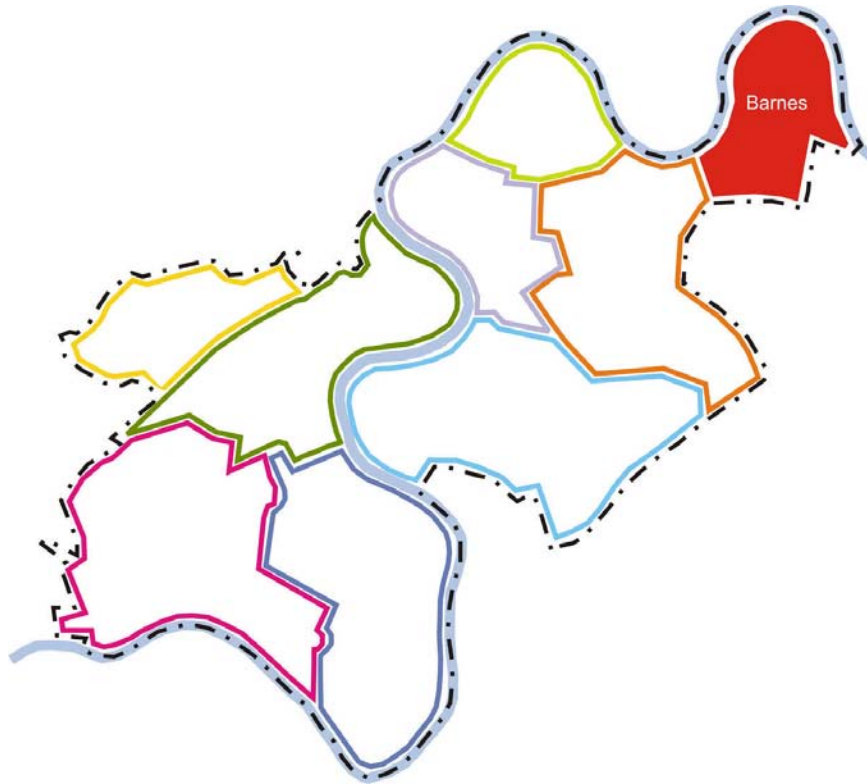


BARNES



Description

Bounded by the Thames and the Thames towpath to the north, east and west, Barnes is an area that makes a valuable contribution to the borough's nature conservation. The area has three significant waterfowl sites, Lonsdale Road Reservoir, Barnes Green and the Wildfowl Wetland Centre. The Wetland Centre is often referred to as the Heathrow Airport of the bird world, with thousands of national and international birds making this the destination at some point in the year. Another valuable conservation feature of the Barnes area is Barnes Common, which offers a mixture of acid grassland and woodland.

This area should be considered with East Sheen, Mortlake UDP area and Hammersmith and Fulham across the Thames and Wandsworth to the east.

Characteristics - Facts and Figures

- Population 12,900
- Varied population density with considerable large houses with private gardens
- Open space 85.39 hectares
- Socio-demographic – the area is mostly made up of larger houses with gardens, with the exception of smaller social housing in the Castlenau area

The accompanying area Maps show analysis of:

- Hierarchy – the location of open spaces categorised according to the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) size based hierarchy.
- Function – the main functions or types of open space e.g. parks and gardens; recreation ground; cemetery; allotment etc.
- Quality – an assessment of the overall quality of the open space, considering landscape quality, condition etc.
- Opportunities – identifies opportunities to improve access to open space, restore views, remove barriers to access etc.

Audit of Current Provision

NAME	AREA	FUNCTION	LPAC	PRIORITY
CASTELNAU RECREATION GROUND	1.09	Park	S	130
BARNES GREEN	2.77	Open Space	L	54
LONSDALE ROAD PLANTATION	0.48	Open Space	S	32
QUEEN ELIZABETH WALK	0.27	Open Space	Lin	28
ROCKS LANE RECREATION GROUND	0.58	Recreation Ground	S	32
SUFFOLK ROAD RECREATION GROUND	1.29	Recreation Ground	S	84
VINE ROAD RECREATION GROUND	1.89	Recreation Ground	S	110
BARNES COMMON CONSERVATION AREA	53.00	Semi-natural	D	24
BARNES COMMON O/S AREA	1.20	Semi-natural	S	24
LEG O'MUTTON RESERVOIR CONSERVATION AREA	8.00	Semi-natural	L	32
THAMES TOWPATH - LONSDALE/BARN ELMS	2.02	Semi-natural	Lin	24
BARNES COMMON (CRICKET)	1.02	Sports ground	S	40
BARNES COMMON (FOOTBALL)	0.86	Sports ground	S	45
BARN ELMS	17.27	Sports Ground	L	120
CASTENAU REC PLAYGROUND		Playground	PG	110
ROCKS LANE PG		Playground	PG	90
VINE RD REC PG		Playground	PG	120
ST ANNES PASSAGE	0.11	Allotment	Not LPAC	80
WESTFIELDS	0.69	Allotment	Not LPAC	56
CASTELNAU LIBRARY	0.02	Library	S	35
HARRODS NEW OPEN SPACE	0.35	Private	S	28

Analysis of access to parks and open spaces

79% of the area is within 3.2 km of a metropolitan/regional park
86% of the area is within 1.2 km of a district open space
99% of the area is within 400m of a local open space
81% of the area is within 400 metres of an equipped playground

Note this analysis does not take into account GLA advice which recommends that a 10 minute rail journey or 15 minute bus journey can also increase the catchment area of larger parks.

Commentary

The Barnes area has excellent provision of local open space with only 1% of the population living outside the 400m recommended catchment of local open space.

The Thames towpath offers a valuable contribution to linear open space and helps form an almost uninterrupted open space link circumnavigating the entire area including Barnes Common and Barn Elms.

Barriers to access are marked on the area plan. These include:

- Limited river crossings and two railway lines through Barnes Common
- Access into and around sites and buildings for disabled people/people using buggies and prams.

Local Considerations and Issues

- Community safety – fear of crime. The towpath stretch particularly between Lonsdale Reservoir and the Beverley Brook is relatively unpopulated which causes concern about personal security.
- There is some social deprivation in the northern Casltenau proportion of the Barnes area
- Provision of diversionary activities for young people would help reduce crime
- Consider access and promotion of the Thames as a key open space experience within the borough

Opportunities to address issues

- Work with Barnes Community Association in the provision of a part time 'Common Keeper' for Barnes Green and possibly extending to Barnes Common
- Create pleasant walking and cycling routes between sites particularly to and from the Thames towpath – as proposed on the plan
- Improve knowledge of open space opportunities through marketing/signage improvements.
- Consider open space improvements as part of local planning negotiations i.e. Section 106 agreements, particularly to create ball play/sports areas.
- Promote the existing sports facilities within the area
- Encourage events that are in line with community needs and may provide income to improve facilities

Recommendations/Priorities for Barnes

Following analysis the following sites/priorities have been identified:

- Designate Leg O'Mutton Reservoir as a Public Open Space (not designated on current UDP map) and improve awareness and appropriate access.
- Explore improving access between Lonsdale Road and the towpath by possibly negotiating access across St Paul's School.
- Designate Harrods Open Space as Public Open Space (not designated on current UDP map) and improve awareness and access.
- Explore opportunities to gain access to areas, which are currently restricted open space e.g. Access once per month to local people free of charge or after 6pm to Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.
- If physical access is not possible, explore opportunities to improve views into the sites or 'visual access' such as opening views into the Wetland Centre and Harrodian School.
- Create pleasant walking and cycling routes between sites – as proposed on the plan.
- Carry out priority improvements identified by the Disability Access Audit
- Treat Barn Elms as a key park.
- Improve knowledge of open space opportunities through marketing/signage improvements to encourage usage. Add to signage scheme.
- Work with Youth Services and Policing Agencies to develop events and activities for young people focused around Castlenau Recreation Ground.
- Develop opportunities for S106 agreements to improve access and management of the towpath from Thameside development opportunities.
- Improve sports facilities at Barn Elms
- Relocate Rocks Lane playground closer to the pavilion
- Encourage local/commercial events and activities on Barn Elms