LGS 2: SINC CaL07: Frognal Lane Gardens

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27 Jan 2019, 21:05

My property directly adjoins Frognal Gardens which is managed entirely by volunteers - I am one of the directors of the non-profit company that runs the space. Set up by a far-sighted workers' guild at the end of the 19th century, the Gardens comprise a very precious resource for all the residents; it's a tranquil green space which has many mature trees, and must be protected for future generations for its biodiversity and rejuvenation qualities.

It attracts and sustains an enormous variety of local plants and creatures from the smallest invertebrates, caterpillars, butterflies and moths to all kinds of snails and small mammals. The bird population is thriving and includes flocks of blue tits, great tits, coal tits and long tail tits, blackbirds, wood pigeons, jays, magpies, woodpeckers and owls, in addition to species that have otherwise been suffering in the UK, such as a number of wrens and it offers a valuable resting place for migrating birds as well as the occasional heron, and of course passing foxes. The noise of bird song throughout the day is an inspiring antidote to the traffic outside.

The Gardens provide an important facility for the local children too (and adults), a place where they can see nature directly and learn about the different species, literally on their doorstep.

I strongly support its designation as an open space.

Charles

Frognal Lane Gardens "I live on a top floor flat that overlooks Frognal Gardens. It's a beautiful and peaceful space that is bounded by the A41 Finchley Road, Frognal Lane, and Langland Gardens, that forms a triangle of greenery in an urban setting. Finchley Road is a noisy and polluted 3-lane north and south highway. Frognal Lane and Langland Gardens fight to maintain the onslaught of urbanisation and traffic congestion. Residents living alongside those roads regard the Gardens as the heart and green lungs of the area, that provides social and community space. I support its designation as an essential green space to protect it from any form of development.



Frognal Lane Gardens

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In the 19th century, this area was part of the manor of Frognal, which lay in the countryside north of Victorian London. The manor lay on a tributary of the River Westbourne which runs into the Thames. The gardens were set up by a farsighted workers' guild, when Hampstead was built up in the 1890s, to retain as much of the rural quality that the manor possessed. At the same time the river was covered over and now runs in part under the gardens and into the Serpentine.

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It attracts and sustains an enormous variety of local plants and creatures from the smallest invertebrates, bees caterpillars, butterflies and moths to all kinds of snails and small mammals. The bird population is thriving and includes flocks of blue tits, great tits, coal tits and long tail tits, blackbirds, wood pigeons, jays, magpies, woodpeckers and owls, in addition to species that have otherwise been suffering in the UK, such as a flock of wrens and it offers a valuable resting place for migrating birds as well as the occasional heron. The noise of bird song throughout the day is an inspiring antidote to the traffic outside. Foxes pass through and breed here from time to time.

The Gardens provide an important facility for the local children too (and adults), a place where they can see nature directly and learn about the different species, literally on their doorstep.

I strongly support its designation as an open space.



Camden Planning Guidance:

Biodiversity

March 2018





CaL07 Frognal Lane Gardens

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: CaL07

Site Name: Frognal Lane Gardens

Summary: A small private communal garden with plenty of trees and an attractive

pond.

Grid ref: TQ 258 853

Area (ha): 0.55

Borough(s): Camden

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Planted shrubbery, Pond/lake, Scattered trees,

Scrub

Access: No public access

Ownership: Private

Site Description:

This is an attractive community garden surrounded by housing. It contains a good number of trees, the most notable being the large London planes (Platanus x hispanica). Other species present include ash (Fraxinus excelsior), oak (Quercus sp.), Norway maple (Acer platanoides), holm oak (Quercus ilex) and silver birch (Betula pendula). Areas of grassland where mowing is relaxed support tall herbs. Ornamental shrub beds around the perimeter are planted with both native and exotic species, which include hazel (Corylus avellana), yew (Taxus baccata), cherry plum (Prunus cerasifera), lilac (Syringa vulgaris), spotted laurel (Aucuba japonica) and oleaster (Eleagnus x ebbingei).

The western end of the site contains numerous trees and shrubs/scrub but is less intensively managed. It, thus, has a wilder appearance with a greater number of tall herb species including meadow buttercup (Ranunculus acris), wood dock (Rumex sanguineus), teasel (Dipsacus fullonum), herb-Robert (Geranium robertianum), red campion (Silene dioica), greater periwinkle (Vinca major) and enchanter's nightshade (Circea lutetitiana).

The site is used by numerous birds including blue tit, jay, blackbird, magpie, robin, thrush, starling and great-spotted woodpecker. Nest boxes have been put up and the site management is focused on creating a more invertebrate-friendly habitat.

The garden is not open to the general public, but is a valuable amenity for residents of the surrounding properties.

Site first notified: 01/01/1993 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1993

Citation last edited: 18/06/2014

Defunct: N

Last Updated: 18/06/2014