

**EXAMINATION INTO THE SOUNDNESS OF THE REDBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN 2015-2030**

**SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE – NOTE FOR INSPECTOR**

A systematic survey of habitats in Redbridge was undertaken, on behalf of the Council, by the London Ecology Unit in 1997. Based on this survey sites of the greatest nature conservation value were recorded as sites of nature conservation importance (i.e. SINC) and were ranked of metropolitan, borough grades 1, borough grade 2 or of local importance.

This assessment informed the preparation of the Council's Core Strategy, which was subsequently adopted in 2008. The SINC ranked to be of metropolitan, borough and local level importance were identified on the accompanying Proposals Map to the 2008 Core Strategy. These designated SINC have now been identified on the Policies Map accompanying the submitted Local Plan. A list of SINC has been included as a suggested modification (Doc LBR 1.01.2, modification no. 150) to the submitted Plan to be inserted into Appendix 5.

In 2002 the GLA reviewed the sites of metropolitan importance, of which there were five in the borough. There were no substantial changes to the boundaries, which were then included in the London Plan (2004). Last year the GLA commenced a review of these sites and the Council will be contributing to this work.

The designated SINC shown on the Policies Map of the submitted Local Plan are one of a series of nature conservation designations included within the submitted Local Plan; others include the Epping Forest SAC, SSSI and Blue Ribbon Network. Moreover, through policy LP39 of the submitted Local Plan, the Council will, inter alia, "protect and enhance the borough's natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the boroughs biodiversity" on both designated and non-designated sites. Any development proposal would be expected to conform with this policy requirement.

It should be noted, for the avoidance of doubt, that Fairlop Plain and Fairlop Water is designated as SINC of borough importance, grade 1. The area so designated excludes the site of the proposed allocation of Billet Road (allocation number 99), which lies directly to the south of the designated SINC.