Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
the capital's environmental records centre

Delivering a Biodiversity Audit for South Kensington's Culture Quarter

By Becky Garden
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Who We Are

Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC is London's Local Environmental Records Centre.

ALERC Association of Local Environmental Records Centres

CERTIFIED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE • BUSINESS FOR GOOD •

NBN MEMBER

Data	Information & Answers
Species	Reporting & Data Visualisation
Habitats	Data Analysis & Interpretation
Green Infrastructure	Survey & Recording Support
Protected Sites	Advice & Consultancy

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https://www.gigl.org.uk/

Find us on:

SOUTH KEN CULTURE QUARTER

A partnership of 22 iconic institutions in the Exhibition Road area of London.

The **South Kensington Zero Emissions Nature Positive** programme was formed to help create a greener, more sustainable and more nature-positive area.

SOUTH KEN ZEN+

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https://www.southkenzen.org/



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https://www.southkenzen.org/

The Need for a Biodiversity Audit

2024 Stakeholder Engagement Study

38 suggested project ideas from the public



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Recommendation for a Biodiversity Audit



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- An evidence base for decision making
- Visual outputs to present to the community
- Simple representation of key risks/opportunities for funding applications & business buy-in

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Biodiversity Audit & Data Gathering

Data already held by GiGL

Type	Data Provider	Date
Habitats & GI	The Royal Parks	2025
Habitats & GI	Kensington & Chelsea	2013
Habitats & GI	Natural History Museum	2011
Habitats & GI	Westminster	2002
Habitats & GI	TfL	2025
Open spaces	Westminster	2022
Open spaces	Kensington & Chelsea	2011
Trees	The Royal Parks	2024
Trees	Kensington & Chelsea	2023
Trees	Westminster	2024
Green Cover	Greater London Authority	2024
Tree Canopy	Greater London Authority	2024
Flood Risk	Environment Agency	2025

Updates & new data

Type	Data Provider	Date
Habitats & GI	Science Museum	2025
Habitats & GI	Natural History Museum	2025
Habitats & GI	Imperial College	2021
Habitats & GI	Sugi Pocket Forests	2026
Open spaces	Kensington & Chelsea	2022
Trees	Imperial College	2025
Trees	Natural History Museum	2025
Trees	Kensington & Chelsea	2025
Trees	Science Museum	2025

Top species record providers:

Natural History Museum

THE ROYAL PARKS

LNHS

iRecord

iNaturalistUK

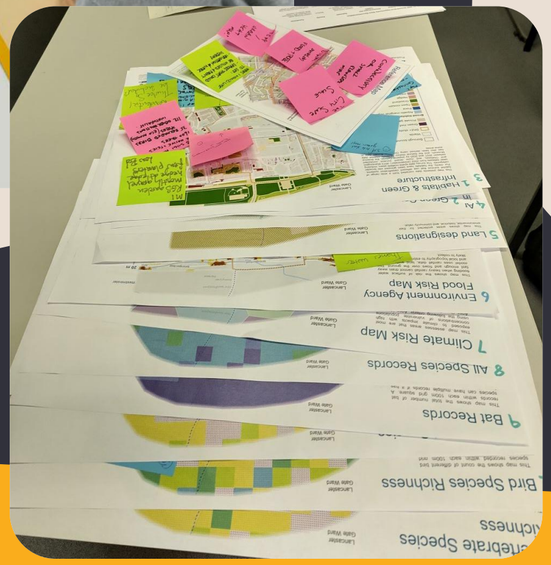
Bat Conservation Trust

Butterfly Conservation

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Biodiversity Baseline Workshop







© South Ken Culture Quarter

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The Maps

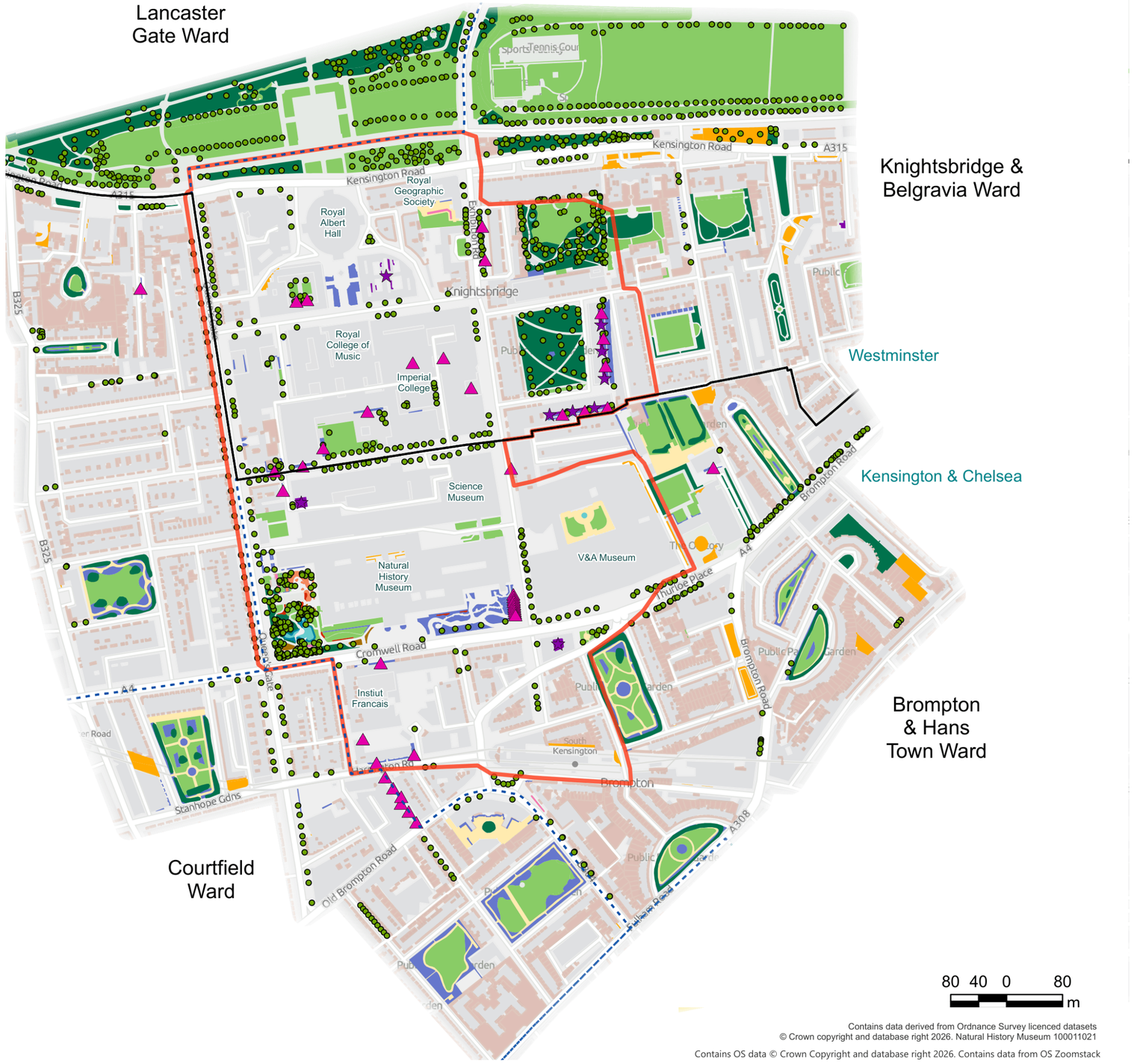
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Habitats & Greening Features

- Borough boundaries
- Wards
- SKZ+ study area
- Public realm tree location
- Green roof location
- Planter location
- Private gardens

Broad Habitat Types

- Grassland
- Woodland or continuous trees
- Planted shrubbery or planters
- Pond
- Aquatic marginal vegetation
- Hedge
- Scrub
- Swale/SuDs
- Urban brownfield
- Natural habitat - unclassified
- Hardstanding/other open space area



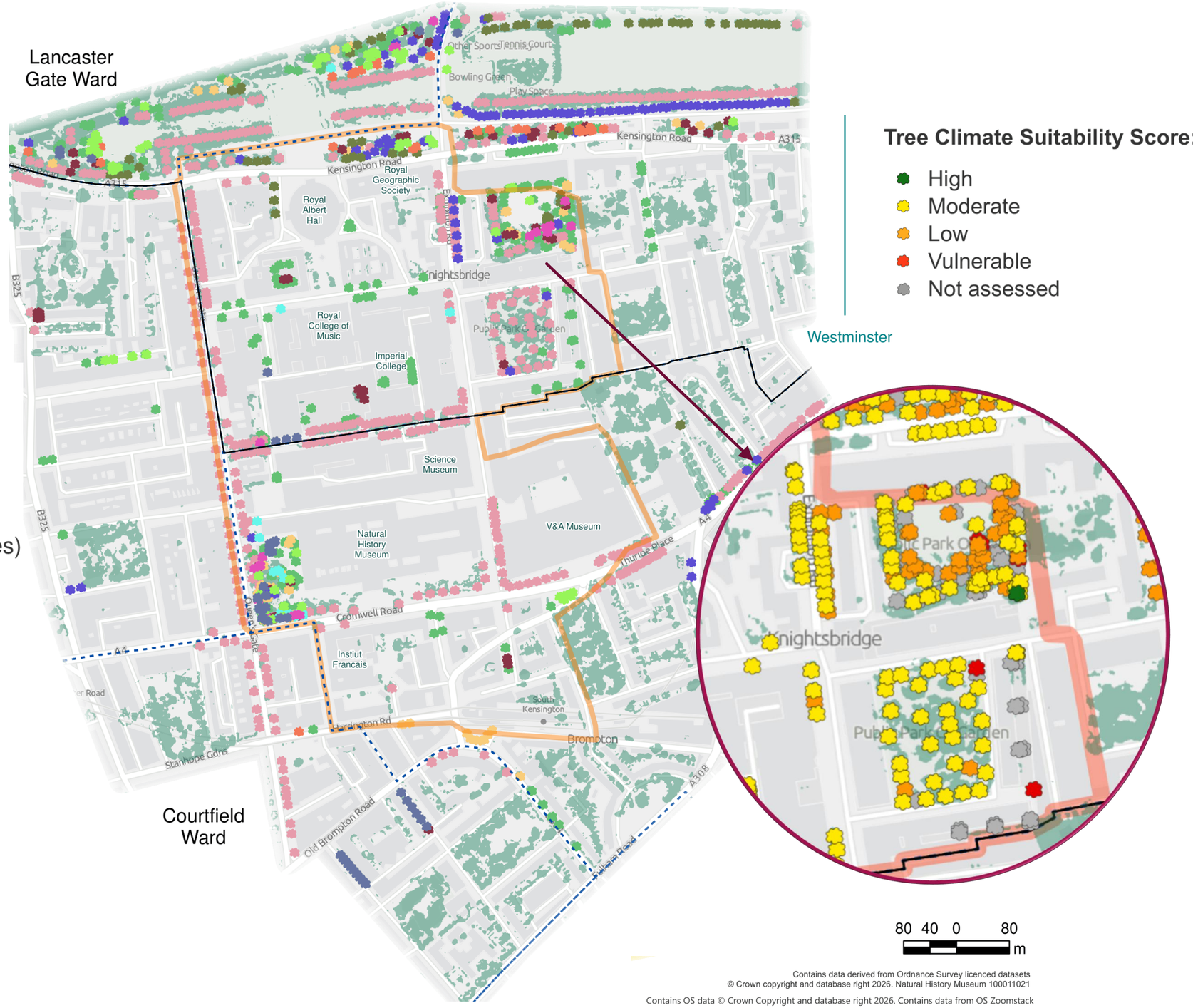
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Green Cover, Tree Canopy & Environment Agency Flood Risk



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Tree species & Climate Resilience Scores



Tree Climate Suitability Score:

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Vulnerable
- Not assessed

- Borough boundaries
- Wards
- SKZ+ study area
- Tree canopy (unidentified species)

Top 10 most common tree genera:

- Birch
- Cherry
- Hawthorn
- Holly
- Hornbeam
- Horse chestnut
- Lime
- Maple
- Oak
- Plane
- Other

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Open Space Access & Areas of Deficiency

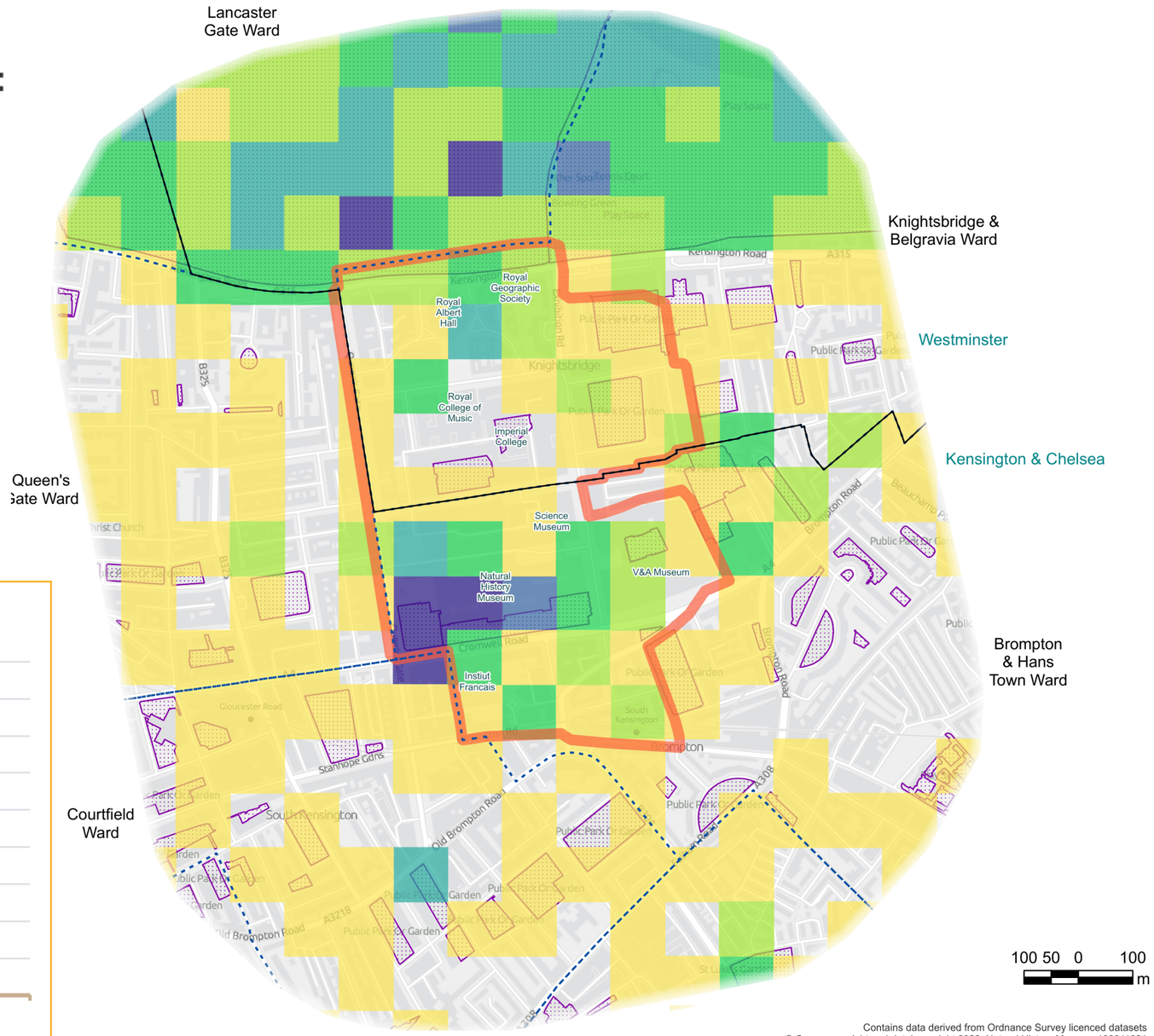


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Species Diversity from Records

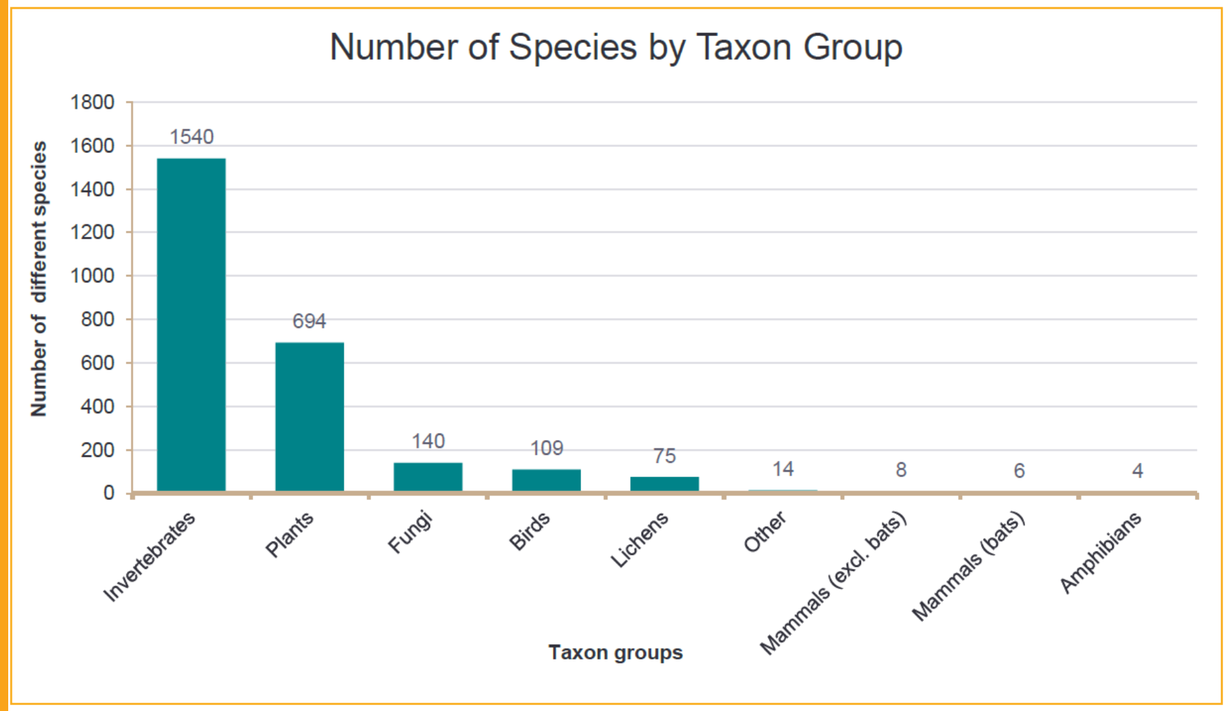
Number of species:

- 1 - 5
- 6 - 15
- 16 - 30
- 31 - 60
- 61 - 120
- 121 +



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Total number of different species in area: 2,590



Next Steps

Identify & Prioritise Action

GiGL Support

Improve Evidence & Understanding

Drive Community Action & Engagement

Strengthen funding bids & business cases

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Stories from the project



Species Action Plan

Black Redstart

© Steve Young

"London is the metropolis not only of man but of the black redstart in the British Isles" (Holmes et al, 1957)

1. Aims

- To protect, conserve and enhance the present population in London.
- To promote the black redstart as a cultural icon for London.
- To raise awareness of the black redstart to the population as a whole and more specifically to planning authorities, architects, landscapers and developers.



© Glenn Benson

A new priority species record:
A pair of black redstarts recorded at the V&A museum! A 'cultural icon' found at one of London's leading cultural institutions!



Inspiring a connection with art and history:
A painting shared of tree works on Exhibition Road by Stanley Roy Badmin, uncle to John Badmin - former Board Chair for Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre.

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Courtesy of Chris Beetles Gallery, St James's, London, on behalf of the S. R. Badmin estate.