



Lewisham Council's First Biodiversity Duty Report

Reporting period: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025

Date: 20 March 2026

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Parks and Open Spaces, Planning, Climate

Summary

The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened biodiversity duty for public authorities in England. This duty requires local authorities to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, to agree policies and objectives based on this consideration, and to act to deliver these objectives. This report sets out how Lewisham Council has complied with the biodiversity duty during the first reporting period (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025) and outlines future actions to continue delivering on this duty.

Over the 2023–2025 reporting period, Lewisham Council has successfully met its strengthened biodiversity duty by integrating nature conservation across its policies, actively managing and improving habitats, engaging thousands of residents in biodiversity action, and delivering mandatory BNG in planning. The progress outlined in this report has been achieved through strong partnership working, and the Council is grateful for the time, skills and commitment of local communities and partner organisations in supporting biodiversity in Lewisham. We remain committed to conserving and enhancing biodiversity for the benefit of all our residents and for future generations.

1. Policy Context

- 1.1. Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the 'biodiversity duty' that was strengthened by the **Environment Act 2021**. Lewisham Council complies with the biodiversity duty through the adopted Biodiversity Action Plan, [A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2021-26](#). Public authorities are required to report on the biodiversity duty, including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The first reporting period ends on 1 January 2026 and reports must be published within 12 weeks of the reporting period end date (i.e. by 26 March 2026).
- 1.2. The Environment Act 2021 also requires the development of spatial biodiversity strategies for England, called the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**. The Greater London Authority is currently developing the London LNRS, and SINC network is the foundation of the local LRNS with the aim to improve the quality, size and connectivity of these existing wild spaces.
- 1.3. The action public authorities take for biodiversity contributes to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity, including the **Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23)** published in January 2023. Through the EIP23 the government is committed to halt the decline and increase species abundance and restore terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition.
- 1.4. Biodiversity is embedded as a cross-cutting theme throughout **Lewisham Council's strategies and policies**, including the Corporate Strategy, Climate Emergency Action Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan, Housing Services Sustainable Green Services Policy, the Local Plan and others. It is integrated into planning policy, procurement guidance, and green and blue infrastructure initiatives, ensuring that the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are considered in decision-making across council services and projects. This approach helps to deliver wider social, environmental, and economic benefits for the borough.
- 1.5. **Biodiversity Net Gain** is a related statutory requirement, ensuring that new developments deliver measurable improvements for nature by leaving habitats in a better state than before. BNG is part of the biodiversity duty reporting requirement.

2. Background

- 2.1. Lewisham Council is the local authority for an inner-London borough of approximately **300,000 residents, covering 35 km² and comprising 19 wards**. The Council's core functions span education, housing, planning, public realm management (including parks and open spaces), waste and environmental services, among others – all of which have potential impacts (positive or negative) on local biodiversity.
- 2.2. Lewisham Council has taken a strategic and evidence-led approach to biodiversity, embedding nature recovery into planning, land management, and community engagement. The Council's adopted Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

has provided a clear framework for action, supported by the integration of biodiversity into the Corporate Strategy, Local Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, and other corporate policies.

2.3. Lewisham's **Biodiversity Action Plan** was developed by the **Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership** and was adopted by Lewisham Council in November 2021. The BAP sets out local priorities and actions to protect, enhance, and connect Lewisham's habitats and species, and to engage residents and partners in delivery. It provides a framework for partnership working, education, volunteering, and monitoring, aiming to embed biodiversity considerations across council operations and local decision-making. Its overarching goal is to ensure that biodiversity is valued and integrated into all Council services and everyday life in Lewisham, contributing to climate resilience and wellbeing.

2.4. Lewisham's **priority species** (in alphabetical order):

- all bat species (Chiroptera)
- Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
- Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
- Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)
- European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
- Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
- Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)
- Swift (*Apus apus*)

2.5. Lewisham's **priority habitats** (in alphabetical order):

- Living roofs
- Rivers
- Railway 'linesides'
- Standing water and Ponds
- Woodlands and Trees

2.6. Despite urbanisation, Lewisham is rich in green spaces and habitats, which the Council manages and protects in partnership with community groups. The borough has **seven statutory Local Nature Reserves and 69 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)**, five of which are of **Metropolitan** importance (the highest level of value in London).

2.7. **Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)** is the capital's environmental records centre, acting as the primary source of evidence on London's natural environment for Local Authorities. They curate, validate, and share data on London's wildlife, habitats, open spaces and designated sites. Maintaining **Service Level Agreements (SLAs)** with GiGL ensures that Lewisham Council has access to up-to-date ecological data. Since GiGL's inception in 2001, Lewisham has maintained **21 SLAs**, including eight consecutive years since the publication of the London Environment Strategy in 2018 which recommends for all boroughs to engage with GiGL.

- 2.8. Lewisham’s **species data** is extensive and growing. GiGL holds over **185,000** records of **3,959 species** for the borough, with more than **23,000 new records (1,192 species) added** since 2023. 6.8% of the records submitted during the reporting period originated from Council-led surveys and monitoring, with the remainder contributed by a wide range of **external groups and citizen science** platforms (e.g. iRecord, iNaturalist). Contributors include the London Natural History Society, Butterfly Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust, London Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Greater London Authority and many local community groups and individuals.
- 2.9. Lewisham has an estimated **36,385 street and park trees** which is **higher** than the London borough average of approximately 34,424 and the inner London average of around 30,165. While a recent survey based on satellite imagery estimated that Lewisham has **over 134,000 trees** (including gardens, woodlands and other non-street and park trees) with Forest Hill having the most trees per hectare.

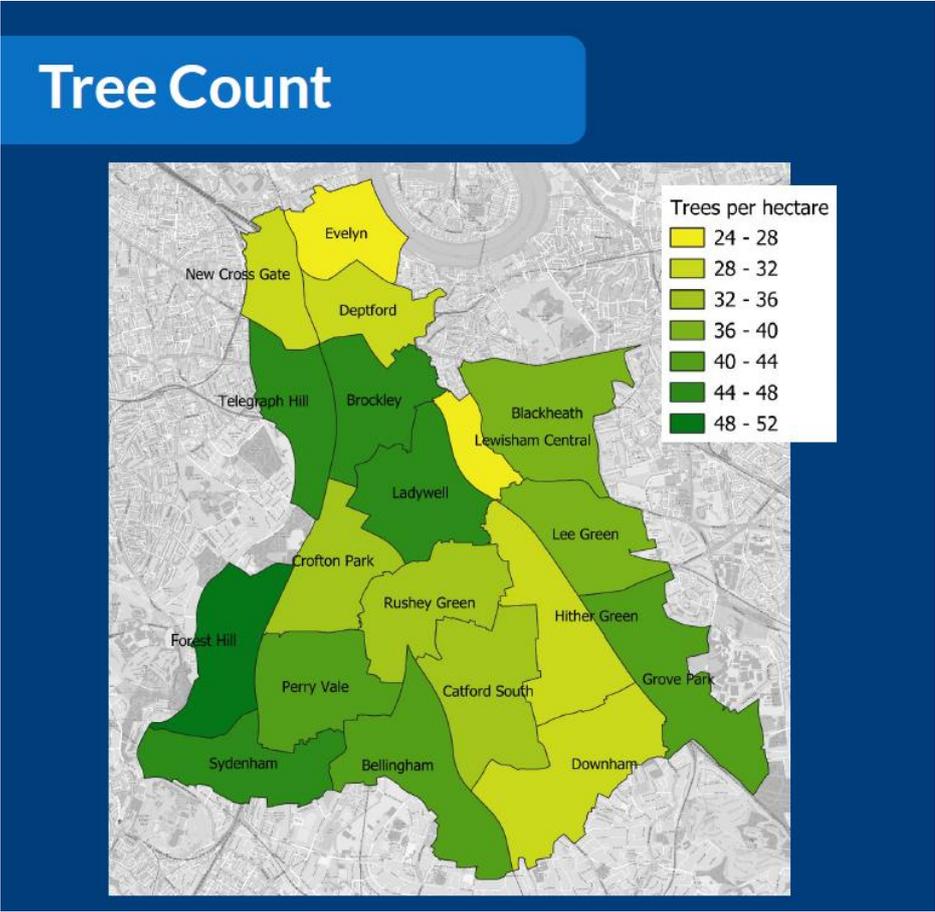


Figure 1. Tree count map of Lewisham in 2023.

- 2.10. The borough’s **biodiversity highlights** include **722 records** of Lewisham priority species since 2023.

Table 2. Number of Lewisham priority species records added to the GiGL database since 2023

Species	Number of records since 2023
All bat species	31
Black Redstart	6
Common Kingfisher	124
Common Toad	3
European Hedgehog	14
House Sparrow	122
Song Thrush	112
Stag Beetle	169
Swift	141
TOTAL	722

Distribution of Lewisham's priority species records across LB Lewisham
 Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, February 2026

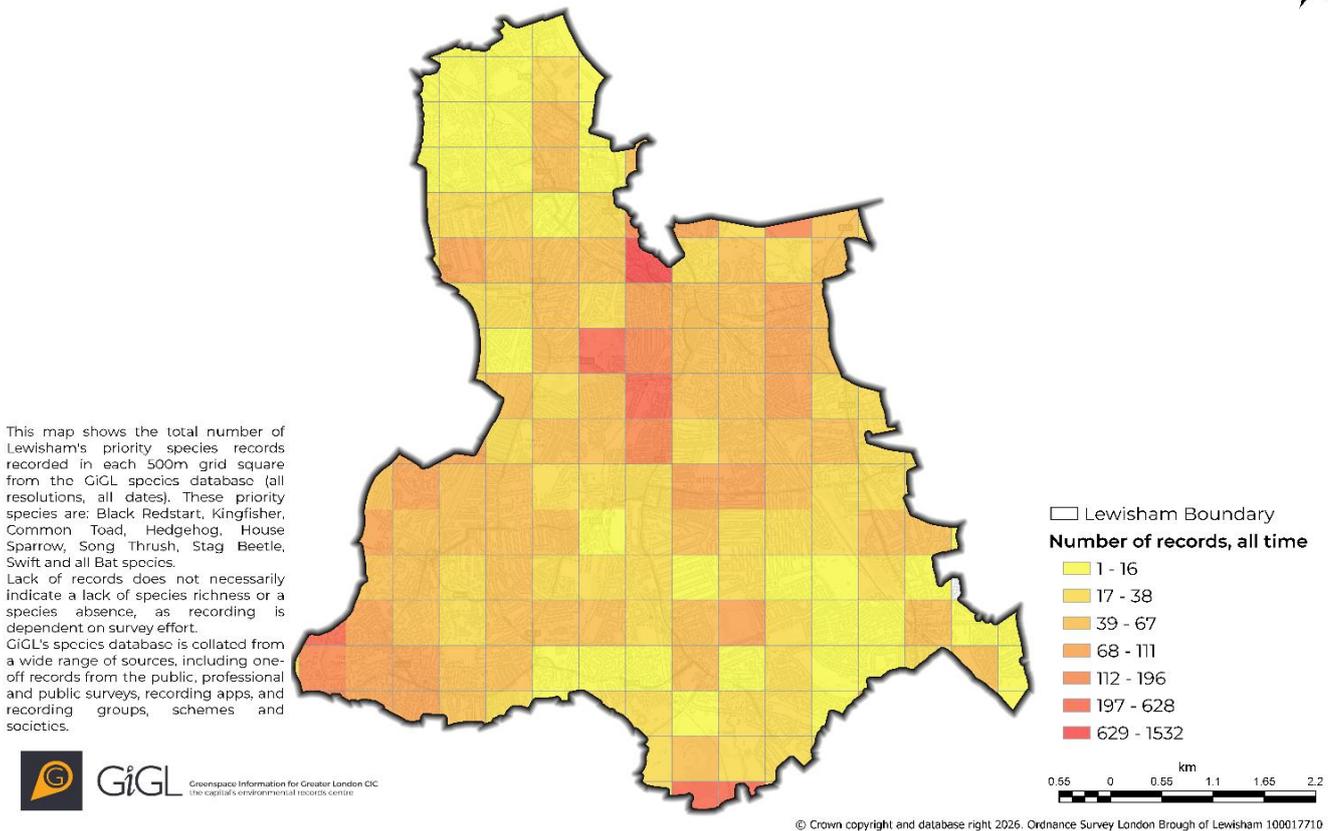


Figure 2. Heatmap distribution of Lewisham’s priority species (all time records). Hotspots represent areas with long-term, regular monitoring by local volunteers.

2.11. London’s new [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) includes 511 species on the priority species longlist, of which 25.2% (129 species) have been recorded in Lewisham.

- 2.12. Lewisham’s **habitats are equally diverse**. The borough supports a range of habitat types including woodlands and trees (724.89 ha, 20.5% of borough), grassland (413.6 ha, 11.7%), and gardens (1,076.2 ha, 30.5%). Based on a recent assessment of Lewisham’s urban greenery using satellite imagery the total biodiversity value of habitats across the borough, as calculated using the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric, is estimated at 9,947 units. This includes high-distinctiveness habitats such as traditional orchards, ponds, and littoral mud, as well as medium and low distinctiveness habitats that provide important ecological functions in the urban context.
- 2.13. Housing land, both private and public, constitutes the largest amount of open space within Lewisham (e.g. gardens cover 30.5% of the area of the borough). However, much of the housing space including gardens lie outside the control of the Council and needs the interest of home-owners and registered social landlords for their biodiversity improvements. To support residents and social landlords, the BAP also includes a chapter on **what people can do, how they can help biodiversity in their own homes and out and about**. This chapter contains useful information and links (e.g. pond creation, log pile habitats, bird and bat boxes, front gardens), and is replicated on the [Lewisham Council webpage](#) for easy access.

3. Actions taken to comply with the Biodiversity Duty
Lewisham Council’s Parks Team and the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

3.1. The Biodiversity Action Plan is delivered by the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership. The Council is a member of the Partnership and the Nature Conservation Team plays an active role in BAP delivery and coordination of the Partnership, including recording KPIs on BAP delivery.

Table 2. Summary of key indicators of the BAP delivered by the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership (which includes the Council) since 2023. Please note that the figures below likely underestimate actual achievements because not all activities were reported. See further details of BAP delivery since 2008 on the Council’s [website](#).

Year	No. of individuals engaged	No. of habitat features created/restored*	No. of surveys conducted	No. of website posts	No. of planning related reviews and advice
2023	11,886	188	163	38	190
2024	12,796	359	186	41	182
2025	20,312	129	203	24	137
TOTAL	44,994	676	552	103	509

*Includes bird and bat boxes, bug hotels, ponds and other habitats and excludes trees, hedgerows planned and area of living roofs.

- 3.2. Lewisham's biodiversity achievements are only possible **thanks to the dedication and support of our local community groups, volunteers, and external partners**. Without these valued partners, the delivery of habitat improvements, monitoring, and education across the borough would not be achievable.
- 3.3. The Council's Nature Conservation Team, including the Nature Conservation Officer for Glendale, runs **weekly volunteer sessions** (3x/week in [Beckenham Place Park](#); 1x/week [Nature's Gym](#); and 1x/week [Rivers & People](#)), and lead regular environmental education and engagement events. Since 2023, the Team engaged over **5,300 volunteers** through the weekly sessions achieving **>16,400 hours** of volunteering which contributed a value of over **£78,600** (based on London Living Wage).
- 3.4. The wider Parks team has also been leading on or actively participating in various **biodiversity projects**, often externally funded. Examples of projects (not exhaustive list):
- The team secured funding in all three rounds of the **GLA's Rewild London Fund** and delivered these projects successfully. The projects restored **Bell Green Pond**, improved the ancient woodland in **Forster Memorial Park** and daylighted a stream in **Northbrook Park**. The Northbrook Park Wetlands project was also funded by the Environment Agency and Google via the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and kick-started the delivery of the Grove Park community's vision to establish the Railway Children District Park.
 - Through the **Local Authorities Treescapes Fund** (Forestry Commission) we planted over 200 standard trees in seven parks in Lewisham, including native black poplar, the rarest tree in the UK. Another successful grant funded the planting of three tiny forests. In 2024, Lewisham had five **tiny forests**, at the time the most in a Borough in London.
 - Lewisham Council manages an extensive network of **meadows** across parks and open spaces, **covering over 44 hectares**, which are maintained through a biodiversity-friendly regime of one or two cuts per year to support wildflowers and pollinators. This significant habitat resource is complemented by the [No Mow Zones project](#), introducing reduced mowing management in selected highway verges and enclosures, and areas in housing estates and cemeterie. Lewisham Council also promotes and implements Plantlife's "No Mow May" principles in its green spaces to benefit the environment.
 - The [Greening Fund](#) provided grants for community-led projects including many that enhanced biodiversity (achievements detailed on website and in the Parks and Open Spaces Annual Monitoring Report).
 - [Creating a London River Bank](#) (2022-), led by Thames 21, has investigated how watercourse biodiversity units could be created and sold

in London. The project is still ongoing and will restore the river in Ladywell Fields with the intention to generate and sell these watercourse units to fund further river restoration projects in Lewisham.

- [London Blue Chain](#) (2024-27) project, led by Froglife, creates and restores ponds and wetlands along a “blue chain” in South London, benefiting amphibians and other wildlife.
- [Buzzing in the East End](#) (2025-29), led by Bumblebee Conservation Trust, enhances pollinator habitats and engages communities in bee conservation across East and Southeast London, including Lewisham.
- [Big City Butterflies](#) project (2021-25), Butterfly Conservation, empowered residents to create and manage butterfly-friendly habitats in parks, gardens, and schools, with a focus on urban biodiversity and citizen science.
- [Great North Wood](#) project (2019-23), led by London Wildlife Trust, restored and connected ancient woodland fragments across South London, including Lewisham.

3.5. The Council’s Nature Conservation Team also runs an annual micro-grant programme (usually £2,500 available/year), the **Kenneth White Legacy Award** since 2013. The programme supports small-scale, high-impact community projects that enhance biodiversity and nature conservation across the borough. The award funds initiatives such as pond creation/restoration, pollinator planting, habitat restoration, and wildlife monitoring, empowering local groups, schools, and residents to deliver practical improvements for wildlife and engage the community in environmental stewardship.

3.6. **Priority species and habitats** examples of BAP delivery during the reporting period by the Council and the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership:

- **Common toad and ponds:** over 31 ponds were created or restored during the period
- **Living roofs:** A recent assessment of Lewisham’s urban greenery using satellite imagery confirmed that the living roof area **increased by 63%** between 2016 and 2023 with the current total area of living roofs being **over 111,200m²**.

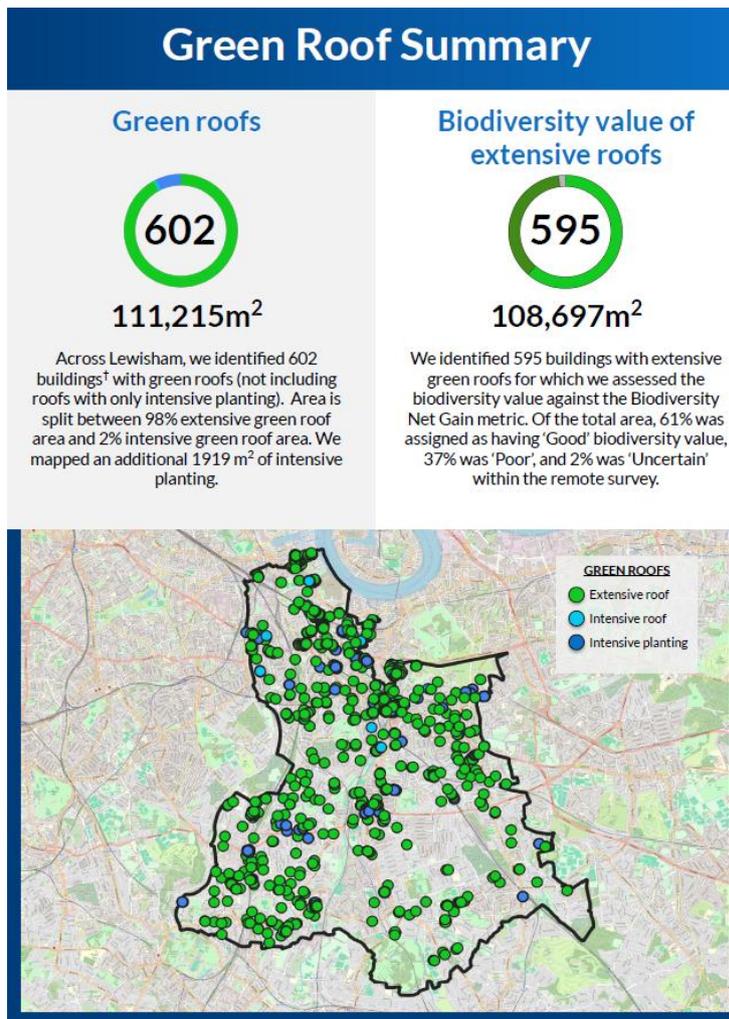


Figure 3. Summary of the locations, area and biodiversity value of green roofs in Lewisham in 2023.

- **Swifts and other priority bird species:** The installation of integrated swift bricks, which are proven to provide nesting opportunities to a wide range of bird species, is a standard requirement for new developments during planning application reviews. Across planning applications and open space projects, we recorded a total of **230 bird boxes/bricks** installed in the period. Lewisham remains an important area in London for black redstarts and common kingfishers.
- **Bats:** Since 2023 we recorded the installation of **164 bat boxes/bricks** and each year many bat walks and surveys were conducted across the borough. All bat species are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended 1981) making it illegal to intentionally harm bats or disturb their roosts. Bats often roost in small spaces such as wall cracks or roof voids accessed via displaced tiles, and a wide range of building works can affect them. Insufficient awareness of this issue is a challenge for protecting bats.
- **Woodlands and trees:** The Council works closely with the tree planting charity [Street Trees for Living](#) (STfL), on obtaining internal and external grant funding to supplement the community/resident supported

programme. STfL supports Lewisham residents to plant new street trees along residential roads in every ward in Lewisham, as well as overseeing targeted planting projects outside schools and in areas of multiple deprivation, high pollution, low tree canopy cover and high flood risk. STfL has planted **1,134** Lewisham street trees since 2023 with an **above 95% survival rate**.

- **Rivers:** The Council delivered a wide range of activities focusing on the rivers and watercourses in Lewisham. The annual [3 Rivers Cleanup](#) has been successfully running since 2008 involving hundreds of volunteers and has largely brought the invasive Himalayan Balsam under control. The Council in partnership with the Environment Agency and Thames21 successfully delivered **improvements to the River Ravensbourne in Beckenham Place Park** with the aim to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and increase biodiversity habitats for wildlife.

3.7. Through the **Kenneth White Legacy Award** we were able to support 30 small-scale, high-impact local projects since 2023. The available funding was increased in 2024 and 2025 thanks to the generous donation of the ex Friends of Beckenham Place Park. Since 2023, the funded projects created/restored/improved at least **2 ponds**, planted thousands of plants, including **over 380 tree saplings**, installed **29 bird and 12 bat boxes** and supported biodiversity surveys and engagement by providing **5 wildlife cameras, 6 bat detectors**, other survey equipment, waders, ID sheets and signage.

3.8. **Selected photos** of species, habitat enhancements, volunteer sessions and projects delivered since 2021 can be found on [Lewisham's website](#).

Other relevant services and information that relates to biodiversity (details in the relevant reports in the interest to avoid duplication)

3.9. [Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Annual Monitoring Report](#) (POSS AMR): Monitors indicators such as the number of trees planted (over 1100 since 2023), habitat creation/restoration, forest schools, and biodiversity-focused volunteering and education events. **Lewisham's parks topped the performance table** in the [Good Parks for London Report in 2024](#) and achieved 10 Gold and one Silver Awards for parks and conservation areas in the **London in Bloom Awards in 2025**, including **winning the categories** for Biodiversity Award (Chinbrook Allotment Orchard), Conservation Area Award (Garthorne Road Nature Reserve) and Large Park Award (Blythe Hill Fields).

3.10. [Climate Emergency Action Plan Annual Report](#): Includes biodiversity as a core theme, reporting on nature-based solutions, green and blue infrastructure projects, and progress towards biodiversity net gain and climate resilience. For instance, installing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in schools at Dalmain, Athelney, and Elfrida Primary Schools. These projects have added over 200m² of planting in playgrounds that previously lacked green space.

- 3.11. [Air Quality Annual Status Report](#): Tracks green infrastructure interventions (e.g. tree planting, rain gardens) that deliver benefits for both air quality and biodiversity. The Healthy Neighbourhoods programme works with the community to make local streets greener and more biodiverse by redesigning neighbourhoods to prioritise walking, cycling and access to green infrastructure. Recent schemes, including in St John’s and Tanner’s Hill, aim to reduce traffic, improve air quality, and create more welcoming, nature-friendly public spaces.
- 3.12. [Adopted Local Plan](#): The Local Plan embeds biodiversity as a core principle by requiring developments to deliver measurable Biodiversity Net Gain, protect and enhance existing habitats, and integrate green infrastructure into design and landscaping. The borough’s designated sites network has expanded significantly during the reporting period. Eight new Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) were designated, five were upgraded, and 33 were reclassified to higher value categories. As a result of these updates the total area of the **69 SINCs has increased to 546.4 ha** (15.5% of borough) and the Area of Deficiency (AoD) for Access to Nature has been reduced by more than half to 6.8% of the borough (see also Annex E). This means that the proportion of residents living in AoD in access to nature has decreased from **7.5% in 2023 to 2.5% in 2026, a 5% reduction**.



Figure 3. Changes in SINC network statistics as a result of the newly adopted Local Plan, increasing the number and area of SINCs and reducing Areas of Deficiency.

- 3.13. [Planning Annual Monitoring Report \(AMR\)](#) and BNG: The Planning AMR reports on delivery of biodiversity in new developments, protection and enhancement of habitats, and integration of biodiversity into planning decisions. In the future and for the biodiversity duty reporting this will also include information on BNG. The Council has commissioned a consultancy to enable reporting on BNG within the biodiversity duty reporting and the AMR. Statutory BNG condition discharge applications started coming in autumn 2025 and preparation of s106 agreements for BNG are in progress.
- 3.14. [Housing Annual Report to residents](#): Includes indicators on estate green space management, biodiversity enhancements, and resident engagement in nature-based activities.
- 3.15. [Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) for London](#): The LNRS for London is currently being finalised by the GLA. Lewisham Council was actively involved

in the preparation of the LNRS for our area, contributing local data, expertise, and priorities throughout the various consultations and workshops to ensure that the strategy reflects local needs and maximises opportunities for nature recovery in Lewisham.

4. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- 4.1. The **Environment Act 2021** introduced a requirement for **Biodiversity Net Gain**, mandating that most new developments must deliver at least a 10% net increase in habitat value from 2024 onwards. As a Local Planning Authority, Lewisham Council plays a central role in implementing this requirement.
- 4.2. Lewisham has established an **internal BNG working group** in January 2023 to support implementation and address BNG-related matters. The group meets at least monthly and has held 32 meetings to date.
- 4.3. The Council has published a **dedicated BNG webpage** providing guidance for applicants, including information on what constitutes **significant on-site BNG** in the Lewisham context. Planning officers have received training to support consistent application of BNG requirements. The local planning validation list is currently being reviewed and will include requirements on BNG.
- 4.4. To support the Council's duties under the Environment Act 2021, the Council also worked with Land Use Consultants (LUC) to analyse our BNG data and procedures to date. This analysis fed into recommendations for improvement of internal processes and has resulted in streamlining of our BNG record-keeping.
- 4.5. The **BNG case analysis** looked at planning applications from the start date of BNG to understand how often BNG applies, how applications are being dealt with when submitted, and what biodiversity improvements are being secured. At the date of publication, **32 applications were determined as BNG eligible**, with only **two Biodiversity Gain Plans** approved as part of the BNG condition, reflecting the early stages of BNG. Where approved, gain plans have proposed clear on site improvements with a 52.5% average uplift in habitat units and 125.31% uplift in hedgerow units.
- 4.6. The **validation review** included an analysis of our validation checklist, a review of how BNG information is checked when applications are submitted, and a validation 'spot check' of applications.
- 4.7. **Key recommendations** include offering clearer guidance for applicants on what information must be submitted, stronger and more consistent checks at the validation stage and training for officers. It also highlights the importance of improving how biodiversity data from approved developments is recorded and monitored over time, so that Lewisham can track long term outcomes for nature and meet future reporting requirements. Together, these steps will help ensure that new developments in the borough make a positive contribution to biodiversity and support a greener, more resilient Lewisham.

5. Future plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period

- 5.1. Lewisham Council **remains committed** to upholding the biodiversity achievements delivered during this reporting period and previous years. We will continue to work closely with our partners, community groups and residents to build on the achievements, and ensuring that biodiversity remains embedded across our policies, projects and public spaces. Through collaboration and support to local communities and initiatives we aim to sustain and enhance the borough's natural environment for the benefit of both people and wildlife.
- 5.2. Following the publication of the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) we will develop a **Lewisham-specific Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP)** to succeed our current BAP after 2026. The new plan will broadly align with the existing BAP and new London priorities and will include a map on locations for proposed actions for biodiversity. We will continue to work with the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership to prepare and deliver the plan, maintaining the collaborative approach that has proven successful.
- 5.3. [Nature Neighbourhoods Project](#): Ensuring all residents can benefit from nature remains a priority. Lewisham Council has secured £840,000 through the Nature Towns and Cities programme to boost access to green spaces and deliver nature recovery at scale. The project focuses on improving access, reducing inequality, and increasing community engagement, particularly for underserved communities. The project will co-create activities with residents, including citizen science, habitat management, and outdoor learning, while developing a digital map of unmapped greenspaces and launching a Community Grant Fund to support local biodiversity initiatives. Working in partnership with landowners, schools, and community groups, the project will build capacity for long-term, climate-resilient management of greenspaces, promote nature recovery and maximise health and well-being for residents. The project will develop a **new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (POSS)** that builds lasting partnerships to ensure the longterm, inclusive stewardship of Lewisham's natural heritage.
- 5.4. **Biodiversity Net Gain**: Lewisham will continue to will continue to work towards our biodiversity policy objectives through the new Local Plan and follow up-to-date Government guidance relating to BNG. The Council will review internal BNG processes and update the BNG validation checklist to provide greater clarity to applicants and issue further internal officer training for BNG validation and evaluation. The number of significant biodiversity enhancement schemes that require monitoring is likely to increase in the next reporting period. To ensure that we can continue to meet statutory BNG obligations, monitoring fees may need to be regularly reviewed to ensure we can secure sufficient ecological capacity and expertise. Where significant on-site BNG or habitat banks have been secured through a S106 agreement, the Council will monitor (as set out in the S106 agreement) compliance of the agreed management plan

and take proportionate enforcement action in cases of non-compliance.

- 5.5. **Ladywell Fields River Restoration project:** Working with our partner Thames21, the project will restore the River Ravensbourne within Ladywell Fields, addressing significant ecological degradation and enhancing public amenity, climate resilience, and biodiversity. The river is currently classified as 'Fairly Poor' due to heavy modification, overshadowing, and limited habitat diversity. The project will deliver targeted, evidence-based interventions such as toe-boarding removal, daylighting, installation of large woody material, bank reprofiling, tree planting, and improved riparian management. These measures will uplift habitat quality, support resilient river processes, and generate quantifiable Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) units.
- 5.6. **Grove Park District Park:** Lewisham Council remains committed to supporting the community-led vision for the creation of a District Park in Grove Park. The Council recognises the ecological and cultural value of this area and will continue working collaboratively with local residents, community groups and key stakeholders to realise this ambition.
- 5.7. We will continue to seek internal and external funds to support biodiversity projects and continue the **Kenneth White Legacy Award** to support small-scale, high-impact community projects that enhance biodiversity and nature conservation across the borough .
- 5.8. The Council's Parks Team will also continue working with **other services** within the Council to ensure that the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are considered in decision-making, projects and activities.

6. Selected photos of projects, activities and species since 2021

Volunteer activities



Projects – Rewild London



Bell Green Pond restoration



Forster Memorial Park Ancient Woodland restoration



Northbrook Park wetlands



Other projects



No Mow Zones



Treescapes project



Greening Fund



Chinbrook Wetlands



London Blue Chain



Tiny forest

Habitat enhancements



Volunteers building stag beetle loggery



Finished stag beetle loggery



Hibernaculum



Plug plants



Bird and bat boxes, installed with the help of Glendale



Bee banks

Some species photos



Wood anemone



Harebells



Field grasshopper



Brown Hairstreak egg



Native bluebells and wild garlic



Parasol mushroom



Cinnabar moth caterpillar and ladybird



Marbled white



Lesser stag beetle

Some species photos



© Emily Millhouse

Common toads



© Ema Felix

Sparrowhawk



© James Allen

Brown long-eared bat



© Lewisham Housing

Hedgehog family

And some unusual sightings



© James Allen

Pheasant



© Tim Walker

Crested Caracara who escaped from London Zoo 😊

Surveys



Water vole monitoring on the River Pool – thanks to Donna Davies



Bat box surveys – thanks to Steven Lofting



Installing Hogwatch camera traps with ZSL



Evening amphibian survey



Camera trap photo from Chinbrook Allotment Orchard – thanks to the volunteers

7. Background papers and links in alphabetical order

- 7.1. **Adopted Local Plan and Annual Monitoring Reports**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/adopted-local-plan/annual-monitoring-report>
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/adopted-local-plan/annual-monitoring-report>
- 7.2. **Air Quality Action Plan and Annual Status report**
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s121963/03 Air quality report 110925.pdf>
<https://airquality.lewisham.gov.uk/data-and-reports/reports>
- 7.3. **Beckenham Place Park volunteering**
<https://beckenhamplacepark.com/things-to-see-and-do/volunteering>
- 7.4. **Biodiversity Action Plan, A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2021-26**
https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/in-my-area/parks-and-open-spaces/anaturalrenaissance2021_2026.pdf
- 7.5. **Biodiversity Duty Guidance**
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reporting-your-biodiversity-duty-actions#contents>
- 7.6. **Biodiversity in Lewisham webpage**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/biodiversity-in-lewisham>
- 7.7. **Biodiversity Net Gain guidance**
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain>
- 7.8. **Biodiversity Net Gain Planning webpage**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/apply-for-planning-permission/biodiversity-net-gain>
- 7.9. **Corporate Strategy**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/corporate-strategy>
- 7.10. **Greening Fund**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/funding/apply-for-funding-to-make-the-borough-greener>
- 7.11. **Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)**
<https://www.gigl.org.uk/>
- 7.12. **Housing Services Sustainable Green Services Policy and Annual Report**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/services/housing/council-homes/housing-policy-library/lbl-housing-services-sustainable-green-services-policy-202404.pdf>
<https://lewishamcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/HousingServices/SitePages/Housing-annual-report-to-residents-2024-25.aspx>
- 7.13. **Kenneth White Legacy Award**
<https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/lewisham-biodiversity-group/the-kenneth-white-award/#:~:text=The%20Kenneth%20White%20Legacy%20Award,awareness%>

[20of%20biodiversity%20in%20Lewisham](#)

- 7.14. **Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership annual data on activities of the since 2021**
<https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/lewisham-biodiversity-group/>
- 7.15. **Lewisham Climate Action Plan (2024) and Annual Report**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/0-services/environment/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-action-plan-2024.pdf>
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s121000/Climate Action PIAN UPDATE - Annex A.pdf>
- 7.16. **London's Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/local-nature-recovery-strategy>
- 7.17. **Nature's Gym**
<https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/how-to/natures-gym-2/>
- 7.18. **Nature Neighbourhoods project**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/lewisham-council-secures-840000-grant-to-boost-access-to-green-spaces>
- 7.19. **No Mow Zones**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/blogs/no-mow-zones>
- 7.20. **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2020-25)**
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks-and-open-spaces-strategy>
- 7.21. **Rivers & People**
<https://riversandpeople.com/>
- 7.22. **Selected photos** of species, habitat enhancements activities and projects since 2021
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s123234/4c.Annex%20C Photo Documentation.pdf>
- 7.23. **Street Trees for Living**
<http://www.streettreesforliving.org/>
- 7.24. **Yearly summary of key indicators** for the Biodiversity Action Plans since 2008
https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s123232/4a.Annex%20A BiodiversityActionPlan_yearly_summaries.pdf

8. Glossary

Term	Definition
AoD	Area of Deficiency (for Access to Nature) – Areas where residents have limited access to natural spaces.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, encompassing all living organisms, the genetic differences within species, and the ecosystems they form. It includes plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms, and the complex interactions between them and their environment. High biodiversity supports ecosystem resilience, provides essential services such as clean air, water, and food, and underpins human wellbeing.
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to new development introduced by the Environment Act 2021. It makes sure that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development.
Climate	Climate is usually defined as the average weather, or more rigorously, as a statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The relevant quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind.
Climate Change	Climate change, as used by the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change, refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.
Green and blue infrastructure	A network of multi-functional green space and other green features, urban and rural, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits for communities. It includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, nature reserves, street trees, allotments, green roofs and walls, private gardens, and rivers and other water bodies.
Kenneth White Legacy Award	A micro-grant programme supporting biodiversity projects in Lewisham.
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	A new system of spatial biodiversity strategies in England, required by law under the Environment Act 2021.
Local Plan	The Council’s statutory planning document guiding development and land use in Lewisham.
No Mow May	A national campaign encouraging councils and residents to leave grass uncut in May to support pollinators.

SINC	<p>Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is a non-statutory designation of a site that recognizes its significant biodiversity and wildlife value.</p> <p>There are three levels:</p> <p>Sites of Metropolitan Importance – contain the best examples of London’s habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London</p> <p>Sites of Borough Importance – These are sites which are important on a borough perspective in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the whole of London</p> <p>Sites of Local Importance – particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools)</p>
------	---