



A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham

(2021-2026)



Photo courtesy of Tomos Brangwyn

A Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership document
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1 What is the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership?

The Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership was established in 1999 as a result of Rio Earth Summit in 1992¹ to develop an action plan for the Borough's wildlife and natural environment. This followed national and regional guidance and the objectives identified through the work of the London Biodiversity Partnership and the London Biodiversity Action Plan (2000). Presently, the Partnership consists of Lewisham Council, Glendale Grounds Management, Lewisham Homes, Quaggy Waterways Action Group (QWAG), Horniman Museum and Gardens, London Wildlife Trust, Thames 21, The Creekside Education Trust, Sydenham Garden Organisation, TFL, Butterfly Conservation and, most importantly, many local Friends groups and individuals.

Lewisham's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) aspires to be visionary, pragmatic, achievable and inclusive. The first edition of the BAP took a deliberate decision, unlike many, to align itself with the Council's priorities and service delivery, recognising this was potentially an effective way of securing support from member and officers.

This is the third edition of "A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham" first published in 2007. This document seeks to build upon the Partnership's achievements by setting out our objectives for the immediate future regarding the conservation of nature across the Borough. The document also identifies the contribution of Lewisham's natural environment to quality of life and sustainable development objectives within the Borough including the Climate Emergency Action Plan².

1.1 ***Biodiversity conservation in Lewisham and beyond***

Action to conserve and enhance Lewisham's natural environment has a long tradition and much of what Lewisham has now is down to the endeavours of a number of committed local residents and voluntary organisations who have given their support for over 35 years. The Borough was one of the first in the country to employ officers with a specific nature conservation remit to complement this activity, and to establish Council-run nature reserves. Today, the Council employs an Ecological Regeneration Manager and a Nature Conservation Officer to promote biodiversity within Lewisham and ensure it is protected and enhanced within the core duties of the Council.

The Partnership was established to consolidate the interests and expertise of a range of organisations and individuals with a duty to, or interest in, conserving the Borough's wildlife and natural environment³. It is there to ensure that the diverse range of views on Lewisham's biodiversity is effectively represented and enables emerging local groups to get technical, emotional and social support and resources from others. The Partnership promotes innovation and best practice and, although the Partnership is not a campaigning organisation, it will challenge partners and others where necessary.

Nature conservation and biodiversity issues go beyond borough boundaries and both the

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992>

² <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72555/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

³ Find current list of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership member organisations in Appendix 1.

Council and members of the Partnership routinely work with and across these boundaries. Cooperation with neighbouring and other London Boroughs are happening through various initiatives, projects and groups such as the River Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group, London Boroughs' Biodiversity Forum, Association of Local Government Ecologists, the Great North Wood and the Big City Butterflies projects.

Since its establishment 22 years ago, the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership has:

- Contributed to the **ecological restoration** work at Deptford Creek, Cornmill Gardens, Ladywell Fields, Brookmill Park, Chinbrook Meadows and along the River Pool Linear Park and Riverview walk
- Worked to promote biodiverse **living roofs** on all appropriate new developments
- Played a key role delivering the '**Rivers and People**' a Big Lottery funded project worth £544,000 that delivered public engagement and promotion of the Waterlink Way
- Led on eleven **3 Rivers Clean Up** festivals which can boast to be the second largest volunteer river clean-up event in the UK
- Assisted with the development of the **River Corridor Improvement Plan**- Supplementary Planning Guidance and the Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Plan
- Helped to raise awareness of and enhance ancient woodland areas within the **Great North Wood** project⁴
- Contributed to putting policies in place to protect and enhance biodiversity as part of the Local Development Framework and development processes such as, the Local Information Requirement for Planning Applications and associated Biodiversity Guidance
- Created dedicated 'Lewisham Nature Conservation'⁵ and 'Rivers and People'⁶ **websites** for the promotion of wildlife engagement, education, and events and reached over 72,000 people
- Delivered, monitored and reported on the Partnerships collective outputs since 2008
- Generated and submitted **biological data** to Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)
- Raised and allocated funds for **training** partnership members (e.g. outdoor first aid, bat recording, invertebrate surveys, invasive species management) to improve their knowledge and skills that benefits their local group and may help in getting paid jobs or promotion. For instance, the invasive weed control training provided great value for money as volunteers can monitor and deliver management of these species which increases efficacy.
- The Council's Nature Conservation team received a bequest from **Kenneth White** in 2013 which was established as an annual Kenneth White Legacy Award (of

⁴ <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood>

⁵ <https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/>

⁶ <https://riversandpeople.com/>

£2,500/year). The Award has funded small but significant projects with the aim to improve Lewisham’s biodiversity.

- Successfully challenged inappropriate, invasive and damaging developments in or near Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and recommended conditions or rejections to councillors on planning committees. The Partnership has also positively engaged with and provided recommendations to applicants.

Since 2008 the Partnership has engaged **310,256 individuals** directly through one of the **13,113 events** delivered. These include 7,727 environmental education events (e.g. guided walks, school events) and 5,213 nature conservation volunteer events that delivered over **108,000 volunteer hours** with an estimated economic value of **£805,000**⁷. The Partnership also enhanced habitats and biodiversity in Lewisham directly through conservation activities and indirectly by providing ecological advice for **over 1500 planning applications** (Table 1).

Table 1. Habitat enhancements installed and/or recorded by the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership since 2008.

Period	Bird boxes	Bat boxes	Stag beetle loggeries	Bug hotels	Hedgerows (m)	Living roofs (m²)
2008-15	210	333	125	No information	2081	15728
2015-20	356	227	86	41	3678	46890
Total	566	560	211	>41	5759	62618

We will continue to work on broadening the Partnership and bringing in the expertise and enthusiasm of Lewisham’s residents and workers. We aim to ensure that the work of the Partnership will be at the forefront of biodiversity conservation and, as such, will take a leading role in promoting our work across the London region. The Partnership will monitor the Local Authority to ensure that in the exercise of its functions, it has regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, for the purpose of conserving biodiversity, in line with current and forthcoming legislation (Natural Environment and Rural Communities NERC Act 2006⁸, Environment Bill⁹). The Partnership will support Lewisham Council in fulfilling the requirements of the Environment Bill including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain for developments.

1.2 Working for a better quality of life

Lewisham is undergoing change and following long-term recession and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 is under significant pressure to find savings across service areas. As the Council prepares to meet these challenges it is working to find economies and explore new ways of working so that it can maintain and improve the quality of life for Lewisham’s residents, workers and visitors. The Council is taking a lead on issues such as

⁷ Calculated by totalling the hours of volunteering per individual (adults only, 3 hours per event) multiplied by the minimum hourly wage of the given year based on the Government website (<https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>).

⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020>

regeneration in areas of deprivation, neighbourhood renewal, education, employment opportunities and climate change and seeks to maintain and where possible improve housing, parks and other services.

For London, the Mayor has published a series of inter-linked strategies towards which Lewisham is contributing. The most important of these, the London Plan¹⁰, has established important directions as to how and where new development will take place. Much of this is targeted in town centres and small infill sites and Areas of Opportunity, such as the Thames Gateway, Catford and the Bakerloo Line Extension in which Lewisham lies.

Lewisham's natural heritage has an important part to play in this. It has helped shape the Borough's development and continues to be a reason why people choose to live and work here. Names such as Lee Green, Grove Park and Forest Hill give an idea of the landscape from which Lewisham developed. Today the Borough is characterised by a wide variety of green spaces and natural features that provide places for people to enjoy, such as the River Ravensbourne, Ladywell Fields, Beckenham Place Park and Hilly Fields. The Government and Lewisham Council both recognise the value of urban green spaces in their contribution to regeneration and quality of life; they give opportunities for people to have contact with the natural world and are essential for providing habitat for biodiversity. Although Lewisham is one of the greenest Boroughs in London both the latest Open Spaces Assessment (2019)¹¹ commissioned by the Council and a recent Friends of the Earth report¹² on England's green spaces identified areas for improvement. In addition to this, the COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated the importance of open spaces to physical and mental well-being and the role they can play in 'green recovery'.

1.3 Climate change

Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 with the ambition for the Borough to become carbon neutral by 2030. The approved Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan¹³ highlights the importance of green and blue spaces in tackling the simultaneous climate and biodiversity crises. Objectives and actions within the Lewisham Biodiversity Action Plan align well and complement the Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan and will contribute to its implementation.

¹⁰ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf

¹¹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks-and-open-spaces-strategy>

¹² https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2020-10/Green_space_gap_full_report_1.pdf

¹³ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72555/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

2 What is a Biodiversity Action Plan and why do we need one? Isn't all wildlife valuable?

Borough Biodiversity Action Plans are prepared to highlight the need and actions to conserve locally important plants and animals and the landscapes in which they live. They help partners to focus on the priorities, and what, when and where action should take place. For those who may not have direct wildlife knowledge but who want easily accessible guidance on actions they can carry out that will help these locally important species, habitats and areas. They set out the actions that will help to improve the quality, resilience and abundance of Lewisham's biodiversity – its variety of life – especially those species and habitats of value in the borough.

Biodiversity Action Plans particularly focus on species and habitats that reflect national and regional conservation priorities as well as those that are culturally valued or serve as flagships for wider ecological gains. However, **all** wildlife is important and the Biodiversity Action Plan is not ignorant of other species and habitats which may not be explicitly mentioned in the Plan. With new developments or changes in site management it is crucial to assess **all** the wildlife which may be using a site and **not** just the Action Plan species and habitats.

"A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham" sets out the Partnership's aspirations for the immediate future until 2026. It identifies the opportunities and objectives which Lewisham's Biodiversity Partnership is committed to achieving and demonstrates the links that the conservation of Lewisham's biodiversity can make to the Council's continuing programmes within various directorates.

The Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership aspires to deliver the BAP, and thereby contribute to and influence the Council's objectives in the following areas:

- Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development
- Parks & Open Spaces and Rivers
- Health
- Education and Community Regeneration
- Transport
- Culture
- Private land and social landlords

Once embedded in Council policies and practices, subsequent Biodiversity Action Plans will serve as benchmarks against which we monitor progress.

3 Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development



Planning and Development play a key role in conserving biodiversity especially in urban environments where green spaces are limited and pressures are high to develop land for housing and other uses. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have statutory obligations to 'have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'¹⁴ and this duty will be strengthened and clarified by the forthcoming Environment Bill¹⁵. This biodiversity duty also provides opportunities to tackle wider issues via the many benefits that biodiversity provides (e.g. improving health and wellbeing, climate change mitigation, ecosystem services). Lewisham's Core Strategy¹⁶ (7.3.3) advocates the 'protection, promotion and management of biodiversity' while the emerging Local Plan¹⁷ also requires a 'net gain' for biodiversity for all developments.

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Ensure that developers take full account of appropriate Lewisham and London Biodiversity **Action Plans and guidance** in development designs and schemes as early in the application process as possible.
2. Ensure that the new Lewisham **Local Plan** and related guidance continues to incorporate comprehensive policies and design guidance to benefit biodiversity.

¹⁴ Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006;
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40>

¹⁵ https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2020-10/Green_space_gap_full_report_1.pdf

¹⁶ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/adopted-local-plan/core-strategy/about-our-core-strategy-for-the-local-development-framework>

¹⁷ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/planning>

3. Ensure Lewisham's **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation** (SINC) network is afforded the appropriate level of protection in planning decisions, and that mitigation for any unavoidable damage or loss through development is secured. Ensure the SINC network is regularly reviewed in terms of its site quality and extent, in order to inform the Local Plan, and that the benefits (and limitations) of SINC status are disseminated.¹⁸
4. Work closely with Lewisham planners to achieve **net gain for biodiversity** at proposed developments including encouraging biodiverse living roofs that deliver meaningful Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and support wildlife, specifically the Black Redstart and all bats, both of which are London Biodiversity Action Plan species (and subject to statutory legal protection).
5. Support and contribute to the work of **Greenspace Information for Greater London** CIC (GiGL), the regional environmental records centre to ensure Lewisham's natural environment is accurately represented in their evidence base and to help inform progress of BAP delivery.
6. Require that GiGL data is used for applications that need to conduct **Preliminary Ecological Assessments and/or Ecological Impact Assessments**.
7. Increase the percentage of Lewisham **waterways and waterbodies** classified as having good ecological potential or status.
8. Periodically monitor and record progress in reducing **Areas of Deficiency** (AoD) with respect to the Borough's publicly accessible wildlife sites.

Actions

- Require developers and planners to follow Lewisham's **Biodiversity and Planning Guidance**¹⁹ and the Greater London Authority's Design Guide on Urban greening for biodiversity²⁰ to achieve net gain for biodiversity on all new development through the development control process.
- Support the work of the Council's **Greener Adaptive Lewisham Working Group** on discouraging residents to pave over front gardens for parking and raising awareness about the climate, ecology and mental health impacts of 'depaving'.

¹⁸ <http://live-twt-d8-london.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/2019-05/spaces-wild-london-wildlife-trust-oct2015.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://natureconservationlewisham.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/lewisham-biodiversity-planning-guidance-20181.pdf>

²⁰ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/urban_greening_and_bng_design_guide_march_2021.pdf

- Encourage planners, developers and householders to use the Wildlife Assessment Check²¹ for smaller developments at pre-application stage to help them ascertain if further ecology surveys are needed.
- Advise developers and planners about **living roof systems** to maximise local biodiversity and preferred species lists, planting methodologies and maintenance guarantees.
- Encourage and promote **native species selection** and/or wildlife friendly planting, landscaping and management in all new development.
- Encourage and monitor the installation of **bat boxes** and advise about their orientation and placement.
- Encourage the creation of **ponds, meadow habitats, native hedgerows** and other **linear tree features** for the benefit of bats and other wildlife species.
- Encourage the installation of Swift bricks as ‘universal nest bricks’²², open fronted **nest boxes** and nest boxes with a variety of entrance hole widths (26mm, 32mm & 45mm) to suit a range of typical garden birds such as Robin, Black Bird, Blue Tit, Great Tit, and Starling. Promote appropriate distribution, correct orientation and placement of bird nest boxes.
- Encourage the provision of **dead wood** habitat for Stag Beetles and other invertebrates.
- Encourage and support the installation of **invertebrate** nest box structures and other wildlife friendly features.
- Support the ‘**Dark sky at night**’ principles and seek commitment for the delivery of sensitive lighting schemes that avoid/minimise all light spill and that take account of nocturnal urban wildlife requirements.
- Welcome and support new partners that are engaged with developing Neighbourhood Plans with respect to protecting and enhancing habitats, biodiversity and wildlife corridors to and from other parts of the Borough or London.
- Support Lewisham Council to develop a **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** and a system for delivering mandatory **Biodiversity Net Gain**²³ when government and GLA guidance becomes available on these.

²¹ <https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/wildlife-assessment-check/>

²² https://www.swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf

²³ <https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/news/bd-net-gain/>

3.1 Priority habitat – Living Roofs



There are many living roofs installed on buildings in Lewisham. These include amongst others the Horniman Museum, Shaws Cottage, Creekside Centre, Laban Dance Centre, Seagers Building, Loampit Vale developments, Heathside & Lethbridge Estate, Convoys Wharf, Blackheath Business Centre and Kender Triangle. This plan aims to promote high quality design and locally appropriate systems in all new development schemes within the Borough.

Vision

- To install green and brown/rubble-based roof²⁴ systems for habitat mitigation and environmental benefits, such as energy conservation, flood alleviation and to ameliorate the effects of climate change and improve wildlife corridors in the Borough and London

Objectives

- Influence the use of ‘retrofits’ in the refurbishment of existing buildings where appropriate including garages in Registered Social Landlord estates
- Advise and promote the installation of high quality living roofs in accordance with the Green Roof (GRO) Code²⁵ that deliver the maximum benefit for nature conservation on all appropriate new developments
- Provide guidelines and advice²⁶ for planners when promoting living roofs for biodiversity which include combining with photovoltaics (PVs)
- Promote installation of smaller living roofs on extensions, sheds and/or bin storages in private or community gardens, allotments and other open spaces.

²⁴ Brown/rubble-based roof is a biodiverse living roof that is not purposefully planted and allows for natural colonisation. The growing medium is selected and installed to allow indigenous plant species to inhabit the roof over time.

²⁵ <https://www.greenrooforganisation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GRO-Code-2021-Anniversary-Edition.pdf>

²⁶ E.g. https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019_london_living_roofs_walls_report.pdf

3.2 Priority species – Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)



Photograph courtesy of Jim Lawrence

With fewer than 100 breeding pairs in the UK the Black Redstart is a nationally rare species. Historically Lewisham recorded over 1% of the national breeding population of this protected species but for several years there have only been a few new sightings (latest in 2021). In Europe the bird is linked with rocky, mountainous terrain and cliffs but in London there is an association with the River Thames, industrial infrastructure and brownfield sites. Preferred foraging areas include sparsely vegetated areas of rocky terrain with singing posts. This includes post-industrial land and areas undergoing or awaiting redevelopment. It is a key species that can benefit from the implementation of ‘rubble’ or ‘brown’ living roofs.

The Black Redstart is a Schedule 1 protected bird under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)²⁷.

Vision

- To encourage re-colonisation and enhance associated habitats for the continued survival of the species

Objectives

- Ensure that mitigation for this species is incorporated into all appropriate new developments²⁸
- Provide developers with information and expertise on ‘brown’ living-roof mitigation design, installation and management

²⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1>

²⁸ http://downloads.gigl.org.uk/website/black_redstart_advice_note.pdf

3.3 Priority species – Bats (Chiroptera)



There are 18 species of bat in the UK with 17 known to be breeding²⁹. They comprise almost a quarter of our land based mammal species. Historic biodiversity data shows that Lewisham has records for 11 species. Bats are legally protected by national and international law but despite this their numbers are in decline and this too is true of Lewisham where it would be extremely unlikely to find more than 7 species now. *Pipistrelle* bats are the smallest and most common bats found in the UK and the one most likely to be seen in Lewisham.

Bats can live in a variety of habitats, including open woodland, parks and urban areas. They emerge from their roosts to feed, often before sunset, hunting a wide range of insects before returning to roost. Bats use echolocation to find prey and to navigate at night. They are attracted to where there are lots of insects, often over meadows and water features. They rely on natural linear features in the landscape such as tree lines to find their way around. In Lewisham they are most likely to be found along the railway lines and rivers but also in parks which are not so affected by light pollution. They live for many years and although they may have numerous roost sites depending on the time of year and environmental and lifecycle factors they are also habitual and are faithful to good roost sites. They often roost in buildings which is why it is very important to make sure that no

²⁹ <https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats>

bats are roosting in the building before repairs, alterations or demolitions happen.

Vision

- To encourage conditions which would lead to an increase in bat populations

Objectives

- Maintain, continue and increase knowledge of bat ecology, their status, distribution and factors that affect their conservation locally
- Protect, maintain and enhance the features in the landscape required by bats (e.g. ponds, hedgerows)³⁰
- Encourage and monitor the installation of bat bricks and boxes and advise about their orientation and placement
- Encourage the creation of ponds, meadow habitats, native hedgerows and other linear tree features for the benefit of bats and other wildlife species
- Promote the planting of night-scented flowers that will attract insects
- Support the 'Dark sky at night' principles and seek commitment for the delivery of sensitive lighting schemes that avoid/minimise all light spill and that take account of nocturnal urban wildlife requirements
- Promote the reduction of insecticide use

3.4 Priority species – Swift (*Apus apus*)



Swift boxes installed with the help of the London Fire Brigade in Wynell Road (swift photo credit: Alain Georgy)³¹

³⁰ https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-08/wild%20about%20gardens_stars%20of%20the%20nights_help%20bats.pdf

³¹ <https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/16255465.swift-action-provide-homes-lewisham-birds-thanks-firefighters/>

Swifts are summer visitors to the British Isles, arriving from Africa around May and leaving in September. Swifts spend most of their lives on the wing (even sleeping!) and only land to nest. They prefer to live in colonies and to nest in small crevices such as under roof tiles, behind gutters, bargeboards and in the eaves of houses. Swifts pair for life and have been known to live up to 21 years. They usually return to their original nest sites to breed producing a clutch of 2-3 eggs. Once the chicks have fledged, they are on their own to make the vast journey to Africa and will not themselves breed for four years.

Across Europe, the birds, their eggs and nests are subject to protection. In the UK swifts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981³² (as amended) making it an offence to destroy nests, nest sites, eggs or kill the birds.

Although their numbers in Europe are relatively stable the population declined by 57% in the UK between 1995 and 2017³³. The main reasons behind this decline are thought to be the decrease in insect populations and loss of nesting sites due to renovations and demolition.

Vision

- To maintain the current population of Swifts in Lewisham and where possible extend its range throughout the Borough

Objectives

- Monitor the status and distribution of Swifts within Lewisham and submit biological record periodically to GiGL the regional record centre
- Protect existing nest sites wherever possible and require replacement swift nests where the original nesting site cannot be retained
- Require and monitor the installation of swift bricks and boxes in all suitable developments and advise about their orientation and placement³⁴. Swift bricks are the preferred option (fitted in clusters of 2 to 4) as evidence suggests³⁵ that swift bricks could also provide nesting opportunities for other small birds (e.g. sparrows, tits, starlings). Playing recordings of swift calls can accelerate occupation of new nest bricks and boxes.
- Promote creation of ponds and planting of native and/or wildlife-friendly plants that will attract insects
- Encourage people to participate in swift recording schemes such as the Swift Mapper³⁶
- Continue to work with the Lewisham Swifts group³⁷ to raise awareness of swifts and ensure that swifts are protected

³² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

³³ <https://app.bto.org/birdtrends/species.jsp?year=2019&s=swift>

³⁴ <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/9.pdf>

³⁵ https://www.swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf

³⁶ <https://www.swiftmapper.org.uk/>

³⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1700377583561148/>

4 Parks, Open Spaces and Rivers



Bee orchid in Mountsfield Park (photo courtesy of Martin Hodge)

Lewisham has a varied portfolio of parks and other green spaces - from those with strong historical links, such as Beckenham Place Park, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, Horniman Gardens and Blackheath, to those that have been created through community campaigning, such as the Sue Godfrey Nature Park (Local Nature Reserve). These are all places which people come to enjoy a range of activities and to escape the stresses of modern city life. There are currently over 50 open spaces managed by Glendale, under contract to the Council while Beckenham Place Park West is managed in-house by the Council's Green Scene team. Council-run cemeteries are overseen by the Council's Bereavement Services, and include SINC's. Most nature reserve sites are currently managed in-house with work contracted out to Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environment Management (CIEEM) registered companies such as Complete Ecology. Valuable support is also provided by voluntary and community groups on certain sites where effective partnerships have been built such as Iona Close Orchard, Devonshire Road and Garthorne Road Nature Reserves. Some other reserves and open spaces, such as Buckthorne Cutting, Albion Millennium Green are also managed by voluntary and community groups most of which are members of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership. Allotments managed both directly by the council and by associations under management agreements also represent a significant area of land in the Borough that is key for wildlife (e.g. pollinators, slow worms, amphibians, hedgehogs).

The added value that local groups and volunteers give to local wildlife sites by helping to promote and manage them is tremendous. A great deal of investment and wildlife engagement is only achieved as a direct result of the sustained involvement and commitment by them. The Partnership recognises that these acts of altruism need to continue to be encouraged, supported and celebrated by the Local Authority and all the partners. This has been recognised by Lewisham becoming second in the Good Parks for London³⁸ evaluation in 2020 scoring highest for collaboration with local groups such as the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership.

Most parks in the past were managed without wildlife in mind and although this has been changing there is still huge potential to improve their quality, for both people and wildlife. The recently adopted Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020-25³⁹ provides both strategic guidelines and delivery plans to help maximising social, economic and environmental values of open spaces in Lewisham. Lewisham's Nature's Gym⁴⁰ and Rivers and People are partnerships between the Council and Glendale to run nature conservation volunteering in parks, nature reserves and rivers. This has enabled volunteers and park users to work together on small scale enhancements to improve spaces for both wildlife and people.

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Continue to work closely with Glendale, user groups, the Lewisham Parks Forum and the **Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group** (RCIG) to complement their activities that aim to enhance and develop maintenance and management of habitats for wildlife and people's appreciation of nature
2. Help deliver the aims of the adopted **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020-25**⁴¹ that places biodiversity conservation at its core.
3. Promote, champion and explore all appropriate **communication and marketing tools** to engage and interpret the natural environment/wildlife to residents and visitors, such as: park, open space and nature reserve notice boards; interpretation boards; walks and talks; websites, social media and mobile applications.
4. Work with Registered **Social Landlords** to manage their lands with biodiversity in mind by encouraging meadow and other habitat creation such as hedge planting which provides green corridors between open spaces.

³⁸ <https://parksforlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Good-Parks-for-London-2020-Final-with-Jan-21-updates.pdf>

³⁹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/parksandopenspacestrategy2020.ashx?la=en>

⁴⁰ <http://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/natures-gym-2/>

⁴¹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks-and-open-spaces-strategy>

Actions

- Encourage and promote:
 - **Native species selection and/or wildlife friendly** and climate resilient planting, landscaping and management
 - The creation of **ponds, meadow habitats, native hedgerows** and other **linear tree** features for the benefit of bats and other wildlife species (e.g. pollinators)
 - The installation of invertebrate **nest box** structures, **bird** and **bat boxes** and advise about their orientation and placement
 - **Tree planting** in line with the ‘**right tree, right place**’ principle and in partnership with Street Trees for Living
 - The provision of **dead wood habitat** for invertebrates including Stag Beetles
 - The **conversion of urban habitats** that provide low value for biodiversity (e.g. hard standing, parking spaces) into higher-value environments such as pocket parks, ‘green stepping stones’ and other micro-habitats
 - ‘**Dark sky at night**’ principles
 - Composting green materials on site or as close as possible to the source
- Support and contribute to the aims of the London National Park City initiative.
- Support the vision of the local community and the Campaign to Protect Rural England’s (CPRE) 10 Parks for London campaign⁴² to create the **Railway Children District Park** in Grove Park and the **Dandy Fifth Park** along the Buckthorne Railway Cutting in Crofton Park.
- Work with the Council and others to seek and increase the number of **Green Flag and Green Flag Community Awards**⁴³ for parks and nature reserves.
- Support the delivery of the Council’s Integrated Weed Management Policy that aims at reducing and minimising the use of chemical herbicides to control weeds. Amongst others this includes the management of **invasive non-native**⁴⁴ **species** and requires to be vigilant with respect to surveillance and bio-security.
- Monitor and report to Defra on the **positive conservation management** of Lewisham’s designated ‘Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation’ (SINCs)⁴⁵.
- Collaborate with **Allotment Committees** to enhance biodiversity in allotment sites
- Support the ongoing legacy of the **Great North Wood** Living Landscape on relevant sites and actively participate in the Great North Wood project extension.
- Support and actively participate in Butterfly Conservation’s **Big City Butterflies**⁴⁶ project to inspire Lewisham residents to discover and enhance green spaces for

⁴² <https://parksforlondon.org.uk/ten-new-parks-for-london-campaign/>

⁴³ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

⁴⁴ <http://www.londonisi.org.uk/what-and-where/species-of-concern/>

⁴⁵ Please see the list of 64 existing and 6 proposed SINCs in Appendix 2 that are included in the Regulation 18 version of the Lewisham Local Plan. The list of SINCs will be updated once the Local Plan is approved. <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/files/sincsreportandappendix1.ashx>

⁴⁶ <https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/conservation-projects/england/big-city-butterflies>

butterflies and moths, from school playgrounds to community gardens and parks.

4.1 Priority habitat – Rivers



Cornmill Gardens before and after river restoration

Rivers are a major natural feature of Lewisham and the network of waterways formed by the Ravensbourne, Pool and Quaggy provide blue-green corridors through the Borough. However, the Quaggy is also one the most ‘engineered’ rivers in the Greater London area and along much of its course is culverted, channelled or covered. This action plan seeks to support further improvements to the rivers along their courses.

The Quaggy Waterways Action Group (QWAG)⁴⁷ was instrumental in influencing the Local Authority which now recognises the value of this resource and the opportunities that the river system provides for residents. QWAG developed ‘Operation Kingfisher’ in mid-1990s

⁴⁷ <http://qwag.org.uk/>

which resulted in river rehabilitation in Chinbrook Meadows, Manor Park, Ladywell Fields and Cornmill Gardens. To date, there has been other restoration projects, such as at Deptford Creek, Brookmill Park, the Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields, River Pool Linear Park and Riverview Walk. QWAG now has a new 'Quaggy Links' manifesto that includes restoring Sydenham Cottages, Manor House Gardens, improving Manor Park further and working with the Lee Neighbourhood Forum on linking Lee Green with Sutcliffe Park in Greenwich with a path as part of the Capital Ring and Green Chain Walk. The Partnership supports these initiatives and has also contributed to various strategic planning documents (e.g. A21) and projects (e.g. Barratt's Catford Green, Team Catford, Beckenham Place Park East) to improve the Ravensbourne catchment. A River Corridor Improvement Plan – Supplementary Planning Guidance⁴⁸ has also been developed to inform, direct and guide future development so that it enhances this asset and relates to it in a positive way.

Vision

- To seek the naturalisation of Lewisham's rivers wherever possible, and for them to meet Good Ecological Status or Potential as defined by the Water Framework Directive

Objectives

- Support the Environment Agency's programme of river restoration in South London
- Continue active participation in the Your Tidal Thames Partnership⁴⁹ and the Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group (RCIG) and contribute to the Ravensbourne Corridor Improvement Plan and the obligations contained in the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017⁵⁰
- Promote and support the wildlife/ecological value of Deptford Creek through the Creekside Education Trust and the Creekside Centre⁵¹
- Support the annual '3 Rivers Clean Up'⁵² festival initiative and manage invasive species issues associated with Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Three-cornered Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*) which are all listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁵³
- Seek to champion and encourage a balanced approach to river bankside management, public access and conservation so that some areas remain undisturbed for the benefit of wildlife
- Reconnect people with rivers and highlight the benefits of safe access and an improved river corridor with regard to health, safety, education and environmental performance

⁴⁸ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/adopted-local-plan/spds/river-corridors-improvement-plan-spd>

⁴⁹ <https://www.thamesestuarypartnership.org/your-tidal-thames>

⁵⁰ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/introduction/made>

⁵¹ <http://www.creeksidecentre.org.uk/>

⁵² <https://3riverscleanup.co.uk/>

⁵³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/9>

- Support and promote environmental education initiatives that utilise the rivers to deliver environmental learning outcomes⁵⁴
- Support river focused volunteering and Citizen Science projects (e.g. Thames21⁵⁵, QWAG, Riverfly Monitoring Initiative⁵⁶, Rivers and People, Thames Catchment Community Eels Project⁵⁷)
- Resist any proposals directly adjacent to rivers which will increase the artificial light levels or shade or canyonise rivers by overdevelopment.

4.2 **Priority species – Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)**



Photo courtesy of Tomos Brangwyn

Most people have an idea what the Kingfisher looks like even if they have never seen one. With its electric-blue back and orange underparts, it is a unique and unmistakable bird within the British and European species. At 16-17cm in length, it is not much bigger than a Sparrow, but its vibrant colours and long black bill make it stand out.

The Kingfisher is a bird of rivers, canals and lakes. It can be seen either perched beside a river, perhaps on a low branch looking intently down at the water, or flying fast and low

⁵⁴ <http://riversandpeople.com/school-resources/>;
<http://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/schools/>

⁵⁵ <http://www.thames21.org.uk/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.riverflies.org/ARM/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.thames21.org.uk/connecting-communities/thames-catchment-community-eels-project/>

over the surface. It is a shy bird and will fly away quickly if disturbed, but it is possible sometimes to get close. Its diet consists mainly of small fish - Minnows, Sticklebacks, Bullheads - and the young offspring of larger fish such as Carp and Perch. It also eats aquatic and land-based insects and even small frogs. Its nest is a tunnel, between 45-90 cm in length, which it bores into vertical riverbanks. At the end of the tunnel, it makes a rounded chamber in which the eggs are laid and the young cared for. Normally, it has up to two broods per year.

In Lewisham, we owe the Kingfisher's presence to the network of rivers - the Ravensbourne, Quaggy and Pool - which flow through our borough. In the past few years, the Kingfisher has been seen all along these rivers from Bell Green and Chinbrook Meadows in the south to Deptford Creek in the north. It is known to have bred in Ladywell Fields and the River Pool Linear Park, but evidence suggests that, due to a lack of suitable riverbank locations in Lewisham, it now moves upstream into Bromley during the spring breeding season. Over the years nest boxes were installed in various locations to try and provide breeding sites within the borough.

The Kingfisher is a Schedule 1 protected bird under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁵⁸. It is listed as a Species of Conservation Concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan⁵⁹.

Vision

- To provide the best habitat possible for the Kingfisher within Lewisham as an iconic bird representing the restored health of our waterways and an example of how wildlife can thrive within the inner city

Objectives

- Monitor the status and distribution of the Kingfisher within Lewisham and submit biological records periodically to GiGL the regional record centre
- Raise awareness of Kingfishers and their habitat requirements
- Monitor the health of Lewisham's waterways on a regular basis and take appropriate action against any cases of pollution
- Continue installing nest boxes in suitable locations to assist in breeding and minimise disruption during the nesting season to potential or known locations
- Install riverside perches in suitable locations
- Liaise with other authorities within the Ravensbourne Catchment Area to assist in achieving these objectives

⁵⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1>

⁵⁹ <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/98fb6dab-13ae-470d-884b-7816afce42d4#UKBAP-priority-birds.pdf>

4.3 Priority species – Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)



The Song Thrush has undergone a significant decline between 1970 and 2000 and although there was some recovery the population is still substantially lower than in the 1960s. It is a priority species for conservation at the UK level⁶⁰. In Lewisham, populations can be found throughout much of the Borough but particularly along the Waterlink Way in the south and Blackheath where there are mature private gardens. River corridors have significant populations within the Borough and the species should not be overlooked during river restoration projects that may remove suitable habitat such as wooded areas, hedges and wet ditches. Parks and other open spaces are also likely to hold significant numbers but it is thought that a major negative impact on the bird is the use of pesticides by gardeners/land managers and the pressure to reduce shrubberies for perceived safety reasons.

Vision

- To maintain the current population of Song Thrush in Lewisham and where possible extend its range throughout the Borough.

Objectives

- Monitor the status of Song Thrush in Lewisham and submit biological record periodically to GiGL the regional record centre
- Recruit and support “Bird champions” in parks, open spaces and nature reserves
- Support and publicise bird related engagement events and activities such as dawn chorus walks
- Assess the management practices that may affect the species within Lewisham’s public open spaces and promote the Song Thrush as an indicator of good parks management

⁶⁰ <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/98fb6dab-13ae-470d-884b-7816afce42d4#UKBAP-priority-birds.pdf>

- Provide guidance to the Council, Glendale and others, on management practices to benefit Song Thrush (e.g. reduced pesticide use, sensitive hedge and scrub management, providing damp areas)
- Encourage residents to avoid the use of slug pellets and/or molluscicides

4.4 *Priority habitat – Woodlands and trees*



Hillcrest Wood

Lewisham is a place with a healthy population of trees, our latest count estimated over 30,000 trees in the borough. West and South-West Lewisham was once part of the Great North Wood⁶¹ that ran from the North Downs near Croydon to the Thames at Deptford. Fragments of this historic wood can still be found scattered around in the original area including Hillcrest Woods, the Horniman Triangle, the Horniman Gardens, Sydenham Wells Park, four nature reserves along the Forest Hill to New Cross Metropolitan SINC railway corridor and in adjacent gardens and green spaces.

Trees, hedgerows and woodlands offer opportunities to mitigate against the impacts of climate change. Trees deliver a range of benefits including: storing carbon; improving local air quality; drainage and resilience to storm events; shading and reducing the urban heat island effect; biodiversity; and making places look and feel nicer to be in.

Lewisham's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2020-25) and Climate Emergency Action Plan both aim to wherever possible increase tree cover in the borough to maximise the benefits of trees for Lewisham's residents and wildlife.

⁶¹ <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood>

Vision

- To promote the protection and appropriate management of woodlands for biodiversity.

Objectives

- Support the implementation of the London Urban Forest Plan⁶² in Lewisham by protecting and managing trees and woodlands, involving local residents and promoting good practice.
- Use an evidenced-based approach to increase tree stocks, tree canopy and linear metres of hedgerow by encouraging natural regeneration and/or planting guided by the '**right tree, right place**' principle and in partnership with Street Trees for Living, Earthwatch and other organisations.
- Continue active participation in London Wildlife Trust's Great North Wood project and increase connectivity between remaining fragments of this historic woodland.
- Attract new audiences to woodlands and highlight the benefits of trees with regard to health, education, air pollution and climate change.
- Continue managing invasive species that reduce ecological value in woodlands such as Japanese Knotweed, Rhododendron, Buddleia, Snowberry and Cherry Laurel.
- Support the implementation of Lewisham's new Local Plan which expects all new developments to retain and protect existing trees and where it is not possible (e.g. due to health and safety concerns) require suitable replacement planting.
- Support the protection of specific trees or particular areas, groups or woodland with significant amenity, heritage, ecological, or other value from deliberate damage and destruction including, when necessary, through encouraging Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).

⁶² https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/londonurbanforestplan_final.pdf

5 Health



There is mounting evidence that shows the benefits of green spaces for physical and mental health and the pandemic in 2020 has further demonstrated the crucial importance of open spaces. Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership is working with Nature's Gym, Glendale, Thames 21, QWAG, user groups of Parks, Open Spaces and Nature Reserves, Healthy Walk coordinators, the Green Chain Officer and a range of local groups and individuals to promote the health benefits of nature conservation volunteering and active walking initiatives that use the natural environment.

The partnership aspires to develop links with Lewisham Public Health to provide opportunities for residents to actively participate and enjoy the natural environment and to use it as a vehicle to improve both mental and physical health outcomes.

Lewisham Council has a 'whole systems' approach when tackling obesity. A 'whole systems approach' doesn't just support individual behavioural change, but instead engages stakeholders across society including schools, transport, sport and leisure. One of the first areas the Council's Obesity Strategy⁶³ focused on was the use of Parks and Open Spaces. The Partnership aims to encourage this approach and forge links with the Obesity Alliance.

The partnership is also keen to encourage sustainable transport, which benefits people's health by reducing pollution and encouraging physical activity. The partnership appreciates that not everyone feels confident or even able to switch to walking and cycling, but there are short circular walks and short cycle trails developed on the Green

⁶³<http://www.lewishamjsna.org.uk/Reports/Public%20Health%20Annual%20Report%202016%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Chain⁶⁴ in Lewisham which are specifically targeted at the less mobile and less confident. Lewisham also runs a number of 'Healthy Walks'⁶⁵ which help support people either new to walking or those who need support and encouragement by providing free and friendly guided walks.

The Sydenham Garden⁶⁶ project uses part of Queenswood nature reserve as a community horticultural therapy resource centre for those who are coping with significant illness. The project is an example of successful delivery where individuals who are rehabilitating are using creative outdoor work to help treat their conditions and are also managing and enhancing the remainder of the site for wildlife.

Lewisham Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020-2025 (LPOSS) was ratified in 2020. It aims to be a guide to ensure that our Parks can be *'the heart and lungs for Lewisham, connecting active, healthy and vibrant local communities'*⁶⁷ Three broad themes were identified that our parks can deliver for our residents and visitors: Social, Economic and Environmental. The strategy therefore focused on these themes as areas where the Council can deliver positive benefits.

One of the Strategic Social aims, seeks to, *"deliver 'wellbeing' by putting parks and open spaces at the heart of outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles for all"* and has the goal of, *"To support and encourage the cultural, physical and mental health benefits and opportunities that our Parks and Open Spaces offer"* The partnership is keen to promote the benefits our parks and open spaces can have on people's physical wellbeing and fully supports the aims of the LPOSS.

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Continue to forge links with **Lewisham Public Health**, SLaM (South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust) and other mental health and wellbeing groups to highlight and promote the benefits of green space and contact with nature to patients and practitioners. Support the work of Lewisham's Obesity Alliance and their 'whole systems' approach.
2. Build on and promote **Nature's Gym, River Conservation Volunteering and Lewisham's Healthy Walks** initiatives that use the Borough's nature reserves and other green spaces to bring about health benefits to Lewisham's residents.
3. Ensure that the network of accessible green spaces is protected and enhanced.
4. Promote the **Waterlink Way, Green Chain Walk** and the **Thames Path**, as resources for both physical exercise and regular contact with nature. This should support the Lewisham Parks and Open Spaces Strategy's Strategic Economic

⁶⁴ <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/walking/green-chain-walk>

⁶⁵ <https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/lewisham-healthy-walks>

⁶⁶ <http://www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk/>

⁶⁷ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/parksandopenspacestrategy2020.ashx?la=en>

Goal of, “*To ‘green the grey’ by developing partnerships to deliver active green travel links through highways infrastructure projects*”

5. Help deliver the relevant **Strategic Social Aims** of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy:
- To work with colleagues in Public Health and Community Services to support and encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes that link open spaces.
 - To deliver ‘wellbeing’ by putting parks and open spaces at the heart of outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles for all.
 - To support and encourage the cultural, physical and mental health benefits and opportunities that our Parks and Open Spaces offer.

Actions

- Promote and market active **nature conservation volunteering** via Lewisham’s nature conservation websites⁶⁸
- Promote and market walking for **health and guided walks** that use parks, open spaces, rivers and nature reserves via the nature conservation website
- Encourage the **training** and development of new healthy walk leaders
- Deliver **60 nature conservation volunteer sessions** per year
- Deliver **30 guided walk** sessions per year
- Support the work of Lewisham’s **Good Gym**⁶⁹
- Encourage **Schools** to use Lewisham’s Parks and Open Spaces for formal and informal physical activity.

⁶⁸ <https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/>; <https://riversandpeople.com/how-to-get-involved/river-volunteering/>

⁶⁹ <https://www.goodgym.org/areas/lewisham>

6 Education and Community Regeneration



Members of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership are actively engaged in a range of formal and informal educational activities in respect of Lewisham's natural environment. These include education sessions run by the Council's Nature Conservation Officer, Glendale's Nature Conservation Officer, and organisations such as the Horniman Museum, Creekside Education Trust, Thames21, QWAG, Froglife and London Wildlife Trust as well as various Forest School⁷⁰ initiatives run by other individuals and user groups.

The Partnership seeks to:

Continue to make links with schools, youth groups, adult learning centres and other educational resource centres to support and promote environmental education initiatives that utilise the natural environment to deliver learning outcomes and wildlife engagement.

Actions

- Promote **environmental education events** via Lewisham's nature conservation websites and other members' websites
- Encourage the use of Lewisham's '**Policy** for use of Lewisham Nature Reserves by Schools/Nurseries for **Forest Schools/Education**' in all open spaces in Lewisham.
- Provide free environmental **education resources** to help individual learning and/or running self-guided education sessions. Resources are available from:

⁷⁰ <http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>

- Lewisham nature conservation website:
<https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/schools/>
- Rivers and People website: <https://riversandpeople.com/how-to-get-involved/school-resources/>
- Horniman Museum website: <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/schools/>
- Creekside Education Trust website:
<https://www.creeksidecentre.org.uk/education/at-home-activities/>
- London Wildlife Trust website:
<https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/about/outdoor-learning>
- Deliver **500 educational events** involving 8,000 children per year

7 Transport



It is recognised that, in order to promote sustainable transport and encourage more walking and cycling, it is essential to improve the quality of the environment. Both walking and cycling are playing an increasingly important role in modern life and this was also highlighted during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The Council also recognises this both within its Transport strategy and local implementation plan (LIP) 2019-2041⁷¹ and its Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020-2025 that provide a strategic framework for the development and improvement of walking and cycling networks. Funds have been obtained from Transport for London for green corridors that improve the environment and link up cycling/walking routes to and from parks. The Green Chain Walk⁷² and Waterlink Way⁷³ are both examples of important and valuable strategic routes where people can experience nature and the Parks and Open Spaces strategy aims to improve these routes. Schemes like 'Lewisham's Healthy Walks'⁷⁴ operate in the Borough to help encourage activity by using and enjoying these spaces.

Lewisham's streets are frequently perceived as being 'the built environment' and often their ecological role is overlooked. Many streets can be thought of as linear parks, where front gardens provide a variety of habitats and trees in gardens or those planted in the pavement contribute to the general attractiveness and structure of the street. Research conducted by the London Assembly in 2003 has estimated that the overall area lost to garden parking in London is equivalent to 12 square miles or 22 Hyde Parks⁷⁵. Further research, published in 2015⁷⁶, showed that half of all front gardens in London are paved over and one in three front

⁷¹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/files/imported/localimplementationplan/reviseddraftlipmarch19final.ashx>

⁷² <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/walking/green-chain-walk>

⁷³ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/sport/get-active/walking/waterlink-way>

⁷⁴ <https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/lewisham-healthy-walks>

⁷⁵ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_migrate_files_destination/archives/assembly-reports-environment-frontgardens.pdf

⁷⁶ <https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/archive/PDF/Greener-Streets/greening-grey-britain-report.pdf>

gardens have no plants. This change is not only detrimental to biodiversity and mental health⁷⁷ but also exacerbate flooding, the urban heath island effect and pollution. Besides encouraging ‘unpaving’ and planting in front gardens, street tree planting can also compensate for some of these negative effects.

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Work to protect, create, and improve habitats and public access, where appropriate, along any proposed and/or existing route.
2. Set standards in partnership with the Council’s cycling team for the ecological design, management and promotion of **quality walking and cycling routes** (e.g. Lewisham Air Quality app⁷⁸, Tranquil City⁷⁹), which provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and recognise valuable habitats and species.
3. Continue working with the Council and various other relevant organisations to ensure that the Lewisham town centre (Lewisham Gateway, A21) and other developments provide a high quality space for both people and wildlife.
4. Work to **influence highway managers and transport planners** to consider biodiversity enhancements that will also provide solutions to some of the issues they face. One such solution is the use of trees and other greenery in the 20mph Zone proposals designed to calm traffic by narrowing, visually, the width of streets. This method has been used effectively to reduce speeds and enhance the character of areas without resorting to ‘hard’ traffic engineering measures.
5. Promote **avoidance of giving large areas over to parking** at events, in new developments and discourage paving over front gardens for parking. Work with initiatives that address this problem and promote tree planting on streets such as Street Trees for Living⁸⁰.
6. Demonstrate the benefits in the long run of incorporating elements that enhance biodiversity and link projects, such as: home zones; cycling and walking corridors; traffic calming; safer routes to schools and that these will help us to move from the car to a much improved environment for all.
7. Support the delivery of **Lewisham’s Park and Open Spaces strategy** that aims to work

⁷⁷ <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape/news/scientific-research-shows-greener-front-gardens-reduce-stress>

⁷⁸ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/download-our-air-quality-app>

⁷⁹ <https://tranquilcity.co.uk/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.streettreesforliving.org/>

with Highways colleagues on, 'Cycleways', 'Legible London' and 'Healthy Neighbourhood' transport programmes, to promote 'pathways to parks' and 'greening the grey' by developing sustainable travel links that use planting and greening as a tool to reduce carbon emissions.

8. Work with **Healthy Walks Lewisham**⁸¹ to promote walking for health as well as a sustainable method of transport. Encourage and promote walking and cycling as a viable alternative to using a car.
9. Work with QWAG, Thames 21 and other partners on the **Quaggy Links** Project.⁸²

7.1 *Priority habitat – Railway 'Linesides'*



Lewisham is criss-crossed by an extensive network of railway lines. The land beside them, especially embankments and cuttings, provide a haven for wildlife and is an excellent habitat for many plants and animals. Some decommissioned railway land has also been managed as nature reserves for many years such as Brookmill Nature Reserve. In terms of biodiversity, it is important that these railway 'linesides' are protected and conserved.

At just over 45km, Lewisham contains, proportionately, one of the greatest lengths of London's railway network – c5.5% - managed by 3 companies: Network Rail, Docklands Light Railway (DLR), and London Overground. The corridor south of New Cross Gate through to Forest Hill is recognised as Metropolitan Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (MSINC), the only such railside in London. Much of the rest of the 'linesides' are designated as Borough level SINC and Green Corridors⁸³ for the habitats they support.

⁸¹ <https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/lewisham-healthy-walks>

⁸² <https://qwag.org.uk/get-set-for-the-last-major-restoration-of-the-quaggy/>

⁸³ <http://www.cartogold.co.uk/lewisham/map.htm>

This resource is of considerable importance as, cumulatively, the 'linesides' make up a very large linear area that is habitat for many plants and animals. In addition, the 'linesides' can add to the ecological integrity of adjacent SINCs and other green open spaces that are more centrally located.

Although safety and operational concerns must always be the first priority, railway land can still be managed with wildlife in mind. A number of nature reserves have been established adjacent to the lineside such as Devonshire Road, Garthorne Road, Buckthorne Cuttings, Dacres Wood, Brockley (LWT), Brookmill and Grove Park Nature Reserves.

Vision

- To promote the protection and appropriate management of railway corridors for biodiversity.

Objectives

- Establish positive working links with the Council, Network Rail, Transport for London (London Overground) and DLR in respect to the protection and management of lineside habitats along Lewisham's rail network.
- Liaise with rail side landowners to encourage and advise them on appropriate biodiversity management for their sites and remind them of the importance of these habitats.
- Work with Lewisham's Planning Department and Network Rail to investigate and report on garden encroachment on rail side land.
- Work with rail side landowners to encourage them to report wildlife sightings and submit these to GiGL.
- Establish and promote safe and quiet walking routes between the Borough's parks.

8 Culture



Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022

The cultural diversity of Lewisham is underpinned by the historical heritage of the Borough, which itself has been significantly characterised by its natural environment. The landscape of Lewisham is that of river valleys. Lewisham developed around the Ravensbourne and its confluences with the Thames at Deptford, River Quaggy at Lewisham town centre and River Pool at Catford. Deptford gets its name from the 'deep ford' over the Ravensbourne and this 'working creek' had a range of fascinating wharves, mills, bridges and landing stages, with a mix of heavy industry, transport infrastructure and new riverside development. The majority of the river courses in the borough were still part of the countryside and these low-lying fields afforded a pattern of farms and villages. The tidal creeks around Deptford became important trading posts, further developed for ship-building using timber from the woods that once covered Forest Hill and Sydenham. These areas were part of the Great North Wood of which New Cross Gate Cutting is one of the last remnants.

From the nineteenth century, as drainage techniques improved, industrialisation and the construction of railways brought rapid urbanisation and most of the borough was built-up. The railway expansion followed the rivers to some extent and these interconnected linear tracts of land connect habitats and are arguably the borough's greatest wildlife asset. Besides their biodiversity value railways could also act as cultural inspiration such as the embankment in Grove Park which thought to have inspired Edith Nesbit to write her famous novel in 1906, *The Railway Children*.

There is a strong cultural connection between the landscape and the places of Lewisham illustrated by key natural features: place, street and pub names like Blackheath, Catford, Hilly Fields, Perry Vale, Downham, Beckenham, Lee Green, Burnt Ash Hill, Redstart Close and Hare & Billet, to mention just a few. This cultural connection with the landscape can help build a sense of place and should be highlighted and interpreted via engagement activities and with interpretive materials such as signs, leaflets, websites and at events. Lewisham will be the London Borough

of Culture in 2022⁸⁴ which will provide a major opportunity to highlight connections between culture and nature throughout the Borough.

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Act as a consultative forum for **London Borough of Culture** activities and beyond for those producing and commissioning public art. We encourage art that works with nature rather than imposing itself on nature and that can also aid wildlife/ecological interpretation in parks, open spaces, nature reserves and the streetscape
2. Produce and comment on wildlife/ecological **interpretation** that aims to engage, enthuse and widen knowledge and understanding for the general public
3. Work with community **art groups** to enhance some locations (e.g. tunnels) with biodiversity inspired murals in the Borough.

⁸⁴ <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/statement-regarding-london-borough-of-culture>

9. What you can do for wildlife



Aspinall Road Community Garden

Housing land, both private and public, constitutes the largest amount of open space within the Borough. However, much of the housing space including gardens and estate grounds lie outside the domain of the Council and requires the interest of home-owners and registered social landlords for their biodiversity improvements.

The Partnership will raise awareness about activities and improvements that local residents can do that benefit biodiversity via communications and projects (e.g. Horniman Museum's Environment Champions Club, Big City Butterflies), and work collaboratively with social landlords, allotment committees, schools and other land owners on enhancements they can do on their sites. Through the annual Kenneth White Legacy Award the Partnership will also provide small funds to projects that aim to improve Lewisham's biodiversity.

The Partnership supports and endorses 11 simple things that private households and/or registered social landlords can do to **encourage and support wildlife**:

1. Start or continue **wildlife gardening** including in front gardens. Use native and/or wildlife friendly plants, those with simple flowers and night scented varieties are especially useful. Advice available from:
 - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening>
 - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/>
 - <https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/>
 - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden>
 - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/gardening-for-the-environment/planet-friendly-gardening-tips>
 - <https://www.nationalparkcity.london/frontgardens>

2. Build a small **pond** to benefit amphibians and invertebrates. Advice available from: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond>
3. Create a **log pile** to benefit Stag Beetles, toads, hedgehogs and other wildlife using suitable untreated broadleaf dead wood. Place in shade or dappled shade buried, or in contact with the soil. Advice available from: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-log-shelter>
4. Build a **bee/bug hotel** to benefit insects and other invertebrates. Advice available from: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/09/how-to-build-a-bug-hotel/>
5. Buy or build a bird **nest box** for your garden. Instructions for building your own can be obtained from: <https://www.bto.org/how-you-can-help/providing-birds/putting-nest-boxes-birds/make-nest-box>
6. **Provide food** for Sparrows and other birds all year round but especially in the spring during breeding season. Advice available from: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/feeding>
7. Don't be too tidy – create **wild areas** to support mini-beasts like caterpillars, spiders and beetles and hedgehogs.
8. **Compost** food and garden waste. Advice available from:
 - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/wasterecycle/garden-waste-collections>
 - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-compost-your-waste>
9. **Avoid using pesticides, slug pellets and herbicides** and try to work with nature or use alternative natural systems instead (e.g. planting annuals such as Californian poppies and marigolds in your garden will attract a wealth of beneficial insects, like ladybirds and hoverflies, that will eat aphids). Advice available from: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-your-garden-chemical-free-zone>
10. **Report** ill or dead animals via the Garden Wildlife Health project: <https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/>
11. **Participate** in conservation volunteering activities (e.g. Nature's Gym⁸⁵), Citizen Science projects (e.g. Riverfly Monitoring⁸⁶, Butterfly count⁸⁷, Big Garden Birdwatch⁸⁸ and other citizen surveys⁸⁹) and tell GiGL what you see: <http://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/>

Further information on how you can help wildlife is available from many websites including the Wildlife Trusts: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions>

⁸⁵ <https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/how-to/natures-gym-2/>

⁸⁶ https://www.riverflies.org/Recording_Schemes

⁸⁷ <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

⁸⁸ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch>

⁸⁹ <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/actions/how-take-part-citizen-survey>

9.1 Priority species – Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)



The Stag beetle, the largest beetle in the UK, is threatened at the global level and has undergone significant decline. They are legally protected from sale in the UK and on the Red list in many European countries. In some countries they have gone extinct (e.g. Latvia, Denmark). Surveys indicate south London is a national hotspot and in Lewisham they can be found throughout the Borough. They require suitable dead wood for their survival in order to complete their lifecycle. Female Stag Beetles lay eggs in the soil next to logs or in the stumps of dead trees, and the larva (or grub) will spend up to seven years in the wood, slowly growing in size. Adults emerge from mid-May until late July. Males emerge earlier to actively search for females to mate, and can often be seen flying on sultry summer evenings an hour or two before dusk. As adults they are short-lived and generally die after mating, although occasionally some may over-winter in places such as compost heaps. It is because of their reliance on dead rotting wood that management of this resource is a key priority in order to provide suitable habitat.

Vision

- To maintain and enhance the current population within Lewisham and seek improvements of dead wood provision in gardens, parks, school grounds and other open spaces

Objectives

- Work with Glendale and other land managers to further the advice published by London Wildlife Trust⁹⁰ and the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species⁹¹ for good site management
- Work with Glendale, Nature's Gym and other partners to install and record loggeries in key parks, schools and nature reserves
- Promote their conservation to the wider public, primarily at the time when adult Stag Beetles are seen (May-July)
- Promote and monitor the installation of Stag Beetle loggeries as part of Urban

⁹⁰ <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/stag-beetle-campaign>

⁹¹ <https://ptes.org/campaigns/stag-beetles-2/>

Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions

- Encourage reporting stag beetle sightings to GiGL⁹²

9.2 **Priority species – House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)**



House sparrows are social birds most often seen and heard chirping in flocks in hedges and/or around birdfeeders. They also nest in colonies in crevices, nest boxes or in dense vegetation. The adults mainly feed on seeds and grains while feeding their chicks with insects and other invertebrates.

The House Sparrow used to be a common sight in the capital but has undergone a dramatic decline in London and in the UK in recent years⁹³. This is mirrored in Lewisham, but there are still thriving colonies in Cornmill Gardens, Brookmill Park, Hilly Fields and elsewhere. The species is listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan⁹⁴. The reasons behind population declines in urban areas are unclear but loss of nesting sites, reduction of food availability, predation and diseases thought to play a role. Conservation actions targeting these causes could help this much loved bird to re-establish itself.

Vision

- To maintain and enhance the current population within Lewisham

Objectives

- Monitor the status and distribution of House Sparrow in Lewisham and submit biological records periodically to GiGL the regional record centre
- Promote wildlife gardening to the public and encourage householders to provide food for sparrows all year round but especially in the spring
- Encourage and monitor the installation of House Sparrow nest boxes as part of Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions

⁹² <http://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/>

⁹³ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/house-sparrow/population-trends/>

⁹⁴ <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/98fb6dab-13ae-470d-884b-7816afce42d4#UKBAP-priority-birds.pdf>

- Recruit and support “Bird champions” in parks, open spaces and nature reserves
- Support and publicise bird related engagement events and activities such as dawn chorus walks via the nature conservation website and other social media platforms
- Encourage reporting of ill or dead sparrows and other garden birds via the Garden Wildlife Health⁹⁵ project

9.3 *Priority species – European Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)*



Photo courtesy of Caitlin Pennington

Hedgehogs are Britain's only spiny mammals covered in up to 6,000 spines, which are brown with white tips. They have a short tail, and their underside is covered in coarse brown fur. Mostly solitary and nocturnal, hedgehogs can travel long distances in their nightly forages for food (up to 1.8 kilometres). While hunting for food, they rely primarily upon their senses of hearing and smell because their eyesight is weak. Hedgehogs have a varied diet which includes slugs, snails, beetles, earthworms, other invertebrates and occasionally eggs and fruit. They hibernate between October/November and March/April during which they usually change hibernating nest once. When frightened they curl into a ball instead of running away which can make them more vulnerable in some situations such as on the road or during vegetation clearance.

Hedgehogs are partially protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁹⁶ but their numbers have been declining since the 1990s in the UK with more severe decline in rural areas. There is a promising trend in urban areas where hedgehog numbers slightly increased in recent years⁹⁷. Loss and fragmentation of habitats

⁹⁵ <https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/>

⁹⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/6>

⁹⁷ https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SoBH-2018_final-1.pdf

(e.g. gardens, grasslands), decrease of invertebrate populations due to chemical use and roads are main threats in urban areas.

Vision

- To maintain and where possible increase the population of Hedgehogs in Lewisham

Objectives

- Monitor the status and distribution of Hedgehogs in Lewisham and submit biological records periodically to GiGL the regional record centre
- Create and encourage creation of 'hedgehog highways', hedgehog houses and hibernacula wherever possible including as part of Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions
- Provide advice and guidance on management practices that benefit hedgehogs
- Support the implementation of the UK's Conservation Strategy for the European Hedgehog (2015-2025)⁹⁸
- Encourage reporting of hedgehog sightings via Hedgehog Street⁹⁹ or the Garden Wildlife Health¹⁰⁰ project

9.4 Priority habitat – Standing Water & Ponds



Ephemeral pond at Whitfield's Mount on Blackheath

Open standing water and ponds regardless of their size represent one of the most diverse of all ecological habitats in London. These habitats are particularly important for amphibians and reptiles such as frogs, toads, newts and grass snakes. These smaller, often sheltered water bodies hold a huge variety of invertebrates. Most spectacular are damselflies,

⁹⁸ <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Hedgehog-10-year-strategy-master-document-v5.pdf>

⁹⁹ <https://bighedgehogmap.org/holes-for-hedgehogs-home/map-hedgehog-sighting>

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/>

dragonflies and water beetles. Standing water generally supports larger variety of insects compared to dry habitats. These insects are important food sources for birds and bats especially during prolonged dry weather conditions in late spring and summer.

Aquatic habitats are incredibly vulnerable to environmental and human related pressures. For example the presence of certain species of fish will place considerable strain on the survival of aquatic invertebrates and tadpoles so even seasonal ponds are useful for these species as they are fish free. In the urban environment, open standing water is especially vulnerable to vandalism, pollution and disturbance. Some standing water will be lost to development and some will simply dry out and evolve into a different habitat. Therefore, it is particularly important to engage with audiences such as residents, housing associations and developers to promote the creation of new water bodies wherever possible.

Vision

- To increase the provision and good management of standing water and ponds in Lewisham

Objectives

- Encourage and support the creation and maintenance of new ponds
- Monitor the creation of new ponds as part of Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions
- Provide management advice and awareness of the biodiversity value of ponds and the importance of biosecurity to avoid spreading invasive species and diseases
- Support partner engagement events, frog days and Froglife¹⁰¹ pond projects
- Continue to support and promote environmental education initiatives that utilise the ponds to deliver environmental learning outcomes

9.5 Priority species – Common toad (*Bufo bufo*)



Photo courtesy of Tony Canning

Amphibian species populations are declining at an alarming rate globally and despite its name and that it is found throughout Britain the Common Toad is not so common anymore. A study in 2016 found a significant decline (68%) of the species in the UK since 1980s with

¹⁰¹ <http://www.froglife.org/>

an even steeper decline in South East England¹⁰².

Common Toads breed in ponds but spend most of their lives on land away from water walking (and not hopping) around at night looking for slugs, snails, spiders and other invertebrates. They spend winter buried under log piles, stones, leaf litter or compost heaps. Adult toads usually migrate back to their birth pond to breed which is becoming more and more difficult with fences and busy roads blocking their way in urban areas. The disappearance of ponds in gardens and open spaces and two amphibian diseases (Ranavirus and Chytridiomycosis) pose further threats to toads.

The Common Toad is protected from trade and sale under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981¹⁰³ (as amended) and was identified as a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 2007.

Vision

- To maintain and where possible increase the population of the Common Toad in Lewisham

Objectives

- Encourage and support the creation and maintenance of new ponds
- Create and encourage creation of hibernacula near ponds wherever possible
- Provide advice and guidance on management practices that benefit Common Toads
- Enhance migration routes and links between suitable habitats
- Support partner engagement events, frog days and Froglife's London Tails of Amphibian Discovery (T.O.A.D) activities¹⁰⁴
- Encourage reporting of ill or dead amphibians via the Garden Wildlife Health¹⁰⁵ project

¹⁰² [Volunteer Conservation Action Data Reveals Large-Scale and Long-Term Negative Population Trends of a Widespread Amphibian, the Common Toad \(*Bufo bufo*\)](#); Petrovan SO, Schmidt BR (2016) Volunteer Conservation Action Data Reveals Large-Scale and Long-Term Negative Population Trends of a Widespread Amphibian, the Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*). PLOS ONE 11(10): e0161943

¹⁰³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/5>

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/education/london-t-o-a-d/>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/>

10 Priority species and habitats

10.1 *Priority species (in alphabetical order)*

1. All bat species (Chiroptera)
2. Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
3. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
4. Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)
5. European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)
6. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
7. Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
8. Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)
9. Swift (*Apus apus*)

10.2 *Priority habitats*

1. Living Roofs
2. Rivers
3. Railway 'Linesides'
4. Standing Water & Ponds
5. Woodlands and trees

11 Appendix 1: Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership member organisations

1. Baring Trust
2. Butterfly Conservation
3. Chinbrook Community Orchard
4. Creekside Education Trust
5. DeptfordFolk
6. Forest Hill Kindergarten
7. Friends of Albion Millennium Green
8. Friends of Blythe Hill Fields
9. Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
10. Friends of Brookmill Park
11. Friends of Chinbrook Meadows
12. Friends of Dacres Wood
13. Friends of Devonshire Road
14. Friends of Downham Woodland Walk
15. Friends of Eckington Gardens
16. Friends of Forster Memorial Park
17. Friends of Fourth Reserve
18. Friends of Garthorne Road
19. Friends of Hillcrest Woods
20. Friends of Iona Orchard
21. Friends of Ladywell Fields
22. Friends of Luxmore Gardens
23. Friends of Manor House Gardens
24. Friends of Mayow Park
25. Friends of Mountsfield Park
26. Friends of Northbrook Park
27. Friends of River Pool
28. Friends of Telegraph Hill
29. Glendale
30. Green Roof Organisation
31. Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum
32. Hither Green Community Association
33. Horniman Museum
34. Lee Forum
35. Lewisham Healthy Walks
36. Lewisham Homes
37. Little Explorers
38. London Borough of Lewisham
39. London National Park City Rangers
40. London Wildlife Trust
41. Penguin Random House
42. QWAG
43. Sydenham Garden
44. Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group
45. TFL
46. Thames 21

12 Appendix 2: List of SINC sites proposed by the draft Lewisham Local Plan*

* The below list represents the SINC sites as per Regulation 18 version of the Local Plan and the list will be updated once the Local Plan is approved.

List of Sites of Metropolitan Importance

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 1 | M031 | The River Thames and tidal tributaries |
| 2 | M069 | Blackheath and Greenwich Park |
| 3 | M122 | Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting |
| 4 | M135 | Beckenham Place Park (Local Nature Reserve) |

List of Sites of Borough Importance:

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 5 | LeB01 | Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries |
| 6 | LeB02 | Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium and Reigate Road Open Space |
| 7 | LeB03 | Downham Woodland Walk (Local Nature Reserve) |
| 8 | LeB04 | Pool River Linear Park |
| 9 | LeB05 | Hillcrest Estate Woodland |
| 10 | LeB06 | Grove Park Nature Reserve (Local Nature Reserve) |
| 11 | LeB07 | Forster Memorial Park |
| 12 | LeB08 | Burnt Ash Pond Nature Reserve (Local Nature Reserve) |
| 13 | LeB09 | Horniman Gardens, Horniman Railway Trail and Horniman Triangle |
| 14 | LeB10 | Durham Hill |
| 15 | LeB11 | Dacres Wood Nature Reserve and Sydenham Park Railway Cutting (Local Nature Reserve) |
| 16 | LeB12 | Loat's Pit |
| 17 | LeB13 | Grove Park Cemetery |
| 18 | LeB14 | Sue Godfrey Nature Park (Local Nature Reserve) |
| 19 | LeB15 | Honor Oak Road Covered Reservoir |
| 20 | LeB16 | St Mary's Churchyard, Lewisham |
| 21 | LeB17 | River Quaggy at Manor House Gardens |
| 22 | LeB18 | Mayow Park |
| 23 | LeB19 | Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields |
| 24 | LeB20 | River Ravensbourne and Brookmill Park |
| 25 | LeB21 | Senegal Railway Banks |
| 26 | LeB22 | Railsides Land: New Cross to St Johns Railsides |
| 27 | LeB23 | Nunhead Cutting |
| 28 | LeB24 | Brockley to St John's Railsides |
| 29 | LeB25 | St Johns to Lewisham Railsides (St Johns Station) |
| 30 | LeB26 | Lewisham Railway Triangles |
| 31 | LeB27 | Lewisham to Blackheath Railsides |
| 32 | LeB28 | Hither Green Railsides (Hither Green Station) |
| 33 | LeB29 | Hither Green Sidings |

- 34 LeB30 Railsides South of Sydenham
- 35 LeB31 Lower Sydenham Station Meadow
- 36 LeB32 New Cross and New Cross Gate Railsides
- 37 LeB33 Mountsfield Park
- 38 LeB34 Chinbrook Community Orchard and Allotments
- 39 LeB35 River Quaggy at Chinbrook Meadows
- 40 LeB36 River Ravensbourne at Ladywell Fields
- 41 LeB37 River Quaggy and Manor Park
- 42 LeB38 River Thames Tidal Creek at Creekside Education Centre
- 43 LeB39 Bridgehouse Meadows Railsides

List of Sites of Local Importance

- 44 LeL01 Brookmill Nature Reserve (**Local Nature Reserve**)
- 45 LeL02 Besson Street Community Garden
- 46 LeL04 Sydenham Cottages Nature Reserve
- 47 LeL05 Folkestone Gardens
- 48 LeL06 Whitefoot Recreation Ground
- 49 LeL07 Queenswood Nature Reserve
- 50 LeL08 Rainsborough Avenue Embankments
- 51 LeL09 Sayes Court Park
- 52 LeL10 Iona Close Orchard
- 53 LeL11 Sedgehill Allotments
- 54 LeL12 Brockley Hill Park
- 55 LeL14 Sydenham Wells Park
- 56 LeL15 Hilly Fields
- 57 LeL16 Eliot Bank Hedge and Tarleton Gardens
- 58 LeL17 River Ravensbourne at Peter Pan's Park and Southend Pond
- 59 LeL19 Albion Millennium Green
- 60 LeL21 Pepys Park Nature Area
- 61 LeL22 St Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Street Open Space
- 62 LeL23 Telegraph Hill Park
- 63 LeL24 Bromley Hill Cemetery
- 64 LeL26 Gilmore Road Triangle

List of Proposed Sites of Local Importance

- 65 LeL27 River Ravensbourne at Cornmill Gardens
- 66 LeL28 Lewisham Park
- 67 LeL29 Northbrook Park
- 68 LeL30 Southend Park
- 69 LeL31 Sedgehill School Boundaries
- 70 LeL32 Blythe Hill Fields
- 71 NA Ringway Community Gardens

13 Appendix 3: Distribution heatmaps of priority species

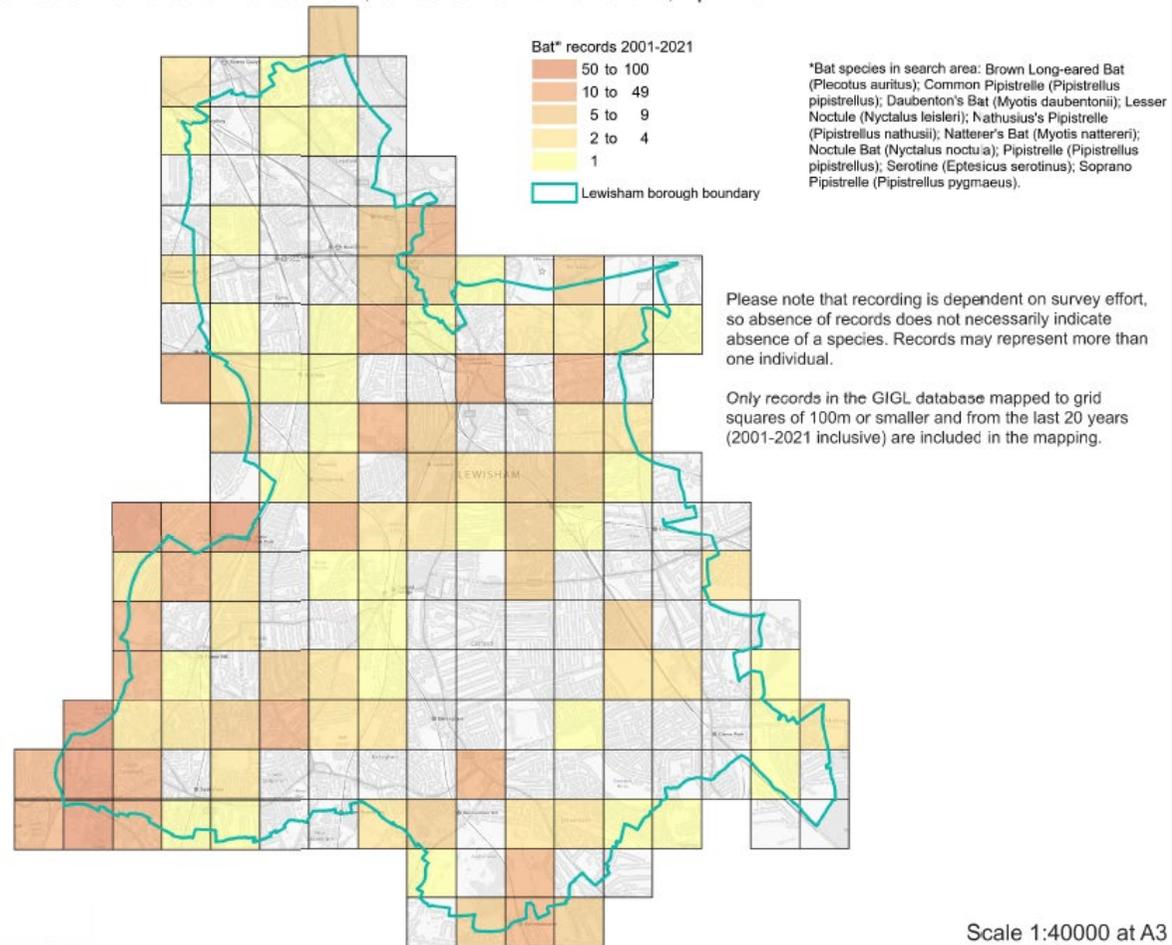
The heatmaps on the following pages were produced by GiGL. Please note that recording is dependent on survey effort, so absence of records does not necessarily indicate absence of species. Records may represent more than one individual. Only records of the GiGL database mapped to grid squares of 100m or smaller and from the last 20 years (2001-2021 inclusive) are included in the mapping.

Please also note that **Black Redstars** are not included because they are on the Natural England Sensitive Species list and maps should not be published at a resolution of less than 10km.

1) All bat species (Chiroptera)

Bat records in LB Lewisham

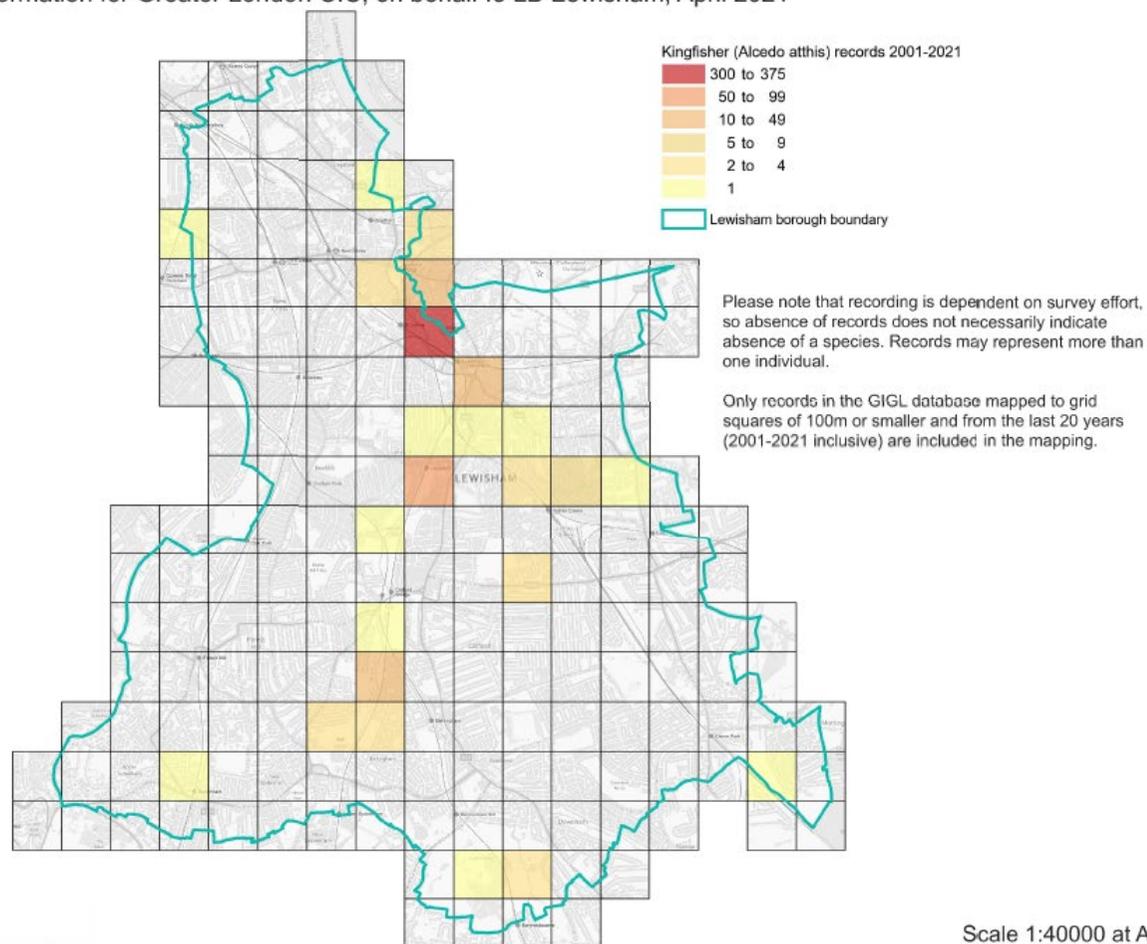
Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf fo LB Lewisham, April 2021



2) Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Kingfisher records in LB Lewisham

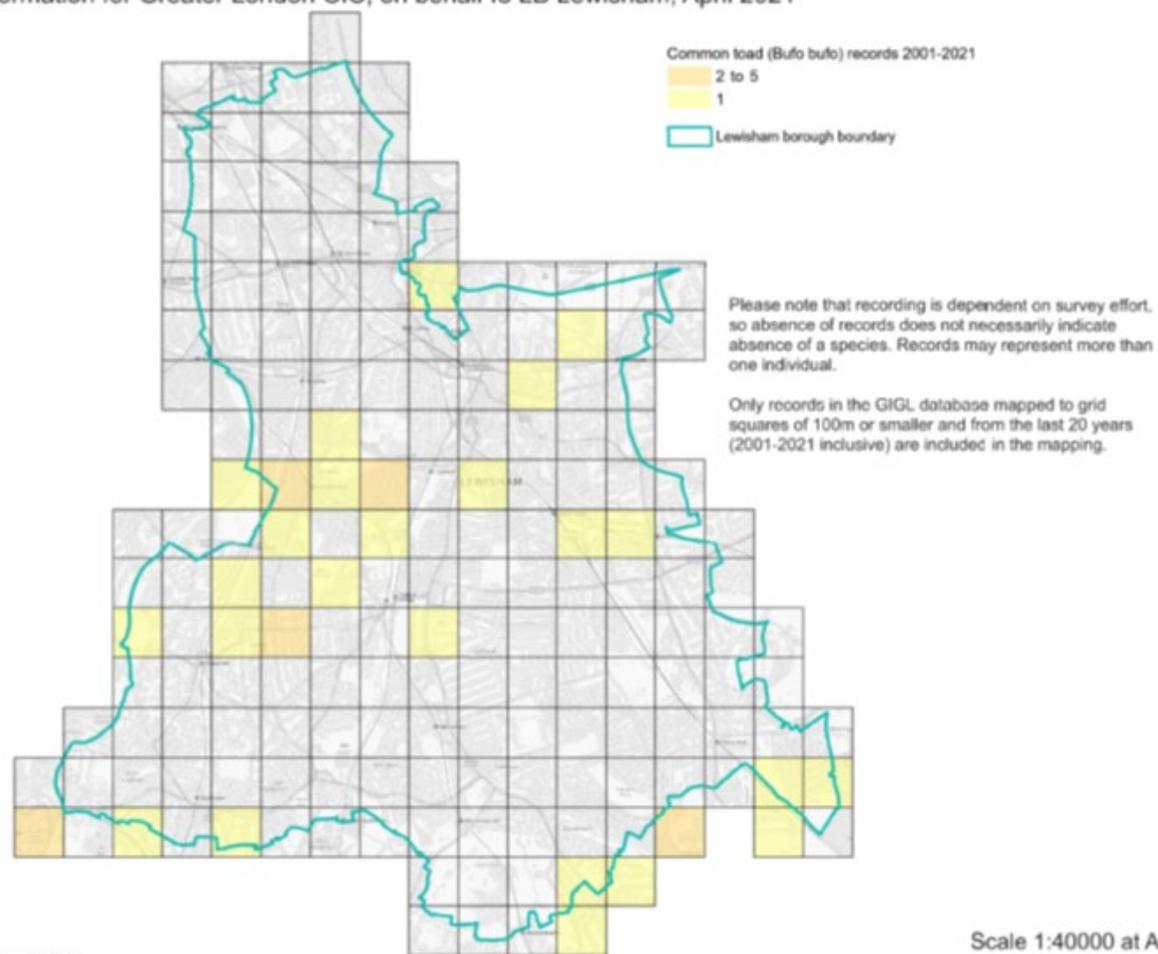
Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf of LB Lewisham, April 2021



3) Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)

Common toad records in LB Lewisham

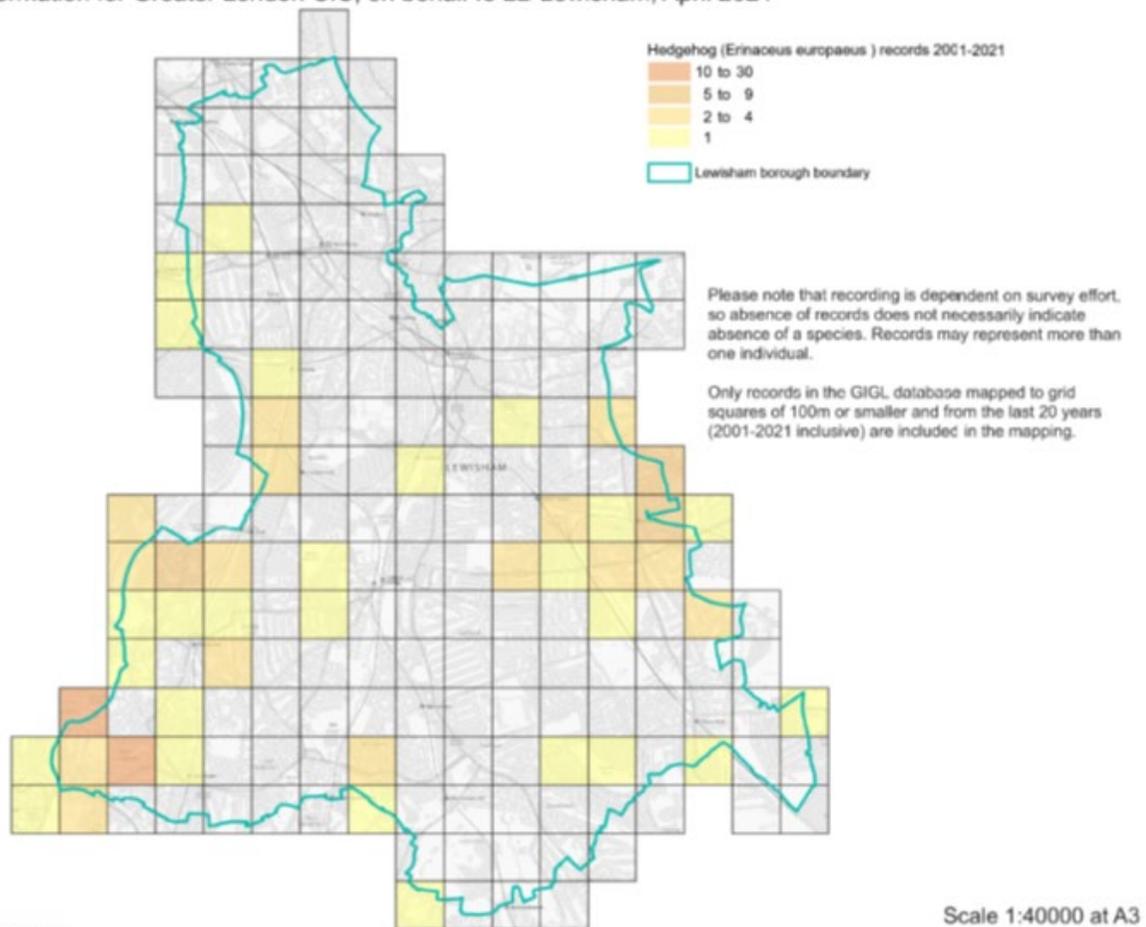
Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf of LB Lewisham, April 2021



4) European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

Hedgehog records in LB Lewisham

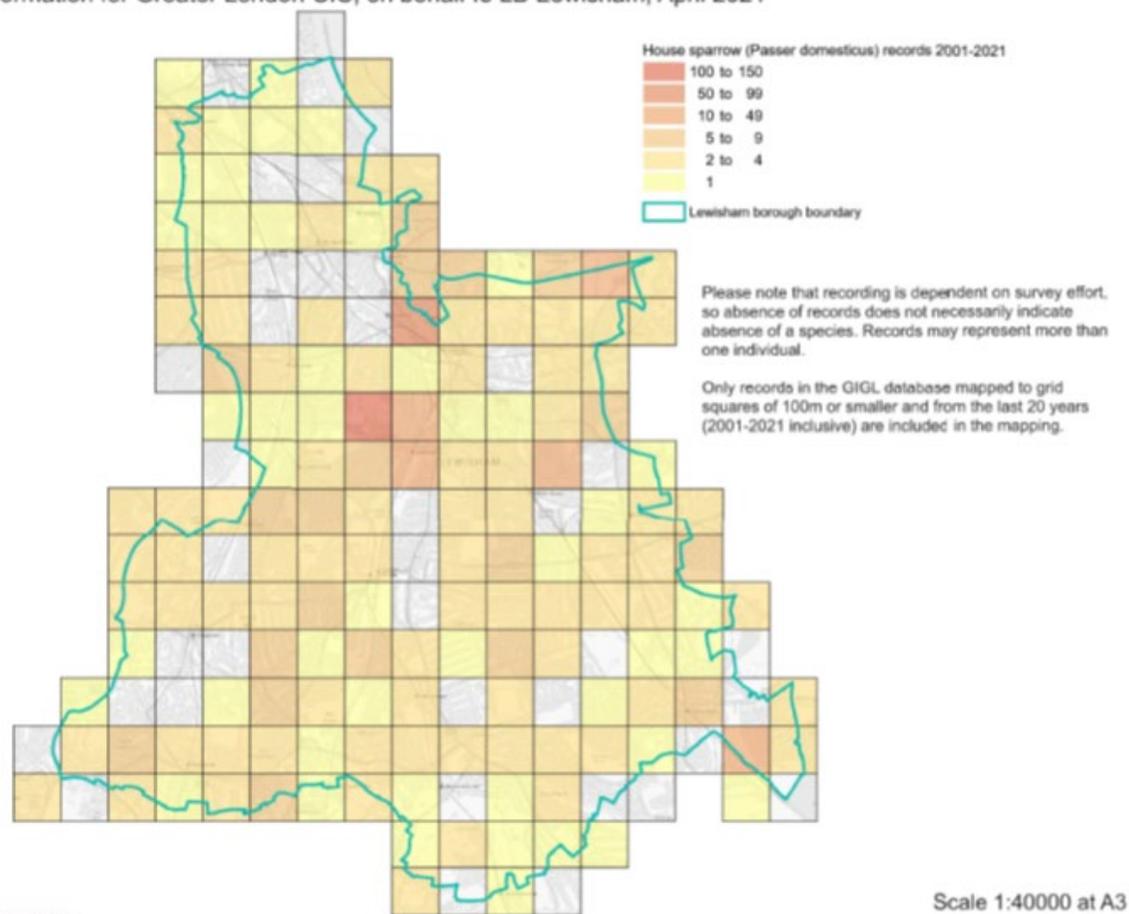
Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf of LB Lewisham, April 2021



5) House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

House sparrow records in LB Lewisham

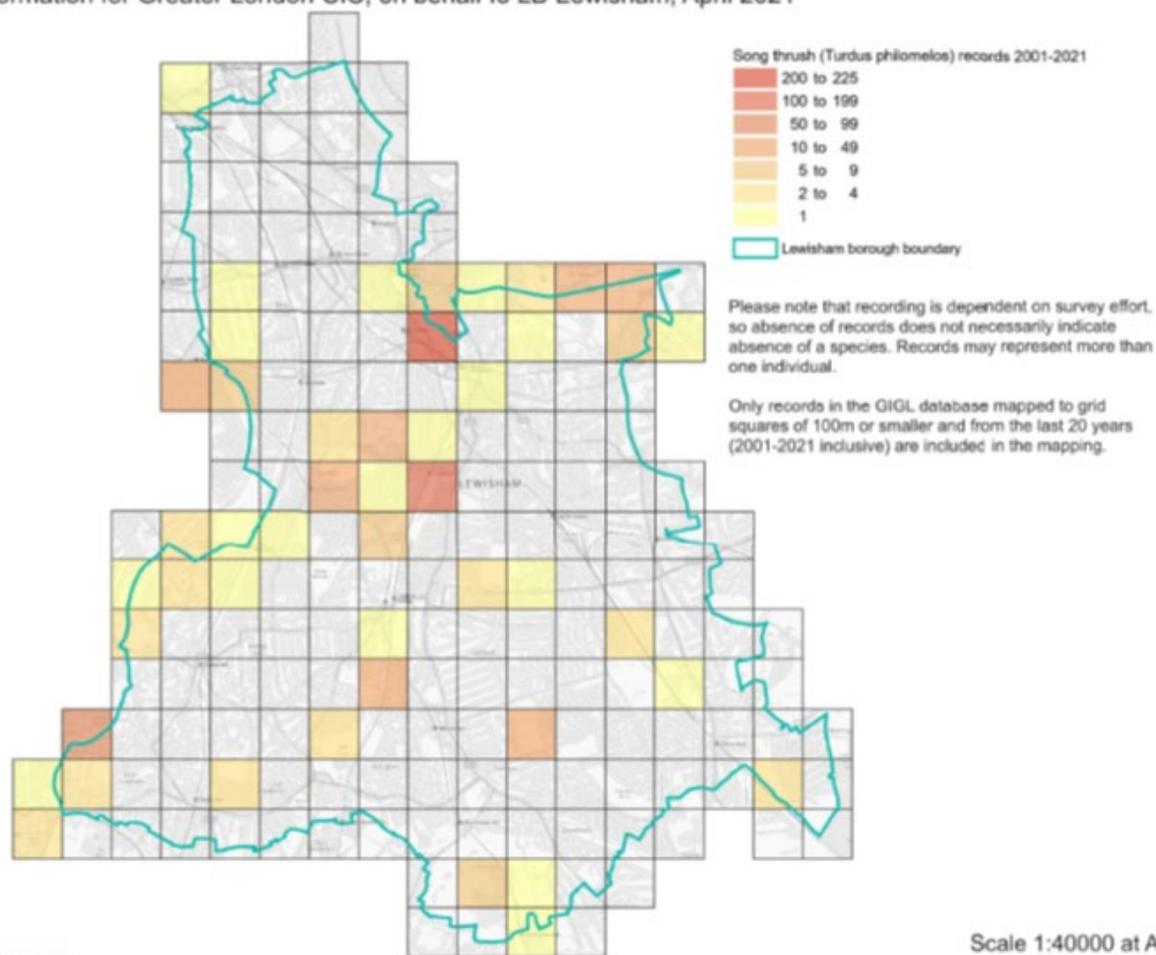
Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf fo LB Lewisham, April 2021



6) Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

Song thrush records in LB Lewisham

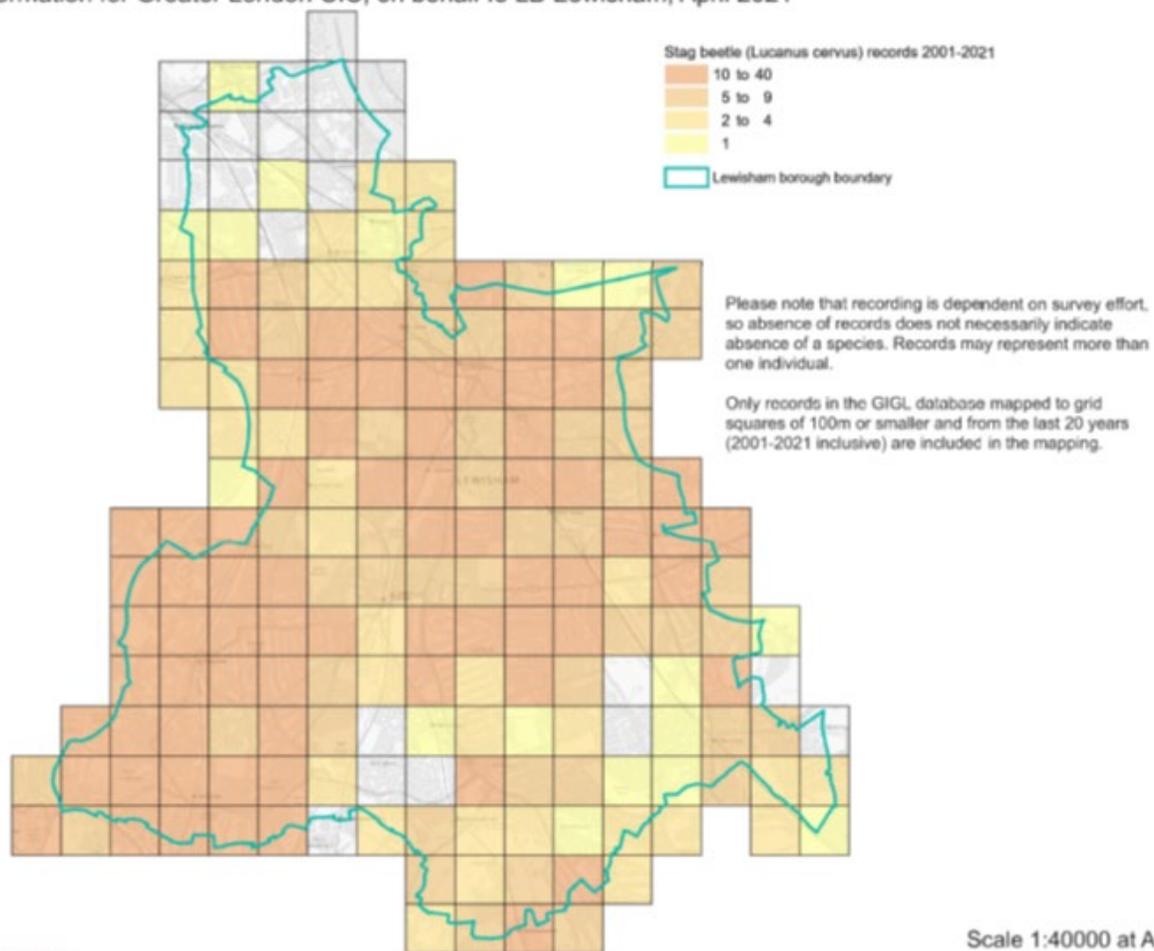
Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf fo LB Lewisham, April 2021



7) Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

Stag beetle records in LB Lewisham

Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf of LB Lewisham, April 2021



8) Swift (*Apus apus*)

Swift records in LB Lewisham

Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, on behalf of LB Lewisham, April 2021

