

# Ecological Report: Land to the west of Shepherds Close N6 5AG

## Introduction

This ecological report comprehensively analyses the ecological significance of the land west of Shepherd's Close N6 5AG. It highlights this land's importance as a green corridor adjacent to local nature reserves and sites important for conservation. The report emphasises that the land is classified as Metropolitan Open Land and within the Green Belt, vital in supporting biodiversity and providing recreational opportunities within London.

The report outlines a history of planning application refusals since 1979, underscoring a consensus on the unsuitability of development in the area and the necessity for preserving it for its ecological, recreational and historical value. The presence of various species, including bats, indicates its importance as a habitat, emphasising the need to preserve against development that threatens biodiversity, habitat integrity, and community well-being. The report also addresses the developer's actions that restrict public access, particularly by erecting fences, which disrupts the connectivity and enjoyment of these green spaces.

The recommendations in the report include strict compliance with ecological and legal standards, thorough impact assessments, and the importance of maintaining public access to Parkland Walk and surrounding nature reserves. The report advocates for protecting and enhancing green space as a community asset.

The report emphasises that the land to the west of Shepherd's Close is not a vacant plot meant for development but a vital green space with significant historical, ecological, and community value. Historically, this area is part of the expansive grounds of a 12 Shepherd's Close property and a disused Victorian railway, which has played a crucial role in the local ecosystem and community well-being for over a century. The report outlines the land's importance for biodiversity, its function as a green corridor and public footpath to Parkland Walk, and the community's longstanding rights to access this space. The developer's erection of steel fences in December 2020 to restrict access is highlighted as a flagrant disregard for these values, indicating a need for strict scrutiny of any development proposals and advocating for the land's preservation in alignment with local and national environmental policies.

## Location

The green space west of Shepherds Close N6 5AG is adjacent to the local nature reserve and within the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. This garden area, recognised under statutory site designations, is a critical ecological sanctuary.

It is part of habitat survey parcels Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) Data (GIGL HAB 14793), emphasising its ecological significance and role as a green corridor. Moreover, its classification as Metropolitan Open Land and within the Green Belt underscores its intended purpose to protect the open countryside and offer recreational spaces within London.

The Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) provides valuable data on biodiversity, habitats, and protected areas across London. This report uses the GiGL Data Guide to highlight concerns over proposed developments within ecologically sensitive and legally protected areas. The focus is on species records, habitat data, urban greening features, and statutory and non-statutory site designations. Our objections are based on the potential adverse impacts on biodiversity, species conservation, habitat integrity, and protected area statuses, as shown in the GiGL data guide.

The history of Planning application refusals in the area since 1979 reinforces the argument against the suitability of development in this cherished green space.

There is a long-standing history of planning application refusals since 1979, including HGY/2021/2852, which proposed a wooden boundary fence and was withdrawn on 15/11/2021, HGY/2019/3260, which attempted to construct a 3-bedroom house and was refused on 05/02/2020, HGY/2011/1860, which proposed a 2-bedroom, single-storey dwelling and was refused on 29/11/2011, and HGY/2011/0596, which sought approval for a 3-bedroom dwelling and was refused on 20/05/2011. Additionally, there were attempts to create an independent residential unit at the site, including HGY/2002/0158, which were refused on 19/07/2002, and HGY/1997/0122, which were refused on 26/03/1997. A two-storey, three-bedroom dwelling with a garage, as proposed in HGY/1990/1531, was refused on 04/11/1991, while OLD/1983/1459 was withdrawn on 26/05/1983, and OLD/1982/1355 was withdrawn on 28/10/1982, both for new house construction. Finally, OLD/1979/1258, which proposed new residential unit construction, was refused on 1/11/1979. This history reflects a consensus on the unsuitability of development in this cherished area. It demonstrates the planning authority's recognition of the area's value and consistent community resistance against encroachment. The portrayal of the green space as potential brownfield land is incorrect. The green space adjacent to nature reserves, known as the parkland walk and designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, is critical in supporting local biodiversity. It is a testament to the ecological value that must be preserved.

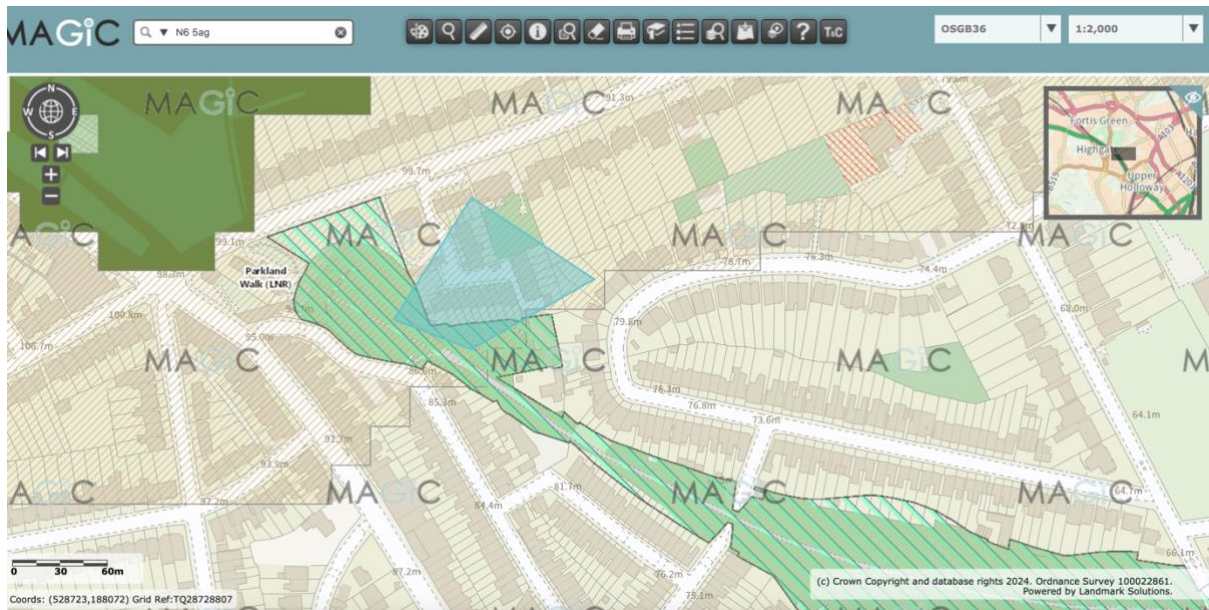


Image 1 Location of green space in Shepherds Close source magic maps

## Green space classification

The developer has referenced that the green space is not classified as brownfield land.

*Given its absence* from the Haringey Brownfield Register and its recognised importance for biodiversity, any development on this land would not only contravene local conservation efforts but also undermine the principles of sustainable urban planning.

I urge the committee to reject any proposals threatening this vital green space, ensuring it remains a cherished asset for our community and the local ecosystem.

The Government's [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) provides a framework against which local plans are drawn up and planning applications are decided. It defines brownfield land as “land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure”.

**Brownfield sites are previously developed lands** that may be contaminated and require clean-up before being used again. In contrast, the area adjacent to the local nature reserve and within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, identified as Metropolitan Open Land and the Green Belt, is valuable for its ecological contributions and recreational space. This distinction underlines the need to approach any development proposals cautiously, prioritising environmental preservation and sustainable land use practices.

The site is within Local Nature Reserves and the Priority Habitat Inventory for Deciduous Woodland in England, highlighting its national ecological significance.

## Ecological Oasis in Shepherd's Close

The green space is home to various species, highlighting its ecological significance. Among these are bats, specifically the Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle, known to forage and possibly roost within the area. These species' presence indicates the site's importance as a habitat, offering crucial resources for these bats. Additionally, the area provides essential green corridors for the movement of these and potentially other wildlife species, underscoring the need for its preservation.

The land to the west in Shepherd's Close is an ecological sanctuary of paramount conservation significance. The advent of proposed development portends severe ecological disruptions, including the loss of invaluable habitats, escalated traffic leading to increased congestion, and heightened flood risks owing to compromised infrastructural resilience. These adverse effects not only imperil the local biodiversity but also erode the area's visual aesthetics and jeopardise the community's structural and environmental integrity, thus challenging Shepherd's Close's sustainability and quality of life.

The green space is recognised within Local Nature Reserves and is part of England's *Priority Habitat Inventory for Deciduous Woodland*. This further solidifies the area's ecological importance, not just at a local but also at a national level, highlighting the critical need to preserve its natural habitats.

These habitats are vital for biodiversity and contribute significantly to London's ecological network, supporting many species and ecological functions. Including this area within such distinguished categories calls for re-evaluating development plans to ensure the protection and enhancement of these irreplaceable natural resources.

## Ecological Value and Biodiversity

I will outline the critical habitats within local nature reserves and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), emphasising the area's rich biodiversity, highlighting the presence of species of conservation concern and the ecological importance of Parkland Walk and Queen's Wood as key green spaces and underscore the necessity of preserving these habitats against development impacts, advocating for careful planning decisions to protect Shepherd's Close's valuable ecological assets.

I wish to outline the presence of local nature reserves, sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs), and habitats for protected and conservation concern species within the search area. These include notable green spaces such as Parkland Walk, Queen's Wood, and Highgate Woods, confirming the area's rich biodiversity and ecological value. Shepherd's Close green space, which is a buffer and vital green lung.

I wish to emphasise the importance of these habitats for flora, fauna, and the overall ecological network, highlighting the potential impacts of development on local wildlife and green corridors. This information underlines the need for careful consideration of environmental and conservation factors in planning decisions for Shepherd's Close green space, advocating for the preservation of these valuable ecological assets.

## Species at Risk

The presence of endangered species in the area affected by the development provides a strong scientific basis for objection. Future development poses significant risks to local wildlife and their habitats in Shepherd's Close.

It threatens species like the Tree-of-heaven, these include the Zoned Rosette (a fungus), *Cladonia rei* (a lichen), *Juniperus communis* (Juniper), and flowering plants like *Althaea officinalis* (Marshmallow) and *Buxus sempervirens* (Box). Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), recognised under the NERC Act Section 41. Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), noted in Birds Directive Annex 1, is a species of conservation concern in London. White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), identified as a species of local conservation concern. Swift (*Apus apus*) is a London priority species. Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) and Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) are both identified as species of conservation concern. Lesser Whitethroat (*Curruca curruca*) and House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) are both London's priority species. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*) is a species of local conservation concern and London priority. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) are both recognised for their conservation value. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), and Baltic Gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) were noted for their conservation status. Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) and Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) were both identified as species of conservation concern and London Priority Species. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) and Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), each noted for their conservation importance.

These species, along with others mentioned in the report, highlight the ecological diversity present in Shepherd's Close and the significant impact of development on habitat loss and fragmentation, potentially isolating populations and reducing their genetic diversity. Construction activities will lead to pollution affecting species such as the Common Darter.

Moreover, the disturbance from noise and light pollution will disrupt natural behaviours, particularly of nocturnal species like Bats and the Tawny Owl, altering their living conditions and survival.

The image below depicts a map view of Shepherd's Hill and its surroundings. A green space is marked in red, indicating the proposed site for development. The map showcases the terraced uniform residential layout of Shepherd's Close, with neat rows of houses and Allotment Gardens situated to the northwest. The map highlights the contrast between natural spaces and urban living, emphasising the ecological

## Parkland Walk Nature Reserve

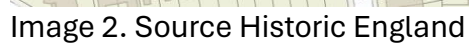


Image 3 Source Streep maps

## Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

the garden area is adjacent to a local nature reserve. Additionally, it is located within the region of Sites of Importance for nature conservation of Metropolitan nature conservation. It also borders the Wildlife Trail, a conservation project based at the Highgate end of Parkland Walk South.

## Important Geological Sites

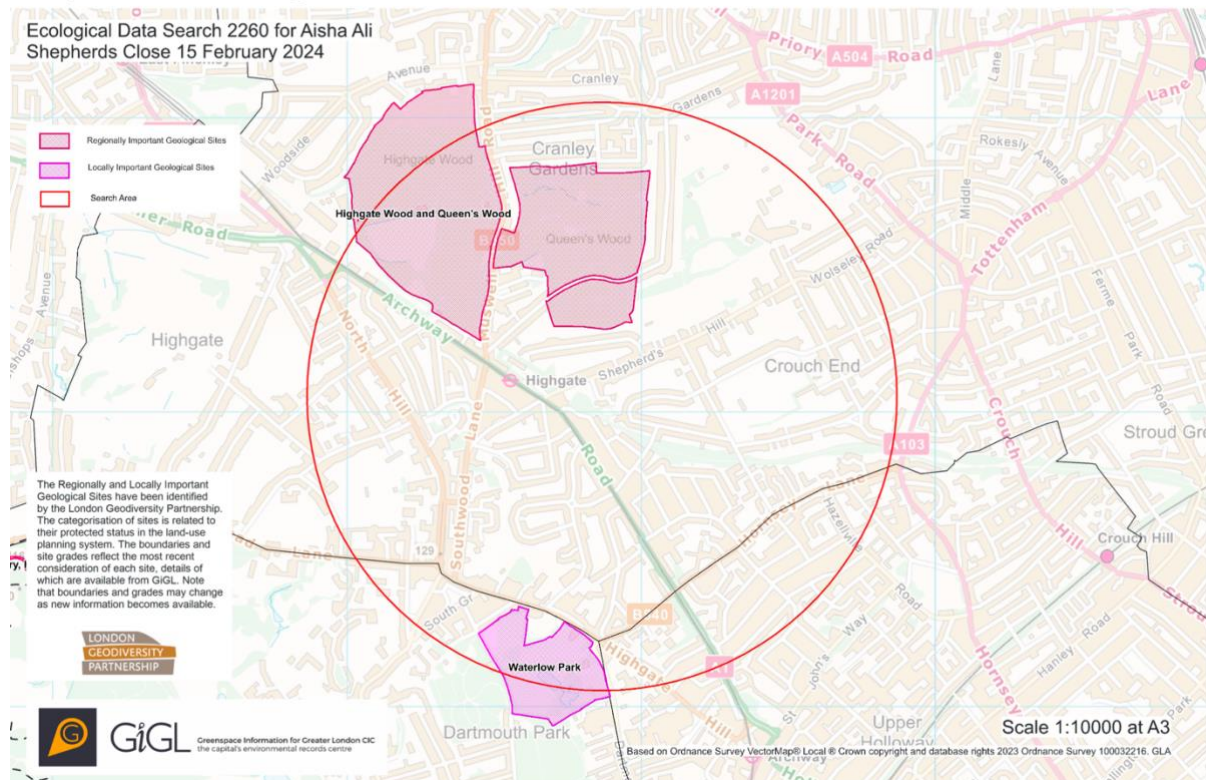


Image 4 source GiGL

## Important Geological Sites

The Borough of Haringey has valuable geological, ecological, and historical areas. These sites are marked by an important watershed between the River Brent and Moselle stream and are characterised by a landscape formed by glacial events. Deeply cut ravines in Queen's Wood indicate intense water flows from the past. The London Clay and Claygate Beds, which date back to the Eocene period, are crucial for understanding the ancient environments of the region. The existence of a Romano-British pottery manufacturing complex and other archaeological finds highlights the historical importance of these natural landscapes. Pleistocene and Holocene deposits further add to these sites' scientific and conservation value, making them essential for preserving natural heritage and local biodiversity.

Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood are home to underground rivers, particularly the River Brent and the Moselle stream. This underscores the ecological complexity and hydrological importance of this green space. The deep ravines in Queen's Wood suggest intense water flows in the past, likely associated with glacial events. This indicates the presence and influence of underground watercourses on the topography and ecology of the area.

These underground rivers contribute to the ecological diversity and sustainability of the green space, supporting a variety of habitats and species. The interaction between the geological substrates, such as the London Clay and Claygate Beds, with the surface and sub-surface hydrology creates unique conditions that foster biodiversity. This interconnectedness of geology, hydrology, and biology underscores the importance of preserving such green spaces from development, as they represent valuable ecological assets and geological and hydrological heritage.

The existence of these underground rivers, along with the site's geological, archaeological, and historical significance, highlights the need for careful consideration of any development proposals in the area. It is essential to assess the potential impacts on the natural hydrology, ecology, and archaeological heritage, ensuring that the integrity of these interconnected systems is maintained.

Preserving this green space is crucial for maintaining biodiversity, supporting ecological functions, and conserving the area's unique geological and historical features. Underground rivers or watercourses are present in the area, have ecological importance, support unique habitats, and contribute to the drainage and natural water filtration processes. In urban planning, acknowledging these rivers is crucial for sustainable development, preventing flooding, and preserving the area's natural heritage.

Considering their significance, an objection to future development would highlight the importance of protecting the underground rivers. These rivers serve as crucial components of the ecological network, potentially harbouring rare species and contributing to the region's green infrastructure. According to data from GiGL, a diverse range of species has been recorded, some protected under national legislation. This underscores the area's high biodiversity and ecological significance.

**Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)** are land designated by local authorities under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Parish and town councils can also declare LNRs, but only if they have the powers of a principal local authority. LNRs are designed to benefit both people and wildlife. They are areas home to local wildlife or geological features of particular interest. They offer opportunities for people to learn about and appreciate nature. LNRs can take various forms, from windswept coastal headlands and ancient woodlands to flower-rich meadows, former inner-city railways, long-abandoned landfill sites, and industrial areas re-colonized by wildlife. They are an essential natural resource that contributes to England's biodiversity.

**Parkland Walk LNR:** is related to their potential status in the land use planning system. The boundaries and grades of the sites reflect the recent considerations of the sites, which have been identified since 1986.

## Habitat Survey Parcels

### Habitat Survey Parcels

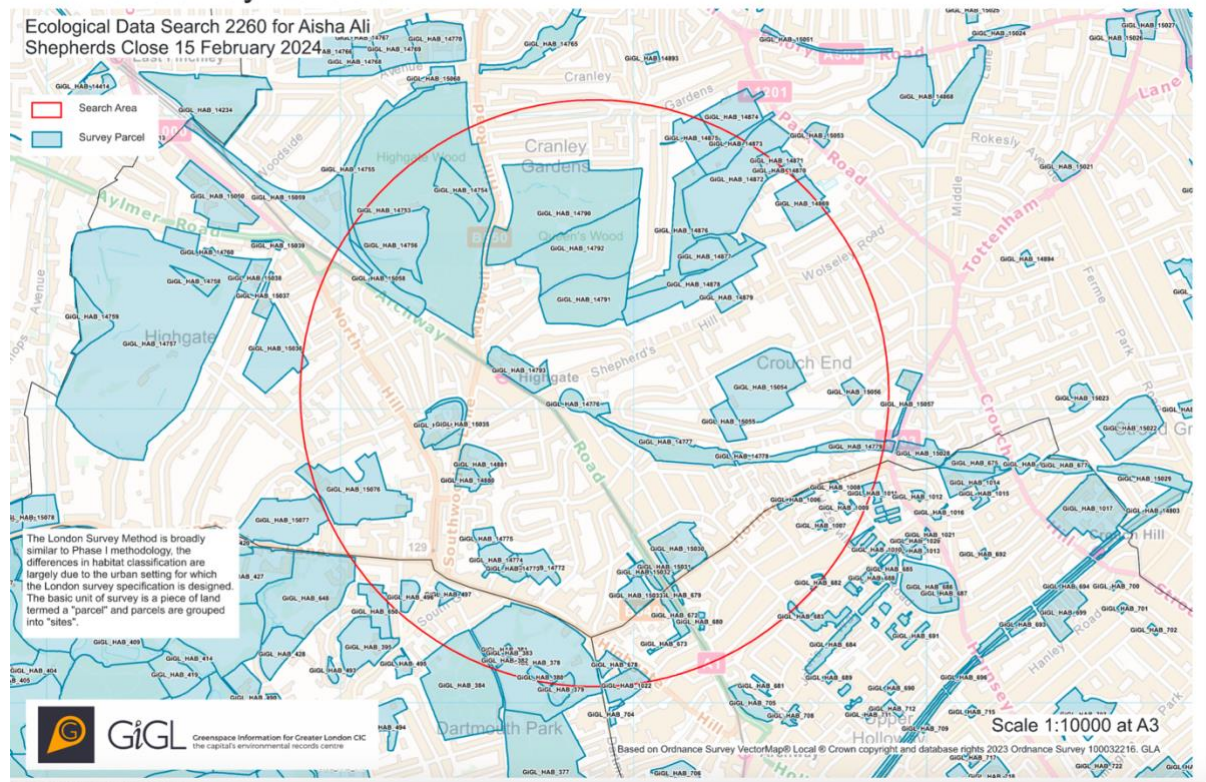


Image 5 source GiGL

The "Habitat Survey Parcels" section refers to designated areas within Shepherd's Close identified through ecological surveys. These parcels are recognised for their environmental significance and are integral to the local ecological network. This classification underscores the area's contribution to biodiversity, supporting a variety of flora and fauna critical to maintaining ecological balance and providing essential green spaces within the urban landscape. This data outlines designated ecological areas in Shepherd's Close, emphasising their role in the local ecological network and contribution to biodiversity.

**The London survey method** is broadly similar to phase 1 methodology; the differences in habit classification are largely due to the urban setting for which the London survey specification is designed.

The basic unit of survey is a piece of land termed a parcel, and parcels are grouped into sites. Ref e GIGL HAB 14793 e ecological data search 2260 aisha ali

## Open spaces

### Open spaces

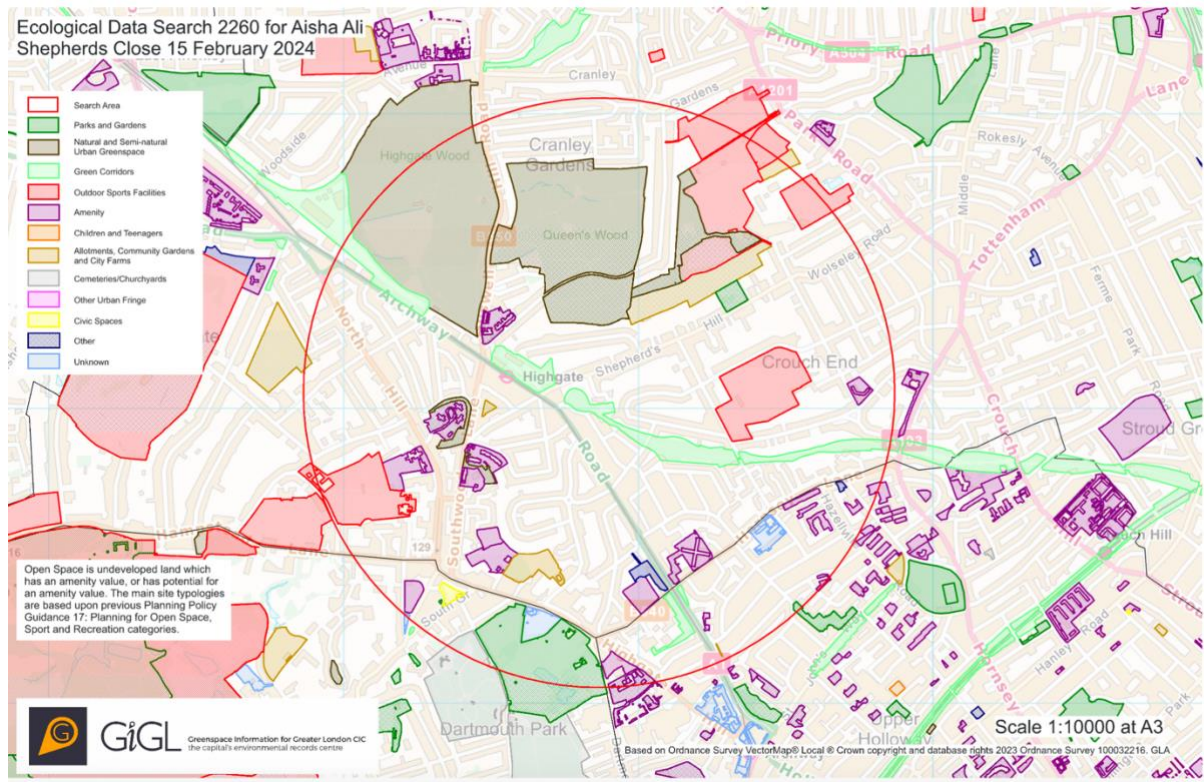


Image 6 source GiGL

Open space refers to undeveloped land that has the potential for amenity value. It acts as a corridor to the open spaces commonly known as green corridors. The site typologies are based on the previous planning policy guidance 17, which categorises open spaces into sport and recreation categories.

# Metropolitan Open Land and Green Belt

## Metropolitan Open Land and Green Belt

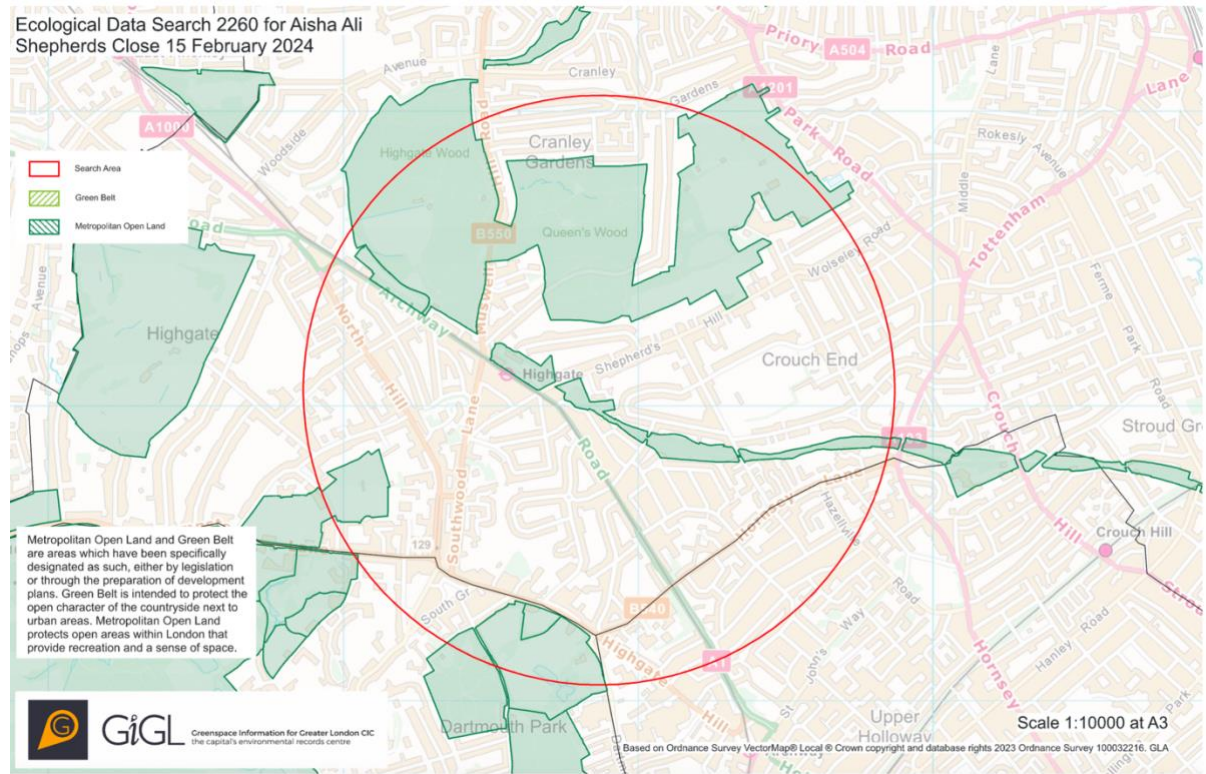


Image 7 source GiGL

The land west of Shepherds Close is in close proximity to metropolitan open land and the green belt, which are areas designated explicitly as such, either by legislation or by preparing development plans. Green belt is intended to protect the open character of the countryside next to urban areas. Metropolitan open land protects areas within London that provide recreation and a sense of space.

These designations protect open spaces within urban areas and are crucial in maintaining the character of the countryside adjacent to urban settings.



The importance of maintaining a diverse habitat, including grasslands, rough lands, and scattered trees and shrubs, has been well documented. Such habitats are crucial in supporting biodiversity and community well-being. This unique ecological and recreational space is worthy of protection from any development that could damage its value and integrity.

## Wasteland of the Manor

The Land could also be called the wasteland of a manor within our conservation area. When the railways passed the land over to Haringey, which Haringey sold off with covenants intended to afford the nature reserve some protections.

Historically, this land may not have been cultivated due to its steep bank, but for the last 100 years, it has served as an invaluable ecological function for the community. Its development would disrupt the neighbourhood's delicate balance and character and violate the historical rights of common associated with such lands.

By turning this land into private property, we risk undermining the environmental integrity that defines the area and losing a piece of communal heritage that, once gone, can never be reclaimed.

These designations reflect a commitment to preserving biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and the character of open spaces against unsuitable development. Any current or future proposed development overlooks this area's vital ecological and conservation value, threatening the integrity of this protected land.

## Public Footpath

The land to the West of Shepherds Close has served for over 40 years as a vital right of way leading onto the Parkland Walk. This pathway is not just a route but a cherished part of our community's heritage, providing access to one of our most valued green spaces. The developer has put up 2-meter fences to stop people from using the ancient footpath and threatens to sever this connection, undermining the continuity of green corridors crucial for wildlife and recreational use. Preserving this right of way is essential for maintaining the integrity of our local ecosystem and ensuring continued access to green spaces for health, well-being, and community cohesion. It provides a footpath to Shepherd Hill. Many residents use this footpath daily.

The developer's erection of steel fences in December 2020, intended to prevent public access to the green space west of Shepherd's Close, represents a flagrant disregard for the community's longstanding rights and connections to this vital area. This action physically bars residents from freely enjoying a cherished local natural reserve, disrupts their daily lives and undermines the principles of open access and environmental stewardship. Such deliberate obstruction challenges the essence of community well-being and ecological harmony, demanding urgent redress and reflection within the planning evaluation process. `Any development proposal must be scrutinised for its

environmental impact, blatant encroachment on public rights, and the precedents it sets for community access to green spaces.

Such interruptions undermine the ecological connectivity and public enjoyment of these areas and set a concerning precedent for the future management of shared natural resources. Any development considerations must prioritise preserving public access to these vital ecological corridors, ensuring that they remain open and accessible for the enjoyment and well-being of the entire community.



**Notice to the residents at the close of December 2020**

<https://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/2024/02/29/anger-over-plan-to-build-on-beautiful-copse-near-parkland-walk/> Like common land, this land embodies a rich heritage preserved for centuries, providing ecological benefits and historical and recreational value to our community. Its transformation into a developed site would erase an integral part of our local history and disregard the

communal and environmental significance that such spaces contribute to the fabric of our society. Notably, it has never been built on or intended to be utilised as an empty plot.

The development threatens to privatise and diminish a space that has served multiple generations, offered physical resources and contributed to the community's health and well-being, as recognised in historical legislation. A stand against the encroachment on this land, urging for its protection in honour of its past and for the future benefits it offers to the community, must be made.

**The Natural Environment White Paper** is a government document that outlines a strategic vision for conserving and enhancing the natural environment over the coming decades. The paper usually focuses on integrating environmental goals with economic and social objectives, emphasising the importance of the natural environment to society's well-being and economic prosperity.

The following policies and frameworks underscore the importance of preserving this green space:

1. **Local Development Plans:** The Land west of Shepherds Close green space includes policies to protect green spaces for their recreational, ecological, and aesthetic values. They designate areas as green belts or conservation zones to limit development.
2. **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):** The NPPF guides how local planning authorities should approach development concerning green spaces in the UK. It emphasises the importance of recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, the broader benefits of ecosystem services, and the conservation of biodiversity.
3. **Biodiversity Net Gain:** Policies that require developments to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, encouraging the protection and enhancement of green spaces as habitats for wildlife.
4. **Green Infrastructure Strategies:** These strategies promote the integration of green spaces into urban planning, recognising their role in improving air quality, providing recreational opportunities, and mitigating flood risk.
5. **Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):** Designations that protect areas of particular interest for their biodiversity or geological features, which can support arguments against the development of green spaces.
6. **Urban Greening Policies:** Some cities adopt policies specifically aimed at increasing green cover, which can support the preservation of existing green spaces and the creation of new ones.
7. **Climate Change Adaptation:** Policies aimed at adapting to climate change often recognise the role of green spaces in cooling urban areas, managing flood risk, and sequestering carbon.
8. **Access to Nature:** Policies that aim to improve public health and well-being by ensuring residents have access to natural green spaces, supporting the argument that such areas should be preserved for community use.

These policies and the critical role that the green space west of Shepherd's Close plays in our community are evidence that rejects future development. Preserving this area is complying with local and national environmental policies and safeguarding our community's health, well-being, and ecological integrity.

"This green space is a valuable asset that enhances our quality of life, supports biodiversity and contributes to the well-being of residents and wildlife. Its development would irreversibly harm the ecological balance, contradicting the principles and objectives outlined in the policies above. Therefore, I strongly advocate for protecting this green space, ensuring it remains a vibrant, accessible, and natural sanctuary for future generations.

## **1. Impact on Species and Biodiversity Hotspots**

### **1.1 Species Records and Biodiversity Hotspots**

- **Data Reference:** GiGL species records (points and polygons) indicate common and designated species within the proposed development area. These records, including Designated Species Records (GiGL\_DesignatedSpp\_Point and GiGL\_DesignatedSpp\_Polygon), highlight species afforded protection under national and international legislation.
- **Objection Basis:** Such species within or adjacent to the development site suggest significant biodiversity value. The development could lead to habitat loss, fragmentation, or disturbance to these species, contravening biodiversity conservation objectives and potentially violating wildlife protection regulations.

### **1.2 Biodiversity Hotspots for Planning**

- **Data Reference:** The Biodiversity Hotspots dataset provides a coarse-resolution overview of areas with significant biodiversity value, identified through the presence of protected species, habitats, and sites.
- **Objection Basis:** Development within or near these hotspots could undermine regional biodiversity conservation efforts, impacting species richness and ecological connectivity.

## **2. Impact on Protected and Sensitive Areas**

### **2.1 Statutory and Non-Statutory Site Designations**

- **Data Reference:** Statutory Site Designations (e.g., SACs, SPAs, SSSIs) and Non-Statutory Site Designations (e.g., SINCs, pSINCs) data outline areas legally recognised for their ecological, geological, or geomorphological importance.
- **Objection Basis:** Development risks violating statutory protections and undermining these areas' ecological integrity and conservation value. It could also set a precedent for further encroachments, threatening London's green infrastructure.

### **2.2 Urban Greening and Open Space Sites**

- **Data Reference:** Urban Greening (GiGL\_UrbanGreening) and Open Space Sites (GiGL\_OpenSpace\_Sites) data highlight areas that contribute to London's green infrastructure, offer ecosystem services, and enhance urban resilience.
- **Objection Basis:** Reducing urban greening and open spaces compromises climate adaptation measures, reduces public access to green areas, and diminishes the city's overall ecological network.

### 3. Habitat Impact and Conservation

#### 3.1 Habitat Data and Condition Assessments

- **Data Reference:** GiGL habitat data, including BAP Habitat Condition and Suitability Mapping, outline the current state and conservation priorities of habitats within the development area.
- **Objection Basis:** Development could degrade habitat quality, disrupt ecological networks, and impede the achievement of BAP habitat conservation targets.

Based on the ecological data search report (Report reference 2260) for Aisha Ali for Shepherds Close, and considering the vast array of species recorded within and around the green space, a solid objection to its destruction can be formed on several grounds:

1. **Biodiversity Conservation:** The presence of various species, including fungi, lichens, higher plants (flowering plants, conifers), invertebrates (molluscs, dragonflies, damselflies, true bugs, beetles), amphibians, birds, and mammals (including bats), underscores the area's high biodiversity. This diversity is intrinsic value and supports ecosystem services critical for local climate regulation, pollination, and recreation.
2. **Protection of Rare and Protected Species:** Some species identified are protected under the NERC Act Section 41, indicating their conservation importance in England. The area hosts species designated as London Priority Species, highlighting their significance within a local context and underscoring the necessity to preserve their habitats.
3. **Ecological Connectivity and Green Space:** Maintaining this green space is crucial for ecological connectivity, providing corridors for wildlife movement and supporting regional biodiversity. Urban green spaces are essential for maintaining ecological networks, especially in densely populated areas.
4. **Community and Wellbeing:** Green spaces contribute significantly to human wellbeing, offering recreational opportunities, enhancing mental health, and providing educational opportunities about nature and biodiversity.
5. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** Urban green spaces play a vital role in mitigating climate change effects, such as reducing urban heat island effects,

and in adaptation strategies by providing flood mitigation and carbon sequestration.

## **6. Footpath and public access**

This corridor is highly valued for allowing wildlife and residents to move between important green spaces. It is a testament to the area's commitment to preserving natural habitats and promoting accessibility. Intentionally blocking this pathway is a crucial link in the local ecological network and erodes the foundational principles of shared community spaces and mutual respect for the environment. Such actions disregard the intrinsic value of green spaces, stifling the natural movement and interaction essential for biodiversity and human well-being.

Restricting access to this green space and corridor is not simply an inconvenience; it represents a significant loss of community assets and a direct attack on the public's right to enjoy local natural reserves. Such actions undermine the essence of public spaces, which should be accessible and enjoyed by all, not obstructed by private interests. Therefore, any future development that opposes the values of environmental stewardship and community access should be strongly objected to and re-evaluated to protect the corridor and access to Parkland Walk and to preserve the natural heritage that defines our community.

In conclusion, the detailed ecological considerations and the presence of protected and notable species strongly argue against the proposed development. These points, coupled with the benefits of maintaining urban green spaces for biodiversity, climate mitigation, and community wellbeing, form a compelling case for preserving Shepherds Close and its surroundings from development.

As previously outlined, the green space is home to various species, highlighting its ecological significance. Among these are bats, specifically the Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle, known to forage and roost just behind the green space in the old Highgate tube tunnels. The presence of these species indicates the site's importance as a habitat, offering crucial resources for these bats. Additionally, the area provides essential green corridors for the movement of these and potentially other wildlife species, underscoring the need for its preservation.

## **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

It has come to my attention that Mr Ryan has failed to register a Section 211 and Felling license notice registration, which is mandatory for removing mature vegetation over five cubic metres from conservation areas. This failure to comply with the guidelines overlooks the requirement for replanting to offset the environmental impact of such vegetation loss.

This oversight undermines the area's ecological integrity, and disregards established conservation procedures to preserve conservation zones' character and biodiversity. The discrepancy is a cause for concern and requires immediate action to align with legal and conservation standards.

It is essential to follow legal procedures to protect environmental and community interests. We urge you to take swift action to address this issue and implement the necessary measures.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The Ecological Report emphasises the critical ecological value of the land west of Shepherd's Close, highlighting its status adjacent to local nature reserves and within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. It underscores the land's role in supporting local biodiversity and serving as a green corridor, essential for wildlife movement. The report details various species, including bats and protected flora, signifying the area's ecological importance.

It also addresses the historical context, indicating the land's long-standing use as a communal green space. It also points out the developer's actions that restrict public access, particularly the erection of barriers, contrary to community rights and environmental stewardship.

The recommendations advocate for *preserving this green space*, emphasising its integration into local planning and maintaining public access to support biodiversity and community well-being.

Given the potential negative impacts on biodiversity, protected areas, and habitat integrity as identified through the GiGL data, I strongly object to the current and future planning permissions for development within these sensitive areas.

1. That the current and future applications to develop the land be declined. A Thorough ecological impact assessment using detailed GiGL data to understand the full implications of the proposed development.
2. Consideration of alternative sites with lower ecological value for development.
3. Implementing robust mitigation strategies to protect biodiversity and comply with legal protections for designated species and habitats.
4. The green space in Shepherd's Close is a prime candidate for nomination as an Asset of Community Value or Local Green Space. This designation would protect against unsuitable development, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

Recognising this area as such underscores its importance to the community's social, environmental, and recreational life. It's a strong argument for safeguarding a space that enhances local biodiversity and serves as a vital green lung, contributing significantly to the residents' well-being and quality of life.

5. The development plan should explicitly include provisions to maintain and, where possible, enhance public access to Parkland Walk and the surrounding nature reserve. This could involve the creation of designated pathways, signage to guide visitors, and measures to ensure that the development does not impede access to these crucial green spaces. Additionally, construction activities should be carefully managed to minimise disruption to the existing pathways and natural habitats. Ensuring continued public access will contribute positively to the community's quality of life, support local biodiversity, and align with broader conservation goals.
1. **Designation of Protected Green Areas:** In line with the Natural Environment White Paper, it is recommended that the community engage in designating the land west of Shepherd's Close as a protected green area. This action would recognise its value for natural beauty, historical resonance, recreational use, tranquillity, and importance as a wildlife habitat.
2. **Incorporation into Local Neighbourhood Plans:** The designated green space should be incorporated into local neighbourhood plans, ensuring its protection and management align with community values and ecological sustainability principles.
3. **Community Engagement and Stewardship:** Encourage active community engagement and stewardship of the green space. This could include volunteer programs for maintenance, educational activities, and biodiversity monitoring to foster a strong connection between the community and the natural environment.
4. **Biodiversity Enhancement Initiatives:** Implement initiatives aimed at enhancing the area's biodiversity. This could involve planting native species, creating wildlife habitat features, and restoring degraded areas to increase ecological value.
5. **Access and Connectivity:** Maintain and enhance public access to the green space and its connectivity to surrounding natural areas, such as Parkland Walk and the nature reserve. This ensures continued recreational use, educational opportunities, and enjoyment of the space by the community.
6. **Sustainable Management Practices:** Adopt sustainable management practices prioritising ecological health, such as organic maintenance methods, water conservation strategies, and renewable resources.
7. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish a monitoring and evaluation program to assess the ecosystem's health, the success of biodiversity enhancement initiatives, and the community's space usage. This data should inform ongoing management decisions.
8. **Education and Outreach:** Develop education and outreach programs to raise awareness of the ecological and recreational value of the green space, fostering a sense of responsibility and pride in its preservation.
9. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Seek partnerships with local environmental groups, governmental agencies, and educational institutions to leverage resources, expertise, and community involvement in conservation efforts.

10. **Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for policies and practices that support the long-term protection and enhancement of green space, ensuring it remains a vital part of the community's natural heritage.

These recommendations aim to ensure the land west of Shepherd's Close is preserved and enhanced as a valuable green space, contributing positively to the community's quality of life, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability.

I ask Haringey Council what steps can be taken to preserve London's natural heritage for future generations.

### **Sources**

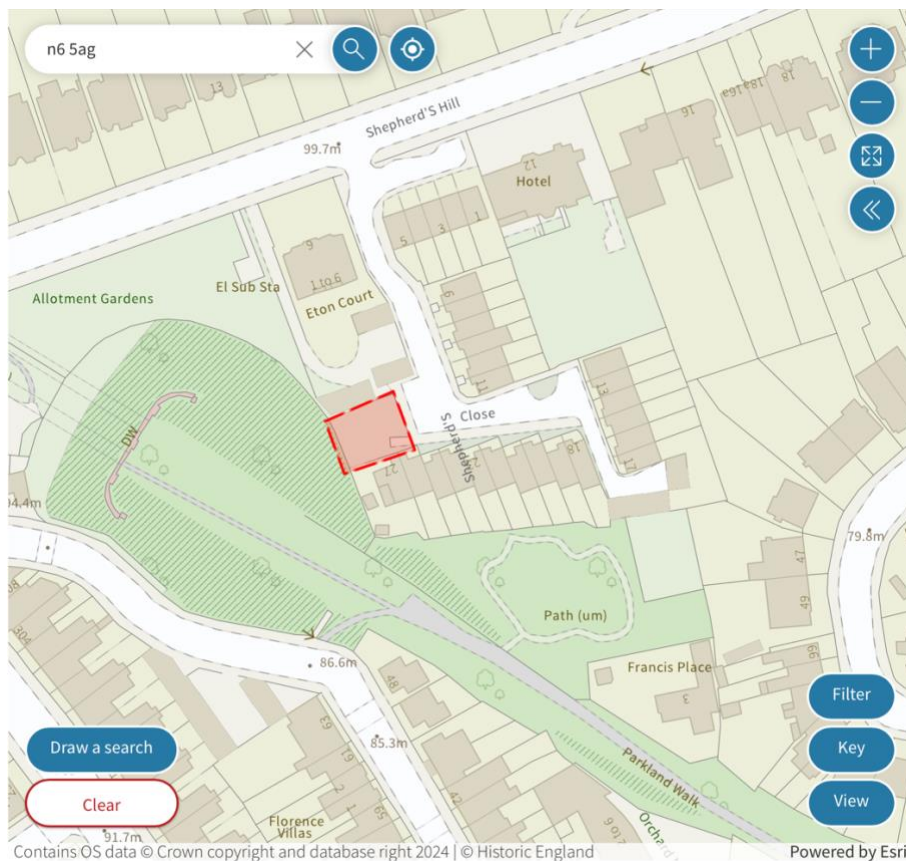
Data sets - GiGL\_DataSearch2260\_AishaAli\_ShepherdsClose  
Historic England  
Magic maps  
Guide to London Geologicalsites

### **Anger over plan to build on 'beautiful copse' near Parkland Walk**

<https://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/2024/02/29/anger-over-plan-to-build-on-beautiful-copse-near-parkland-walk/>

### **Appendices**

Land to the West Of Shepherd Close image with a red line boundary delineating the land we wish Shepherd's Close Garden to be considered for Local Green Space designation.



**Images of the green space in the west Shepherds Close before the felling of trees and destruction of mature vegetation.**







