

Appendix 4: updated and new citations

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Lewisham

(BC) – Boundary change

(U): SINC upgraded to Site of Borough Importance

Name in blue: Proposed Site of Local Importance

Name in red: Name change

LeB01 – Grade II and Grade I merged into a single Borough designation

LeB01 – Amended SINC number as a result of the above change or new site

List of Sites of Metropolitan Importance

M031	The River Thames and tidal tributaries (citation not amended)
M069	Blackheath and Greenwich Park (Lewisham part updated only)
M122	Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting
M135	Beckenham Place Park (LNR) (BC)

List of Sites of Borough Importance:

LeB01	Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
LeB02	Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium and Reigate Road Open Space (BC)
LeB03	Downham Woodland Walk (LNR) (BC)
LeB04	Pool River Linear Park (BC)
LeB05	Hillcrest Estate Woodland
LeB06	Grove Park Nature Reserve
LeB07	Forster Memorial Park (BC)
LeB08	Burnt Ash Pond Nature Reserve (LNR)
LeB09	Horniman Gardens, Horniman Railway Trail and Horniman Triangle
LeB10	Durham Hill (BC)
LeB11	Dacres Wood Nature Reserve and Sydenham Park Railway Cutting (LNR)
LeB12	Loats Pit
LeB13	Grove Park Cemetery
LeB14	Sue Godfrey Nature Park (LNR)
LeB15	Honor Oak Road Covered Reservoir
LeB16	St Mary's Churchyard, Lewisham
LeB17	River Quaggy at Manor House Gardens
LeB18	Mayow Park
LeB19	Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields (BC)
LeB20	River Ravensbourne and Brookmill Park
LeB21	Senegal Railway Banks
LeB22	New Cross to St Johns Railsides
LeB23	Nunhead Cutting (BC)
LeB24	Brockley to St John's Railsides
LeB25	St Johns to Lewisham Railsides (BC)
LeB26	Lewisham Railway Triangles
LeB27	Lewisham to Blackheath Railsides (BC)
LeB28	Hither Green Railsides
LeB29	Hither Green Sidings
LeB30	Railsides South of Sydenham
LeB31	Lower Sydenham Station Meadow (BC)
LeB32	New Cross and New Cross Gate Railsides (BC)
LeB33	Mountsfield Park
LeB34	Chinbrook Community Orchard and Allotments
LeB35	River Quaggy at Chinbrook Meadows
LeB36	River Ravensbourne at Ladywell Fields (U)
LeB37	River Quaggy and Manor Park (BC) (U)
LeB38	River Thames Tidal Creek at Creekside Education Centre (U)

LeB39 Bridgehouse Meadows Railsides (BC) (U).

List of Sites of Local Importance

LeL01 Brookmill Nature Reserve (LNR)

LeL02 Besson Street Community Garden

Old number LeL03 – Ladywell Fields not to be re-allocated?

LeL04 Sydenham Cottages Nature Reserve (BC)

LeL05 Folkestone Gardens

LeL06 Whitefoot Recreation Ground

LeL07 Queenswood Nature Reserve (BC)

LeL08 Rainsborough Avenue Embankments (BC)

LeL09 Sayes Court Park

LeL10 Iona Close Orchard (BC)

LeL11 Sedgemoor Allotments

LeL12 Brockley Hill Park

LeL14 Sydenham Wells Park

LeL15 Hilly Fields

LeL16 Eliot Bank Hedge and Tarleton Gardens (BC)

LeL17 River Ravensbourne at Peter Pan's Park and Southend Pond (BC)

Old number LeL18 - Manor Park not to be re-allocated?

LeL19 Albion Millennium Green

Old number LeL20 - Creekside Education Centre not to be re-allocated?

LeL21 Pepys Park Nature Area (BC)

LeL22 St Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Street Open Space

LeL23 Telegraph Hill Park

LeL24 Bromley Hill Cemetery (BC)

Old number LeL25 - Bridgehouse Meadows not to be reallocated?

LeL26 Gilmore Road Triangle (BC)

LeL27 River Ravensbourne at Cornmill Gardens (BC)

LeL28 Lewisham Park (BC)

LeL29 Northbrook Park

LeL30 Southend Park (BC)

LeL31 Sedgemoor School Boundaries (BC)

LeL32 Blythe Hill Fields

Metropolitan

M031

River Thames and tidal tributaries

Site Type: [Metropolitan](#)

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Borough: Barking and Dagenham ; Bexley ; City of London ; Greenwich ; Hammersmith and Fulham ; Havering ; Hounslow ; Kensington and Chelsea ; Kingston upon Thames ; Lambeth ; Lewisham ; Newham ; Richmond upon Thames ; Southwark ; Tower Hamlets ; Wandsworth ; Westminster

Ownership: Port of London Authority (tidal banks) and riparian owners (non tidal banks)

Habitats: Intertidal ; Marsh/swamp ; Pond/lake ; Reed bed ; Running water ; Saltmarsh ; Secondary woodland ; Vegetated wall/tombstones ; Wet ditches ; Wet grassland ; Wet woodland/carr

The River Thames and the tidal sections of creeks and rivers which flow into it comprise a number of valuable habitats not found elsewhere in London. The mud-flats, shingle beach, inter-tidal vegetation, islands and river channel itself support many species from freshwater, estuarine and marine communities which are rare in London. The site is of particular importance for wildfowl and wading birds. The river walls, particularly in south and east London, also provide important feeding areas for the nationally rare and specially-protected black redstart. The Thames is extremely important for fish, with over 100 species now present. Many of the tidal creeks are important fish nurseries, including for several nationally uncommon species such as smelt. Barking Creek supports extensive reed beds. Further downstream are small areas of saltmarsh, a very rare habitat in London, where there is a small population of the nationally scarce marsh sow-thistle (*Sonchus palustris*). Wetlands beside the river in Kew support the only London population of the nationally rare and specially-protected cut-grass (*Leersia oryzoides*). The numerous small islands in the upper reaches support important invertebrate communities, including several nationally rare snails, as well as a number of heronries. Chiswick Eyot, one of the islands, is a Local Nature Reserve. The towpath in the upper reaches is included in the site, and in places supports a diverse flora with numerous London rarities, both native and exotic. Ninety per cent of the banks of the tidal Thames and its creeks are owned by the Port of London Authority, whereas the riparian owners are responsible for the non-tidal (upriver) banks. The water is not owned by anybody. The River Thames upriver of the Thames Barrier is followed by the Thames Path National Trail. Various Walking the Way to Health Initiative (WHI) schemes use the Thames path; see links for details.

M069 **Blackheath and Greenwich Park****Borough Grade:** Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation**Summary:** The largest area of high quality, biodiverse, open space in central south east London, lying in what would otherwise be a vast area deficient in wildlife sites.**Grid ref:** [TQ 39383 76549](#)**Area (ha):** 161**Borough(s):** Greenwich / Lewisham**Habitat(s):** Acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, non-native woodland, roughland, scrub, pond, wet marginal vegetation, scattered trees (veteran), tall herbs, orchard and bare artificial habitat.**Access:** Free public access (across most of the site)**Ownership:** London Boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich, Royal Parks

The largest area of high quality, biodiverse open space in central south-east London. Blackheath common, dates from the Middle Ages and once the haunt of highwaymen, has some of the largest remaining expanses of acid grassland in Greater London supporting rare plants and a diverse invertebrate population, while Greenwich Park contains large number of old parkland trees.

Blackheath common is largely comprised of acid grassland a Habitat of Principal Importance with abundant red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), crested hair-grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*). A number of London rarities are also present, including harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), clustered and knotted clovers (*Trifolium glomeratum* and *T. striatum*), and bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*). These species require low nutrient, dry, sparsely vegetated grassland to persist and have restricted distribution in London. The latter is more typically associated with coastal habitats and has established as a result of salt-spreading on adjacent roads. Large areas of semi-improved and amenity grassland are also present and with different mowing regimes, provide structural variations of value to a diverse assemblage of invertebrates. Trees are few, whilst small areas of scrub, of mostly gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and broom (*Cystisus scoparius*) occur around the ponds and old pits. A small non-native woodland is maturing at Eliot's pit. Species comprise frequent sycamore, (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*) with holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Turkey, holm and three species of oak (*Quercus cerris*, *Q. Ilex* and *Q. robur*). The understorey is regenerating with ash saplings, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and tall herbs. Blackheath has four ponds, several of which support wet marginal vegetation such as flag iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*) and damp grassland supporting marsh foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), a species uncommon in Lewisham.

Greenwich Park contains many ancient parkland trees, mostly sweet chestnuts (*Castanea sativa*). Other habitats in the park include three small woodlands, managed as bird sanctuaries, and a lake. The toadflax brocade moth, a former UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, was found breeding in the park in 2004. Greenwich Park won a Green Flag Award again for 2007/8.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting**Borough Grade:** Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation**Summary:** One of the best series of railside habitats in London, combining three nature reserves, wide wooded cuttings of value to a wide range of species.**Grid ref:** [TQ 36365 76399](#)**Area (ha):** 37.49**Borough(s):** Lewisham/ small part in Southwark**Habitat(s):** Non-native woodland, native woodland, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, herb-rich grassland, ephemeral and ruderal, roughland, amenity grassland, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat, allotments (active). Unmapped habitats include: pond, acid grassland, reed bed and tall herbs.**Access:** Partly accessible (through nature reserves), the majority viewed from bridges and by train passengers**Ownership:** Network Rail

A 4km stretch of railway cutting between New Cross Gate and Forest Hill stations, in an urban area of south London and probably the most representative site in London for habitats developing on active railsides. The site is unusual due to its large cuttings, up to 170m wide in places and for large sections being accessible to the public and managed as three non-statutory nature reserves named Garthorne Road, Devonshire Road and Brockley nature reserves.

The most dominant habitat type is non-native broadleaved woodland dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) with locally frequent English and sessile oak (*Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Further south, large areas of native broadleaved woodland are also present with English oak and ash dominating, and locally abundant Turkey oak. Other species include birch (*Betula* spp.), aspen (*Populus tremula*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and willow (*Salix* spp.). The ancient woodland indicator wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) has also been recorded in the past. Throughout the site, the woodland supports a diverse ground flora and shrub layer consisting of species typical of the countryside. These include abundant old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), stinking iris (*Iris foetidissima*), false wood-brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) and male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*). Small grassy clearings support a wide range of species and indicate varying substrate types with neutral grassland supporting the Lewisham rarities common restharrow (*Ononis repens*) (TN02 most easterly point) and common centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) been recorded in the past. Slightly more calcareous conditions have recorded bitter-vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*), ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*) which are all uncommon in the borough. More recently yellow oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) have been recorded throughout Garthorne Nature Reserve (TN02). The site's extensive wildlife habitats with low levels of disturbance provide foraging and breeding habitat, shelter and dispersal for many species. A diverse invertebrate fauna has been recorded including several nationally scarce species, amongst which is the white-letter hairstreak butterfly - solely associated with Elm (*Ulmus* spp.). The site is also known to support populations of hedgehog, common lizard and slow worm, species listed in the Lewisham biodiversity action plan. The dark corridor is also likely to be an important foraging and commuting habitat for species of bat.

Devonshire Road Nature Garden (TN01) is managed by the London Borough of Lewisham with an education centre and well-established wildlife garden, supporting fruit trees, pollinator-rich herbaceous planting, mature trees and two ponds with diverse emergent and wet-marginal vegetation including meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*). Garthorne Road Nature Reserve (TN02) is also managed by the Borough and supports at least five small clearings with herb-rich grassland, tall herbs, scrub and scattered trees. Brockley Nature Reserve is managed by the London Wildlife Trust and supports an area of woodland and small patches of neutral and acid grassland. Stands of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and tall herbs are also present.

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016**Boundary last updated:** 10/28/2016

M135 **Beckenham Place Park (LNR)**

Borough Grade: Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Summary: A large historic park with a diverse range of high quality habitats, including ancient woodland, grassland, a section of the River Ravensbourne and numerous veteran trees.

Grid ref: [TQ 38285 70741](#)

Area (ha): 96.26 + 2.44

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s): Native woodland (ancient and secondary), scrub, acid grassland, amenity grassland, herb-rich grassland, pond, river, scattered trees (veteran), semi-improved neutral grassland, fen carr, bare artificial habitat, roughland, non-native woodland, bare soil and rock and tall herbs.

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

This historic parkland has considerable strategic importance for nature conservation within a substantial area of south-east London. The site contains sizeable areas of ancient woodland and acid grassland, Habitats of Principal Importance, large expanses of open grassland veteran trees and numerous wetlands. It is designated as a Statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The extensive ancient woodland contains mature, high canopy trees of English oak (*Quercus robur*), sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The interior is a dense tangle of regenerating trees and scrub including a number of locally uncommon plants indicative of ancient woodland including wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*), scaly male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*) and abundant bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Standing and fallen dead wood abound throughout and are known to support a wide range of fungi. Wetland features include one of the few remaining natural sections of the River Ravensbourne and its floodplain, approximately 850m in length. There is also an old pond, fringed by mature trees close to the western boundary and willow carr (mapped as fen carr) in the centre of the site. This area is known to support uncommon lichens but the habitat is drying out and consists mainly of willow (*Salix* spp.) with an understorey of flag iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). The golf course roughs support large expanses of acid grassland with abundant sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Several locally rare species have also been recorded including dwarf gorse (*Ulex minor*), trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*), blinks (*Montia fontana*), fern grass (*Catapodium rigidum*) and sand spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*). Large areas of dry, neutral (TN03, TN04 and TN05) and amenity grassland provide further grassland diversity. Also on the golf course are a number of ancient (veteran) oak trees and numerous sand bunkers, which provide micro-habitats for invertebrates. The maturity and range of habitats present are known to support a diverse invertebrate fauna, including several nationally rare and notable beetles including the stag beetle, a Lewisham flagship species. The breeding avifauna is similarly diverse and includes kingfisher (a Lewisham flagship species), tawny owl, greater spotted woodpecker, little egret and kestrel. The site contains part of the walking and cycle route - The Green Chain walk and Capital Ring. The invasive Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was recorded in two locations (TN01 and TN02).

The site boundary has been extended to include an additional 200m length of the River Ravensbourne and part of its floodplain. This is likely to be in borough ownership.

Boundary last changed: 16/05/2015

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB01**Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Two adjoining Victorian cemeteries managed for wildlife and containing numerous mature trees and large expanses of relatively undisturbed grassland between the graves.
Grid ref:	TQ 36883 74968
Area (ha):	15
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, scattered trees, vegetated walls/tombstones, bare soil and rock, tall herbs, roughland, scrub, building and non-native hedge.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

A large site containing a variety of mature (mostly non-native) trees with large areas of relatively undisturbed grassland and roughland between the graves.

Brockley Cemetery is quite wooded with densely planted trees including sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*) and lime (*Tilia x europaea*). Dead wood provides structural variation (TN01). Beneath the denser areas of trees are ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), whilst in more open areas, rough grassland is dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Wildflowers in this area are often those tolerant of some shading e.g. cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*). The invasive Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is present in a number of places (TN02, TN03, TN04, TN05 and TN06). Ladywell Cemetery to the east tends to be more open with fewer trees and shrubs. Corky fruited water dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), an uncommon plant in Lewisham and one that requires damp grassland has been recorded in the past. A few tombstones and walls are vegetated with species such as stonecrops (*Sedum* spp.) that attract butterfly/hoverfly species whilst grassland areas abound with invertebrates, including the marbled white butterfly, stag beetle, Jersey tiger, toadflax brocade, small emerald, oak hook-tip and the wasp spider, species that are widespread but declining in Lewisham. Both cemeteries also attract a wide variety of birds and likely to be of value to foraging bats.

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB02 **Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium and Reigate Road Open Space**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A large cemetery with a variety of wildlife habitats, particularly good for birds.
Grid ref:	TQ 39827 72777
Area (ha):	23.25 + 0.15
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees, scrub, herb-rich grassland, amenity grassland, ephemeral and ruderal, tall herbs, roughland, pond, wet marginal vegetation, buildings, bare artificial habitat and native woodland.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Most of the 23ha that make up Hither Green Cemetery consists of grassland (which is kept moderately short), between the graves with relatively few (mostly ornamental) trees and shrubs present. Perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) are the most frequent grass species. Within the sward is a colourful array of wildflowers including; common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), hawkweed oxtongue (*P. hieracioides*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and sticky groundsel (*Senecio viscosus*). The grassland is of value to a range of butterflies and other invertebrates. The short grass also attracts mistle thrush. The northern part supports non-native woodland comprising of oak (*Quercus* spp.), poplar (*Populus* spp.), copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*), lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), yew (*Taxus baccata*) and a variety of conifers. This area is likely to be of value to a range of woodland birds. Bats, including Noctule, soprano and common pipistrelle are known to forage over the whole site. Bats are a flagship specie group in Lewisham.

Lewisham Crematorium is more formal with rows of conifers and short mown grass. The main wildlife interest is associated with the long narrow water feature near to the centre of this area, the northern end of which comprises herb-rich neutral grassland. Species include tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*), hairy sedge (*Carex hirta*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), marsh woundwort (*Stachys palustris*) and greater bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*). The latter two species are uncommon in Lewisham. Further south (passing under the crematorium's main drive) the water feature opens out and has a small island covered in pampas-grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) which provides a place for moorhen and mallards to breed. Although the banks are concrete, they still harbour a number of wetland plants, such as hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), great willowherb, gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) and water-cress (*Nasturtium officinale*).

Reigate Road Open Space occurs mostly on a steep bank to the south of Hither Green Cemetery. The grassland areas are becoming increasingly colonised by scrub of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and tall herbs at the expense of some more uncommon wildflowers. However, this is now likely a breeding place for a variety of widespread but declining bird species.

The site boundaries have been extended to include a strip of land between new housing and an active railway. The area comprises scrub and scattered trees and has been set-aside to support a reptile population to make way for an adjacent housing development. It is likely to be privately owned.

Boundary last changed: 16/05/2016

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB03	Downham Woodland Walk (LNR)
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A 1.5km walk through a narrow strip of ancient woodland, zigzagging between the houses of Downham.
Grid ref:	TQ 39055 71811
Area (ha):	3.88 + 0.02
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Native woodland (ancient and secondary), amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland and bare artificial habitat.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

The entire length of the site is approximate 1.5km long from Woodbank Road in the north east through to Bromley Road in the south west. The most biodiverse section of the Woodland Walk lies between Downderry Road and Moorside Road, where it runs beside the southern edge of Whitefoot Recreation Ground. The woodland here is at its broadest (up to 40m wide) and almost certainly of ancient origin and a Habitat of Principal Importance. The site is also designated as a Statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) is the dominant canopy tree with frequent hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) some probably coppiced in the past. Coppiced hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is also frequent in this section. A few specimens of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) also occur. Some other trees are obviously planted. Two wild service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*) a species uncommon in Lewisham contribute to the evidence that this is woodland of ancient origin. There is a dense shrub layer which comprises hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Midland hawthorn (*C. laevigata*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hazel and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). There is also good structural variation with abundant dead standing and fallen wood and lush undergrowth. The invasive plant snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) is locally abundant but management is controlling its spread. The ground flora contains a number of ancient woodland indicator species including abundant native bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), remote sedge (*Carex remota*), wood millet (*Milium effusum*), wood melick (*Melica uniflora*), wood meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and numerous wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Other species include the Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) and the hybrid (*Hyacinthoides x massartiana*), lords-and-ladies (*Arum maculatum*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*), hedgerow crane's-bill (*G. pyrenaicum*), wood aven (*Geum urbanum*), wood false-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and an abundance of cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). West of Downberry Road the Woodland Walk is narrower. Pedunculate oak is the abundant canopy tree with smaller numbers of ash. Elm (*Ulmus* spp.), elder, hawthorn, bramble and abundant snowberry comprise the bulk of the shrub layer. East of Moorside Road, mature pedunculate oaks persist but the understorey is replaced by amenity grassland. These are joined by a scattered line of hawthorns (perhaps the remains of an old hedge). Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat and is of value to a wide range of birds, invertebrates and bats. Invertebrate surveys in the past have revealed a number of uncommon species, including a nationally scarce ant and several nationally scarce beetles.

The site has been extended to include a narrow belt of mature trees in the south-west corner. Land ownership is likely to be private.

Boundary last changed: 16/05/2016

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB04	Pool River Linear Park
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	The longest section of river walk (part of the Waterlink Way) in Lewisham and an attractive, linear park.
Grid ref:	TQ 37187 72576
Area (ha):	16.7 + 1.63 – 0.22
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, wet marginal vegetation, planted shrubbery, river, native woodland, non-native woodland, scattered trees, scrub, herb-rich grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, native hedge, pond, bare soil and rock, improved grassland and reed swamp (not mapped).
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area. This is a large linear park located through the centre of the borough between Catford and Bell Green. It includes a short section of the River Ravensbourne along with approximately 1.7km of the River Pool.

Along the Riverview Walk, which occupies the southern half of the site, the river is canalised, but channel enhancements have been made as part of the re-development of the former Bell Green Gas Works. A series of purpose-built planters are covered in yellow day-lily (*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), water-cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*). Ruderal species are also abundant including common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). Between the large areas of planted shrubberies and river banks, grassland has been planted with a range of wildflowers, and further species have colonised naturally. Butterflies and grasshoppers are abundant in these areas. A pond has been created at the northern end near Bellingham Play Park, with a small area of wet woodland, reed swamp and diverse wet marginal vegetation). Species include lesser reedmace (*Typha angustifolia*), flag iris and hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), and frequent common fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*). Willows (*Salix* spp.) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Surrounding grassland is herb-rich and include grass vetchling (*Laythrus nissolia*), which is uncommon in Lewisham. This species has also been recorded elsewhere on site (TN03).

The Old Park section, located at the northern end of the site is more mature, wooded and less disturbed. In parts, the river defences have been partially removed, allowing meandering of the watercourse. New ponds and ditches have also been created (TN04). Wetland plants such as hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), flag iris, fool's-watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), great willowherb and marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) are present. Moorhens and mallards nest here. Woodland of crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), white willow (*S. Alba*), common alder, ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) cover parts of the riverbank. The invasive Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is also locally abundant (TN01). Less wooded areas are clothed with dense scrub of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and common nettle.

The avifauna is diverse and includes kingfisher, little egret, willow warbler, song thrush and house sparrow, many of which are Lewisham flagship species and listed as Biodiversity Action Plan species. The site is also of value to a range of widespread but declining species of butterfly including meadow brown, speckled wood, small white and common blue. Grasshoppers and crickets are abundant. Foxes are also frequently seen (TN02). Bats are likely to be numerous and recent sightings include Daubenton's, common pipistrelles and soprano pipistrelles. The site is well used by cyclists and walkers as it forms a green transport route through the centre of Lewisham. It also forms part of the Waterlink Way.

The site boundaries have been extended in two locations where vegetation is likely to provide habitat for wildlife. These comprise a disused allotment site (with abundant scrub) east of Rutland Walk and a strip of bare ground, scrub and ruderal vegetation south of Selworthy Road. North of Fordham Road, two areas dominated by hard-standing have been excluded.

Boundary last changed: 16/05/2016

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB05	Hillcrest Estate Woodland
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Remnants of ancient woodland, once part of the Great North Wood, surrounding a housing estate. Some large old oak and sweet chestnut trees date from this time.
Grid ref:	TQ 34041 71661
Area (ha):	7.22
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Native woodland (ancient and secondary), scrub, amenity grassland, planted shrubbery and scattered trees (not mapped).
Access:	Free public access (part of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham / Private.

The woodland at Hillcrest Estate is the remnants of ancient woodland and is a Habitat of Principal Importance. The canopy is chiefly composed of large, mature pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), with some ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). There are occasional specimens of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), pear (*Pyrus communis*) and various conifers. The understorey varies depending on past management and the steepness of slope with the best areas consisting of frequent hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) with a tangle of ivy (*Hedera helix*), dead standing and fallen trees. The ground flora includes abundant common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with frequent broad buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), red campion (*Silene dioica*) and wall lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*). A number of ancient woodland indicator species are also present including ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), native bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), sweet violet (*Viola odorata*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and creeping soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*). In other areas, invasive, non-native species are more abundant and include sycamore, cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), spotted laurel (*Aucuba japonica*) rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). There are two springs located near the south-eastern and north east corner of the estate (TN01), the wet conditions have encouraged the growth of great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*).

The maturity of trees and the relatively undisturbed woodland habitat is likely to be of value to numerous birds, mammals and invertebrates. At least three species of bat have been recorded, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and lesser noctule. Numerous other wooded SINC's occur in proximity to this site along with mature back garden vegetation, which together create a large area of wooded habitat. The site provides access to nature for occupants of adjacent flats and houses and opportunities for natural play and education for children. The site contains part of the walking route - The Green Chain walk, passing under high canopy sweet chestnut, beech and oak trees.

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB06 **Grove Park Nature Reserve****Borough Grade:** Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation**Summary:** The nature reserve and associated land contains a good variety of habitats including a block of woodland and the only area of chalk grassland in the borough.**Grid ref:** [TQ 40217 72792](#)**Area (ha):** 6.45**Borough(s):** Lewisham**Habitat(s):** Native woodland, non-native woodland, scattered trees, scrub, basic grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, wet marginal vegetation, herb-rich grassland, roughland and pond (not mapped).**Access:** Free public access (all/most of site)**Ownership:** London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of low disturbance wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland; which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding habitat, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and insects.

In the north of the site, on the western face of the embankment, is found the largest area of calcareous grassland in the borough. It is here as a result of underlying calcareous substrate used as material for the railway embankment. This area supports an almost continuous cover of tor-grass (*Brachypodium rupestre*), a species restricted to chalk grassland and a rare species in Lewisham. Where tor-grass is not forming a dense tussocky sward; tall herbs, scrub and an array of common wildflowers are present such as bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*). Several other uncommon species to Lewisham occur here too including zigzag clover (*Trifolium medium*), creeping jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) The banks and mosaic of scrub and grassland support a diversity of invertebrates including a good number of butterflies and moths. Common lizards, a London Biodiversity Action Plan species have been recorded. The central part of the site is covered in oak (chiefly *Quercus robur* and occasional *Q. petraea*) – ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) woodland. Other less common trees include hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). The shrub layer includes hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The ground flora is chiefly composed of ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), with a few other species such as cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). Small woodland glades support herb-rich neutral grassland including frequent common knapweed (*Centuraea nigra*) and agrimony.

To the north of the woodland is a large area of dense scrub, including hawthorn, dog-rose (*Rosa canina*), bramble and plum (*Prunus domestica*). A small pond, has abundant marginal vegetation comprising flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquatica*) and brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). It is known to support a breeding population of smooth newts. A dry ditch leads down to the pond (TN01). The woodland is known to support a number of birds including great spotted woodpecker, chaffinch and bullfinch.

To the south, a once open area has succeeded to scrub, roughland and non-native woodland. The grassland areas are composed of frequent false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and sweet vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). Wildflowers include agrimony, wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and stone parsley (*Sison amomum*). Ant hills of the yellow meadow-ant (*Lasius flavus*) are scattered throughout the grassland, which attract green woodpeckers and are basking habitat for common lizard. Beyond the reserve to the east is an allotment area, with patches of scrub and neglected plots. This area forms a useful addition to buffer between housing and the reserve and adds to its habitats.

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB07	Forster Memorial Park
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	An historic park with ancient woodland and numerous mature trees.
Grid ref:	TQ 38651 72239
Area (ha):	16.46 + 0.17
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Native woodland (ancient), scattered trees, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, scrub, herbaceous planting, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat and buildings.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This historic park comprises ancient woodland a Habitat of Principal Importance. The woodland is dominated by numerous mature pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) with a few ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), some of the latter two species show signs of past coppicing. There is also some sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The shrub layer is chiefly composed of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*), with the occasional hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and one specimen of wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). The latter two shrub species are indicators of ancient woodland. A few other tree and shrub species occur in the shrub layer, including elder (*Sambucus nigra*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and pear (*Pyrus communis*). The boundary between the woodland is marked by a hawthorn hedge. The ground flora is primarily covered with ivy (*Hedera helix*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), wood dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*). A few ground flora species are indicative of ancient woodland also occur including bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), wood melick (*Melica uniflora*), wood meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Patches of dog's mercury was recorded at TN02 and wood anemone at TN01 and TN03. The woodland has not always been managed sympathetically in the past; but recent management has considerably improved the woodland understorey and ground flora. Dead wood is being left in situ for the benefit of invertebrate species. A number of birds frequent the woodland including song thrush, chiffchaff, nuthatch and greater and lesser spotted woodpecker. The mature woodland is likely to be of value to foraging and roosting bats. Bats and the song thrush are some of Lewisham's flagship species.

The grassy field is dominated by amenity grassland to the west and south of the park which is more worthy of note. The neutral grassland here comprises a diversity of common grasses with no one species dominating. Creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*), meadow barley (*H. secalinum*) and smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum pratensis*) are all well represented. Herbs include garlic mustard, black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), cow parsley, creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), and common nettle. This area is of value to butterflies with red admiral, large skipper, small white, meadow brown and speckled wood recorded.

The site also includes a variety of other habitats including areas of secondary woodland, scrub, scattered trees including pedunculate oak, horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), and various poplars (*Populus* spp.), dense scrub, tall herbs and planted shrubbery.

The site boundary has been extended in two places. Firstly to include a finger of land along the western boundary comprising amenity grassland and secondly to include an area of woodland and planted shrubbery along the southeastern corner. These areas are likely to be in borough ownership.

Boundary last updated: 16/05/2016

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB08**Burnt Ash Pond Local Nature Reserve (LNR)**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Burnt Ash Pond is perhaps the best pond in the borough of Lewisham, supporting a good variety of plants and animals.
Grid ref:	TQ 40542 73397
Area (ha):	0.13
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Pond, native hedge, wet marginal vegetation, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs and scattered trees.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths / access by prior arrangement
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

The pond is well vegetated with submerged, emergent and floating plants, including flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), hoary willowherb (*E. parviflora*), water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) common water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus repens*), Canadian pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*), water starwort (*Callitriche* sp.) and fennel-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*). There is also a dense growth of stonewort (*Chara* sp.) which can be indicator of good water quality. Three types of duckweed have been recorded on the water's surface: common duckweed (*Lemna minor*) and two scarcer species ivy-leaved duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*) and greater duckweed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*). The pond is probably the most important amphibian site in Lewisham, with a large breeding population of common toad, common frog and smooth newt. Amongst the invertebrates are several species of water-beetles and a water spider.

The pond is surrounded by rough grassland with a variety of planted trees and shrubs including pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) and a mature black mulberry (*Morus nigra*). The site is bounded by a laid native hedge dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Burnt Ash Pond attracts many bird species that are familiar in parks and gardens, and usually has a pair of mallards breeding most years. The site is designated as a Local Nature Reserve and is well used by local schools.

The site is contiguous with mature back garden vegetation, which may provide supporting habitat to species present on site. The pond may also provide foraging habitat for bats.

Citation last updated: 16/05/2016

LeB09 Horniman Gardens, Horniman Railway Trail and Horniman Triangle**Borough Grade:** Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation**Summary:** Three open spaces around the Horniman Museum are a wonderful resource for education and recreation, much appreciated by visitors from all over London and beyond.**Grid ref:** [TQ 34811 73276](#)**Area (ha):** 9.49 + 0.18**Borough(s):** Lewisham**Habitat(s):** Non-native woodland, amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, scrub, native hedge, semi-improved neutral grassland, herbaceous planting, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat, buildings, biodiverse green roof, sedum-dominated green roof, herb-rich grassland and scattered trees (not mapped).**Access:** Free public access (all/most of site)**Ownership:** Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Charitable Trust/ LB Lewisham

The Horniman Railway Trail (which follows the route of a defunct railway) has the best wildlife habitat on the site. It is chiefly covered in secondary woodland of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). There are also a number of horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*). The shrub layer contains a mix of young sycamore, ash, elder (*Sambucus nigra*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and a variety of willows (*Salix* spp.). Ivy (*Hedera helix*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) dominate the ground flora. A pond has been created at the northern end of the trail. This has been planted with reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and lesser reedmace (*Typha latifolia*). Enclosing it is a meadow which includes a number of less common vascular plants including salad burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*), field scabious (*Knautia scabiosa*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) and black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*).

The Gardens have numerous mature trees and hedges, which in turn support good numbers of common birds and other fauna, thus complementing the wilder habitats of the Railway Trail and Horniman Triangle. Numerous trees and shrubs, both native and non-native, can be found. The flower beds and gardens have been planted with a range of culinary and medicinal herbs from around the world. These support a number of butterflies including small tortoiseshell and painted lady; and other invertebrates. The site as a whole is likely to be of value to bats, with serotine, Leisler's, noctule, common pipistrelle, and soprano pipistrelle all being recorded in recent years. The grassland is mown for amenity use and dominated by perennial rye-grass. Two small patches (TN01 and TN02), are composed of a more diverse composition. At TN01 species typical of dry, acid grassland were present and included the London rarity, hare's foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*), and sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*), with abundant cats-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*). At TN02 species were more typical of neutral grassland and included meadow foxtail, crested dog's tail and Yorkshire fog. A wildlife garden and animal petting area is located at TN03 and TN04 respectively.

The Horniman Triangle lies to the south of the gardens and is owned and managed by Lewisham borough. This includes a boundary hedge of hawthorn, scattered trees, dense areas of scrub, tall herbs, and semi-improved neutral grassland. The ground flora beneath the hedge includes several plants which are rare in Lewisham, including broad-leaved helleborine (*Epipactis helleborus*), wood melick (*Melica uniflora*) and wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*).

The site boundary has been extended to include an area of mature herbaceous planting and a long established, biodiverse green roof. These areas are likely to be in private ownership.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016**Citation last updated:** 15/04/2016

LeB10**Durham Hill**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A hill with extensive areas of flower-rich grassland, providing views across Beckenham Place Park, Crystal Palace and beyond
Grid ref:	TQ 39667 71640
Area (ha):	12.75 - 0.34 + 0.15
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees, scrub, herb-rich grassland, tall herbs, ephemeral and ruderal and bare artificial habitat.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of the site)
Ownership:	London Borough of the Lewisham

This site contains one of the most extensive areas of herb-rich neutral grassland for a borough SINC in Lewisham. Perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) is common, but unlike other typical amenity areas it co-exists with numerous other grasses including meadow barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), wall barley (*H. murinum*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), rough meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), creeping-bent (*A. stolonifera*) and crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). The site also supports a diversity of wildflowers, particularly composites such as lesser hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*), autumn hawkbit (*L. autumnalis*), cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*), beaked hawk's-beard (*Crepis vesicaria*) common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), common knapweed (*Centuarea nigra*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*). The latter species is uncommon in Lewisham. The composition of the sward varied across the fields, with patches of greater diversity, located on the steeper slopes. The variety of grassland species is likely to be of value to a range of invertebrates especially butterflies such as speckled wood, and to foraging birds such as starlings, which flock over the site. A wet area was noted (TN01), and could suggest a spring line. The grassland is punctuated by a number of small ornamental. There are also a number of mature crack and white willows (*Salix fragilis* and *S. alba*). The park provides long-distant views towards Beckenham Place Park and Crystal Palace.

The site's northern boundary has been amended to exclude areas of hardstanding and the new building, and to include an area of native scrub planting.

Boundary last changed: 15/05/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB11

Dacres Wood Nature Reserve and Sydenham Park railway cutting (LNR)

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A mature wooded nature reserve and adjoining railway cutting with two ponds, associated with the former Croydon Canal and supporting diverse wetland communities.
Grid ref:	TQ 35486 72093
Area (ha):	2.43
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Swamp, pond, scattered trees, scrub, non-native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, roughland, amenity grassland and bare artificial habitat.
Access:	Access by prior arrangement
Ownership:	London Borough of the Lewisham / Network Rail

The nature reserve is mainly covered with mature woodland dominated by several huge Turkey oaks (*Quercus cerris*) and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). Beneath these are other trees, particularly pedunculate oak (*Q. robur*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and a few exotic species make up the shrub layer. The ground flora is largely composed of ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with occasional male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), wood aven (*Geum urbanum*), and ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*). The hedgehog, a London Biodiversity Action Plan species has been recorded in the site and is uncommon species in Lewisham.

The ponds are a relic of the old Croydon Canal and surrounded by reed swamp (*Glyceria maxima*) with a good diversity of wetland species. This is one of the most diverse standing open-water habitats in the borough and is a Habitat of Principal Importance. Species include water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), fool's-watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*). The aquatic invertebrates include numerous dragonfly species, water and diving beetles. Part of this site is designated as a Statutory Local Nature Reserve.

The adjacent railway cutting is vegetated with scattered young oak and sycamore with dense bramble scrub and a rough grassland mosaic. It complements the habitats of the nature reserve and together they provide a good mix of habitat for foraging and commuting bats, with soprano and common pipistrelle have been recorded. Many of the familiar birds of parks and gardens can also be found here along with those with restricted distribution in Lewisham including, chiffchaff and nuthatch. Terrestrial invertebrates are also numerous and include stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) a Lewisham flagship species. Purple and white-letter hairstreak butterflies have been previously recorded at the site.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB12**Loats Pit**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	The steep wooded slopes at the rear of the Lethbridge Estate, off Blackheath Hill, provides a valuable wildlife habitat and a green backdrop for local residents.
Grid ref:	TQ 38260 76496
Area (ha):	1.22
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, scrub and amenity grassland.
Access:	Currently no safe access – view from adjacent paths only
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This site is situated on steep slopes which were once part of a chalk quarry. The woodland comprises a mix of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), with apple (*Malus pumila*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), lime (*Tilia vulgaris*), poplar (*Populus* spp.), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), yew (*Taxus baccata*) and Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*). The scrub layer is dominated by English elm (*Ulmus procera*), wych elm (*U. glabra*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) whilst the ground flora include frequent ivy (*Hedera helix*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), hops (*Humulus lupulus*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), wood forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*), white deadnettle (*Lamium album*) and herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*).

Most of the common but declining species of birds occur here including the house sparrow and stag beetle which are flagship species in Lewisham. The mature woodland is of value to bats. There is currently no access into the woodland, the paths have been closed due to risk of falling debris.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB13	Grove Park Cemetery
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A large formal cemetery with scattered trees, grassland and woodland.
Grid ref:	TQ 41697 71489
Area (ha):	9.32ha
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native broadleaved woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare soil and rock, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, native hedge, tall herbs and planted shrubbery (not mapped).
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

The grass of the cemetery is kept short and supports a variety of plants, which can tolerate regular mowing. Grasses include sweet vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), sheep's-fescue (*Festuca ovina*), red fescue (*F. rubra*) creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), soft brome (*Bromus hordaceus*) and perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and the conspicuous tussock forming tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*). Wildflowers include black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), red and white clover (*Trifolium repens* and *T. pratense*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), cut-leaved crane's-bill (*Geranium dissectum*), cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), autumn hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), lesser hawkbit (*L. saxatile*) and chicory (*Cichorium intybus*). The last species is uncommon in London. Along the southern boundary of the cemetery, a slightly elevated area not yet populated by graves is managed as a meadow and bordered by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

A range of native and non-native tree species are present including Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), sycamore (*A. pseudoplatanus*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica'), weeping willow (*Salix x sepulcralis*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). A small block of non-native broadleaved woodland comprising sycamore occurs in the north of the site. There are also a number of dense planted shrubberies composed of mostly exotic species. The site includes a section of footpath, located beyond the Cemetery fence line to the south. The footpath forms part of the long-distant Green Chain Walk and is bordered on both sides by a continuous hawthorn hedge. A hedgerow-lined footpath is an uncommon feature in the borough and is a Habitat of Principal Importance. It also provides a habitat corridor between ancient woodland to the east (in Bromley) with scrub and grassland habitats located in SINC's to the north and west. The site is likely to provide habitat for a variety of birds, foraging bats and hedgehogs.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB14 **Sue Godfrey Nature Park (LNR)**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A valuable and much-loved nature park in urban Deptford.
Grid ref:	TQ 37484 77475
Area (ha):	0.58
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, ruderal and ephemeral, scattered trees, scrub, vegetated walls, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs and amenity grassland.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of the site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

A former wasteland, this site became a nature park in 1984 after lengthy campaigning by local residents. The perimeter fences were removed, paths laid out and belts of trees and shrubs were planted. The nature park increased in size through the gradual incorporation of a former lorry park on its western end. The park was originally named Bronze Street Nature Park. It was renamed in 1994 in memory of Sue Godfrey, a local resident and environmental campaigner, who was killed in a road accident, in recognition of the unceasing effort she devoted to the park. Sue Godfrey Nature Park was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 2005.

The nature reserve is much-loved by local residents, and well used for education by Creekside Education Trust, a local charity and local schools. It is particularly important for its location in Deptford, where there is little wild open space remaining. More than 200 species of wildflowers have been recorded here over the years. Some were planted but the vast majority have found their own way and have created a mosaic of different vegetation types including ruderal and ephemeral, patches of grassland and scrub. Tall herbs growing amongst the grasses include tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), common mallow (*Malve sylvestris*), sand lucerne (*Medicago sativa* ssp. *Varia*), perennial wall rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*), beaked hawk'sbeard (*Crepis vesicaria*), goatsbeard (*Tragopogon pratensis*) and Greek dock (*Rumex cristatus*). Low growing herbs include silverweed (*Potentilla anserine*), germander speedwell and 4 types of crane's-bill; hedgerow, dove's-foot, round leaved and dissected (*Geranium pyrenaicum*, *molle*, *rotundifolium* and *dissectum*). The variety of vegetation and species suggest it is a Habitat of Principal Importance Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land.

The site supports an abundance of butterflies: large, small and Essex skippers, green-veined white, small white, peacock, small tortoiseshell, common blue, meadow brown, gatekeeper and speckled wood and others are frequent visitors. An increasing number of Orthoptera species are found here including field grasshopper, Roesel's bush-cricket, southern oak bush-cricket and long-winged conehead. In hot years house cricket can be found.

The nature park was found to be contaminated in 2003 and was remediated in 2 phases to allow survival of some of the species present. This had an impact on the diversity of the site which it is still recovering from. The site forms a link between the adjacent SINC St. Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Street Open Space to the west and Creekside Dscovery Centre (run by Creekside Education Trust) and Deptford Creek (part of the River Thames) to the east, creating an almost continuous green finger into the heart of Deptford town centre.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB15 **Honor Oak Road Covered Reservoir**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A covered reservoir providing undisturbed habitat, rich in wildflowers and insects.
Grid ref:	TQ 35173 73617
Area (ha):	0.49
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Semi-improved neutral grassland, herb-rich neutral grassland, scattered trees and scrub, building.
Access:	No public access
Ownership:	Private

The site lies on a steep east-facing slope, which has been modified by the construction of a now defunct Victorian covered reservoir. The top of the reservoir consists of dry grassland (TN03), composed of common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and smaller cat's-tail (*Pheum bertolonii*). There are also yellow oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), false-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and lesser stichwort (*Stellaria graminea*). Low abundances of the locally uncommon sheep'-fescue (*Festuca ovina*) and sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) have also been recorded. Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) and early hair-grass (*Aira praecox*) were recorded in 1992 and may both still be present. The latter is unknown elsewhere in Lewisham. The steeper part of the bank is dominated by dense bramble scrub and scattered hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*), with false-oat grass and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Cowslip (*Primula veris*) has been recorded here in the past and may still persist beneath the scrub. It occurs wild nowhere else in Lewisham. The sparse sward with some visible substrate, and also the overall mosaic structure of this area provides features that can be valuable to rare and scarce invertebrates.

Further east, at the foot of the reservoir, the site lies on London clay. Here the grassland is taller and lush. False oat-grass, tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), sweet vernal-grass and crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) occur. Wildflowers include abundant common knapweed, ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and bird's foot trefoil. Anthills of the yellow meadow ant are present beneath the tall vegetation. With a lack of management, scrub and tall ruderal vegetation has encroached this area with frequent creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvensis*), common nettle, burdock (*Arctium* spp.) and several garden escapes including everlasting pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*).

Mature trees border the site including pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*). A mature stunted sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) is located at the top of the reservoir (TN02), and an old pear tree (*Pyrus communis*) in the centre (TN01). The remains of a formal avenue of pollarded limes (*Tilia x europaea*) line the entrance with a dense undergrowth of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and bramble.

The undisturbed nature of the site and maturity of features is likely to be of value to breeding and foraging birds and bats. Hedgehog, a London Biodiversity Action Plan species have been recorded in nearby gardens and may utilise the site. Thirteen species of butterfly and 13 species of hoverfly have been recorded in the past. A very rare picture-winged fly (*Acinia corniculata*), associated with common knapweed, has been recorded and is listed as Endangered in the Red Data Book for invertebrates. An invertebrate survey in 2015 concluded that the fly could occur as a patchily distributed population across neighbourhood SINC's. The site has historical value in that Poet Walter de la Mare played on the reservoir banks as a child, and describes it in his works 'Winged Chariot' and 'The Vats'.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB16**St. Mary's Churchyard, Lewisham**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Lewisham parish churchyard is one of the best sites for ferns in the borough.
Grid ref:	TQ 37917 74850
Area (ha):	0.89
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, scrub, scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, vegetated wall/tombstones, bare artificial habitat, building and planted shrubbery.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	Diocese of Southwark

St. Mary's is Lewisham's ancient parish church. The assemblage of fern species growing from tombstones and walls are the main ecological interest of this old churchyard. Male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) is frequent throughout the site and there are a few plants of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). In more sheltered parts hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) and wall-rue (*A. ruta-muraria*) occur. The latter two species are rare or absent from Lewisham and uncommon in Greater London. Maidenhair spleenwort (*A. trichomanes*) was found here until the mid-1990s. The non-native house holly-fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) also occurs on one of the walls in the site.

Apart from its ferns the churchyard also contains numerous scattered mature trees/shrubs including yew (*Taxus baccata*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) which provide food and shelter for common birds and foraging habitat for bats. The grassland (TN01) is allowed to grow for a few weeks in the summer, providing foraging for invertebrates and a colourful display of wildflowers. Species include lady's bed-straw (*Galium verum*), field wood-rush (*Luzula campestre*), mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). The River Ravensbourne at Ladywell Fields borough SINC forms the western boundary to the churchyard.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB17 **River Quaggy at Manor House Gardens**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A park with a variety of habitats, including a lake, a section of the River Quaggy and mature trees.
Grid ref:	TQ 39374 74956
Area (ha):	1.37
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat, non-native woodland, native hedge, planted shrubbery, river, lake, wet marginal vegetation, scrub, scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, herbaceous planting, vegetated wall, ephemeral and ruderal.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

The River Quaggy flows through the south of the park along a gently meandering course over a clean, gravelly bed, shaded by arching trees and shrubs and creating a relatively undisturbance habitat corridor. The tree canopy is dominated by non-native species including sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) with silver birch (*Betula pendula*), common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*). The shaded conditions limit aquatic and marginal vegetation to mainly pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*).

The recently restored lake occupies the central region of the park and is probably the best site for breeding waterfowl in the borough of Lewisham. Species which nest on the wooded island include coot, moorhen, Canada goose, mallard and tufted duck. It is the only site in Lewisham where the latter species regularly breeds. The lake is also an important feeding ground for bats (one of the best along the River Quaggy); both common and soprano pipistrelles have been recorded. The abundance of mature trees, dense planted shrubbery and herbaceous planting, are of value to a range of common but declining invertebrates and birds such as house sparrow, flagship species in Lewisham.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB18**Mayow Park**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	This historic park contains a good number of ancient, veteran oak trees.
Grid ref:	TQ 35736 71920
Area (ha):	6.98 + 0.21
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, allotments (active), scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, native woodland, non-native woodland, native hedge, scrub, bare artificial habitat, buildings, bare artificial habitat, bare soil and rock and planted shrubbery (not mapped).
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

The park has a number of veteran pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*), which represent one of the best collections of such trees in Lewisham outside Beckenham Place Park. These provide the main conservation interest of Mayow Park. Old trees, especially oaks, are particularly valuable for wildlife as they provide a variety of different niches, including sap runs, dead wood, holes, rot and fissures in the bark. The park also has a good number of other mature trees which date back to the park's initial landscaping. These include: cedar (*Cedrus* sp.), pines (*Pinus* spp.), monkey-puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*), holm oak (*Quercus ilex*), hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*), lime (*Tilia x europaea*) and tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). The majority of the habitat underneath the trees has limited value other than for amenity purposes, being regularly mown. The exception being an area along the eastern boundary, which is managed as a meadow, with scattered silver birch (*Betula pendula*) trees. This grassland comprises species typical of dryer, less improved soils (TN02) and includes abundant red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*). Native woodland delineates the sites boundaries, principal species being pedunculate oak and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with an understorey of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). The invasive species Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is also present but being managed (TN01).

A good range of birds are found in the park including declining species such as the song thrush, a Lewisham flagship species. Less common species are those characteristic of woodland habitat including nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker and coal tit. The park has areas of woodland and planted shrubbery (although composed of mainly exotic species), these are likely to provide cover and breeding opportunities for birds.

A high diversity of invertebrates are typically associated with veteran trees, including beetles whose larvae feed on dead wood. Amongst these is the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), a Lewisham flagship species. This impressive beetle is often seen in the park on summer evenings. A number of other scarce invertebrates have been recorded here, including the nationally rare sycamore fungus beetles, and a nationally scarce ant. The maturity and density of trees within the park is likely to provide foraging habitat for bats with potential roosting features also likely to be present. Mayow Park, originally named Sydenham Recreation Ground, is the borough's oldest municipal.

The boundary has been extended to include the "Grow Mayow" allotment garden in the south east corner of the site.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB20 **Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A wildlife-rich section of stream with restored meanders, marginal vegetation and scrub.
Grid ref:	TQ 39344 71244
Area (ha):	0.83 +1.3
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Wet marginal vegetation, stream, scattered trees, scrub, amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, bare artificial habitat and herb-rich grassland.
Access:	Adjacent paths and crossing points
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

The Environment Agency and Lewisham borough have recently undertaken significant alterations to the stream (and the fields through which it flows) to improve its wildlife value. These has involved removing the toe-boards, returning the brook to a more meandering course and managing the adjacent banks. The narrow brook flows over a clean, stony or gravelly bed, water quality is good, partly due to the proximity of the headwaters. The habitat enhancements have reduced the height of the banks in several locations along the brooks course, allowing water to spread out during high flow and enabling a diverse mix of wetland plants to establish and exposing the gravel sides of value to solitary bees (TN01).

The most notable species recently recorded are gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), greater bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), ragged-robin (*Silene flos-cuculi*) and water avens (*Geum rivale*). Common water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*), amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*) have been recorded in the past. Most of these species are uncommon in Lewisham. Clumps of fool's-watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*) are more frequent and occur at the margins of the watercourse. Along adjacent banks, scrub includes goat willow (*Salix caprea*), grey willow (*Salix cinerea*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), which provide cover and foraging habitat for birds and invertebrates. Semi-improved neutral grassland on either side of the watercourse consist of a range of common species of value to invertebrates including false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), broad-leaved everlasting-pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*), hairy sedge (*Carex hirta*) and birds-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). These areas are managed to provide shelter for wildlife throughout the year and thus are on a different cutting regime to adjacent amenity grassland. The grassland supports a good range of butterflies and other invertebrates including yellow meadow-ant. The site as a whole may also be of value to foraging bats. The watercourse Spring Brook continues to flow eastwards in to the adjacent Shaftsbury Park Recreational Space (part of Bromley borough) where it is reverts back into a canalised watercourse.

The boundaries of this site have been widened to include the new watercourse alignment, adjacent scrub and semi-improved, neutral grassland.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB20	River Ravensbourne and Brookmill Park
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A park with a variety of habitats, including a re-landscaped section of the River Ravensbourne
Grid ref:	TQ 37484 76597
Area (ha):	3.65
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland; wet marginal vegetation; lake; river; scattered trees; non-native woodland; planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland; tall herbs; scrub and bare soil and rock.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of the site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham, Lewisham College and private

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

A section of the river in the eastern half of the site was 'broken out' of its historical concrete channel (as part of the construction of the Docklands Light Railway) and given a 'natural' course offering much improved habitat for wildlife. The grassland of the outer channel floods on high tides; tidally-inundated grassland is a very rare habitat in London. The eastern bank is cut off from the main park and acts as a refuge for wildlife. The wildlife refuge on the northern bank supports various (largely native) trees and shrubs. Species include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and various willows and osiers (*Salix* spp.) Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and other marginal vegetation has been planted whilst other species, such as hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), are probably self-established. In and around more open areas of water, a number of waterfowl and other birds are often seen, including coot, moorhen, mallard, grey wagtail, grey heron, little egret and kingfisher, the latter is also a Lewisham flagship species. Fish include eel, a London Biodiversity Action plan species, flounder, and stickleback. Aquatic invertebrates include blue-tailed damselfly and brown hawker.

The other water feature in the park is a pond. This is used by waterfowl including Canada geese. Aquatic vegetation in the pond is dominated by abundant blanket-weed, with a few clumps of flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) at the edges. The site as a whole provides habitat for a variety of common birds including breeding blue tit, great tit, wren, greenfinch, blackbird and song thrush. The latter is also a Lewisham's flagship species.

At the southern end of the park on the site of a former disused railway embankment (with limestone ballast), planted shrubs and trees are maturing. Numerous grasshoppers and a number of butterflies frequent this area, including small white, meadow brown, small skipper and comma. Other parts of the park have ornamental gardens and a range of scattered trees. The large number of conifers present attracts goldcrests during the winter and the site as a whole is likely to provide foraging and commuting habitat for bats.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB21**Senegal Railway Banks**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Railsides on either side of Millwall FC's ground containing significant areas of woodland.
Grid ref:	TQ 35310 77829 and TQ 35271 78094
Area (ha):	5.18
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, non-native woodland, scrub, scattered trees and roughland.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key raiiside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

The railsides on either side of Millwall FC's ground contain significant areas of birch (*Betula pendula*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) woodland. Stands of scattered trees and areas of scrub are frequent comprising both the previous species and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), cherry (*Prunus avium*), apple (*Malus pumila*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Climbers such as traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Virginia-creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and large bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*) occur in open areas and on the edge of scrub and woodland habitats. Other areas consist of roughland (an intimate mix of grassland, scrub and tall herbs) and dense bramble scrub. Common pipistrelle bats have been recorded flying along the rail corridor. Part of this site is contiguous with South Bermondsey Railsides Site of Borough Importance in Southwark.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB22**New Cross to St. Johns Railsides**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A mostly wooded railway cutting reaching to the Southwark border, linking several wildlife sites.
Grid ref:	TQ 36860 76862
Area (ha):	1.42
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, scattered trees, scrub, non-native woodland and bracken stands (not mapped).
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

The wooded cutting between New Cross and St. John's station is dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), but a few other tree species are present including pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). A number of young trees occur including evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). It is possible that the latter two species, together with various shrubs, are the result of a planting scheme conducted in the 1990s, intended to increase the nature conservation value of the cutting. Areas of scrub chiefly comprise elder (*Sambucus nigra*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The woodland ground flora is dominated by ivy (*Hedera helix*) additionally there are substantial stands of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Patches of rough grassland dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) are mixed with tall herbs including large bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*), Canadian golden rod (*Solidago canadensis*), traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and the invasive species Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*).

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB23**Nunhead Cutting**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A wide, shallow cutting to the east of Nunhead station containing a mix of woodland, scrub and grassland.
Grid ref:	TQ 35951 75864 and TQ 35740 75932
Area (ha):	5.85 + 0.14
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, bare soil and rock, tall herbs, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, herb-rich grassland, pond, and herbaceous planting.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

Large parts of this cutting are covered in sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) woodland with some ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and oak (*Quercus robur*). Areas of scrub mainly comprise hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Former grassland areas have succeeded to tall herbs dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spear thistle (*C. vulgare*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echinoides*) and the invasive species Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). The site also includes thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*), hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*), common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), and one species scarce in Lewisham, bugloss (*Anchusa arvensis*). The railside habitats continue north into the adjacent borough forming a similar designated SIN in Southwark.

The site has been extended to include Friendsbury Gardens off Pincott Place. The publically accessible garden contains a wildlife pond, native scrub and herbaceous planting. It is likely to be owned by the borough.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB24**Brockley to St. John's Railsides**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A relatively undisturbed, wooded cutting through which the Lewisham to Victoria line passes.
Grid ref:	TQ 36976 75957
Area (ha):	3.48
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, non-native woodland, scattered trees, roughland and scrub.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

The banks of this cutting are largely covered in sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) woodland. Native species have been planted, including dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*). Sycamore has been coppiced in places. The woodland floor is dominated by ivy (*Hedera helix*). There are areas of rough grassland present dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and a variety of tall herbs. Invertebrate species recorded include stag beetle a Lewisham flagship species.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB25**St. Johns to Lewisham Railsides**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	An area around St. Johns Station with a mix of woodland and flower-rich grassland.
Grid ref:	TQ 37749 76110
Area (ha):	4.67 + 0.03
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, ephemeral and ruderal, bare soil and rock, scattered trees, native woodland, scrub, bare artificial habitat, building and roughland.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

The railsides around St. Johns station are largely covered in woodland or scattered trees of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Norway maple (*A. platanoides*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). There are areas of scrub mainly comprising elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*). Other parts of the site are covered in false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominated grassland with wildflowers including common toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and twiggy spurge (*Euphorbia x pseudovirgata*), and patches of tall herbs and scrambling plants such as common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), large bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*), hop (*Humulus lupulus*), traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*) and the invasive Virginia-creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

The site boundary has been extended to include a finger of mature woodland at the entrance of the carpark. This is likely to be in similar ownership.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB26

Lewisham Railway Triangles

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A junction of railway lines create sheltered hollows of scrub and woodland in the heart of Lewisham town centre.
Grid ref:	TQ 37987 75367
Area (ha):	4.73ha
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, scattered trees, scrub, tall herbs, bare soil and rock, semi-improved neutral grassland and native woodland.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

The junction of the railway lines to Ladywell and Hither Green provides a valuable wildlife habitat right in the heart of Lewisham. All the railway lines here are on embankments, leaving two triangles as sheltered hollows surrounded by steep banks. The triangles are largely comprised of dense scrub and wooded with sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). A varied mix of native shrub species are present including hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*), apple (*Malus pumila*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Patches of the invasive Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) are scattered throughout and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is locally abundant. Non-wooded habitats include frequent false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolia*), Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The common pipistrelle bat has been recorded along the rail corridor along with the common but declining species of invertebrate jersey tiger moth.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB27**Lewisham to Blackheath Railsides**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Densely wooded railsides between Lewisham and Blackheath stations.
Grid ref:	TQ 38956 75912
Area (ha):	2.61 + 0.70
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, non-native woodland and scrub.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

The railsides between Lewisham and Blackheath stations are densely wooded. The canopy is dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) are also present. Areas of scrub comprise buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Duke-of Argyll's tea-plant (*Lycium barbarum*). The woodland ground flora is mainly ivy (*Hedera helix*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Holly blue butterfly and common birds such as blackbird and wren have been recorded. The dark corridor is likely to be of value to foraging and commuting bats. Mature vegetation surrounding the site and adjacent private gardens is likely to provide habitat continuity for reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm and potentially small mammals such as hedgehog.

The site has been extended to include woodland habitat on either side of the existing railway line and an adjacent school nature garden. Ownership is likely to be Network rail and London Borough of Lewisham respectively.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB28

Hither Green Railsides

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Railway tracks converge at Hither Green Station to form a triangular hollow of woodland and tall herbs between platforms 4 and 5.
Grid ref:	TQ 39457 74289
Area (ha):	11.41
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, scattered trees, bare soil and rock, native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs and stream.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

Most of this area is covered in sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) woodland with ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) also present. There is a dense scrub layer of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), with a ground flora of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and ivy (*Hedera helix*). Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is locally abundant (TN03). The triangular area itself is managed as a nature reserve and located between (and visible from) platforms 4 and 5. Scrub is dense and regularly kept under check, to avoid it encroaching on an area of tall herbs, which supports a good mixture of species of value to foraging invertebrates such as butterflies. Species persisting include wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), common vetch (*Vicia cracca*), common knapweed (*Centurea nigra*), and lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*).

There is a small stream (TN01) which flows north to south across the east of the site and forms a small pond surrounded by dense scrub. Water figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) have been recorded. The impenetrability of the scrub is good for birds and a reasonable number of common species familiar in parks and gardens live here including foxes (TN02).

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB29**Hither Green Sidings**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A mosaic of scrub, trees and roughland on former sidings and allotments.
Grid Ref:	TQ 39840 73389
Area (ha):	7.02
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Scattered trees, scrub, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat, building, semi-improved neutral grassland, roughland, allotment (active), ephemeral and ruderal, native woodland, pond and tall herbs.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Private

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

This is an area of former railway sidings and abandoned allotments, which have become overgrown with a dense growth of scrub, scattered trees, roughland and native broadleaved woodland. A large part of the site is in-accessible, making it particularly valuable for birds. The central area is currently being used as a horse stable yard with small clearings used as horse pasture and showing signs of overgrazing with a short sward and bare ground.

There is a small pond from which common newt, frog and toad have all been recorded. This is enclosed by wetland plants including fool's watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), and flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). There is also a wet ditch that runs northwards with similar plant species occurring along it.

A good range of trees and shrubs are present particularly various willows (*Salix* spp.), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and wild cherry (*P. avium*). A wide range of native and non-native tree, shrub and plant species have been recorded, partly as result of the former use of the site and also from self-seeding. These included false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*), Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), goat's-rue (*Galega officinalis*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB30**Railsides south of Sydenham**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A shallow cutting contains dense scrub and scattered trees
Grid Ref:	TQ 35286 71322
Area (ha):	1.59
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, scrub and scattered trees (not mapped).
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

This rather shallow cutting lies directly south of Sydenham Station and is a continuation of railside habitats from Forest Hill to New Cross Gate, a Site of Metropolitan Importance. The majority of the site is covered in dense bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub, with scattered trees of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is a frequent component of the ground flora and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) occurs locally. In a few places there are dense stands of common reed (*Phragmites australis*), possibly a relic of the former Croydon Canal.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB31**Lower Sydenham Station Meadow**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A narrow strip of rough grassland and scrub rich in herbs and invertebrates.
Grid Ref:	TQ 36841 71569
Area (ha):	0.47 + 0.05
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Scrub, herb-rich grassland, scattered trees, tall herbs and planted shrubbery.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of the site)
Ownership:	Private.

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

A former allotment located adjacent to the railway north of Sydenham Station that has been enhanced for wildlife, with seeded wildflower grassland and native shrub planting. A good mix of native species are present and include silver birch (*Betula pendula*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), aspen (*Populus tremula*), various willows and osiers (*Salix* spp.) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) providing structural diversity and foraging habitat for birds. Although the site is small, numerous birds have been recorded including long-tailed tit, wren, and house sparrow, the latter species is flagship species in Lewisham. The grassland sward is similarly quite species rich with frequent false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and salad burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*). Areas of self-established tall herbs include Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), oxtongues (*Picris* spp.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). A footpath runs along the western boundary linking between the station and the Pool River Linear Park to north of the site.

The boundaries of this site have been extended to include an area of planted shrubbery at the northern end of the site.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB32 **New Cross and New Cross Gate Railsides**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A mostly wooded railway cutting reaching to the Southwark border and linking several wildlife sites.
Grid Ref:	TQ 36139 77755
Area (ha):	9.76 + 0.73
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, non-native woodland, scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, ephemeral and ruderal and scrub.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only
Ownership:	Network Rail

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

This site is mostly covered in non-native broadleaved woodland dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with a little pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). There are extensive patches of scrub mainly comprising buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), wild plum (*Prunus domestica*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Areas of roughland and grassland are dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) interspersed with a bramble scrub and variety of tall herbs and climbers from around the world e.g. Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), hoary mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), oxtongue (*Picris* sp.), traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Russian-vine (*Fallopia baldschuanica*) and the invasive Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Virginia-creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

The site boundaries have been extended to include sidings along the eastern boundary, which support ephemeral, ruderal and scrub habitat of value to widespread but declining invertebrate and bird species.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB33**Mountsfield Park**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A park containing many mature trees including old oaks, and areas managed for wildlife.
Grid ref:	TQ 38446 73945
Area (ha):	13.41
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, non-native woodland, non-native hedgerow, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, allotment (active), native woodland, ephemeral and ruderal, scattered trees, bare soil and rock and biodiverse green roof.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Recently developed nature areas and an abundance of mature trees provide the main conservation interest of Mountsfield Park. The nature areas are mostly located along the perimeter of the park on all but the eastern edge, which is given over to amenity use.

The wildlife areas have been planted with a range of (mostly) native trees and shrubs, including field maple (*Acer campestre*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and various willows (*Salix* spp.). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and non-native buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) are also plentiful. The south-west corner contains the most diverse range of species support a ranging of wildflowers both sown and self-established including yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*) and common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*). A few bee orchids (*Ophrys apifera*) appeared in one meadow area in 2004. The grasses found in these locations are just as varied and include creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), common bent (*A. capillaris*), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) (TN01). Dead wood is left in situ. The overall result is that invertebrates occur in abundance, particularly beetles, grasshoppers and butterflies. Amongst the species in the latter group are meadow brown, speckled wood, gatekeeper and small and Essex skippers.

The park contains a large number of mature trees (both native and exotic) including several woodland copses of mature pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and hawthorn scrub (around the perimeter of the site). Additionally, there are considerable areas of dense, planted shrubbery and raised allotment beds. This leads to a good number of birds being found here, many of them familiar in parks and gardens. Perhaps most notable is an abundance of house sparrows; this species has suffered significant population decline in London in recent years and is flagship species in Lewisham.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB34 **Chinbrook Allotments and Community Orchard**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A traditional orchard, ponds, supporting amphibians, and allotments, which are managed organically, provide further wildlife habitat.
Grid Ref:	TQ 41486 71487
Area (ha):	2.06
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Allotment (active), orchard, bare soil and rock, pond (only one mapped), scrub, scattered trees, native hedgerow, tall herbs, semi-improved neutral grassland and building.
Access:	Access by prior arrangement
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

The orchard has been planted with a variety of fruit trees including a range of apples (*Malus pumila*), and the grass between the trees grass is cut rotationally, once every two years, providing habitat for wood mice, common lizards and slow-worms and a good variety of invertebrates including abundant crickets. Ant hills are also present in the grassland. This is probably one the most diverse –traditional orchards in the borough and a Habitat of Principal Importance. Grass vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) and agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), uncommon species in Lewisham grow in the grassland below the trees.

Two small ponds (the larger one has been mapped) have been created on the periphery of the orchard. These have been planted with a mix of native and non-native marginal and aquatic plants including purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), flag iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*) and sharp-flowered rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*). The ponds harbour common frog, common toad and smooth newt.

The allotment area is well-tended and contains a good variety of species of value to invertebrates, particularly pollinators. Tall ruderal vegetation and dense scrub are allowed to persist around the boundaries of the site. A rich mixture of native shrub species are present including hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), elm (*Ulmus* spp.), plum (*Prunus domestica*), blackthorn (*P. spinosa*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Ruderal species include false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica*). The dense scrub vegetation and numerous fruiting trees provide good foraging for birds.

Along the eastern boundary of the community orchard lies a narrow, overgrown footpath bounded by native scrub and tall ruderal. This leads to a second footpath along the southern boundary, which forms part of the Green Chain Walk. This is probably the only hedgerow in the borough that follows a footpath, and may meet the criteria for an “Important Hedgerow” as defined by The Hedgerows Act 1997. The hedgerows along the two boundaries of the site are also a Habitat of Principal Importance. Species included abundant hawthorn, blackthorn, pedunculate oak, black bryony (*Dioscorea communis*) white bryony (*Bryonia alba*), dog’s mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and false-wood brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*). Chinbrook orchard is intended for local schools and is well supported by the local community who help manage the site.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB35 River Quaggy at Chinbrook Meadows

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	The meandering channel of the River Quaggy in Chinbrook Meadows is one of the best examples of river restoration in London.
Grid ref:	TQ 41019 71934
Area (ha):	11.06
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	River, species-rich herbaceous fen, pond, semi-improved neutral grassland, other-herb-rich grassland, native woodland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, bare artificial habitat, and building.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

The main focal point of the site is the River Quaggy, which runs through the centre of the site and which has been re-profiled into a series of meanders, pools and marshy areas creating a mosaic of habitat types along the river corridor and re-connecting the river with its floodplain. Drier parts are clothed with semi-improved and herb-rich neutral grassland and tall herb vegetation. A good variety of wetland plants are present, such as water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), fool's watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and water mint (*Mentha aquatica*). The southern marshy area has abundant sedge (*Carex* spp.) swamp with tall herbs and lesser reedmace (*Typha latifolia*). A pond in the north supports common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustre*) fool's water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). Grassland areas include species tolerant of a high water table including tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*) and meadow fescue (*Fesuca pratensis*). Drier parts have been seeded with wildflowers and grasses, many of which are well established, including crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), salad burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*) and perennial cornflower (*Centaurea montana*). There are also a few plants of butterbur (*Petasites hybridum*), an uncommon species in London; which may have colonised naturally. A variety of trees and shrubs (mostly wetland species) have been planted, including alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and a host of willows (*Salix* spp.), creating a species poor form of fen carr. The river and wetlands support a variety of invertebrates (particularly spiders, dragonflies and damselflies), some fish and most probably amphibians. The variety of habitats will also be of value to foraging birds including a Lewisham flagship species, kingfisher.

To the north-west are a number of notable large, mature oak trees (*Quercus robur*) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) containing features that could be used by roosting bats (TN01). Mature native woodland occurs on the steep banks up to the railway line, with high canopy oaks and an understorey of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). To the east of the River Quaggy is a large grassland area, part of which is managed as a meadow with a variety of common grasses dominating with tall herbs including cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). Mature trees are also present including pedunculated oak, hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*), Lombardy poplar (*P. nigra 'Italica'*), white willow (*Salix alba*) and smaller trees of yew (*Taxus baccata*), plum (*Prunus domestica*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

The southern area also has some very large native and ornamental trees, intermixed with areas of bramble scrub. The mowing regime has been relaxed over a large part of this area, allowing it to become covered in rough grassland and tall herbs. The ground slopes up towards the southern corner of the site, with a change in grassland composition to that dominated by common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Anthills are also scattered through this area (TN02). Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and greater stichwort (*Stellaria holostea*) occurred along the southern boundary with the railway line. The latter is an ancient woodland indicator and may have self-seeded from the hedgerow located along the Green Chain Walk, just to the south. Overall, this part of the site is used less by the public and supports a rich birdlife, including jay, chiffchaff, chaffinch, long-tailed tit, green woodpecker and abundant house sparrows, the latter is a flagship species in Lewisham.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB36	River Ravensbourne at Ladywell Fields
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A large, linear park with extensive habitats and a naturalised section of the River Ravensbourne.
Grid ref:	TQ 37449 74375
Area (ha):	21.49
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	River, amenity grassland, wet marginal vegetation, native woodland, orchard, herb-rich neutral grassland, scattered trees, tall herbs, scrub, bare artificial habitat, non-native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, bare soil and rock, building, roughland, pond and planted shrubbery.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

This is a large, linear site that includes a 160m section of the River Ravensbourne and 500m of railside habitat, and runs through the centre of the borough between Ladywell and Catford Bridge. At its widest point, the SINC spans 350m, encompassing large expanses of amenity grassland, woodland, an orchard, and areas of herb-rich or neutral grassland and tall herbs. The River Ravensbourne is the major natural feature of the park's three fields and has been restored to create a more naturalistic river corridor, incorporating back waters, wetlands and riverside tree planting. It was designed primarily to reduce flooding but also to obtain the benefits of increased biodiversity and amenity use with riverside viewing platforms, and numerous crossing points.

A new meandering channel has been diverted through the northern field to create an area for river dipping and paddling for children, with new pools and riffles of value to aquatic life. Wetland plants and scrub succeed into drier banks with wildflowers, providing habitat variations. Wet marginal plants are numerous and include pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), greater pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), water figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*), redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), lesser reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) and reed-sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*). Wildflowers include common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*). Other habitat features present include a wildlife pond within woodland and herb-rich grassland associated with a dry swale (TN02 north/south respectively).

The main river channel has also been enhanced with rocky groynes, (increasing water oxygenation and flow diversity), conditions better suited for fish, (typically eels and sticklebacks) and invertebrate life such as dragonflies and caddisfly. Kingfishers, a Lewisham flagship species are regularly seen, and mallards and moorhens breed in the park. The river corridor and adjacent grassland is likely to provide foraging habitat and a commuting route for numerous bat species. Wet and dry gravel swales and grassland banks provide local variation within expanses of amenity grassland. Notable species include ragged robin (*Silene flos-cuculi*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), tufted-hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), yellow oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*). These areas are of value to numerous butterflies including common blue, small tortoiseshell, meadow brown and orange tip, and crickets. Less desirable species also occur (TN01) including Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*); the latter is being kept in check by local volunteer groups. A community orchard has recently been planted in the lower field with plum (*Prunus* spp), apple (*Malus* spp), pear (*Pyrus* spp). Below the trees, the semi-improved neutral grassland is left long (TN05). The orchard is a Habitat of Principal Importance (although it is limited in size and maturity). The park's woodland areas contain a variety of native and non-native species, including ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The understorey typically includes native scrub and tall herbs. Mature pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*) are also present and may represent old field boundaries (TN04). There are a variety of mature trees including a rare surviving elm on the river bank, which bears a 'Great Tree of London plaque', denoting trees considered of importance to the capital (TN03).

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB37	River Quaggy and Manor Park
Borough grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A park with a variety of habitats, including a restored section of the River Quaggy, woodland, meadow and “gravel gardens”.
Grid Ref:	TQ 38849 74868
Area (ha):	1.37 + 0.12 – 0.03
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, scrub, scattered trees, bare soil and rock, tall herbs, bare artificial habitat, building, amenity grassland, herb-rich grassland, herbaceous planting, planted shrubbery, river, wet marginal vegetation and native hedge.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham’s rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham’s flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

This park, contains a section of the River Quaggy (circa 385m), and has been renovated in an ecologically sensitive manner as part of a wider flood management scheme between Sutcliffe Park and Lewisham town centre. Along with improving access down to the river, new planting and grassland management has created a park which is rich in biodiversity given its urban location. The river forms the park’s western boundary and for most of its length is bordered by mature non-native woodland, providing a relatively undisturbed habitat for kingfisher, a Lewisham flagship species. The most common trees are sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and poplar (*Populus* spp.), below which there is some scrub of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and ground flora dominated by cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*), and wood avens (*Geum urbanum*). Areas of more open bramble scrub, tall herbs and wet marginal vegetation provide good structural variation.

Of particular note is a marshy area created to the south of the site, surrounded by willow scrub and other informal paths that lead down to the water’s edge. Plant species include hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), greater willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*) gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) and wood small-reed (*Calamagrostis epigejos*), water figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*) and pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*). The river channel has a gravel bed providing habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates.

Grassland areas are managed for biodiversity, with small areas left uncut, wildflower species present include black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), lady’s bedstraw (*Galium verum*), field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and bird’s foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). A new native hedge has been planted along part of the park’s eastern boundary and contains blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), dogwood (*Conus sanguinea*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*).

Drought-tolerant “gravel gardens” have been created at the park’s two entrances (off Manor Park Road and Weardale Road), and contain nectar-rich plants including rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), globe thistle (*Echinops* spp), marjoram (*Origanum majorana*), lady’s mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*), sage (*Salvia* spp) and meadow rue (*Thalictrum* spp). These provide a rich foraging resource for invertebrates. Parts of the old river wall, (constructed of pebbles), provide niches for plants such as hart’s-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*); whilst new defence walls have been designed with notches to facilitate plant growth and breeding sites for birds. An additional entrance to the south (including a bridge across the river) enables people to use the park to walk between Hither Green and Lewisham town centres. Easy access to the water’s edge is possible at two locations and is a valuable educational asset for local children. A café provides a local hub of activity and facilities for families.

The site boundaries have been modified in three locations. This is to include herbaceous planting and watercourse in the north and east, which are likely to be owned by the borough. The third area is to exclude private garden land along the southern boundary.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB38	River Thames at Creekside Education Centre
Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Diverse brownfield site located on the banks of the tidal Deptford Creek
Grid ref:	TQ 37579 77307
Area (ha):	0.26
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Bare soil and rock, pond, wet marginal vegetation, scrub, tall herbs, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal and ephemeral, building and biodiverse green roof.
Access:	Access at limited times
Ownership:	Transco

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher.

Creekside Discovery Centre (run by the local charity Creekside Education Trust) is one of the few locations along the southern bank of the River Thames in inner London that has a natural river bank profile and is subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. It is next to Deptford Creek, which is part of the River Thames Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. The grounds of the centre (and its roof) are a specially created brownfield site covered in crushed concrete and other retained building rubble. It serves as an example of how valuable to nature conservation brownfield sites are. The site meets the criteria for a Habitat of Principal Importance and is known to support over 250 species of plants and an invertebrate community that is likely to be equally diverse. A number of uncommon warmth-loving invertebrates have been found on barer areas of the habitat in the past. Wasteland (brownfield) habitats are also a London Biodiversity Action Plan habitat, providing foraging grounds for the black redstart a Lewisham flagship species.

Vegetation on the site is managed for high diversity. It has also become a final refuge for some species lost elsewhere in the area due to development. A colourful mix of red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Beaked Hawk'sbeard (*Crepis vesicaria*) with a plethora of other species provide a colourful visual stimulus. In amongst them are many small overlooked species that are easily lost if sites are not managed appropriately such as small mouse-ear (*Cerastium semi-decandrum*), whitlow grass (*Erophilla verna*) and rue-leaved saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*).

A small pond planted with various aquatics and marginals from the Creek including flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), blue water-speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*) and water figwort (*Scrophularia aquatic*) is located to the east of the centre. The pond provides a home for common frogs, toads and smooth newts along with dragonflies and damselflies. Towards the eastern end of the site, hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) dominates the upper inter-tidal zone of the only beach in Deptford Creek. Watermint (*Mentha aquatic*), watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*) and a wide variety of other freshwater species grow amongst it. Lower down the beach a few saltmarsh species such as English scurvygrass (*Cochlearia anglica*) and sea clubrush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) grow.

The Discovery Centre, run by Creekside Education Trust, provides adventure and education facilities that have no comparison anywhere else in London. Schools regularly visit the centre and excursions into the creek at low tide are held both for children and adults. The Centre emphasizes the importance of local children and adults discovering wildlife and the environment where they live rather than elsewhere.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeB39**Bridgehouse Meadows Railsides**

Borough Grade:	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	An informal park, with a range of railside habitats partly accessible to the public
Grid ref:	TQ 35493 77630
Area (ha):	2.94 + 1.60
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, herb-rich grassland and native woodland,
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's railsides comprise an extensive series of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats and a vital network of green corridors. The key railside habitats include rough grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered trees and woodland, which occur together in various combinations to form a very large linear patchwork. Extending throughout the borough, the rail network provides feeding and breeding sites, shelter and means of dispersal for many species of plants, bird, mammals, reptiles and insects.

This site has been recently landscaped following construction of the East London Line Overground. The new line now runs along the western boundary, except for a strip of vegetation consisting of scrub and tall herbs that separate the railside habitat from adjacent properties. As a relatively undisturbed area this is likely to be of value to breeding birds. On the east side is an area accessible to the public. Amenity grassland is mown short and consist of frequent cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), and perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). On the banks, adjacent to the footpath, swathes of tall herbs and a wide variety of wildflowers and grasses have established and been allowed to grow tall. Species include Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), cocksfoot (*Dactylus glomerata*), numerous docks (*Rumex* spp), melilot (*Melilotus* spp), common knapweed (*Centurea nigra*), hedge bedstraw (*Galium album*), ox-eye daisy, (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), bladder campion (*Silene vulgaris*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), common mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*). This area will be valuable to pollinating invertebrates such as bumblebees (*Bombus* spp), butterflies, solitary bees and foraging birds, including house sparrow, which has been recorded on site and is a flagship species in Lewisham. The site boundaries to the east consist mostly of native scrub and young, native woodland. Species consist of pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and old-man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) are also abundant and noted for their value to breeding birds and invertebrates. Stands of the invasive Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) are also abundant in places (TN01, TN02). To the south lies a narrow strip of land alongside the railway line, which supports herb-rich grassland, scrub and woodland. The grassland has a good mixture and abundances of species including common knapweed, bird's foot-trefoil, hedge bedstraw, wild carrot, rat's tail grass (*Vulpia myuros*), kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), wild mignonette (*Reseda lutea*) and fern grass (*Catapodium ridgidum*). Toadflax, wild mignonette and fern grass are typical of wasteland (brownfield) and denote the impoverished substrate that underlies this area. A dense belt of mature sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) trees, scrub and tall herbs add to the habitat mosaic. This area is also known to support a population of common lizards translocated to this part of the site, following construction mitigation. Common lizards have a restricted distribution in the borough confined to large sites and those associated with railside habitat corridors.

The site boundaries have been extended in two locations. This includes a strip of scrub, scattered trees and native woodland along the eastern side of the railway line and an area of herb-rich grassland, scrub and non-native woodland located to the south. These are likely to be owned by the borough of Lewisham.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL01	Brookmill Nature Reserve (LNR)
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A small nature reserve established on a short section of disused railway embankment.
Grid ref:	TQ 37645 76266
Area (ha):	0.43
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Semi-improved neutral grassland, pond, scrub, non-native woodland, bare soil and rock and bare artificial habitat.
Access:	Access by prior arrangement
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This small nature reserve has been developed on a short section of disused railway embankment. The site is very steep-sided and its banks are heavily wooded. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is the dominant tree with native species dominated by ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Dense, overgrown shrubs consist of hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) There is also a large plum (*Prunus domestica*). The ground flora is chiefly cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), bramble and ivy (*Hedera helix*). In places this natural flora has been supplemented by planting wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*).

Part of the flat top of the embankment has been seeded with a wildflower grassland mix, with a variety of herbs including salad burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*), bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), hedge bedstraw (*Galium album*) and wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*). Bramble scrub provides cover and food for foxes and birds such as long-tailed tit and blackcap recorded in the past and may still use the site.

There are three small ponds on site. The largest of these, below the embankment on the southern edge of the reserve, has a marsh of greater spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*) and reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) at one end. At least two of these ponds support breeding populations of common frogs and smooth newts. Common darter dragonfly may also breed here. The invasive aquatic fern has been recorded on site (TN01).

Access is restricted to key holders or via arrangement with the Borough's Nature Conservation team, which runs nature conservation workdays at the site. The site is designated as a statutory Local Nature Reserve.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL02	Besson Street Community Garden
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A small community garden with trees and shrubs from around the world reflecting Lewisham's diverse population.
Grid ref:	TQ 35491 76881
Area (ha):	0.16
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Planted shrubbery, pond, wet marginal vegetation, scattered trees, allotment (active), biodiverse green roof, bare artificial habitat and building.
Access:	Access at limited times
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

A well maintained, small garden in a densely urban area part of Lewisham. A large variety of native and exotic trees, shrubs and herbaceous species have been planted, many of which are of known value to wildlife. Species include exotic bugloss (*Echium* spp), ornamental onions (*Allium* spp) and wood spurge (*Euphorbia* spp). A pond is fringed with abundant native and non-native wetland plants including purple loosestrife (*Lathyrus salicaria*), sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*) and water lily (*Nymphaea* spp), and is known to support breeding populations of common frog, smooth newt and stickleback. A small area of raised allotment beds contain numerous edible plants. The garden is well used by the local community for on-site training courses, events and volunteering; and provides a valuable educational resource for nearby schools.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL04	Sydenham Cottages Nature Reserve
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A small nature reserve site with old hawthorn hedges, developing oak-ash woodland and large meadow area.
Grid ref:	TQ 41111 72569
Area (ha):	0.57 + 0.15
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, building, scattered trees, native hedge and tall herb.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This small nature reserve is chiefly covered in mature woodland of pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). This is a habitat of Principal Importance. There is a dense shrub layer of blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), damson (*Prunus domestica* spp *insititia*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), raspberry (*R. idaeus*) hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and coppiced hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Other trees include sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). False-wood brome (*Brachipodium sylvatica*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and young ash saplings dominate the ground layer. A small grass clearing in the middle of the site comprises predominantly of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) with cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*). Midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) has also been recorded.

The site attracts a number of birds familiar to parks and gardens and is likely home to a variety of widespread but declining invertebrates. Of particular note are the abundance of bats, of which six species have been recorded, including serotine, Noctule, daubenton, leisler's, pipistrelle and soprano Pipistrelle. Some species will be using the site as foraging habitat, whilst others as part of a commuting route along the River Quaggy, which forms the eastern boundary to the site (TN02). The site is also located in close proximity to nearby wooded habitats to the north (around Hadlow College) and to the south (in Chinbrook Meadows and railsides). A small building and mature trees may also provide roosting opportunities to bats and birds.

The site is located next to a canalised section of the River Quaggy, which in its current form, has limited value as a foraging habitat for wildlife, although it is still valuable as dark corridor for commuting bats. The footpath along the River Quaggy (off-site) forms part of the Capital Ring and Green Chain Walk long-distance walking routes.

The site boundaries have been extended in two locations likely to be in similar ownership. The first area is to include a native hedgerow along Alice Thompson Close road, which is traditionally managed (having been recently hedge-layed) and comprised of frequent hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*). The second area is to include a strip of land along the northern boundary adjacent to the River Quaggy, which forms part of the river habitat corridor.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL05	Folkestone Gardens
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A park with a wildlife-rich pond and numerous mature trees
Grid ref:	TQ 36185 77851
Area (ha):	2.48
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, standing water, reed-swamp, wet marginal vegetation, tall herbs, scrub, non-native woodland, planted shrubbery, scattered trees, non-native woodland, building and bare artificial habitat.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This park contains several features of wildlife value, the best of which is the large pond in the centre of the site. The margins support two patches of reed swamp dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and stands of branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), hard rush (*Juncus effusus*), flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and water mint (*Mentha aquatica*). Reed swamp is a Habitat of Principal Importance and noted on the London Biodiversity Action Plan. There is a small island with a large weeping willow (*Salix x sepulcralis*), below which the ground is covered in ivy (*Hedera helix*). This is used by nesting mallards, moorhens and occasionally, tufted ducks. The pond supports a good range of invertebrates, attracted by its dense vegetation. These have included azure damselfly, water measurer, and a nationally scarce soldier fly.

The pond is also likely to be of value to common amphibians such as common frogs and smooth newts. The grassland areas are mown regularly, but comprise a relatively rich cover of widespread herb species including clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), dwarf mallow (*Malva neglecta*), cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), and bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*). A nationally scarce click beetle has been recorded in the grassland areas in previous years. The park also has many (mostly non-native) trees and areas of dense planted shrubbery. This is likely to provide breeding and foraging habitat for a variety of birds. Mistle thrush and chaffinch have been recorded. Bats are also likely to utilise the site for foraging over the pond and commuting along the eastern boundary, which is contiguous with railside land.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL06	Whitefoot Recreation Ground
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Remnant ancient woodland, and a small pond.
Grid Ref:	TQ 39180 72150
Area (ha):	1
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Native woodland, pond, scattered trees, scrub, wet marginal vegetation, planted shrubbery, tall herbs and bare artificial habitat.
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent roads or paths only.
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This site contains two areas of wildlife interest located in Whitefoot Recreation Ground. These comprise a strip of oak (*Quercus robur*) woodland alongside Whitefoot Lane and a pond in the middle of the playing fields. The small strip of pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) trees along the northern boundary of the site is probably a remnant of ancient woodland. Some individual trees are quite old. Beneath the trees is a sparse understorey of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and elm (*Ulmus* spp.). The ground flora is predominantly grass with cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and a sparse scattering of bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and wood avens (*Geum urbanum*). Stag beetle, a Lewisham flagship has been recorded on the site, and the mature trees are of value to this species. The site is also likely to provide habitat for foraging and commuting bats and woodland birds such as greater spotted woodpecker, due the site's proximity to other SINCs, which contain ancient woodland.

In the centre of the playing fields is a pond with flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), great reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) and lesser pond sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) at its margins and white water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) on the surface. Moorhens and mallards are known to breed on the pond in most years and the pond is also likely to be support common amphibians.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL07	Queenswood Road Nature Reserve
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A small nature reserve, with a good variety of habitats including woodland and pond.
Grid Ref:	TQ 36045 72208
Area (ha):	0.29 + 0.02
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Native woodland, biodiverse green roof, non-native woodland, tall herbs, scrub, bare artificial habitat, bare soil and rock, scattered trees, improved grassland, pond, wet marginal vegetation, planted shrubbery, allotment (active) and amenity grassland.
Access:	Access by prior arrangement
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This small nature reserve contains a good variety of habitats including an area of woodland, an organic garden, wildlife pond, meadow and biodiverse green roof. A large proportion of the site comprises native woodland. Species include pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with a shrub layer of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) domestic apple (*Malus pumila*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*). The ground flora is dominated by thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and ivy (*Hedera helix*). Log piles and dead-hedging abound and provide habitat for invertebrates such as stag beetle, a Lewisham flagship species. A range of native and edible plants are grown organically in raised allotment beds in the northern part of the site. A small, shaded meadow in the south east corner comprises abundant cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*). A pond, (which seasonally dries out), supports flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), along with other garden shrubs and herbs, it provides good habitat cover and structural variation of value to dragonflies, and common amphibians.

A biodiverse green roof has been created on the building roof and contributes a large area of habitat to the site. The roof creates conditions similar to that of the Habitat of Principal Importance "open mosaic habitat on previously developed land", and will be of value to invertebrates particularly butterflies, solitary bees, crickets and spiders. A diverse range of plant species were present and notable included abundant ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) and kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*). The reserve's varied habitats support a range of birds including breeding blackcap and abundant house sparrows. Butterflies include holly blue, meadow brown and speckled wood have been sited. Pipistrelle bat have also been recorded. House sparrow and bats are flagship species in Lewisham. The nature reserve has been developed as part of a community therapy garden for people coping with serious illness in their lives and offers a natural oasis in a densely urban part of the borough.

The site has been extended to include the access footpath from Wynell Road. This comprises a closed canopy of mature sycamore trees with a planted shrub layer including hawthorn, yew (*Taxus baccata*), blackthorn and cherry plum and is of value to foraging birds, and bats.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL08	Rainsborough Avenue Embankments
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A former railway embankment with woodland, scrub and amenity grassland.
Grid Ref:	TQ 36333 78634
Area (ha):	1.24 – 0.58
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, scrub bare soil and rock and scattered trees.
Access:	Free public access (part of the site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

The site comprises part of a former railway embankment and the filled-in sections of part of the old Surrey Canal. The embankment is split into three sections, part of which is covered by non-native woodland dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), accompanied by Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). The shrub layer consists of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*). Running north to south is the filled-in section of the old Surrey Canal. This part of the site harbours an abundance of house sparrows, a Lewisham flagship species. This species favours dense scrub, which is limited in this part of the borough. The southern end is mainly amenity grassland, with native and exotic shrubs planted at its edges, including hybrid butterfly bush (*Buddleja x weyeriana*), cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* sp.) and sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*). This area is popular with local dog walkers. The northern end, which previously comprised dense scrub has been cleared and in 2016 formed part of an active construction site. Planning proposals state that this area will remain as open space, with new areas of grassland shrubs and trees but is unlikely to replace the habitat value which existed before development.

The site boundary has been reduced to exclude that part of the SINC that was cleared and landscaped. Although this area will be retained as open space, there is no active management for biodiversity and habitats are of limited ecological value. This area is likely to be in private ownership.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL09	Sayes Court Park
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A historic small park with numerous mature trees, including an ancient black mulberry.
Area (ha):	TQ 36820 78056
Grid Ref:	0.89
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Scattered trees, amenity grassland, vegetated walls, planted shrubbery, bare artificial habitat and non-native hedge.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of the site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Sayes Court Park contains some large, mature trees, with London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*) well represented. Of greatest note is a large specimen of black mulberry (*Morus nigra*), near the site's southern entrance, which is believed to be more than 250 years old. It has fallen over but continues to grow and is fenced off for its protection. A variety of exotic shrubs have been planted at the site's perimeter. These are particularly dense and provide common birds with shelter and foraging opportunities. The grassland is dominated by perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), with occasional cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), wood bedstraw (*Galium album*) and buck's-horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*).

Although the site is small and unassuming, it is of substantial historical significance due to it being the only lasting remains of the larger, much celebrated garden of the same name owned by one of the founding members of The National Trust, John Elvelyn. In 1988, John Elvelyn approached the social reformer Octavia Hill (who created Redcross Gardens in Southwark) with a proposal for Sayes Court to be publicly owned and managed in the public interest and the idea of The National Trust was born. However, it was too late for Sayes Court, which after the war was sold off and lost. The River Thames long-distance path routes through the site.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL10	Iona Close Orchard
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Overgrown gardens with a number of fruit trees including a very old black mulberry.
Grid Ref:	TQ 37143 73796
Area (ha):	0.33 – 0.03
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Scattered trees, native woodland, scrub, tall herbs, ephemeral and ruderal, vegetated walls, bare artificial habitat and building.
Access:	No public access
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This site is formed of two overgrown back gardens with a number of old fruit trees, woodland, scrub and tall herbs. The woodland includes several, large mature trees of pedunculate oak (*Qercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) are locally abundant. The old fruit trees are nested within this vegetation and include old specimens of plum (*Prunus domestica*), pear (*Pyrus communis*) and apple (*Malus pumila*) and an ancient, gnarled black mulberry (*Morus nigra*). Traditional orchards like this one are a Habitat of Principal Importance. There are a number of uncommon invertebrates which specialise in feeding on dead wood or sap runs on fruit trees. One such species previously found at Iona Close is the red-belted clearwing moth. Fruit and nectar also provide food for foraging invertebrates and birds. Orchards may also be culturally valuable, containing old varieties of fruit trees which are now rare in cultivation. Dense scrub is interspersed around the trees and includes bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*); with tall herbs such as cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and cleavers (*Galium aparine*). There is also an abundance of ivy (*Hedera helix*) scrambling over the ground, and along the old, garden brick walls. A number of young fruit trees have been planted within an area of recently disturbed ground, now colonised by ruderal species including ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), willowherb (*Epilobium* spp), black horehound (*Ballota nigra*) and mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). There are numerous piles of dead wood of potential value to common reptiles if local populations persist. The site is located on the southwestern edge of the recently upgraded borough SINC.

The site boundary has been reduced to exclude an area of private garden (dominated by amenity grassland) along the western boundary. This is likely to be in private ownership.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL11	Sedgehill Allotments
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	The western boundary hedgerow, old oaks, ditch and pond are the chief nature conservation interest of this allotment site.
Grid Ref:	TQ 37401 71269
Area (ha):	0.66
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Scrub, allotment (active), semi-improved neutral grassland, pond, native woodland and native hedge (ancient).
Access:	No public access except for allotment holders.
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Sedgehill Allotments contain several features of high nature conservation interest. A rather straggly hedge of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and some bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) runs along the western side of the allotments. This continues northwards, flanking the eastern edge of the adjoining allotments site. A number of pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) pollards of some antiquity occur along the length of the hedge. The hedge is a Habitat of Principal Importance and may also meet criteria for an Important Hedgerow under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Trees such as this are likely to support a wide variety of invertebrates, which specialise in the dead wood of veteran trees. At the base of the hedge is a ditch (TN01) and another indicator of an old boundary). A pond was created as habitat at the western edge of the site and supported breeding populations of common frogs, toads and smooth newts. Much of site is covered in dense bramble scrub. Along the southern boundary is an area of native woodland comprising pedunculate oak, hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and damson (*Prunus domestica* subsp. *insititia*). This woodland includes a large, mature oak tree (TN02). The eastern boundary consists of an overgrown hedgerow of hazel, elder and bramble. The allotments are sympathetically managed, and provide important terrestrial habitat for amphibians and reptiles. This was one of the last places in Lewisham where grass snakes were recorded in the 1990s. Dense scrub and a variety of native and edible plants are likely to provide good foraging habitat for numerous bird species and invertebrates.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL12	Brockley Hill Park
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	This private open space provides a peaceful and secluded sanctuary both for residents of adjoining properties and for wildlife.
Grid Ref:	TQ 36311 73762
Area (ha):	1.98
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub, planted shrubbery, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat, non-native hedge and native hedge.
Access:	No public access
Ownership:	Brockley Hill Park Ornamental Garden Trust

This private open space, surrounded by the gardens of Lowther Hill, Duncombe Hill, Brockley Rise and Brockley View, provides a peaceful and secluded sanctuary both for residents of adjoining properties and for wildlife. The gardens lie on a hillside of London clay, with the land rising steeply to the east. Two steep banks divide the site into three, relatively level, terraces. The upper and lower parts of the site consist of an open canopy of numerous mature trees including wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), pine (*Pinus* sp.), poplar (*Populus* spp.) London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), lime (*Tilia vulgaris*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and aspen (*Populus tremula*). The middle of the park is less formally managed and forms a more or less continuous non-native woodland canopy. Species are similar, with an understorey of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), wild cherry, willow (*Salix* spp), bramble and tall herbs. The ground cover is mostly managed as grassland, which is regularly mown. There are smaller areas of grassland which are left long, allowing meadow plants to flower including cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

A large number of trees were lost or damaged during the Great Storm of 1987; and elms lost to Dutch elm disease, but this has left a legacy of dead standing or damaged trees that provide numerous features of value to roosting bats, or roosting or foraging birds including rot holes, cracks and crevices. A large ash and mature wild cherry were of particular note at (TN01). Birds regularly seen in the Park include great spotted and green woodpeckers. Brockley Hill Park Estate is a hidden private garden owned and managed by residents of adjoining properties represented by a Trust, an arrangement common in Kensington and Westminster boroughs but unusual in south-east London.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL14	Sydenham Wells Park
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	An attractive park with water features, mature trees and a mass of dense shrubbery, providing habitats for waterfowl and other birds.
Grid Ref:	TQ 34402 71838
Area (ha):	7.99
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, native woodland, pond, wet marginal vegetation, running water, scrub, planted shrubbery, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat, building, scattered trees and semi-improved neutral grassland.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of the site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Sydenham Wells Park contains a number of valuable wildlife habitats. In the south of the park is a complicated water feature, with an artificial stream, created as a model of the River Rhine, which runs through a series of small narrow pools and a larger lake. The stream is lined with flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquatica*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*); the last two species are uncommon in Lewisham. The lake is fringed with abundant marginal vegetation including flag iris, bulrush (*Typha* spp) and pond sedge (*Carex* spp). There is also an island in the middle, overhung with weeping willows, which provides a safe nesting site for waterfowl, including mallard, moorhen, coot, Canada goose, and in some years, tufted duck. There are numerous mature trees in the park, including some old pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*), possibly relics of the Great North Wood. The site also has an abundance of dense shrubberies and supports an area of native woodland with ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pedunculate oak, beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*); and a small, ephemeral pond.

Grassland areas are predominantly species-poor, being typically managed for amenity use. However a number of patches (TN01, TN02 and TN03) are relatively herb-rich and contain a number of other species typical of semi-improved neutral grassland of drier or wetter soils. Species present include cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), hairy sedge (*Carex hirta*), field wood rush (*Luzula campestris*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*). A good range of birds are attracted to the park, including house sparrow, coal tit and chaffinch. Six species of bat have been recorded utilising the site, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's, Leisler's, noctule and serotine with the water bodies and mature native trees of greatest value. Bats and the house sparrow are some of Lewisham flagship species.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL15	Hilly Fields
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	This is a large park with many exotic trees and smaller areas of woodland, scrub and grassland
Grid Ref:	TQ 37256 75298
Area (ha):	18.6
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees, native woodland, dense scrub, bare soil and rock, bare artificial habitat, building, tall herbs and biodiverse green roof.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of the site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewsiham.

This is a large, open park with a fair number of, mostly exotic, scattered trees. Some of them are mature specimens including horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*), Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*) and common lime (*Tilia x europaea*). Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is the most numerous native tree. On the south-eastern edge of the park, at the end of Eastern Road, is a small area of native woodland of ash and pedunculated oak with a dense scrub dominated by mature hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) elder (*Sambucus nigra*) as a scrubby understorey. The ground flora consists of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and occasional stinking iris (*Iris foetidissima*), which here is probably a garden escape. This area supports a population of butterflies, including meadow brown, speckled wood and small tortoiseshell. Many of the bird's familiar in parks and gardens frequent this area, including song thrush and house sparrow, two flagship species in Lewisham. Along the southern boundary, beside Adelaide Avenue, is an area of semi-improved neutral grassland. The strict mowing regime adopted over other areas of the park is relaxed here, the result is a meadow (TN01) with a good variety of grasses and some herbs present including creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), meadow barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*) crested-dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and pepper saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*). A loggery for stag beetle, a Lewisham flagship species has been created at TN02.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL16	Eliot Bank Hedge and Tarleton Gardens
Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	An old boundary hedge and adjacent woodland with several ancient oaks.
Grid Ref:	TQ 34827 72905
Area (ha):	0.41 + 0.19
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, native woodland, scrub and amenity grassland (not mapped).
Access:	Can be viewed from adjacent roads only
Ownership:	Dulwich Estates (private).

This site has two parts: an old boundary hedge, which runs along part of Eliot Bank and Tarleton Gardens and a private garden for residents adjoining properties along Sydenham Rise.

Eliot bank hedge is more akin to native woodland than a hedge, forming an overgrown, unmanaged strip of trees and scrub, largely composed of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) and occasional whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and invading sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). There are several large sessile oaks of some antiquity and possibly relics of the Great North Wood. Old oaks are of value to a variety of beetles and other invertebrates, which specialise in the dead wood habitat. At the base of the hedge there are plants typical of this location such as bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*) and herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*). Eliot bank hedge is thought to mark an old parish boundary between the original counties of Kent and Surrey.

Tarleton Gardens is located at the northern end of the hedge, adjoining it on the western side. Although the canopy is principally comprised of sycamore, a number of large, mature trees are also present including lime (*Tilia x europaea*), pine (*Pinus sylvestica*), sessile and pedunculate oak, Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), and at least five old pear trees (*Pyrus communis*). The shrub layer is dense with abundant holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), old coppiced hazel (*Corylus avellana*), privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), occasional butcher's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), and a variety of non-native shrubs. There is abundant dead wood and old tree stumps. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) dominate the ground flora. A small part of this area comprises amenity grassland.

The site attracts a variety of birds with great spotted woodpecker, blackcap and chiffchaff regularly seen. Numerous mature trees provide a range of features of value to roosting bats and old trees and abundant dead wood provides habitat for invertebrates such as the stag beetle, which are flagship species in Lewisham.

The site boundaries have been extended in two locations. The first area is to include vegetation along the sites eastern boundary adjacent to a footpath. A dense mix of predominantly native scrub provides continuity along the old boundary line and habitat of value to breeding and foraging birds. This is likely to be owned by borough. The second extension is along the western boundary, to include woodland habitat along the eastern boundary of private gardens. This area is likely to be owned by Dulwich Estates.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL17 **River Ravensbourne at Peter Pan's Park & Southend Pond**

Borough grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	An ornamental pond with good numbers of common waterfowl, and informal parkland beside the River Ravensbourne
Grid Ref:	TQ 38370 71648
Area (ha):	0.85 + 0.04
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Pond, river, amenity grassland, non-native woodland, bare soil and rock, scattered trees, wet marginal vegetation and tall herbs.
Access:	Free public access (part /most of site)
Ownership:	Homebase / London Borough of Lewisham.

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

The key nature conservation interest of the site is the short section of the River Ravensbourne, which runs through Peter Pan's Park. The area has a good number of mature trees, with frequent Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with occasional ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), which form a closed canopy along the river. The trees support features that could be of value to roosting bats and birds. Beneath the trees, there are a few scattered shrubs of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and tall herbs dominated by cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and amenity grassland. The section of river runs over a naturally gravelly bed, contained between wooden toe-boards. Marginal vegetation is limited and sparse, with pendulous sedge being most apparent. Butterbur (*Petasites hybridus*), an uncommon plant in Lewisham, has been recorded beside the river. The river flows between back-garden land beyond the site to the east and in culvert until Watermead Road to the west. A new path, viewing platform and interpretation board have been recently constructed making this park more accessible to the public.

Southend Pond is awkwardly located between busy roads and a homebase store and suffers from noise, litter and probably pollution, however it supposed to be one of the best places in the borough for common waterfowl, with mallards, moorhens and Canada geese all nesting on the small island. Grey herons are also regular visitors. The pond has little marginal vegetation other than small patches of marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), which survive in planters secured onto the ponds concrete sides. A few alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) have also been planted.

The site boundary has been extended to include an area of grassland adjacent to the pond along the north-west boundary. This area is used by grazing Canada geese and is likely to be private ownership.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL19 **Albion Millennium Green**

Summary: Although still relatively young this small site has a good range of habitats and species present – it offers a place of tranquillity in a busy part of Lewisham.

Grid Ref: [TQ 35344 72481](#)

Area (ha): 0.73

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s): Native woodland, scrub, scattered trees, bare soil and rock, tall herbs and bare artificial habitat.

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Albion Millennium Trust

This former tennis club was landscaped into an informal park in 2000 under the Countryside Agency's 'Millennium Greens' scheme. Near the entrance with Albion Villas is an area of frequently mown amenity grassland. Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*) is particularly common in the turf. Other species of the grassland areas include bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*) common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*) and squirrel's-tail fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*). Trees and shrubs, mostly young specimens, are scattered throughout the the site. Towards the eastern end, young woodland has developed. Species are mainly pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), with hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Scrub species consist of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*). The site is of value to a range of birds and butterflies.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL21	Pepys Park Nature Area
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A former redgra sports pitch, now covered in colourful wildflowers and scrub.
Grid ref:	TQ 36798 78462
Area (ha):	0.4 + 0.28
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Scattered trees, scrub, bare soil and rock, amenity grassland, ephemeral and ruderal, bare artificial habitat and planted shrubbery.
Access:	Free public access (all/part of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This area of former redgra tennis court is now managed to encourage wildflowers and scrub. The site is covered in species-rich ephemeral vegetation, with large areas of scrub and scattered mature trees.

The sparse grassland is dominated by barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*) and squirrel's-tail fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*). Intermingled are a variety of wildflowers, including ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), perennial wall rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*), hoary mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), hawkweed oxtongue (*Picris hieracioides*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and great mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*). There are also large clumps of hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*), a plant rare in Lewisham and generally uncommon in London. In this part of the site there are good numbers of grasshoppers and butterflies, including meadow brown and gatekeeper.

A large part of the site is dominated by scrub which is of value to breeding birds. Species comprise butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Cotoneasters (*Cotoneaster* spp.), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and goat willow (*Salix caprea*). The site also has a handful of scattered trees, including London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), whitebeam (*Sorbus* sp.) and a number of mature Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica').

The site boundaries have been extended to include an area of species-rich ephemeral vegetation, scrub and mature trees adjacent to the site. These areas provide habitat to foraging invertebrates and birds.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL22:	St. Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Street Open Space
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A churchyard and open space with mature trees and planted shrubbery.
Grid ref:	TQ 37316 77465
Area (ha):	1.29 + 0.47
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Planted shrubbery, amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees, scrub, bare artificial habitat, building, herbaceous planting and native hedge.
Access:	Free public access (most/all of site)
Ownership:	Diocese of Southwark and London Borough of Lewisham

The churchyard supports a variety of trees, most notable is an avenue of mature limes (*Tilia x europaea*) and London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*). Beneath the trees, the grass is kept short and contains a variety of wildflowers that can tolerate regular mowing. These include cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), autumn hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). There are dense planted shrubberies of mostly exotic species. Many of these have nectar-producing flowers or berries and provide foraging for widespread but declining invertebrates and birds. A number of bat species have been recorded flying over the site, including common and soprano pipistrelle. Mature trees and buildings can provide suitable roosting opportunities for bats, whilst relatively low light levels may provide suitable foraging habitat.

The open space south of Coffey Street is mostly covered in scattered trees and amenity grassland. However, fiddle dock (*Rumex pulcher*), a scarce species in Lewisham has been recorded here. A strip of tall herbs and rough grassland next to Crossfield Street included creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvensis*), perennial wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*) and mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). Raised beds have been installed for food growing. Mistle thrush has been recorded foraging in the grassland.

The site and its wildlife are likely to benefit from the proximity of a number of other SINC's in the local area, including Sue Godfrey Nature Park (LNR) and Creekside Education Centre to the east.

The site boundaries are to be extended to the north to include the remaining area of churchyard and boundary wall amenity and semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees and introduced shrubs.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL23	Telegraph Hill Park
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A park with numerous mature trees, a wildlife-rich pond and undulating terrain.
Grid ref:	TQ 35885 76215
Area (ha):	4.15
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, pond, bare artificial habitat, building, native hedge, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees, wet marginal vegetation, bare soil and rock and tall herbs.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This park is divided into two by Kitto Road, and contains a good variety of mature trees, both native and exotic and planted shrubbery. The northern section has recently been re-landscaped, with a new pond fringed with native and exotic wetland plants. A good range of species have established including pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), water lilies (*Nymphaea* spp), winter heliotrope (*Petasites fragans*) and figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*). Surrounding the pond are tall herbs including red campion (*Silene dioica*), alexanders (*Smyrniololus atratum*) and cow pasley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and a newly planted hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Adjacent grassland is managed less intensively and allowed to flower. This area is likely to be of value to dragonflies, damselflies and other invertebrates, and the aquatic habitat for common amphibians.

The park has many large trees. Among the more notable trees are numerous hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus*); while a common component of ancient woods in the area, hornbeam is not often found planted in parks. Mature, exotic trees include Indian bean tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*), narrow-leaved ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) and maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*). There are also many London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*) and lime (*Tilia x europaea*). Of particular interest are a number of Fontainebleau service trees (*Sorbus latifolia*), a species only occasionally planted elsewhere in London. Mature trees can provide opportunities for roosting bats and the park may provide suitable foraging habitat for certain species. Both sections contain densely planted shrubberies particularly around the edges. These support a good range of common birds, including the declining song thrush, a Lewisham flagship species.

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL24	Bromley Hill Cemetery
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	The cemetery has a good range of mature trees and patches of acid grassland.
Grid ref:	TQ 39322 70801
Area (ha):	2.62 + 0.24
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Acid grassland, scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, bare artificial habitat and building.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Bromley

This small cemetery has a relatively large number of mature trees, some of which form a continuous belt around the perimeter of the site. Most are exotics such as lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*), copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica* var. *purpurea*), weeping birch (*Betula* sp.), almond (*Prunus dulcis*); or coniferous such as Leyland cypress (*x Cupressocyparis leylandii*) and cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*). Native species are fewer and include ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and young oak (*Quercus robur*). Small areas of scrub and planted shrubbery also occur around the site boundaries.

The grassland between the graves is kept short and comprises a good diversity of grasses and herbs which are tolerant of regular mowing, including common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Wildflowers include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and field wood rush (*Luzula campestris*). There are also localised patches of acid grassland with sheep's-sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Two old buildings (TN01) had numerous features that provide opportunities for roosting bats and the cemetery is likely to provide foraging habitat for certain bat species. The site attracts a good number of butterflies such as speckled wood, meadow brown and gatekeeper. An area of bare ground may provide value to solitary bee species (TN02).

The site boundary is to be extended to include a large area along the northern boundary of the cemetery. This area includes undisturbed, dense bramble scrub and likely to be of value to breeding and foraging birds.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL26	Gilmore Road Triangle
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A small open space, containing several old pear trees and patches of woodland.
Grid ref:	TQ 38616 75205
Area (ha):	0.74 + 0.04
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Non-native woodland, scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, planted shrubbery and native woodland.
Access:	Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

This small triangle of open space, near to Lewisham town centre, principally contains scattered trees and a number of woodland copses of native and non-native tree species, including field maple (*Acer campestre*), sycamore (*A. pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), willows (*Salix* spp.), lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) and poplars (*Populus* spp.). Of particular interest are a number of old pear trees (*Pyrus domestica*) along the north-west side of the site. Also present are numerous cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*). The understorey/shrub layer is predominantly native and includes hawthorn (*Crateagus monogygna*), spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). This site will be of value to small birds by providing nesting sites and opportunities to forage. Old fruit trees can also support specialist invertebrates.

The site boundary is being extended to include an area of non-native woodland in the northern corner of the site, next to Bonfield Road. This is likely to be similar ownership.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL27: River Ravensbourne at Cornmill Gardens

Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A restored section of the River Ravensbourne in Lewisham town centre.
Grid ref:	TQ 38073 75662
Area (ha):	0.61
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	River, scrub, wet marginal vegetation, planted shrubbery, scattered trees, bare artificial habitat, amenity grassland and bare soil and rock.
Access:	Free public access
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

Lewisham's rivers are a vital network of blue and green corridors in the borough and many have been restored to a more natural course, providing habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects, including one of Lewisham's flagship species the kingfisher. The rivers and their associated habitats contribute to the ecological diversity and natural character of the borough, providing opportunities for local residents to experience nature in a densely urban area.

Part of Cornmill Gardens and the banks of the River Ravensbourne (a circa 230m long section) form a single green space in the heart of Lewisham, framed on all sides by high-rise buildings. The area demonstrates how river restoration can be an integral part of a regeneration programme that helps to create an attractive, biodiverse and accessible public open space. Part of the river has been de-culverted and landscaped to create naturalised and re-graded banks, interspersed with steps and wooden platforms to improve river bank access. Gravel has been added to provide in-channel habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates. The river supports diverse marginal planting including reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), wood small-reed (*Calamagrostis epigejos*), sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) grey willow (*Salix cinerea*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), lesser reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). New tree and herbaceous planting include dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) and birch (*Betula* spp) with non-native species including lavender (*Lavendula* spp), New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*), giant feather-grass (*Stipa gigantea*) and Tutsan (*Hypericum* spp). The adjacent open space (not included in the SINC) has been lowered to form an overflow flood storage area, providing flood relief above Lewisham town centre.

The upstream section of known as the Confluence Park /River Mill Park amongst other names) supports common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and foals water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and willow (*Salix* spp) scrub. The eastern river-bank is well vegetated with mature, coppiced hazel (*Corylus avellana*) providing habitat continuity with Lewisham Railway Triangles SINC which forms the eastern boundary to this site. The restored river habitats provide habitat for a wide range of common but declining species in the city centre including a large flock of house sparrows, a flagship species in Lewisham.

The site boundary proposed includes part of the River Ravensbourne channel, adjacent banks, Confluence Park to the north and the garden on the east river bank. These areas are likely to be owned by the borough.

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL28:	Lewisham Park
Borough Grade:	Proposed Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A medium sized park with numerous mature trees.
Grid ref:	TQ 38151 74540
Area (ha):	4.5 – 0.33
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Planted shrubbery, non-native woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, scattered trees, tall herbs, bare artificial habitat, native hedgerow and non-native hedgerow.
Access:	Free public access (locked at night)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

A medium sized park opposite Lewisham University Hospital, comprising a number of large, mature, native and non-native, ornamental trees (TN01, TN02 and TN03). The density and maturity of trees is the primary ecological value of the site and is likely to provide foraging and breeding opportunities for a variety of birds. Song thrush and house sparrow have been recorded and which are a flagship species in Lewisham. Mature trees have good potential to support features of value to roosting bats and noted at two specific locations (TN02 and TN03), with other features likely to be present. The boundaries of the park are also densely planted with evergreen shrubs, providing shelter and low-disturbance cover for birds. Amenity grassland is the principal ground cover underneath the trees. Although dominated primarily by perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), cats'ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) occurs locally and in abundance providing foraging for common invertebrate species. These areas (most notable around TN04) are able to flower within the current cutting regime.

A range of informal habitats are located along the western boundary and consist of semi-improved neutral grassland, non-native woodland and a young hedgerow. The grassland is managed as a meadow and contains a variety of species including of particular note: self heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*) common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and pepper saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*). The latter species is uncommon in Lewisham. Anthills were also noted within the long grass. The non-native woodland comprised Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Overwintering grassland habitat is of value to a wide range of common but declining invertebrates and a limited resource within densely urban areas.

The proposed SINC will be delineated by the fencing around Lewisham Park. A strip of land will be excluded along the western boundary, due it comprising primarily of amenity grassland and a sedum green roof. This is likely to be in similar ownership.

Site first notified: 15/04/2016

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL29:	Northbrook Park
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A medium-sized park with maturing habitats adjacent to railside land.
Grid ref:	TQ 40051 73331
Area (ha):	3.8
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Tall herbs, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, herb-rich neutral grassland, amenity grassland, planted shrubbery, scattered trees, bare artificial habitat, bare soil and rock and non-native hedgerow.
Access:	Free public access (locked at night)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

A medium-sized park with maturing habitats primarily focused around the sites southern and western boundaries. A wildlife refuge area in the northern corner is inaccessible to the public providing low-disturbance habitat of value to breeding birds. This area was dominated by common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The southern corner is used as a Forest School and consisted of sizeable areas of semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, scrub, a small wildlife pond and recently planted trees. The grassland lacked wildflowers, but contained a good range of grasses including Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cocksfoot (*Dactylus glomerata*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and false-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). The tall grass also provided cover below the scattered trees of Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), which given time will mature into non-native woodland. Numerous bird boxes have been installed on the trees. The boundary vegetation in this area was notably mature, consisting of large pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), elm (*Ulmus* spp) and Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica'). Dense scrub of bramble and elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) formed the scrub layer.

The remaining areas of the site are dominated by a large central area of amenity grassland, planted shrubbery and scattered trees. A number of large, mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and pedunculate oak were of particular note and may support features of value to roosting bats. A small play area supports a small area of wild flower planting consisting of lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*). The latter species is uncommon in Lewisham and has been introduced here.

This site will be of value to widespread but declining species of birds and invertebrates. The Park's location adjacent to Hither Green Sidings SINC is likely to increase the site's potential value for hedgehogs and common reptiles that may utilise the adjacent rail habitat corridor. An invertebrate hotel has been created at TN03.

Site first notified: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL30:	Southend Park
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A park supporting well-established habitats and the potential for river restoration.
Grid ref:	TQ 37091 71547
Area (ha):	2.7 – 0.12
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Planted shrubbery, semi-improved natural grassland, non-native woodland, scrub, scattered trees, amenity grassland, tall herbs, bare soil and rock and bare artificial habitat.
Access:	Free public access (locked at night)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

A medium-sized park with well-established habitats, of particular value are areas of non-native woodland, scrub and planted shrubbery. Mature, non-native woodland covers the steep slopes along the south and eastern boundaries. These areas are not accessible to the public and provide low disturbance habitat for breeding birds. The canopy is dominated by tall hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with an understorey of scattered native and non-native shrubs and tall herbs including spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Highclere holly (*Ilex x altaclerensis*), locally dominant cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*). Dead wood is abundant. The boundaries of the park are also densely planted with evergreen and native shrubs, providing shelter and foraging value to invertebrates and common but declines bird species. Notable species included frequent coppiced hazel (*Corylus avellana*), garden privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia* spp) and cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* spp). The central area of the site comprises a number of mature trees with good potential to support features of value to roosting bats. These are noted at specific locations (TN01, TN02). Amenity grassland is the principal ground cover underneath the trees and although dominated primarily by perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) is also frequent throughout. Smaller areas of semi-improved neutral grassland host a variety of species including cats'ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and white clover (*Trifolium repens*, providing foraging for common invertebrate species. A small concrete-lined pond (with 20cm of water) is located close to TN03, but has limited value due to a lack of marginal vegetation.

The site is located off Southend Lane and bordered by private properties close to Lower Sydenham station. The River Pool water-channel surfaces beyond the site to the north and south, suggesting the channel flows in a culvert beneath the park (TN03). If the river could be deculverted, it would provide niches for aquatic plants and animals and potential opportunities for natural play.

The proposed SINC will be delineated by the fencing around Southend Park. A strip of land will be excluded along the northern boundary, due it comprising primarily of amenity grassland within back garden land. This is likely to be in similar ownership.

Site first notified: 15/04/2016

Boundary last changed: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL31:	Sedgehill School Boundaries
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	Woodland and meadow habitats surround the school boundaries.
Grid ref:	TQ 37760 71178
Area (ha):	1.06
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Herb-rich neutral grassland, amenity grassland, native woodland, planted shrubbery, scrub, scattered trees, buildings, bare artificial habitat and tall herbs.
Access:	Private (access by school only)
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

The site delineates Sedgehill School's north and east boundary, which supports a variety of mature and well-established habitats including native woodland, scrub and tall ruderal vegetation along with more recently created, herb-rich neutral grassland (seeded as part of the new school building). The native woodland consists primarily of pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), and is of two differing characters. The area closest to Sedgehill Road contains mature, large, pedunculate oak trees with an understorey of scattered hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The ground flora consists primarily of cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and hedge bedstraw (*Galium album*). This is a Habitat of Principal Importance. A smaller but adjoining woodland block of a differing character is further back from the road, and comprises densely planted, young pedunculate oak. A number of other mature pedunculate oaks occur next to the new building entrance and are likely indicators of an old field boundary. Old oaks can provide features of value to invertebrates and roosting bats. Part of the north and east perimeter forms a steep bank, which supports scattered, large mature trees of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and pedunculate oak, with scrub and tall herbs dominated by elder (*Sambucus nigra*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvensis*).

The recently created habitats consist of wide strips (approximately 8m wide) of herb-rich grassland located around the north-west perimeter of the school. A good composition of native herbs and grass species are present including salad burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), hedge bedstraw (*Galium album*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*) and cocksfoot (*Dactylus glomerata*). The site provides a habitat corridor between Sedgehill Allotments and Beckenham Place Park SINC's located to the east and west of the school respectively, and is likely to provide potential habitat for hedgehogs and reptiles if local populations persist.

Site first notified: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016

LeL32:	Blythehill Fields
Borough Grade:	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
Summary:	A prominent hill with a large herb-rich meadow, trees and native hedgerows.
Grid ref:	TQ 36620 73859
Area (ha):	7
Borough(s):	Lewisham
Habitat(s):	Herb-rich grassland, scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, amenity grassland, bare artificial habitat and planted shrubbery.
Access:	Free public access
Ownership:	London Borough of Lewisham

A relatively large open space with a number of maturing habitats of nature conservation interest. The most prominent feature is a large area of herb-rich grassland on the side of the hill, which is managed as a meadow and include common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), ox-eye-daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), cocksfoot (*Holcus lanatus*) Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and crested-dogs tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). The meadow provides year round cover and foraging habitat for invertebrates including butterflies and bumblebees (*Bombus* spp). Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*) was locally abundant, (TN03), and suggests the presence of a spring-line. A small area of semi-improved neutral grassland, also managed as a meadow lies to the south. This area comprises mainly grasses, with the exception of a single plant of pepper saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), an uncommon species in Lewisham. A native species-rich hedge runs along part of the eastern boundary and is a Habitat of Principal Importance. Species included field maple (*Acer campestre*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*). Patches of dense scrub consisting of similar species occurs along the western and northern boundaries, providing relatively undisturbed habitat for breeding and foraging birds. Remaining areas of grassland are short mown with scattered trees of native and non-native origin. Most of the trees are semi-mature but some have died and have been left standing (TN01 and TN02), providing dead wood habitat for invertebrates such as stag beetle a Lewisham flagship species and potentially roosting bats. The Park has a good view of the London skyline and is well used by local children and residents.

Site first notified: 15/04/2016

Citation last updated: 15/04/2016



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