plants and animals.



- Whilst many wildlife habitats, plants and animals in Brockwell Park are common across London, many others are not as they are becoming increasingly rare, isolated or threatened by development, pollution or loss of original habitat.



- Because of its long history and 120 years as a public park, it contains an incredible diversity of large and old trees which provide valuable habitat for important protected animals like bats, owls and stag beetles as well as many types of fungi and lichens.

- Brockwell Park is a Borough Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), making it one of the topmost wildlife sites in Lambeth and across the whole of London.

- Brockwell Park's current status recognises the value of its local wildlife and also the many opportunities it provides for people from across Lambeth and London to enjoy throughout the seasonal changes.

- There's plenty of wildlife to see in Brockwell Park and, whether you're an expert or a keen learner, or alone or as part of a guided walk, you'll always find something new and exciting.



- Please tell us if you make any new wildlife discoveries in Brockwell Park! We depend on you to keep our records up to date and to ensure that we can manage the park sensitively to protect it for those using it today as well as in future.

## Brockwell Park wildlife trail

Introduction to the wildlife of Brockwell Park

For more information on Brockwell Park, its restoration and management, please contact Lambeth Council on **020 7926 9000** or at **[parks@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:parks@lambeth.gov.uk)**. To find out more about Brockwell Park, including downloading a copy of this and other guides, please go to the Lambeth Council website at **[www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)**

Brockwell Park is one of London's greatest and most loved public parks, containing not just some fantastic views across the city but also popular features including a walled garden, ponds and a range of sports and play facilities. The park has recently been restored with funding including from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), The Big Lottery and the London Borough of Lambeth, in partnership with Brockwell Park Community Partners and a wide range of other stakeholders. The objective has been to provide residents and visitors with a park that is safe, welcoming and sustainable, and meets the needs and aspirations of both present and future generations.

### Acknowledgements

The following organisations have contributed to not only the production of this guide, but also the management of Brockwell Park to conserve its many wild plants and animals and promote it as a place for everybody to see and enjoy wildlife throughout the year.

Friends of  
Brockwell Park



Brockwell Park  
Community  
Greenhouses  
Registered Charity No. 1140290

Brockwell  
Park Community  
Partners



# Description of key points of interest

## 1 Formal beds and buildings

Old buildings like Brockwell Hall, along with the surrounding formal bedding, hedges and shrubs provide important habitat for many nesting birds and other animals like beetles and moths.



## 2 Tree glades

Glades contain scattered trees including English oak and horse chestnut, and if you sit on one of the benches facing the glade listen for the songs of different types of birds. Old tree stumps are great nesting spots for birds like little owl which flies during the day and feeds on insects and reptiles.

## 3 Meadow grassland

Meadow grassland contains more species of wild plant than close-mown amenity grassland because it's managed differently by being mown less regularly and not treated with fertilisers. This means it's much richer in wildlife, providing food and shelter for numerous insects like butterflies, moths and birds such as starlings.



## 4 Walled and community garden

The walled garden is filled with wild or ornamental plants whose brightly coloured, scented flowers attract pollinating insects like honey and bumble bees, butterflies and moths. The vegetated walls and planted fruit trees in the community greenhouses encourage birds and bats which can be seen flying at dusk.



## 5 Ponds

The ponds are home to other different types of wildlife including marginal plants, water birds like herons and fish such as crucian carp. The abundance of insects around the ponds attracts bats and swifts which skim the water surface to feed on them.



## 6 Open fields

Crows and starlings gather in huge numbers on open fields foraging for worms and grubs under rich soils and grass which also play home to fungi like field mushrooms and hardy little plants like daisy, buttercup and plantain.

## 7 Hedges and green corridors

Birds, bats and small mammals like field voles and shrews don't like being out in the open, vulnerable to predators like foxes and kestrels. Instead they use long linear features like hedges or lines of trees as 'corridors' to move safely around the park.



## 8 Woodlands

Woodlands provide a shady refuge containing trees like oak, horse chestnut, London plane, ash and hornbeam. Walk through the woods looking for birds like green woodpecker which forage on the ground or feed and nest in the trees. Dead wood is retained on site to encourage fungi and wood-dwelling animals like stag beetles.



## 9 Copses

Copses like this contain large old oak trees – perfect habitat for animals like grey squirrels and woodpeckers, as well as night flying bats and owls. Long grass and lying dead wood provides plenty of food and shelter for beetles, fungi and moths.



## 10 Wet grassland

This area is often wet or waterlogged due to heavy clay soils and water running off the surrounding hills, once captured by the River Effra which now runs underneath the park. Water-loving trees like alder and willow and grasses typical of wet meadows tend to flourish here.