

Public Examination of the Site Allocations Local Plan

London Borough of Lewisham response on the Inspector's further question: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

(Note the full text of the Inspector's questions are on the Examination website and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/Documents/SA%20Inspector%27s%20queries.pdf>)

Planning Policy – 23 November 2012

Council Response

This paper responds to the Inspector's further question, issued 19 November 2012, regarding Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)¹, as set out in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2004 and updates proposed in the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP).

1. SINC schedule

1.1 The table below sets out the existing SINC sites as set out in UDP Table OS 4 (page 78) and UDP Schedule 2 (page 226). It then details changes made to these designated SINC sites through the development of the Core Strategy and SALP.

- Two changes were made alongside the adoption of the Core Strategy (Le B2.2 Horniman Gardens, Railway Nature Trail and Horniman Triangle and Le L.21 Pepys Park nature area)
- 18 changes are proposed by the SALP which include newly designated sites and additions/deletions to existing sites.

1.2 The terminology used to classify sites as metropolitan, borough grades 1 and 2 and local importance have not changed from the UDP to the SALP, however changes are proposed to the classification of two sites in the schedule, as follows:

- Le B2.3 Forster Memorial Park (SINC 5) – Upgrade from Borough Importance Grade 2 to Borough Importance Grade 1.
- Le L.13 Mountsfield Park (SINC 14) – Upgrade from Local Importance to Borough Grade 2.

1.3 Text additions to Table 'OS 4: Site of Nature Conservation Importance in Lewisham' are **underlined in red** and deletions are ~~struck through~~. Where changes are proposed or have been made, these are detailed in the right-hand column and are cross-referenced to the SINC references in the SALP.

¹ Site of Importance for Nature Conservation were previously referred to in the UDP as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.

- 1.4 The Council propose to include an amended Table OS 4 and Schedule 3, along with other relevant UDP tables and schedules (such as those relating to Areas of Archaeological Priority (Schedule 3, page 234)) in the forthcoming Development Management Local Plan. The Council consider the Development Management Local Plan an appropriate location for the tables and schedules as it contains directly related policies.
- 1.5 The numbering system in UDP Table OS 4 and UDP Schedule 3 differs slightly in that each site in Schedule 3 has the prefix 'Le'. This follows the reference used from the London Ecology Unit Handbook. See paragraph 3.1 for further details.

Sites of Metropolitan importance	
UDP Site reference (Table OS4)	Changes Proposed with relevant SALP SINC reference
M31 The River Thames and Deptford Creek	No change
M69 Blackheath	No change
M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting	No change
M135 Beckenham Place Park	No change
Site of Borough Importance: Grade 1	
Le B1.1 Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries	No change
Le B1.2 Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium and Reigate Road Rough	Change: SALP SINC 1 Hither Green Cemetery. Addition and deletion. The map included in the submitted SALP is incorrect. The correct map is attached as Appendix 1 and is recommended as an additional modification prior to adoption of the SALP.
Le B1.3 Downham Woodland Walk	No change
Le B1.4 River Pool Linear Park	Change: SALP SINC 2 Pool River Linear Park. Addition to existing SINC.
Le B1.5 Hillcrest Estate Woodlands	Change: SALP SINC 3 Hillcrest Estate Woodlands. Addition.
Le B1.6 Hither Green Grove Park Nature Reserve	Change: SALP SINC 4 Grove Park Nature Reserve. Addition.
<u>Le B1.7 Forster Memorial Park</u>	Change: SALP SINC 5 Forster Memorial Park. Upgrade from Borough importance Grade 2 to Grade 1.
Site of Borough Importance: Grade 2	
Le B2.1 Burnt Ash Pond Nature Reserve	No change

Le B2.2 Horniman Gardens, Railway Nature Trail and Horniman Triangle	Change: Core Strategy Le BII02 Horniman Gardens, Horniman Railway Trail and Horniman Triangle Addition to existing SINC – Proposed Changes to the UDP Proposals Map (Feb 2010) . Map 4.15, page 41.
Le B2.3 Forster Memorial Park	Change: SALP SINC 5 Forster Memorial Park. Upgrade from Borough importance Grade 2 to Grade 1. (See Le B1.7 above)
Le B2.4 Durham Hill	No change
Le B2.5 Dacres Wood Nature Reserve	No change
Le B2.6 Banks bordering Lethbridge Close Loats Pit	Change: SALP SINC 6 Loats Pit. Addition.
Le B2.7 Grove Park Cemetery and Chinbrook Community Orchard	Change: SALP SINC 7 Grove Park Cemetery. Site split. Deletion from SINC 7 forms part of the larger new site, SALP SINC 15 Chinbrook Allotments (see Le B2.19 below)
Le B2.8 Sue Godfrey Nature Reserve	No change
Le B2.9 Honor Oak Road Covered Reservoir	No change
Le B2.10 St Mary's Churchyard, Lewisham	No change
Le B2.11 Manor House Gardens	No change
Le B2.12 Mayow Park	No change
Le B2.13 Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields	No change
Le B2.14 River Ravensbourne and Brookmill Park	No change
Le B2.15 Railside Land A: Senegal Railway Banks	No change
Le B2.15 Railside Land B: New Cross to St John's	No change
Le B2.15 Railside Land C: Nunhead Cutting	Change: SALP SINC 8 Nunhead Cutting. Addition.
Le B2.15 Railside Land D: Brockley to St John's	No change
Le B2.15 Railside Land E: St John's Station to Lewisham Railsides	Change: SALP SINC 9 St Johns to Lewisham Railsides. Addition.
Le B2.15 Railside Land F: Lewisham Railway Triangles	Change: SALP SINC 10 Lewisham Railway Triangles. Addition.
Le B2.15 Railside Land G: Lewisham to Blackheath and Blackheath Station	No change
Le B2.15 Railside Land H: Hither Green Station Railsides	Change: SALP SINC 11 Hither Green Railsides. Addition.
Le B2.15 Railside Land I: Hither Green Sidings	Change: SALP SINC 12 Hither Green

	Sidings. Addition and deletion.
Le B2.15 Railside Land J: Hither Green Nature Reserve to Grove Park Station	Change: SALP SINC 4 Grove Park Nature Reserve. Incorporated into Le B1.6 Grove Park Nature Reserve above.
Le B2.15 Railside Land K: Amblecote Road site	Change: SALP SINC 16 Chinbrook Meadows. Incorporated into Le B2.20 below.
Le B2.15 Railside Land M: RAILSIDES South of Sydenham Station	No change
Le B2.15 Railside Land N: Former Lower Sydenham Station allotments	No change
<u>Le B2.15 Railside Land O: New Cross and New Cross Gate RAILSIDES</u>	Change: SALP SINC13 New Cross and New Cross Gate RAILSIDES. New site proposal.
<u>Le B2.18 Mountsfield Park</u>	Change: SALP SINC14 Mountsfield Park. Upgrade from Local Importance to Borough importance Grade 2. (See Le L.13 below).
<u>Le B2.19 Chinbrook Community Orchard and Allotments</u>	Change: SALP SINC 15 Chinbrook Allotments. Le B2.7 Grove Park Cemetery is split into two sites.
<u>Le B2.20 Chinbrook Meadows</u>	Change: SALP SINC 16 Chinbrook Meadows. New site proposal to include existing site at Amblecote Wood. (See Le B2.15 K above).
Site of Local Importance	
Le L.1 Brookmill Nature Reserve	No change
Le L.2 Besson Street Community Garden	No change
Le L.3 Ladywell Fields	No change
Le L.4 Sydenham Cottages Nature Reserve	No change
Le L.5 Folkstone Gardens	No change
Le L.6 Whitefoot Recreation Ground	No change
Le L.7 Queenswood Nature Reserve	No change
Le L.8 Rainsborough Avenue Embankments and former course of Surrey Canal	No change
Le L.9 Sayes Court Park	No change
Le L.10 Iona Close Orchard	No change
Le L.11 Sedgely Allotments Pond	No change
Le L.12 Brockley Hill Park	No change
Le L.13 Mountsfield Park	Change: SALP SINC 14 Mountsfield Park. Upgrade from Local Importance to Borough importance Grade 2. (See Le B2.18 above).

Le L.14 Sydenham Wells Park	No change
Le L.15 Hilly Fields	No change
Le L.16 Eliot Bank Hedge	No change
Le L.17 Southend Pond (aka Peter Pan's Pool)	No change
Le L.18 River Quaggy and Manor Park	No change
Le L.19 Albion Villas Millennium Green	No change
Le L.20 British Gas site, Creekside	No change
Le L.21 Pepys Park nature area	Change: Core Strategy LeL21 Pepys Park Natural Area. Addition to existing SINC – Proposed Changes to the UDP Proposals Map (Feb 2010) . Map 4.15, page 42.
Le L.22 St Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Open Space	No change
Le L.23 Telegraph Hill Park	No change
<u>Le L.24 Bromley Hill Cemetery</u>	Change: SALP SINC 17 Bromley Hill Cemetery. New site proposal
<u>Le L.26 Gilmore Road Triangle</u>	Change: SALP SINC 18 Gilmore Road Triangle. New site proposal.

2. Policies applying to SINCs

- 2.1 Core Strategy Policy 12 (CSP 12) seeks to protect open space and environmental assets. In particular local biodiversity and geological interests will be preserved and enhanced in accordance with national and regional policy.

National policy

- 2.2 The relevant national policy is found in the NPPF (March 2012) which replaced the previous guidance in PPS9. Section 11 of the NPPF relates to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and paragraph 118 states:

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:

- *if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative sites with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;...*
- *development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted;...*
- *planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweighs the loss;...*

Regional policy

- 2.3 The relevant regional policy is found in the London Plan Policy 7.10 Biodiversity and Access to Nature which seeks to 'ensure a proactive approach to the protection, enhancement, creation, promotion and management of biodiversity'. Further guidance on planning decisions in Policy 7.19 (D) sets out the level of protection that should be applied to SINCs based on the classified level of importance, as set out below.

D. On Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation development proposals should:

- a. ...
- b. *give strong protection to sites of metropolitan importance for nature conservation (SMIs). These are sites jointly identified by the Mayor and boroughs as having strategic nature conservation importance*
- c. *give sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation the level of protection commensurate with their importance.*

- 2.4 Policy 7.19 (E) further details that where proposals will impact a SINC a hierarchy of avoid, mitigate then compensate should apply as set out below.

E. When considering proposals that would affect directly, indirectly or cumulatively a site of recognised nature conservation interest, the following hierarchy will apply:

1. *avoid adverse impact to the biodiversity interest*
2. *minimize impact and seek mitigation*
3. *only in exceptional cases where the benefits of the proposal clearly outweigh the biodiversity impacts, seek appropriate compensation.*

Local policy

- 2.5 Locally, in addition to the CSP 12, the Council has prepared a Development Management Local Plan (Further Options Report) which will be out for public consultation from the beginning of December 2012 to early February 2013. Policy Option 23 seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity assets in the borough by requiring new development to minimise impacts and use up-to-date surveys to assess the possible impact of development. The justification (paragraph 5) to the policy option specifically refers to SINCs as a site with biodiversity value to which this policy should apply. The full text of the policy option is attached as Appendix 2.

3. GLA Survey, February 2006

- 3.1 A copy of the GLA survey of February 2006 is attached as Appendix 3 and copies of the accompanying maps are attached as Appendix 4. The numbering system in the GLA survey directly correlates to the number in the UDP Table OS 4, however the GLA survey uses a mixture of Roman numerals and Arabic numerals (e.g., LeBI01) while table OS4 uses only Arabic numerals (e.g., Le B1.1).

3.2 For information, two sites detailed in the GLA survey are not referenced in the table above.

- LeB2.21 Old Forbanks Sports Ground which was put forward as a new site. The Council and the GLA agreed that as the site subsequently had planning permission it would not be carried forward as a designated SINC.
- LeL25 Bridgehouse Meadows which was put forward as a new site. Land along the western boundary of the site was safeguarded for the East London Line extension and use for storage of materials, therefore due to the expected level of disruption the site was not included in the short term.

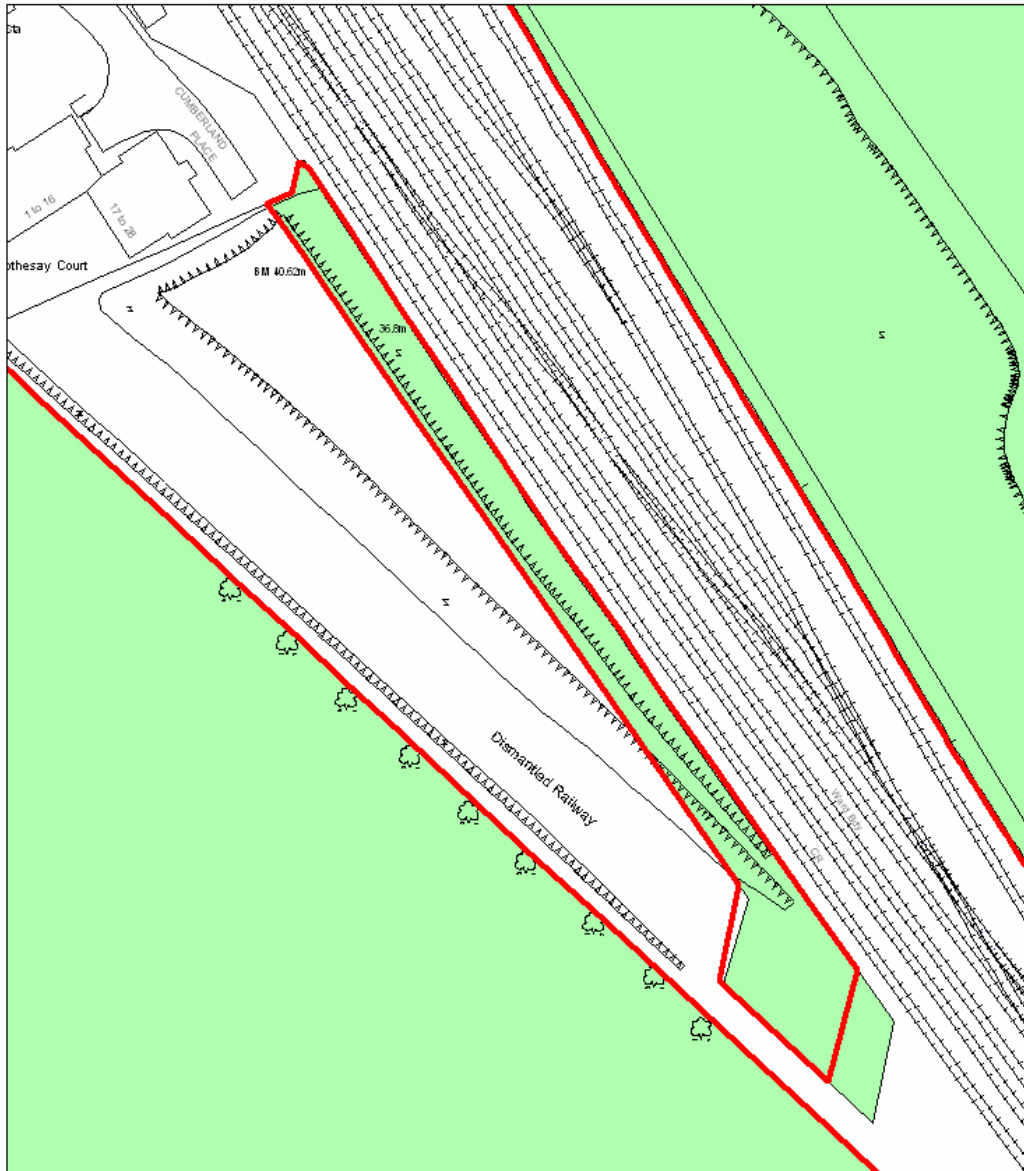
Appendix 1 - SALP map change: SINC 1 Hither Green Cemetery

SINC Changes LeBI02 New Site

Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crem.

& Reigate Rd Open Space

Old Site



Appendix 2 – Draft Development Management Policy Option

Openspace and biodiversity

What is the aim of this policy option?

1. The aim of this policy option is to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity assets in the borough to ensure it is safeguarded for future generations. Urban green space provides home for a diversity of flora and fauna and opportunities for city dwellers with direct access to nature. The presence of high quality and accessible open space and biodiversity in the borough provides environmental and economic benefits including cleaner air and water, more attractive landscapes, recreational areas and living environment.

Council's recommended option 23

Open space and biodiversity

1. The Council will require all new development to:
 - a. take full account of appropriate Lewisham and London Biodiversity Action Plans in development design and ensuring the delivery of benefits and minimising of potential impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity and
 - b. use up to date surveys and reports that are based on the latest legislation and carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist registered with the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM). The surveys should be carried out during an optimal time and contain the appropriate degree of detail needed to identify and consider existing biodiversity interests and possible impacts on them, where the proposed site is part of, or located adjacent to, a site designated for its biodiversity value.
2. New living roofs are required to be designed and fitted by a qualified and accredited installer and include an extensive substrate base, except where it can be demonstrated that such a base is not feasible and achievable. Developers are required to provide a Living Roofs Management and Maintenance Plan for the first 5 years to demonstrate the ecological impact of the living roof and how it will be monitored and maintained.
3. Artificial grass sport pitches are required to be delivered on hard surfaces and previously developed land rather than on existing natural grass, wherever feasible. Applicants should give consideration to the potential loss of open space, the effect on drainage and surface water flooding and the impact of the pitch, lighting and use on the amenity of the adjacent areas.

Justification

2. The Council recognises the importance in protecting and enhancing the connectivity of green infrastructure and richness of Lewisham's biodiversity through good landscape design, planning and management. This policy option implements Core Strategy Policy 11 (River and waterways network) (CSP11) and Policy 12 (Open space and environmental assets) (CSP12), which in turn support the approach in London Plan policies 5.11 (Green roofs and development site environs), 7.19 (Biodiversity and access to nature) and 7.20 (Geological conservation) and the NPPF (paragraph 117).
3. The provision of high quality and accessible open space is important to the human health of residents in Lewisham. The diverse and usable open space delivered through recommended option 23 will provide opportunities for physical exercise and a relaxing environment, promoting mental wellbeing through the reduction of stress and depression related health issues.
4. New development will be required to take full account of appropriate Lewisham and London Biodiversity Action Plans and subsequently include actions as part of the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM standards as set out in the Core Strategy Policy 8 and DM Policy Option 21.
5. The policy option requires the use of up to date surveys that are completed by suitable professionals. Examples of sites in the borough that are designated as having biodiversity value include Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Metropolitan Open Land, Local Nature Reserves, the Blue Ribbon Network, the Waterlink Way and the South East London Green Chain Plus.
6. Where appropriate, information should be supplied on how development will avoid harming species and possible measures to enhance the provision of species or create new additional opportunities for that species. Where a new development is proposing the use of mitigation and/or compensation measures, detailed information to support the proposal will be needed. The Council has prepared the Planning Application Requirements (Local) for Biodiversity Conservation Survey and Report: 'The Lewisham Biodiversity Checklist' and the accompanying Guidance Notes (Oct 2010) which can be downloaded from the Council website. Further information can be found on the PAS website, including the document 'Planning to halt the loss of biodiversity' (2006) that provides recommendations and good practice for the integration of biodiversity conservation into land use and spatial planning in the UK.
7. The Council will encourage that all ecological surveys are submitted to Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL, www.gigl.org.uk) to assist in the collection of biodiversity information for both Lewisham and across Greater London.

8. The Council will seek to maximise the use of living roofs and walls, climbing plants, roof garden, terraces, balconies and courtyards in new development as they are feasible to increase the vegetation cover and outdoor space for biodiversity, amenity and community benefits in urban areas. CSP12 promotes the use of living roofs and the recommended option adds to the approach by detailing measures to ensure provision is of appropriate quality.
9. The living roofs assembly shall as a minimum consist of a root repellent system, a drainage system, a filtering layer, a growing medium and plants, and shall be installed on a waterproof membrane on an applicable roof. The buildings should be designed to have sufficient structural capacity and integrity to resist all loads for soil, moistures, plants, rain and wind uplift, safely, effectively and permanently. It is important that living roofs are included in the early planning and design stage and supported by a qualified and accredited installer signed up to the Green Roof Organisation (GRO) principles. It should be demonstrated how the installation and maintenance will comply with the standards identified in the GRO Green Roof Code: Green Roof Code of Best Practice for the UK 2011, or any national equivalent.
10. A management and maintenance plan is required for all living roofs to include a species list and a plan for sustainable irrigation and replacement planting with a cross-section (1:20), demonstrate an appropriate substrate depth, and to ensure that within five years of the planting date the selected plants will cover no less than 80% of the vegetated roof. A contour plan will need to demonstrate how the plants and native species selected and the roof design would be beneficial to local biodiversity.
11. Artificial sports pitches can increase the potential for leisure uses in an area of open space, especially where multi-use surfaces are utilised. The Council will seek to ensure that such benefits are not outweighed by negative impacts on the open space and the surrounding environment, including biodiversity, flooding and local amenity. The Council will support new provision where it is appropriate and required and refuse permission for poorly located facilities or those that are detrimental to the environment.

Alternative option/s 23

The reasonable alternatives associated with this option could include:

1. Relying on the policies in the London Plan and Core Strategy rather than a more detailed local policy.

What does the sustainability appraisal say?

12. The sustainability appraisal showed positive impacts of the recommended option including the enhancement of biodiversity and that it will assist in mitigating and adapting to climate change and reducing resource use. Reducing resource use will be beneficial to economic development in the long term. Additionally, improved

open space will also positively effect community health and wellbeing and social cohesion in the long term. The negative impact of this policy option concerns the restrictions and conditions imposed upon developers, and hence the potential increase in development costs, which may lead to an adverse effect on the economy. The sustainability appraisal of the alternative option shows it would have similar positive and adverse effects as for the recommended policy option. However, the inclusion of the development management option promotes detailed requirements for the assessment of biodiversity and living roofs.

Appendix 3 – GLA SINC survey February 2006

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Lewisham

Sites in *italics* are defunct. Sites in **red** have proposed changes to boundary or grade

Sites of Metropolitan Importance

- [M002 Deptford Wharf (*lost to development*)]
- M031 The River Thames and tidal tributaries
- M069 Blackheath and Greenwich Park
- M122 Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting
- M135 Beckenham Place Park

Sites of Borough Importance: Grade I

- LeBI01 Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
- LeBI02 Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium and Reigate Road Open Space**
- LeBI03 Downham Woodland Walk
- LeBI04 Pool River Linear Park**
- LeBI05 Hillcrest Estate Woodland**
- LeBI06 Grove Park Nature Reserve**
- LeBI07 Forster Memorial Park UPGRADE FROM BII**

Sites of Borough Importance: Grade II

- LeBII01 Burnt Ash Pond Nature Reserve
- LeBII02 Horniman Gardens, Horniman Railway Trail and Horniman Triangle**
- [LeBII03 Forster Memorial Park (UPGRADED TO BI)]**
- LeBII04 Durham Hill
- LeBII05 Dacres Wood Nature Reserve and Sydenham Park railway cutting
- LeBII06 Loats Pit**
- LeBII07 Grove Park Cemetery [and Chinbrook Community Orchard (NOW A SEPARATE SITE)]**
- LeBII08 Sue Godfrey Nature Park
- LeBII09 Honor Oak Road Covered Reservoir
- LeBII10 St Mary's Churchyard, Lewisham
- LeBII11 Manor House Gardens
- LeBII12 Mayow Park
- LeBII13 Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields
- LeBII14 River Ravensbourne and Brookmill Park
- LeBII15A Senegal Railway Banks
- LeBII15B New Cross to St Johns railsides
- LeBII15C Nunhead Cutting**
- LeBII15D Brockley to St John's railsides
- LeBII15E St Johns to Lewisham railsides**
- LeBII15F Lewisham Railway Triangles**
- LeBII15G Lewisham to Blackheath railsides
- LeBII15H Hither Green railsides**
- LeBII15I Hither Green Sidings**
- [LeBII15J Hither Green to Grove Park railsides ADDED TO LeBI06]**
- [LeBII15K Amblecote Road Wood INCLUDED IN LeBII20]**
- [LeBII15L Deptford station (never included in UDP)]**
- LeBII15M Railsides south of Sydenham
- LeBII15N Lower Sydenham station allotments
- LeBII15O New Cross and New Cross Gate railsides NEW SITE**
- [LeBII16 Silwood Triangle (never included in UDP)]**
- [LeBII17 Deptford Wharf (lost to development)]**

- LeBII18 Mountsfield Park UPGRADE FROM LOCAL
- LeBII19 Chinbrook Community Orchard and Allotments NEW SITE
- LeBII20 Chinbrook Meadows NEW SITE
- LeBII21 Old Forbanks Sports Ground NEW SITE

Sites of Local Importance

- LeL01 Brookmill Nature Reserve
- LeL02 Besson Street Community Garden
- LeL03 Ladywell Fields
- LeL04 Sydenham Cottages Nature Reserve
- LeL05 Folkestone Gardens
- LeL06 Whitefoot Recreation Ground
- LeL07 Queenswood Nature Reserve
- LeL08 Rainsborough Avenue Embankments
- LeL09 Sayes Court Park
- LeL10 Iona Close Orchard
- LeL11 Sedgehill Allotments
- LeL12 Brockley Hill Park
- [LeL13 Mountsfield Park (UPGRADED TO BII)]*
- LeL14 Sydenham Wells Park
- LeL15 Hilly Fields
- LeL16 Eliot Bank Hedge and Tarleton Gardens
- LeL17 Southend Pond
- LeL18 River Quaggy and Manor Park
- LeL19 Albion Millennium Green
- LeL20 Creekside Education Centre
- LeL21 **Pepys Park Nature Area**
- LeL22 St Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Street Open Space
- LeL23 Telegraph Hill Park
- LeL24 **Bromley Hill Cemetery NEW SITE**
- LeL25 **Bridgehouse Meadows NEW SITE**
- LeL26 **Gilmore Road Triangle NEW SITE**

Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBI01

Site Name: Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries

Summary: These two cemeteries contain grassland rich in wildflowers and many fine mature trees. In common with many Victorian cemeteries they are also of considerable historical interest.

Grid ref: TQ 368 749

Area (ha): 14.87

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, planted shrubbery, vegetated walls and tombstones, acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The site contains a variety of fine, mature (chiefly non-native) trees with grassland and planted shrubbery beneath and between. Brockley Cemetery is quite wooded with densely planted trees including sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hybrid black poplar (*Populus nigra* x *italica*) and lime (*Tilia* x *vulgaris*). Beneath the denser areas of trees are ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and in more open areas rough grassland 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*).

Ladywell Cemetery tends to be more open with fewer trees and shrubs. Patches of acid grassland are present (this habitat is uncommon in Greater London). This is characterised by the presence of species such as sheep's-sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), common cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicator*), lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and abundant red fescue (*Festuca rubra*).

A few tombstones and walls are vegetated usually with butterfly and hoverfly attracting stonecrops (*Sedum* spp.) whilst grassland areas abound with grasshoppers, beetles and arachnids. Additionally both cemeteries attract a variety of birds including green woodpecker and spotted flycatcher (a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species).

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 16/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBI02

Site Name: Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium and Reigate Road Rough

Summary: A large block of open space with a variety of wildlife habitats, particularly good for birds.

Grid ref: TQ 397 728

Area (ha): 23.19

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, hedge, vegetated walls/tombstones, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, ruderal, tall herbs, flower beds, pond/lake

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Most of Hither Green Cemetery consists of grassland (which is kept moderately short), between the graves with relatively few (chiefly ornamental) trees and shrubs present. Perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and the relatively uncommon sheep's-fescue (*Festuca ovina*) are the most frequent grass species. Within the sward is a colourful array of wildflowers. These include common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), bristly oxtongue (*Picris echioides*), hawkweed oxtongue (*P. hieracioides*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and sticky groundsel (*Senecio viscosus*). The grassland is attractive to a range of butterflies and other invertebrates. The north-eastern corner of the cemetery is characterised by numerous mature trees and shrubs giving a woodland feel. 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 are all present. This is a good place to find woodland birds, including willow warbler, chiffchaff, blackcap and spotted flycatcher. Less common species are also occasionally seen on migration, including ring ouzel, long-eared owl and nightingale. Large numbers of ring-necked parakeets roost every evening in the tall poplars.

Lewisham Crematorium is far more formal with rows of conifers and short mown grass. The chief wildlife interest is in a curious, long narrow water feature near to the centre of this area, the northern end of which is covered in a tangle of vegetation. 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 corniculatus*). 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 safe 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 (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*).

Reigate Road Open Space occurs chiefly on a steep bank to the south of Hither Green Cemetery. In recent years some grassland areas between scattered trees has become colonised with scrub of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), and tall herbs vegetation at the expense of some more uncommon wildflowers. However, this is now a breeding place for a variety of common birds including blackcap and whitethroat.

Would it make sense to add the small area of former sidings land set aside as a nature area as part of the planning agreement with Fairview Homes, immediately adjacent to the cemetery, to this site? It is currently included on the Hither Green Sidings site (LeBII15I), but is isolated from the rest of that site by the railway lines and housing development.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBI03

Site Name: Downham Woodland Walk

Summary: A delightful walk through a narrow strip of ancient woodland, zigzagging between the houses of Downham.

Grid ref: TQ 393 720

Area (ha): 3.88

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Ancient woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare ground, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The best section of Woodland Walk lies between Downderry Road and Moorside Road, where it runs beside the southern edge of Whitefoot Playing Fields. The woodland here is at its broadest (up to 40m) and almost certainly of ancient origin. Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) is dominant canopy tree with frequent hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) some probably coppiced in the past. 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 Greater London provide evidence that this is woodland of ancient origin. There is a well developed, 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 (*Corylus avellana*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The invasive plant snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) was frequent on this section but recent management is controlling its spread. The ground flora contains a number of species generally well distributed in similar places throughout Greater London e.g. Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) and hybrids with native bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), lords-and-ladies (*Arum maculatum*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*), hedgerow crane's-bill (*G. pyrenaicum*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and an abundance of cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). Additional species included a number of ancient woodland indicator species including native bluebell, remote sedge (*Carex remota*), wood millet (*Milium effusum*), wood melick (*Melica uniflora*), wood meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and a single clump of wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*).

West of Downberry Road Woodland Walk is far narrower and the flora is less diverse. Pedunculate oak is the abundant canopy tree with lesser numbers of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Elm, elder, hawthorn, bramble and abundant snowberry comprise the bulk of the shrub layer. Ivy and cow parsley are the most frequent member of the rather impoverished ground flora. Here there are no indicators of ancient woodland.

The trees continue east of Moorside Road as scattered pedunculate oaks (most of antiquity) over amenity grassland. These are joined by a broken line of hawthorns, along Woodbank road (perhaps the remains of an old hedge).

Overall, Woodland Walk supports a good range of birds including many of those common in parks and gardens. Sometimes these are joined by less familiar species including great spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, treecreeper, long-tailed tit and willow warbler. Invertebrate surveys have revealed a number of uncommon insects, including some which are nationally scarce, such as the ant *Lasius brunneus*, the fungus beetle *Phloiortrya vaudoueri*, the bark beetle *Platypus cylindricus*, the leaf beetle *Chrysolina oricalcea* and the jewel beetle *Agrilus sinuatus*.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 11/01/2006

Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBI04

Site Name: Pool River Linear Park

Summary: A riverside walk runs the length of this attractive linear park.

Grid ref: TQ 372 727

Area (ha): 16.70

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, ruderal, roughland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, running water

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The park can be divided into two distinct areas: Riverview Walk and The Old Park. The former is largely the result of habitat creation, following the development of a superstore on part of the former Bell Green Gas Works. A series of purpose-built planters have been placed in the stream. These are now covered in a tangle of introduced and self-established plant species including yellow day-lily (*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), water-cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*). In some places these species are being overtaken by common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). Shrubberies of largely exotic species have been established at the riversides. Between shrubberies and the river banks, grassland has been planted with a good range of wildflowers, and further species have colonised naturally, including great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), which is scarce in London. Butterflies and grasshoppers are abundant in these areas. A sizeable pond has been created at the northern end of Riverview Walk. This is enclosed by dense marginal vegetation including lesser reedmace (*Typha angustifolia*), yellow iris and hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*). Common fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) is frequent. Various willows (*Salix* spp.) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) occur at the pond side and will in the near future require management to avoid succession.

The Old Park on the western bank (north of Winsford Road) and at the northern end of the site is a much more mature and natural looking type of landscape. In parts, the river defences have been relaxed a little allowing some meandering of the watercourse. Wetland plants such as hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), fool's-watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and Indian balsam grow along the water's edge. Moorhens and mallards nest here. Woodland of crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), white willow (*S. Alba*), alder ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) cover parts of the riverbank. Less wooded areas are clothed with dense bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), common nettle and the Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Many of the birds familiar in parks and gardens can be found here including chiffchaff and blackcap. On the eastern bank (enclosing the tarmaced cycleway) is an area of rough grassland. Within its sward grows a variety of wildflowers e.g. oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), hawkweed oxtongue (*Picris hieracioides*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). Additionally there are a number of scattered trees and shrubs particularly hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and willows. This area is very attractive to a range of butterflies including meadow brown, speckled wood, small white, and common blue and small, large and Essex skippers. Grasshoppers and crickets are abundant including the Roesel's bush-cricket (*Merioptera roesellii*). At least three species of bats have been observed here: Daubenton's bat and common and soprano pipistrelles.

A small area of unused allotments (east of the cricket ground) has been added to the site. This is covered in roughland comprising false oat-grass, cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), hawthorn, hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), hops (*Humulus lupulus*), bramble, nettle and a few other species and a few scattered ash trees.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/112005

Citation last edited:

16/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBI05

Site Name: Hillcrest Estate Woodland

Summary: Remnants of ancient woodland, once part of the Great North Wood, scattered around a housing estate. Some fine old oak and sweet chestnut trees link back to this time.

Grid ref: TQ 340 718

Area (ha): 7.22

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Ancient woodland, secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, amenity grassland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The woodland survives as mainly rather narrow strips of trees on steep banks and between houses and blocks of flats of the Hillcrest Estate. The canopy is chiefly composed of fine mature pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), with some ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) particularly on steeper slopes. In places these are joined by the odd specimen of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), pear (*Pyrus communis*) and various conifers. More areas were once mown and have little shrub layer. Ground flora includes abundant nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). More interesting species include wall lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*), ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and creeping soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*). The latter three species are indicators of ancient woodland. On the steeper slopes the woodland has a better structure. Here old hazel (*Corylus avellana*) bushes and field maple (*Acer campestre*), perhaps relicts of the ancient woodland, are joined by young ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore. Some invasive, non-native shrub species are also present e.g. cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), spotted laurel (*Aucuba japonica*) rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). Ground flora includes typical woodland species such as broad buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), and red campion (*Silene dioica*). There is a spring near the south-eastern corner of the estate. Wet conditions have encouraged the growth of great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*). This is a species uncommon locally and in the London area. Most of the familiar birds of parks and gardens can be found here many of them breeding but more unusual species include willow warbler and little owl.

A small area of scattered trees and amenity grassland has been added to the north-west.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 16/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBI06

Site Name: Grove Park Nature Reserve (was known as Hither Green Nature Reserve)

Summary: The nature reserve and associated land contains a good variety of habitats including a block of woodland and the only substantial area of chalk grassland in the borough.

Grid ref: TQ 402 727

Area (ha): 6.45

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, roughland, tall herbs, allotments

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

Ownership: Grove Park Nature Reserve: L B Lewisham, Allotments and Horse Paddocks: private

Site Description:

A large part of this site is covered in oak (chiefly *Quercus robur* and occasional *Q. petraea*) – ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) woodland. Other less common trees include hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) and poplar (*Populus* sp.). The shrub layer includes hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), garden privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). 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*), lesser periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), garden Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum x hybridum*) and daffodil (*Narcissus* sp.). The woodland supports a number of common birds including great spotted woodpecker, blackcap, willow warbler, chaffinch and bullfinch, the latter a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

A small pond has been created to the south-west (near the railway) this has been planted with marginal species: yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*) and brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). This supports a breeding population of smooth newts. There are areas of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), dog-rose (*Rosa canina*), bramble and plum (*Prunus domestica*) scrub to the north of the woodland (habitat for whitethroat and lesser whitethroat). Adjacent, there is a more open area of semi-improved neutral grassland composed of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), sweet vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and a few other species. Intermingled wildflowers include agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), 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). The hills themselves are a basking place for common lizard. To the north of the reserve proper, is a partly abandoned allotment area now becoming covered in scrub. It forms a useful buffer between housing and the reserve and adds to its habitats.

To the west, beside the railway is a tract of grassland with an almost continuous stand of tor-grass (*Brachypodium rupestre*) dominating a great part of the central and southern area. This species is known nowhere else in Lewisham and very uncommon in Greater London. To the north the grassland is more diverse and contains an array of common wildflowers such as bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*). Several species which are far less common in Lewisham are known to occur here too, including zigzag clover (*Trifolium medium*) and hedge bedstraw (*Galium mollugo* ssp. *erecta*). The latter is a subspecies usually found on chalk. The grassland supports a diversity of invertebrates including a good number of butterflies and moths. Adjoining the reserve area to the south (aside Railway Children Walk) is a disused horse paddock (previous to this it was allotments). This is part of the site now covered in roughland and scattered trees.

Hither Green and Grove Park Railsides (to the south) has been added to this site (was Le.B.II.J). The area nearest to the railway is chiefly false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominated grassland with tall herbs including Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and bristly oxtongue (*Picris echioides*). There are a few mostly young shrubs and trees e.g. pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), dog-rose- (*Rosa canina*), bramble

(*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). To the east, back from the railway, is an area impenetrable roughland with many of the same species previously described present but much denser – this is a new addition as part of a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 11/01/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBI07

Site Name: Forster Memorial Park

Summary: An historic park with a ring of ancient woodland around a central grassy field.

Grid ref: TQ 387 723

Area (ha): 16.46

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Ancient woodland, secondary woodland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This attractive park is based on an historic landscape feature. This is an assart: a field cleared of woodland with an enclosing ring of ancient woodland retained to provide shelter.

The ancient woodland is dominated by fine 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 some sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), which may need controlling some time in the future, and the odd 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 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 and the field it contains is marked by a straggly, broken hawthorn hedge.

The woodland has been not always been managed sympathetically in the past, but recent management has considerably improved the woodland understorey and ground flora. Substantial areas are now covered in 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 species typical of ancient woodland still occur, including bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), wood melick (*Melica uniflora*), wood meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and a single patch of wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Dead wood is left in situ. A number of birds frequent the woodland e.g. song thrush, chiffchaff, nuthatch, spotted flycatcher, treecreeper and all three British woodpeckers.

The flora of field contained within the ring of ancient woodland is rather poor, however, there is an area to the west and south of the park which is more worthy of note. Here a good variety of habitats including areas of secondary woodland (native and non-native), and a large number of scattered trees e.g. pedunculate oak, horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), and various poplars (*Populus* spp.) occur. Additionally, there is an expanse of neutral grassland comprising a diversity of common grasses (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 small cat's-tail (*Phleum pratensis*) are all well represented. A number of forbs are intermingled including garlic mustard, black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), cow parsley, creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), and nettle (*Urtica dioica*). This area is particularly attractive to butterflies with red admiral, large skipper, small white, meadow brown and speckled wood being recorded.

Upgraded from LeBII03 with no change to the boundary.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII01

Site Name: Burnt Ash Pond Nature Reserve

Summary: Burnt Ash Pond is perhaps the finest pond in the borough of Lewisham, supporting a good variety of plants and animals.

Grid ref: TQ 405 734

Area (ha): 0.13

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, hedge, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, pond/lake

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The pond is well vegetated with submerged, emergent and floating plants, including yellow 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.). 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 fauna is equally diverse. The pond is probably the most important amphibian site in the Lewisham borough, with a large breeding population of common toads and significant number of common frogs and smooth newts. Amongst the invertebrates are several species of water-beetles and the water spider (*Argyroneta aquatica*).

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 an old specimen of black mulberry (*Morus nigra*). The site is bounded by a native hedge with hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) as major components. Burnt Ash Pond attracts many bird species, often familiar in parks and gardens, and usually has a pair or two of mallards breeding most years.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 16/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII02

Site Name: Horniman Gardens, Horniman Railway Trail and Horniman Triangle

Summary: These 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 347 734

Area (ha): 9.49

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, hedge, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, flowerbeds

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

Ownership: Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Charitable Trust/ LB Lewisham

Site Description:

The Gardens have numerous fine 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 and other invertebrates.

The Museum itself is a centre of excellence for education concerning the environment. 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 ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). Additionally there are a handful 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 and 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*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and great reedmace (*Typha latifolia*). Enclosing it is a meadow which includes a number of plant species sown from a wildflower seed mix sown in 1988, including salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), field scabious (*Knautia scabiosa*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) and black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*).

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

Minor changes are proposed to the boundary to exclude hard surfaces around the Museum.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII03 (upgraded to Borough Grade I)

Site Name: Forster Memorial Park

Summary:

Grid ref: TQ 387 723

Area (ha): 16.46

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Now upgraded to LeBI07.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006 **Mayor Agreed:**

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII04

Site Name: Durham Hill (formerly Downham Fields)

Summary: A hill with extensive areas of flower-rich grassland, providing fine views across Beckenham Place Park and Crystal Palace and beyond.

Grid ref: TQ 396 715

Area (ha): 12.75

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This is chiefly an open grassy area punctuated by a few mostly exotic trees and a few fine crack and white willows. From its heights there are fine views across Beckenham Place Park and Crystal Palace and beyond.

This site contains the most extensive areas of flower-rich neutral grassland in the borough of Lewisham. Perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) is common here as it is in other amenity areas. However, here it co-exists with numerous other grasses and is not the usual monoculture one may expect. Other grasses include 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*), cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), creeping-bent (*A. stolonifera*) and crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). The real beauty of the Durham Hill grassland is in the diversity and number of wildflowers it harbours (particularly Asteraceae) e.g. lesser hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*), autumnal hawkbit (*L. Autumnalis*), cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicator*), goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*), beaked hawk's-beard (*Crepis vesicaria*) common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.). Some parts of the fields are only mown once per year to encourage this blaze of yellow flowers.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 16/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII05

Site Name: Dacres Wood Nature Reserve and Sydenham Park Cutting

Summary: A nature reserve with ponds and wetlands once associated with the former Croydon Canal, and an adjoining wooded railway cutting.

Grid ref: TQ 355 721

Area (ha): 2.43

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, pond/lake

Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham, Network Rail

Site Description:

The nature reserve is chiefly covered with secondary woodland dominated by several huge Turkey oaks (*Quercus cerris*). 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 dominate the shrub layer. The ground flora is largely composed of ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

There are two ponds: one quite large and definitely a relic of the old Croydon Canal. This has a good number of aquatic species associated with it including water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), fool's-watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquatica*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*).

Many of the familiar birds of parks and gardens can be found here. Perhaps particularly worthy of note are blackcap, chiffchaff and nuthatch. Invertebrates include stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) and purple and white-letter hairstreak butterflies.

The adjacent railway cutting is vegetated with young oak and sycamore woodland, bramble scrub and rough grassland. It complements the habitats of the nature reserve.

The nature reserve is kept locked for security reasons, but can be accessed by arrangement. The site is frequently visited by schools and conservation volunteers. There is no access to the railsides.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 11/01/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII06

Site Name: Loats Pit (also known as Lethbridge Close)

Summary: The steep wooded slopes at the rear of the Lethbridge Estate, off Blackheath Hill, provide a pleasant backdrop for local residents and some valuable wildlife habitat.

Grid ref: TQ 382 765

Area (ha): 1.22

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, chalk grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This site is situated on steep slopes which were once part of a chalk quarry. Most of the area is covered in sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) which is the dominant tree species. Other trees include ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), apple (*Malus domestica*) and Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*). The scrub layer comprises English elm (*Ulmus procera*), wych elm (*U. glabra*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Below this is a ground covering of ivy (*Hedera helix*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), hops (*Humulus lupulus*), and other mostly herbaceous vegetation.

There are a few small patches of semi-improved grassland and tall herbs. Perhaps most notable here is the occurrence of salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), a species typical of chalk grassland (chalk was exposed during quarrying). Most of the common garden and parkland birds occur here but most notable is the spotted flycatcher. This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

There is a small addition of similar habitat to the north of this site.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII07

Site Name: Grove Park Cemetery

Summary: The cemetery contains flower-rich grassland and many fine mature trees and dense planted shrubberies.

Grid ref: TQ 416 714

Area (ha): 9.32

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, ruderal, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Grove Park Cemetery has a good number of fine mature trees (both native and non-native species), 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*). There are also a number of dense planted shrubberies composed of mostly exotic species. This attracts a number of birds familiar in parks and gardens. The grass of the cemetery is kept fairly short without being over manicured and a surprising diversity of grasses and can be found including 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*). Amongst the intermingled wildflowers is 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 radicator*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), autumnal hawkbit (*Hypochaeris radicator*), lesser hawkbit (*L. saxatile*) and chicory (*Cichorium intybus*). The last species is uncommon in London.

Site now split from Chinbrook Community Orchard and Green Chain Walk (LeBII20).

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII08

Site Name: Sue Godfrey Nature Park

Summary: A valuable and much-loved nature park in urban Deptford, with a tremendous range of wild flowers.

Grid ref: TQ 375 715

Area (ha): 0.58

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The site is covered in a mixture of rough grassland, scrub, ruderal vegetation and bare habitat. More than 200 species of wildflowers have been recorded here over the years. Some, particularly trees and shrubs, have been planted but the vast majority have found their own way here. There is a cosmopolitan range of plants present including shaggy soldier (*Galinsoga quadriradiata*) from South America, Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.) from North America, and the Mediterranean plant, sulphur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*). Others include Chinese mugwort (*Artemisia verlotiorum*), Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) and Greek dock (*Rumex cristatus*). The site supports an abundance of butterflies, with at least six species breeding on site: large, small and Essex skippers, small tortoiseshell, common blue and meadow brown and others are frequent visitors. A number of Orthoptera are found here too including the nationally local species Roesel's bush-cricket (*Merioptera roeselii*).

The park is much-loved by local residents, and well used for education by schools. It is particularly important for its location in highly urban Deptford, where there is little wild open space.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 16/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII09

Site Name: Honor Oak Road Covered Reservoir

Summary: A covered reservoir with grassland rich in wild flowers and insects.

Grid ref: TQ 352 736

Area (ha): 0.49

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: No public access

Ownership: Private

Site Description:

The site lies on a steep east-facing slope, which has been modified by the construction of a now defunct Victorian covered reservoir. In ecological terms the site can be neatly divided into four sections, of which three comprise different types of grassland. The top of the reservoir consists of acid grassland composed of common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*). There are also good quantities of yellow oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and sheep'-fescue (*Festuca ovina*) - the latter is locally uncommon. Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) and early hair-grass (*Aria praecox*) were recorded in 1992 and may both still be present. The latter is unknown elsewhere in Lewisham and rare in London. Wildflowers of dry, acid grassland are known from here e.g. sheep'-sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), and bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*).

The steeper part of the bank supports grassland characteristic of well drained soils. Common bent and smooth meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*) dominates the sward. Sweet vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and cat's-tail are less common. Other plants include black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and bird's-foot trefoil. Most uncommon however is cowslip (*Primula veris*), which occurs wild nowhere else in Lewisham.

Further east, at the foot of the reservoir, is the only part of the site which lies on natural, undisturbed London clay. Here the grassland is taller and lusher. False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), sweet vernal-grass and crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) occur. Wildflowers included abundant black knapweed along with other typical meadow flowers including oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*).

Trees and scrub are scattered around the site especially at the edges including a remnant of an old hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), boundary hedge, pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*). Within the site itself are a scattering of young hawthorn and oak, a fine old pear (*Pyrus communis*) a little evergreen spindle (*Euonymus japonicus*) and a few patches of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub and a little dog's-mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), a rare Lewisham plant, are located beneath the trees at the northern edge. Around the site entrance are the remains of a formal avenue of pollarded limes (*Tilia x vulgaris*). Beneath this elder (*Sambucus nigra*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and bramble are growing. This complements the more open aspect of the rest of the site.

Thirteen species of butterfly and 13 species of hoverfly indicate the site's high insect diversity. A very rare picture-winged fly, *Acinia corniculata* (associated with the knapweed) has been recorded. This is listed as Endangered in the Red Data Book for insects. In recent years the site has been grazed by horses, some of the biological interest may be lost if this were to become too intensive.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII10

Site Name: St Mary's Churchyard, Lewisham

Summary: Lewisham parish churchyard is one of the best sites for ferns in the borough.

Grid ref: TQ 379 748

Area (ha): 0.89

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, vegetated walls and tombstones, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: Diocese of Southwark

Site Description:

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 and well distributed. There are a few plants of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Additionally, on more sheltered parts of the roadside wall hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) occurs and on a nearby monument there is wall-rue (*A. ruta-muraria*). 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*) grows against the back wall.

Apart from its ferns the churchyard also contains numerous scattered trees/shrubs including yew (*Taxus baccata*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) which provide food and shelter for common birds. The grassland is allowed to grow for a few weeks in the summer, providing a colourful display of common wildflowers.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII11

Site Name: Manor House Gardens

Summary: This attractive park contains a good variety of wildlife habitats, including a lake, a section of the River Quaggy and some fine mature trees.

Grid ref: TQ 393 749

Area (ha): 3.77

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, hedge, bare ground, amenity grassland, tall herbs, running water, pond/lake, semi-improved neutral grassland, flowerbeds

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

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 River Quaggy flows through the south of the park along a gently meandering course over a clean, gravelly bed. Despite its natural appearance there is very little aquatic vegetation, with only a little pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*). The river is fringed with an arch of trees and shrubs, many of them young. Perhaps most notable are hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). This area attracts many of the birds familiar in parks and gardens and additionally the siskin. Alder seeds are a favourite food of this bird and it is one of the best places to see it in the borough.

There is a small nature area on the eastern boundary of the park. This has a very young hedge of holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and a number of more exotic trees and shrubs (mostly non-native). There is also a small meadow area planted with a wildflower seed mix. With sympathetic management this area will improve as time goes on and species mature. The chief ecological interest of the remaining parkland lies in its relative abundance of fine mature trees and dense planted shrubbery, which are very attractive to a range of common birds.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII12

Site Name: Mayow Park

Summary: This historic park contains a good number of very fine ancient oak trees.

Grid ref: TQ 357 719

Area (ha): 6.98

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, veteran trees

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This park has more than 20 veteran pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*), which represent the finest collection of such trees in the borough of Lewisham outside **Beckenham Place Park**. These provide the main conservation interest of Mayow Park. Very old trees, especially oaks, are particularly valuable for wildlife as they provide a tremendous variety of different niches, including sap runs, dead wood, holes, rot and fissures in the bark. A high diversity of invertebrates is usually associated with such trees, including many beetles whose larvae feed on dead wood. Amongst these is the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), a UK and London Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. This impressive beetle is often seen in the park on summer evenings. A number of other scarce insects have been recorded here, including the nationally rare sycamore fungus beetles *Cicones undatus* and *Synchita separanda*, and the nationally scarce ant *Lasius brunneus*.

The park also has a good number of other fine, mature trees which date back to the initial landscaping of the park. 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 vulgaris*) and tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Additionally the park has good areas of dense planted shrubbery composed of chiefly exotic species. Overall, a good range of birds are attracted to the site. A number of these nest here, including many of the species familiar in parks and gardens as well as the slightly less common nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker and coal tit.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII13

Site Name: Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields

Summary: An attractive section of stream running over a gravelly bed, with a good range of plants and invertebrates.

Grid ref: TQ 393 713

Area (ha): 0.83

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, running water

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The brook is narrow and follows a slightly meandering course, though it has probably been straightened at some time in the past. It flows between wooden toe-boards, over a clean, stony or gravelly bed and supports good plant and invertebrate communities despite its straightened form. Water quality is good, due to the proximity of the headwaters. Common water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*) is locally frequent, particularly to the east. Amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*) also grows in the stream in places, while a few clumps of fool's-watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), lesser pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) and pendulous sedge (*C. pendula*) occur at the margins. Most of these species are uncommon in Lewisham. Grey wagtails are sometimes seen here foraging.

To the east the steep banks of the stream, above the toe-boards, and a narrow strip on either side, are vegetated with rough grassland. This area dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and creeping bent are frequent. Wildflowers include meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), broad-leaved everlasting-pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) and hairy sedge (*Carex hirsutum*). The last species is uncommon in Lewisham. The grassland supports a good range of butterflies and other invertebrates including Roesel's bush-cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*) and the yellow meadow-ant (*Lasius flavus*).

The western part of the stream is flanked with more rank vegetation with clumps of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and tall perennials such as hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*) and creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). Here trees have been planted on both sides of the brook – these are largely exotic species.

The Environment Agency and Lewisham Council are due to conduct significant alterations to the stream (and the fields through which it flows) to improve public access and wildlife value. These involve removing the toe-boards, returning the brook to a more meandering course with less steep banks and increasing the strip of wildlife habitat on both sides of the channel.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII14

Site Name: River Ravensbourne and Brookmill Park

Summary: This is an attractive park with a variety of habitats, including a re-landscaped section of the River Ravensbourne which is an excellent example of river restoration.

Grid ref: TQ 376 764

Area (ha): 3.65

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, pond/lake, running water

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Brookmill Park has a wide range of features to enjoy, including an ornamental garden, lake, children's play area and nature reserve. The reserve is separated from the main body of the park by the River Ravensbourne, a large section of which was 'broken out' of its historical concrete channel, during construction of the Docklands Light Railway, and given a 'natural' course offering much improved habitat for wildlife.

The gently sloping edges of the inner channel of the Ravensbourne, and its gravelly bed with pools and riffles, provide many niches for aquatic plants and animals. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and other marginal vegetation have been planted whilst other species, such as hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), are probably self established. The grassland of the outer channel floods on high tides; tidally-inundated grassland is a very rare habitat in London. This area will become increasingly more important as habitats mature. 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 and kingfisher. Fish here (food for the last two species of birds) include eel, flounder, and stickleback. Odonata also occur here such as blue-tailed damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*) and brown hawkler (*Aeshna grandis*).

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 yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) at the edges.

Beside the river and in the nature area on the northern bank various (largely native) trees and shrubs have been planted. Species include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and various willows and osiers (*Salix* spp.) which attract a variety of common birds including breeding blue tit, great tit, wren, greenfinch and blackbird. Additionally, song thrush, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, breeds here. There are also grassland areas sown with a wildflower seed mix that will become more important as they establish. Further planting of native shrubs has taken place at the southern end of the park on the site of a former disused railway embankment. 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 some very attractive ornamental gardens (the north end) and a range of scattered trees. The large number of conifers present attracts goldcrests during the winter.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15A

Site Name: Senegal Railway Banks

Summary: The railsides on either side of Millwall FC's ground contain significant areas of woodland.

Grid ref: TQ 354 773

Area (ha): 5.18

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, roughland, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

The railsides on either side of Millwall FC's ground contain significant areas of birch (*Betula pendula*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudplatanus*) 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 domestica*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There are extensive areas of tall herbs and scramblers such as traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Virginia-creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), large bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and hawkweed oxtongue (*Picris hieracioides*). Large patches of rough grassland dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) occur throughout but more frequently immediately beside the railway tracks.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15B

Site Name: New Cross to St Johns railsides

Summary: The narrow, wooded cutting between New Cross and St John's is one of the few woodland areas in the north of the borough of Lewisham.

Grid ref: TQ 368 768

Area (ha): 1.42

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

The wooded cutting between New Cross and St John's stations 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*), buddleja (*Buddleia 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*). Additionally, there are patches of rough grassland dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and intermingled tall herbs including large bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Canadian golden rod (*Solidago canadensis*), traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15C

Site Name: Nunhead Cutting

Summary: The wide shallow cutting to the east of Nunhead station contains a mix of woodland, scrub and grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 357 759

Area (ha): 5.85

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals 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 chiefly comprise hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Grassland areas are dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) with segregated patches and individual specimens of tall herbs and scramblers scattered throughout, including mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spear thistle (*C. vulgare*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bristly oxtongue (*Picris echioides*). The site does contain some interesting species including thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*), hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*), and two species scarce in Lewisham and London: bugloss (*Anchusa arvensis*) and common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*).

There is an additional area of contiguous habitat added to the south and east.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/11/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15D
Site Name: Brockley to St John's railsides
Summary: This is a relatively undisturbed, wooded cutting through which the Lewisham to Victoria line passes.
Grid ref: TQ 371 760
Area (ha): 3.48
Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

The banks of this cutting are largely covered in sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) woodland. There has been a certain degree of experimentation here. 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.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15E

Site Name: St Johns to Lewisham railsides

Summary: The area around St Johns station has a mix of woodland and flower-rich grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 377 761

Area (ha): 4.67

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

The railsides around St John's 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 chiefly comprising elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*). Other parts of the site are covered in rough false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) grassland with wild flowers including common toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), oxeye 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*), Virginia-creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*). The last species reflects the chalky nature of the underlying soil.

There is an additional area of contiguous habitat has been added to the south east (between or adjacent to Lewisham Station).

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15F

Site Name: Lewisham Railway Triangles

Summary: The junction of the railway lines to Ladywell and Hither Green provides a valuable wildlife habitat right in the heart of Lewisham.

Grid ref: TQ 380 753

Area (ha): 4.73

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: No public access

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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All the railway lines here are on embankments, leaving two triangles as sheltered hollows surrounded by steep banks. The western triangle is largely wooded with sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) woodland although there is a little scrub and patches of tall herbs and rough grassland. The eastern triangle is less wooded with more extensive patches of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominated grassland and tall herbs. Some colourful wildflowers are present, including Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolia*) and Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*).

An area of generally similar habitat has been added to the north-east.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15G

Site Name: Lewisham to Blackheath railsides

Summary: The railsides between Lewisham and Blackheath stations are densely wooded.

Grid ref: TQ 393 759

Area (ha): 2.61

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scrub, bare, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals 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. There are areas of scrub comprising buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Duke-of Argyll's tea-plant (*Lycium barbarum*). The woodland ground flora is chiefly ivy (*Hedera helix*). Additionally, there are a few patches of tall herbs between woodland and scrub, particularly common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Holly blue butterfly and common birds such as blackbird and wren are known from this location.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15H

Site Name: Hither Green Station

Summary: The railway tracks converge at Hither Green Station to form a triangular hollow of woodland and grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 391 743

Area (ha): 11.41

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, running water

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

Most of this area is covered in sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) woodland. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) are also present. There is a dense scrub layer of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The triangular area itself is managed as a nature reserve. In the past this has been cleared periodically of scrub in order to maintain a more open nature. However, recently the area left to succession and is now quite impenetrable. There is a small stream which trickles north to south across the east of the site forming a small pond. In the past water figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) were common but these are suffering through dense shade. The comparative impenetrability of the scrub has been good for birds. A reasonable number of common species familiar in parks and gardens nest here, along with whitethroat and lesser whitethroat.

New areas of track have been added to the site i.e. between Lewisham High Street and Mildreds Road.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15I

Site Name: Hither Green Sidings

Summary: These former sidings have a variety of wildlife habitats, including disused allotments, grassland, scattered trees and scrub and a small pond

Grid ref: TQ 398 734

Area (ha): 7.18

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal, tall herbs, allotments, standing water

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

This is an area of former railway sidings and allotments, most of which is currently disused. 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 cherry (*P. avium*). Considerable areas are covered in rough false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominated grassland and tall herbs such as horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*), Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), goat's-rue (*Galega officinalis*), bristly oxtongue (*Picris echioides*), Canadian golden rod (*Solidago canadensis*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). There is a small pond from which common newt, frog and toad have all been recorded. This is enclosed by a wetland plants including fool's watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), and yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). Great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), which is scarce in London, also occurs here. The sidings are a good area for migrant birds, with wheatear, whinchat, cuckoo and garden warbler all seen regularly in spring and autumn.

The boundary has been amended to match the current distribution of habitat on and around the sidings.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15J

Site Name: Hither Green to Grove Park railsides (defunct site)

Summary:

Grid ref: TQ 403 725

Area (ha): 1.08

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Access:

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

This site is now included with Grave Park Nature Reserve LeBI06

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15K

Site Name: Amblecote Road Wood (now included in LeBII19)

Summary:

Grid ref: TQ 409 719

Area (ha): 0.21

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

This site is now part of Chinbrook Meadows LeBII19.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15M

Site Name: Railsides south of Sydenham

Summary: This shallow cutting contains a mix of woodland and scrub with occasional small reed beds.

Grid ref: TQ 352 713

Area (ha): 1.59

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs, reed bed

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

This rather shallow cutting lies directly south of Sydenham station and is really a continuation of the habitats further north on this line, from **Forest Hill to New Cross Gate**, a Site of Metropolitan Importance. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) dominates sizeable parts of the banks. Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*) are also present. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is a frequent component of the ground flora. Extensive areas of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub are present. Between wooded areas and scrub there are expanses of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominated grassland with interspersed tall herbs and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). In a few places there are dense stands of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) - possibly a relic of the former Croydon Canal.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 10/01/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII15N

Site Name: Lower Sydenham Station Allotments

Summary: These overgrown allotments have become extensive areas of rough grassland and tall herbs rich in insects, especially grasshoppers.

Grid ref: TQ 368 715

Area (ha): 0.47

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

This old allotment site has been subject to some habitat creation: Areas of self-established tall herbs such as Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), oxtongues (*Picris* spp.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and scrub species, particularly bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), have been supplemented by sowing wildflowers, including greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*). Young trees and shrubs are numerous and some have obviously been planted such as silver birch (*Betula pendula*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), aspen (*Populus tremula*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and various willows and osiers (*Salix* spp.). The grassland sward contains a good variety of grasses. The most common are false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). The result of this floral diversity is an abundance of invertebrates; grasshoppers are particularly common.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 19/12/2005

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII150

Site Name: New Cross and New Cross Gate railsides (New Site)

Summary: Important mostly wooded railway cutting reaching to the Southwark border and linking with several Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.

Grid ref: TQ 359 775

Area (ha): 9.76

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: London Underground/Network Rail

Site Description:

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 sites, shelter and means of dispersal for very many species of plants, bird, mammals and insects.

This site is mostly covered in scattered trees of 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 chiefly comprising buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), plum (*Prunus domestica*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Particularly aside the railway, are patches of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominated grassland. Interspersed are a variety of tall herbs and scramblers from around the world e.g. Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), hoary mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), oxtongue (*Picris* sp.), traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Virginia-creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and Russian-vine (*Fallopia baldschuanica*).

This is a new site in a densely urbanised part of Lewisham with relatively few open spaces.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII18 (upgraded from LeL.13)

Site Name: Mountsfield Park

Summary: The park contains many mature trees including fine old oaks, and some very good, recently developed wildlife areas rich in plants and animals.

Grid ref: TQ 384 739

Area (ha): 13.41

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, hedge

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Recently developed nature areas and an abundance of fine 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. Presumably, a wildflower seed mix was sown but it is now difficult to tell many planted species from those which are self-established. Wild flowers include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), bristly oxtongue (*Picris 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*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). Additionally, 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 copses of mature pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), some hawthorn scrub (on the banks of the sports fields to the south) and an old hedge of hawthorn and elm (*Ulmus* sp.) besides the playground. Additionally, there are considerable areas of dense, planted shrubbery. 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 a priority species in both London and Lewisham Biodiversity Action Plans.

Site upgraded from LeL13 because of great improvements in good wildlife habitat available.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII19 (new site)

Site Name: Chinbrook Allotments and Community Orchard

Summary: The orchard has valuable grassland and two ponds which support amphibians, and the allotments, which are managed organically, provide further wildlife habitat.

Grid ref: TQ 415 714

Area (ha): 2.06

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, orchard, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal, roughland, tall herbs, allotments

-Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The orchard has been planted with a variety of fruit trees including a range of apples (*Malus domestica*), and the grass between the trees grass is cut rotationally, once every two years, providing habitat for woodmice, common lizards and slow-worms and a good variety of invertebrates. Grass vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), which is rare in Lewisham, grows here. Two small ponds 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. Chinbrook Community Orchard is intended for local schools and is well supported by the local community who help manage the site (particularly those from the adjoining allotments). The ponds harbour common frog, common toad and smooth newt.

There is an area of dense roughland to the south, which comprises a variety of plants, including hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

The Green Chain Walk to the east has some very good bird foraging and nesting habitat present with plenty of dense scrub present chiefly comprising elm (*Ulmus* sp.), plum (*Prunus domestica*), blackthorn (*P. spinosa*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

The orchard site was once part of LeBII07 but has now been combined with the allotments to the south which complement and augment its existing habitats.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII20 (new site)

Site Name: Chinbrook Meadows

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 409 719

Area (ha): 11.06

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, pond/lake, running water

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Nature areas around the re-profiled River Quaggy, and an abundance of fine mature trees provide the main conservation interest of Chinbrook Meadows. This site can be split into three distinct areas: the Cricket Field (including Amblecote Wood), the Wildlife Area (and River Quaggy) and Chinbrook Meadows South.

The cricket field has a number of mature scattered trees, scrub, tall herbs and semi-improved neutral grassland at its perimeter. Trees and shrubs include sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*), Lombardy poplar (*P. nigra* 'Italica'), white willow (*Salix alba*), Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), plum (*Prunus domestica*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and various grasses below.

The Wildlife Area is centred around the River Quaggy, which has been re-profiled into a series of meanders, pools and marshy areas. Drier parts are clothed with semi-improved neutral grassland and tall herb vegetation. A good variety of wetland plants have been introduced, 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*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and water mint (*Mentha aquatica*). 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*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) and perennial cornflower (*Centaurea montana*). There are also a few plants of butterbur (*Petasites hybridum*), an uncommon species in London; these 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.). The river and wetlands support a variety of invertebrates (particularly dragonflies and damselflies), some fish and most probably amphibians.

Chinbrook Meadows South is characterised by lines of Lombardy and hybrid black poplar trees. There are also a few trees and shrubs e.g. lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) pedunculate oak, purple cherry-plum (*Prunus cerasifera* var. *pissardii*), plum, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and various maples (*Acer* spp.). The mowing regime has been relaxed over a large part of this area, allowing it to become covered in rough grassland and tall herbs. Overall, this part of the site is used less by the public and, and supports a rich birdlife, including jay, chiffchaff, chaffinch, green woodpecker and abundant house sparrows.

New site added because of successful creation of good wildlife habitat – it includes the existing site Amblecote Wood (LeBII15K).

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeBII21 (new site)

Site Name: Old Forbanks Sports Ground

Summary: This long disused sports ground is rich in wild flowers and a haven insects and birds.

Grid ref: TQ 377 711

Area (ha): 2.30

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal, tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed only from adjacent roads/footpaths

Ownership: Private

Site Description:

Much of this long-disused sports field, particularly more central regions, is covered in rough grassland. False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) are co-dominant, but in places these are joined by common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), couch grass (*Elytrigia repens*), perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and small cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*). Wild flowers within the grassland include mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), Michaelmas daisy (*Aster* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), herb robert (*Geranium robertianum*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), hawkweed oxtongue (*Picris hieracioides*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), lesser stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Barer areas, especially near the scrambling track, have a more ruderal/ephemeral feel to the flora. A number of species are present including pineappleweed (*Matricaria discoidea*), shepherd's-purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*).

There are some dense areas of scrub and young scattered trees particularly around the perimeter and in the north-eastern corner. Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are frequent. Other trees include birch (*Betula pendula*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and cherry (*Prunus* sp.). The scrub is dominated by blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), with smaller amounts of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), grey willow (*S. cinerea*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), rose (*Rosa* sp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*). The grassland areas abound with invertebrates such as bees, flies and grasshoppers, and grassland butterflies such as meadow brown and Essex skipper. There is a good variety of common birds on site including breeding blackcap and greenfinch.

This is a new site proposed following the 2005 survey.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL01

Site Name: Brookmill Nature Reserve

Summary: This small but very attractive nature reserve has been developed on a short section of disused railway embankment, and contains a good variety of habitats including woodland and wetland.

Grid ref: TQ 376 762

Area (ha): 0.43

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scrub, chalk grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, pond/lake

Access: Access at limited times

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This small but very attractive 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, though many sycamores have been removed and replaced with native species such as hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There is a large plum (*Prunus domestica*) which has been retained and provides birds with foraging opportunities. The ground flora is chiefly cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) 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*). There is also a dense stand of stag's-horn sumach (*Rhus hirta*).

Part of the flat top of the embankment has been seeded with a chalk grassland mix. This results in a colourful display of salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), hedge bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*) and wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*). To the east of this 'chalk grassland', bramble scrub provides cover and food for foxes and birds such as lesser whitethroat, long-tailed tit and blackcap (unusual in an urban location).

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.

Access is restricted to key holders or via arrangement with the Council's Nature Conservation team, which runs occasional open days at the site.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL02

Site Name: Besson Street Community Garden

Summary: A wonderful community garden with a truly cosmopolitan feel, with trees and shrubs from around the world reflecting Lewisham's diverse population.

Grid ref: TQ 354 768

Area (ha): 0.16

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, ruderal, tall herbs, flower beds, pond/lake

Access: Access at limited times

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The garden consists of two main parts. Half of the site is a 'traditional' community nature area, with a meadow, mixed native hedge and pond along the fence. This area supports breeding populations of common frog, smooth newt and stickleback.

The other half of the site is home to a fantastic collection of trees, shrubs and flowers from around the world, reflecting the multi-ethnic human population of the area. An on-site classroom adds to the educational value of the site.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL03

Site Name: Ladywell Fields

Summary: A large park with are several features of particular value to wildlife, including the River Ravensbourne, railsides, small wooded areas and a nature reserve.

Grid ref: TQ 376 744

Area (ha): 21.49

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, secondary woodland, hedge, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, running water

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Ladywell Fields is a large park with several features of value to wildlife, as well extensive sports pitches and other formally managed areas.

The River Ravensbourne is one of the most important features of Ladywell Fields. It flows between wooden revetments in a narrow strip of land, fenced off from the rest of the park, and has little aquatic vegetation. The Environment Agency has provided fish shelters, riffles and weirs to ensure suitable fish habitat at times when the water flow is low. Eels and sticklebacks are the most common fish. Kingfishers are regularly seen, and mallards and moorhens nest in the park. The fenced-off riversides contain stands of scrub, interspersed with tall herbaceous vegetation and rough grassland and a few mature trees. Typical species include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and alders (*Alnus* spp.). These provide a food source and shelter for a variety of birds.

The railway between Ladywell and Catford Bridge stations runs through the park, and the mostly narrow strip of vegetation alongside the tracks supplements the wildlife habitats of the park. There is a stand of lesser pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) on the railsides, in an unusually dry habitat for this species, which is very rare in Lewisham.

Next to Ladywell Station is a small area of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) woodland. This is managed as a nature reserve. The rest of the park contains a large number of fine mature trees. Pipistrelle bats are regularly seen, particularly near the river.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL04

Site Name: Sydenham Cottages Nature Reserve

Summary: A small nature reserve site with old hawthorn hedges, developing oak-ash woodland and large meadow area.

Grid ref: TQ 411 726

Area (ha): 0.57

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scrub, hedge, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This small nature reserve is chiefly covered in woodland of pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). There is a sizeable meadow, dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) with interspersed tall herbs, particularly hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). There are areas of scrub, mostly composed of blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), damson (*Prunus domestica* spp *insititia*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), raspberry (*R. idaeus*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). An old hedge is made up of hawthorn, including hybrids between the common hawthorn and Midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), and a little blackthorn. Several mature oak and field maple (*Acer campestre*) emerge from the hedge. The site attracts a number of birds familiar to parks and gardens and is home to a variety of insects including Roesel's bush-cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*).

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL05

Site Name: Folkestone Gardens

Summary: A pond towards the northern end of the park and numerous fine mature trees provide the chief nature conservation interest of this site.

Grid ref: TQ 362 778

Area (ha): 2.48

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, planted shrubbery, bare, amenity grassland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, pond/lake

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This attractively landscaped park contains several features of wildlife value, the best of which is a large pond. The margins of the pond have extensive stands of branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), and tufts of hard rush (*Juncus effusus*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and water mint (*Mentha aquatica*). 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 insects, attracted by its dense vegetation. These include azure damselfly, water measurer (*Hydrometer stagnorum*), and two soldier flies, *Oxycera rara* and the nationally scarce *Odontomyia tigrina*.

Zones of tall herbs, planted shrubbery and scattered trees surround the pond. Grassland areas are relatively flower-rich as it is mown a little less frequently than is usual in most formal parks. This includes the usual clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). This last species is uncommon in Lewisham and London. Also found here is dwarf mallow (*Malva neglecta*), which is quite common in northern Lewisham but rare elsewhere in the borough. These grassland areas harbour the nationally scarce click beetle *Athous campyloides*.

The park also has many fine (mostly non-native) trees and areas of dense planted shrubbery. Birds found in the park include great spotted woodpecker, mistle thrush and chaffinch. The last species is rare in Lewisham.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL06

Site Name: Whitefoot Lane Playing Fields

Summary: The site has a belt of fine mature oaks at the northern boundary, probably a remnant of ancient woodland, and a small pond.

Grid ref: TQ 392 722

Area (ha): 1

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, ancient woodland, amenity grassland, swamp/marsh, pond/lake

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent roads/paths only

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

These extensive playing fields adjacent to **Downham Woodland Walk** contain two features of wildlife interest: a stand of oaks alongside Whitefott 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. Beneath this is a sparse understorey of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and a little elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Unfortunately the ground flora is frequently-cut amenity grassland, although a few bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) do manage to survive around the foot of trees.

Near the centre of the site is a small pond with yellow 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.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2001

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL07

Site Name: Queenswood Nature Reserve

Summary: A small but attractive nature reserve, part of which is being developed as an organic community garden.

Grid ref: TQ 361 723

Area (ha): 0.29

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal, tall herbs, pond/lake

Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This is small but attractive nature reserve contains a good variety of habitats. It is proposed to develop part of the site into an organic garden, in conjunction with a local medical practice. Much of the is covered in scattered trees, scrub and tall herbs. Species include sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

There is a pond, which seasonally dries out, with a little yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) at the edges and abundant common duckweed (*Lemna minor*) on the bottom of the pond (due to dying out). The pond is said to support populations of amphibians.

The northern end of the site is being turned into an organic garden and is currently covered in ruderal vegetation, such as scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex prostrata*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), sun spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*), petty spurge (*E. peplus*) and annual mercury (*Mercurialis annua*).

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.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL08

Site Name: Rainsborough Avenue Embankments

Summary: A series of narrow former railway embankments with birch woodland, scrub and flower-rich acid grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 363 786

Area (ha): 1.24

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, planted shrubbery, bare, acid grassland, amenity grassland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham and private **I think the embankments are private?)**

Site Description:

This loosely T-shaped site can be divided into two distinct sections: a series of narrow former railway embankments, and the route of the former Surrey Canal which crosses the eastern end.

The former railway embankment runs east to west, beside an industrial estate, in three sections. The western section is covered in woodland dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The central and more eastern sections are dominated by silver birch (*Betula pendula*), often in conjunction with an understorey of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*), with patches of acid grassland. This site harbours an abundance of house sparrows, which are declining and patchily distributed in Lewisham.

Running north to south is the filled-in remains of the old Surrey Canal. The southern end is chiefly mown amenity grassland, with native and exotic shrubs planted at its edges, including hybrid buddleia (*Buddleja x weyeriana*), cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* sp.) and sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*). The western end of the site is covered in dense scrub which includes buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

The route of the former canal is accessible to the public. The embankments are not, but they provide an attractive outlook for residents of the adjacent tower blocks.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL09

Site Name: Sayes Court Park

Summary: An attractive small park with plenty of mature trees, including an ancient black mulberry.

Grid ref: TQ 368 781

Area (ha): 0.89

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, planted shrubbery, bare, amenity grassland, acid grassland, veteran trees

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Sayes Court Park contains some fine 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. 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. Sayes Court's grassland is especially interesting. Although dominated by perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), there is a high proportion of wild flowers, some indicating the underlying soil is slightly acidic, including cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicator*), lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and buck's-horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*).

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/04/2004

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL10

Site Name: Iona Close Orchard

Summary: A fascinating old orchard with a number of old fruit trees including apple, pear, plum and an ancient black mulberry.

Grid ref: TQ 371 738

Area (ha): 0.33

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, orchard

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This old orchard on the edge of **Ladywell Fields** is rather overgrown, but retains some fine old fruit trees. A large part of the site is covered in Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) saplings and a few mature trees. Other areas are covered in dense scrub including 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 reaching up the branches of trees.

The site has several fruit trees nestling within this vegetation, including fine old specimens of plum (*Prunus domestica*), pear (*Pyrus communis*) and apple (*Malus domestica*) and an ancient, gnarled black mulberry (*Morus nigra*). Old orchards are generally of high nature conservation value. There are a number of uncommon invertebrates which specialise in feeding on dead wood or sap runs on fruit trees. One such species found at Iona Close is the red belted clearwing moth. Fruit and nectar also provide food for foraging insects and birds. Old orchards may also be culturally valuable, containing old varieties of fruit trees which are now rare in cultivation.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL11

Site Name: Sedgemoor Allotments

Summary: The western boundary hedge and its old oaks, ditch and pond are the chief nature conservation interest of this allotment site.

Grid ref: TQ 375 713

Area (ha): 0.66

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Hedge, scattered trees, scrub, tall herbs, allotments, pond/lake, wet ditches, veteran trees

Access: No public access **is that right? Doesn't appear to be viewable from adjacent public spaces**

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Sedgemoor 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 emerge along the length of the hedge. Trees such as this are bound to support a wide variety of beetles and other invertebrates, which specialise in the dead wood of veteran trees.

At the base of the hedge is a ditch (another indicator of an old boundary). In wet years frogs, toads and newts breed here. A pond was created as amphibian habitat at the southern edge on the site in the early 1990s when the ditch was due to be drained, and this has been colonised by amphibians. The allotments are sympathetically managed, and provide important terrestrial habitat for the amphibians. This was one of the last places in Lewisham where grass snakes were recorded, but there have been no records since the early 1990s.

Access is restricted to allotment holders.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL12

Site Name: Brockley Hill Private Gardens

Summary: This private open space provides a peaceful and secluded sanctuary both for residents of adjoining properties and for wildlife.

Grid ref: TQ 363 737

Area (ha): 1.98

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, bare, amenity grassland

Access: No public access

Ownership: Brockley Hill Park Ornamental Garden Trust

Site Description:

This private open space, surrounded by the gardens of Lowther Hill, Duncombe Hill, Brockly 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 steps divide the site into three, relatively level, terraces. The upper and lower of these are more or less wooded. Tennis courts are located on the middle terrace. The upper (eastern) part of the site is relatively intensively managed, with short mown grass beneath the open canopy of wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), pine (*Pinus* sp.), poplar (*Populus* sp.) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

The bottom of the park is less formally managed, with London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), lime (*Tilia vulgaris*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and aspen (*Populus tremula*) forming a more or less continuous woodland canopy. Birds regularly seen in the gardens include great spotted and green woodpeckers.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL13 (upgraded to LeBII18)

Site Name: Mountsfield Park

Summary:

Grid ref: TQ 384 739

Area (ha): 13.41

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Access:

Ownership:

Site Description:

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 2005

Citation last edited: 05/04/2004

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL14

Site Name: Sydenham Wells Park

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 344 718

Area (ha): 7.99

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, planted shrubbery, amenity grassland, tall herbs, marsh/swamp, pond/lake, running water

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

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, apparently created as a model of the River Rhine, runs through a series of small narrow pools and a larger lake. The stream is lined with yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), gypsy-wort (*Lycopus europaeus*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), water-cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquatica*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*); the last two species are rare in Lewisham. There is an island in the lake overhung with weeping willows. This provides a safe nesting site for waterfowl, including mallard, moorhen, coot, Canada goose, and in some years tufted duck. Pochard are also occasional visitors to the lake.

There are plenty of mature trees in the park, including some old pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*), which are possibly relics of the Great North Wood which once covered the area. Additionally, the site is blessed with an abundance of dense shrubberies. A good range of birds are attracted to the park, including house sparrow, blackcap, coal tit and chaffinch.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL15

Site Name: Hilly Fields

Summary: This is a relatively large park with many exotic trees, but the main conservation interest is an area of hawthorn scrub (managed for wildlife) and an area of meadow rich in grass species.

Grid ref: TQ 373 753

Area (ha): 18.6

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This is a large, open park with a fair number of, mostly exotic, scattered trees. Some of them are fine 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 vulgaris*). Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is the chief native tree.

On the south-eastern edge of the park, at the end of Eastern Road, is a small area of mature hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub which is managed as a nature area. These tall hawthorns form a sort of woodland canopy with blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) as a scrubby understorey. The ground flora consists of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and a little stinking iris (*Iris foetida*), which here is probably a garden escape. This area supports a surprisingly large population of butterflies, including meadow brown, speckled wood and small tortoiseshell. Many of the birds familiar in parks and gardens frequent this area.

To the south of the area, beside Adelaide Avenue, is an area of semi-improved neutral grassland. In this area the strict grassland management regime adopted over other areas of the park has been relaxed. The result is a meadow with a surprisingly high diversity of grasses are present. No less than 12 species have been catalogued here, including creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), meadow barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and small cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*). The meadow does not, however, have a correspondingly high diversity of wild flowers.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL16

Site Name: Eliot Bank Hedge and Tarleton Gardens

Summary: This is a fine old boundary hedge with several ancient oaks emerging along its 200 metre length.

Grid ref: TQ 348 728

Area (ha): 0.41

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, hedge, amenity grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham, Dulwich Estates and private

Site Description:

The hedge aside Eliot Bank marks an old parish boundary and that between the original counties of Kent and Surrey. The thick, overgrown and somewhat gappy hedge is largely composed of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), invading sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and a little whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*). Emerging from the hedge are several large oaks (*Quercus robur*) of some antiquity – it is possible that these are relics of the Great North Wood. Undoubtedly, old oaks such as these will be attractive to a variety of insects such as beetles and other wood loving species. Additionally, great spotted woodpecker, treecreeper, blackcap and chiffchaff are regularly seen. 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*).

Terleton Gardens is located at the northern end of the hedge, adjoining it on the western side. This is principally a block of sycamore woodland with a few limes (*Tilia x vulgaris*) and other trees. It has a shrub layer of garden privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) and holly. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) dominates the ground flora. A small part of this area is covered with amenity grassland.

The hedge can be seen from Eliot Bank, there is similar access to residents of private dwellings (with the hedge as part of their gardens) and for Dulwich Estate residents to Tarleton Gardens.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL17

Site Name: Southend Pond

Summary: An ornamental pond with good numbers of common waterfowl, and informal parkland beside the River Ravensbourne.

Grid ref: TQ 383 717

Area (ha): 0.85

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, pond/lake, running water

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Homebase, Environment Agency **is the parkland by the river owned by LBL?**

Site Description:

Southend Pond or 'Peter Pan's Pool', outside Homebase store, is one of the best places in the borough of Lewisham for common waterfowl. Mallards, moorhens and Canada geese all nest on the small island, which is covered with alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) trees. Grey herons are regular visitors, and less usual birds occasionally turn up, including a water rail during a cold spell in a recent winter. The pond has little marginal vegetation other than a little marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), which survives in planters. A few non-native trees have been planted at the pond's edge.

The area of parkland beside the River Ravensbourne, to south-west of the pond, has a good number of scattered trees, including ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). There are a few scattered shrubs of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Amenity grassland is located beneath trees and shrubs near to the roads and a mixture of tall herbs and rough grassland near the River Ravensbourne. Here the 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 London, has been recorded beside the river here.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL18

Site Name: River Quaggy and Manor Park

Summary: A formal area of parkland with a good range of mature trees contrasts with the wilder northern edge and the River Quaggy

Grid ref: TQ 388 748

Area (ha): 1.37

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, bare, amenity grassland, ruderal, tall herbs, running water, vegetated walls

Access: Free public access (part of site) **is the riverside strip still inaccessible?**

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

Most of Manor Park is formally managed, with amenity grassland, exotic trees and dense planted shrubbery, which attract a number of bird species familiar in parks and gardens.

The area to the west, through which the River Quaggy flows, is much wilder, with a mix of scattered trees, scrub and tall herbs. The most common trees are sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and poplar (*Populus* sp.), below which there is some scrub of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The ground flora beneath the trees includes cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*), and wood avens (*Geum urbanum*). By the stream itself, water figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*) and pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*) can be found, along with some extensive stands of the invasive Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Blackcaps sometimes nest in this secluded area.

To the north of the park, a few mosses, liverworts and hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) grow on the old brick walls which line the river.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL19

Site Name: 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 353 725

Area (ha): 0.73

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs, ruderal

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham **or is it owned by a Local Trust?**

Site Description:

This former tennis club was landscaped into an attractive informal park at the turn of the century under the Countryside Agency's 'Millennium Greens' scheme.

Near the entrance with from Albion Villas is an area of frequently-mown amenity grassland. Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*) is particularly common in the short turf here. Trees and shrubs, mostly young specimens, are scattered throughout the rest of the site, particularly around the site's edges and on the old courts to the east. In places these form quite dense stands. Species include sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Between the trees and shrubs is a mosaic of tall herbs and semi-improved neutral grassland. This chiefly comprises bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*), bristly oxtongue (*Picris echinoides*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and squirrel's-tail fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*).

The site is attractive to a range of common birds and green woodpeckers are regular visitors to feed on the numerous ant hills of the yellow meadow-ant (*Lasius flavus*). A good variety of butterflies include speckled wood, gatekeeper, meadow brown, common blue and the locally uncommon purple hairstreak.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL20

Site Name: Creekside Education Centre

Summary: This is a locally important educational centre, with a green roof and direct access to Deptford Creek.

Grid ref: TQ 376 773

Area (ha): 0.23

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal, tall herbs, pond/lake

Access: Access by prior arrangement **or would access at limited times be better?**

Ownership: Creekside Education Trust **does the Trust actually own the site?**

Site Description:

This is a locally important educational centre with direct access to **Deptford Creek**. Schools regularly use the centre and regular excursions to the creek are held both for children and adults.

The grounds of the centre (and its roof) are covered in crushed concrete and other rubble. This serves as an example of how brownfield sites are colonised by plants and invertebrates associated with this habitat. The vegetation is generally sparse and includes a number of ruderals, ephemerals and tall herbs, including spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex prostrata*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Guernsey fleabane (*Conyza sumatrensis*), petty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), hoary mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), hawkweed and bristly oxtongues (*Picris hieracioides* and *P. echioides*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and the unusual Austrian chamomile (*Anthemis austriaca*). There is an area of buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) scrub, and a small pond planted with various aquatics and marginals including yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) and galingale (*Cyperus longus*) to the east of the site. A number of uncommon warmth-loving invertebrates have been found on barer areas in the past, and the scrub beside the creek provides nest sites for small birds such as dunnocks, wrens and robins.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL21

Site Name: Pepys Park Nature Area

Summary: This attractive site, once an old red gravel sports pitch, is now covered in colourful wild flowers with areas of scrub.

Grid ref: TQ 368 784

Area (ha): 0.4

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, bare, semi-improved neutral grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This area of former redgra tennis court in the corner of Pepys Park is now managed to encourage its wild flowers and scrub. Most of the site is covered in sparse grassland dominated by barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*) and squirrel's-tail fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*). Intermingled are a variety of wild flowers, including 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 is also a sprinkling 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 grasshoppers and butterflies, including meadow brown and gatekeeper.

There are areas of (sometimes dense) scrub in the north of the site. Species comprise buddleia (*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 hybrida*), whitebeam (*Sorbus* sp.) and Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica'). A good range of common birds occur here.

A small area of land contiguous to the rest of the site has been added to the north-west of the area.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL22

Site Name: St Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Street Open Space

Summary: This churchyard and open space has an abundance of mature trees and dense planted shrubbery, and some surprisingly flower-rich acid grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 373 774

Area (ha): 1.29

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, bare, acid grassland, amenity grassland, ruderal, tall herbs

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

Ownership: Diocese of Southwark/London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The churchyard is well treed, chiefly with avenues of lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) and London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*). Beneath the trees, the grass is kept short but nevertheless contains an abundance of wild flowers, particularly cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicator*), autumnal hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and the locally scarce common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). There are dense planted shrubberies of mostly exotic species. Many of these have nectar-producing flowers or berries, thus providing foraging for insects and birds. At the eastern end of the churchyard a number of native trees and shrubs have been planted, including hazel (*Corylus avellana*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). All are currently young. Sadly, the sizeable colony of wall-rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) which once grew on the church wall near the entrance of the crypt now seems absent as is other vegetation of walls and monuments.

The open space south of Coffey Street is mostly covered in formal parkland of scattered trees and amenity grassland. However, there is a little fiddle dock (*Rumex pulcher*), a very scarce species in Lewisham, and there is a strip of tall herbs and rough grassland next to Crossfield Street which includes creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvensis*), perennial wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*) and mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*).

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL23

Site Name: Telegraph Hill Park

Summary: This park has many fine trees dating back to the original landscaping, and an attractive, undulating terrain.

Grid ref: TQ 358 762

Area (ha): 4.18

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, planted shrubbery, bare, amenity grassland, pond/lake

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

The park is divided into two by Kitto Road. It has a varied, undulating terrain. The lower (northern) part slopes up quite steeply from north to south, while the upper (southern) section slopes down towards the west. Both sections contain a good variety of trees, both native and exotic, many of which date back to the original landscaping. Among the more notable trees are a surprising number of hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus*); while a common component of ancient woods in the area, hornbeam is not often found planted in parks. The exotic trees include fine specimens of 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.

The upper section of the park has many dense, planted shrubberies, particularly at the edges. These support a good range of common birds, including the declining song thrush, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

The Lower section has recently been re-landscaped. A new pond has been established and planted at the margins with a variety of plants, including pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*) and flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatum*). As habitats mature this area will undoubtedly attract dragonflies, damselflies and other invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/01/2000 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/2000

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL24

Site Name: Bromley Hill Cemetery

Summary: The cemetery has a good range of fine, mature trees and extensive patches of acid grassland.

Grid ref: TQ 393 708

Area (ha): 2.62

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, planted shrubbery, vegetated walls/tombstones etc, acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bromley

Site Description:

This small cemetery has a relatively large number of fine mature trees, including many exotics such as lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*), copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica* var. *purpurea*), Leyland cypress (x *Cupressocyparis leylandii*), weeping birch (*Betula* sp.), almond (*Prunus dulcis*) 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*).

Large parts of the site are covered in grassland of various types. Semi-improved neutral grassland covers the greatest area. This is dominated by creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), with a few other grasses also present. Wild flowers include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), which is abundant. Within this grassland are patches of acid grassland. Common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) are plentiful. Wild flowers include a number species characteristic of this habitat, including cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicator*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and abundant sheep's-sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

There are small areas of scrub and planted shrubbery present. Overall, the site attracts a good number of butterflies such as speckled wood, meadow brown and gatekeeper. A good variety of common birds are also present.

This is a new site proposed following the 2005 survey.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL25

Site Name: Bridgehouse Meadows

Summary: A park with extensive areas of flowery meadow in an area lacking accessible wildlife sites.

Grid ref: TQ 355 779

Area (ha): 2.94

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Scattered trees, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland, tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This sizeable park contains extensive meadows, in an area which is deficient in accessible wildlife sites. Approaching half of the site is covered in rough grassland, which is the main conservation interest for this site. The most frequently occurring grasses are false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*). There are a number of wild flowers present, including cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), common mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), hawkweed ox-tongue (*Picris hieracioides*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

The other important ecological feature of the site is the presence of sometimes dense scrub (particularly at the site edges) comprising hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), dog-rose (*Rosa canina*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). There are a few scattered trees, especially poplars (*Populus* spp.) false acacia (*Robinia pseudacacia*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).

This is a new site proposed following the 2005 survey.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: LeL26

Site Name: Gilmore Road Triangle

Summary: This small open space, on the edge of Lewisham town centre, contains many mature trees.

Grid ref: TQ 386 752

Area (ha): 0.74

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Secondary woodland, scattered trees, scrub, orchard, amenity grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This small triangle of land, right beside Lewisham town centre, has many scattered trees, particularly field maple (*Acer campestre*) but also sycamore (*A. pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercus robur*), willows (*Salix* spp.), lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) and poplars (*Populus* spp.). There are also various shrubs, and in places the tree cover is dense enough to be termed woodland. There are a good number of apple (*Malus domestica*) and plum (*Prunus domestica*) trees on site. These are perhaps the remnants of an old orchard, understandably an uncommon habitat in central London. Old fruit trees can support specialist invertebrates.

There are areas of scrub comprising hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and plum. The remainder of the site is covered with amenity grassland. This site will undoubtedly be attractive to small birds in providing nesting sites and opportunities to forage.

Site first notified: 25/11/2005 **Boundary last changed:** 25/11/2005

Citation last edited: 15/02/2006

Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: M031

Site Name: The River Thames and tidal tributaries

Summary: The Thames, London's most famous natural feature, is home to many fish and birds, creating a wildlife corridor running right across the capital.

Grid ref: TQ 302 806

Area (ha): 2294.73

Borough(s): Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Corporation 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

Habitat(s):

Intertidal, Reed bed, Running water, Saltmarsh, Secondary woodland, Vegetated wall/tombstones, Wet grassland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

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

Site Description:

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 species of commercial importance. 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*). 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.

In Lewisham, the river walls support interesting communities of plants and invertebrates and provide feeding habitat for the nationally rare black redstart, a London BAP priority species. This is especially true around Deptford Creek, where innovative river wall enhancements have been undertaken to encourage the establishment of plants and invertebrates.

Site first notified: 01/04/1986 **Boundary last changed:** 01/09/2002

Citation last edited: 01/12/2004 **Mayor Agreed:** 25/11/2002

Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: M069

Site Name: Blackheath and Greenwich Park

Summary: The largest area of open space in central south-east London, Greenwich Park contains some wonderful old trees, while Blackheath's common, which dates from the Middle Ages, supports a number of rare plants.

Grid ref: TQ 390 772

Area (ha): 161.36

Borough(s): Greenwich, Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Orchard, Pond/lake, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Veteran trees

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

Ownership: London Boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich, Royal Parks

Site Description:

The largest area of green open space in central south-east London, with considerable potential for nature conservation, lying in what would otherwise be a vast area of deficiency in quality wildlife sites. 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 UK BAP priority species, was found breeding in the park in 2004.

Blackheath was once renowned for its acid grassland flora, but has been intensively managed for sport and recreation for many years. Several uncommon species survive however, including clustered and knotted clovers (*Trifolium glomeratum* and *T. striatum*). The mowing regime has been relaxed over substantial parts of the heath in recent years. Blackheath has four ponds, one of which supports a diverse and thriving wetland flora, although much of this was planted in the early 1990s. There are also small areas of scrub, of mostly gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and broom (*Cystisus scoparius*). There is free public access.

Site first notified: 19/09/1988 **Boundary last changed:** 01/09/2002

Citation last edited: 01/09/2004 **Mayor Agreed:** 25/11/2002

Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: M122

Site Name: Forest Hill to New Cross Gate Railway Cutting

Summary: Probably the finest selection of railside habitats in London, this wide cutting combines three nature reserves, containing woodland, scrub, grassland and reed beds.

Grid ref: TQ 362 749

Area (ha): 37.49

Borough(s): Lewisham, Southwark

Habitat(s):

Acid grassland, Pond/lake, Reed bed, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

Site Description:

An extensive railway cutting between New Cross Gate and Forest Hill stations, in a strongly urban area of south London. The most representative site in London for habitats developing on active railsides, it also demonstrates well their important role in allowing natural vegetation to develop in the heart of the inner city. The site is unusual however, in containing three nature reserves that allow access to a large section of the cutting. Two of these are managed by the Council; a third is managed by the London Wildlife Trust.

The woodland is dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with some birch (*Betula* spp.). Several locally uncommon ground flora plants include bitter-vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*), ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*). Open grassy habitats indicate a wide range of underlying soil conditions. More neutral grassland supports the London rarities common restharrow (*Ononis repens*) and common centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*).

The breeding avifauna includes tawny owl, lesser spotted woodpecker and bullfinch. A surprisingly diverse invertebrate fauna includes several nationally scarce species, amongst which is the white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

Devonshire Road Nature Reserve is open on a regular basis on the last Sunday of every month, from 2pm to 5pm (or dusk in winter). New Cross Gate Cutting Nature Reserve is opened by the volunteer wardens at least monthly during the summer, and there is also a programme of practical volunteering from path maintenance to woodland glade management. This varies according to local resources - to find out more detail, contact London Wildlife Trust on 020 7261 0447. Access to Garthorne Road Nature Reserve is limited to occasional open days - for this site and Devonshire Road, contact Lewisham Council Green Scene on 020 8314 6000.

Otherwise views of the cutting are restricted to bridges - by far the best view is from the footbridge between Dalrymple Road and Turnham Road in Brockley, or else from the train between New Cross Gate and Forest Hill.

Site first notified: 29/10/1990 **Boundary last changed:** 01/01/1996

Citation last edited: 10/01/2005 **Mayor Agreed:** 25/11/2002

Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: M135

Site Name: Beckenham Place Park

Summary: An historic park and golf course with a range of high-quality habitats, including ancient woodland, grassland, streams and ponds, and some fine old trees.

Grid ref: TQ 383 707

Area (ha): 96.26

Borough(s): Lewisham

Habitat(s):

Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Ancient woodland, Pond/lake, Running water, Scattered trees, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Veteran trees, Wet woodland/carr

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Lewisham

Site Description:

This historic parkland has considerable strategic importance for nature conservation within a substantial area of south-east London. The site contains a diversity of habitats, including woodland, acid grassland, ancient trees and various wetlands.

The extensive ancient woodland supports a number of locally uncommon plants, including Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*), wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and scaly male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*), as well as abundant bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and a wide range of fungi.

Wetland features include one of the few remaining natural sections of the River Ravensbourne, an old pond and a small area of damp willow (*Salix* spp.) woodland supporting several uncommon lichens.

Roughs on the golf course contain relict acid grassland which support several locally rare species, such as dwarf gorse (*Ulex minor*), trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) and blinks (*Montia fontana*). Also on the golf course are a number of ancient oak trees.

The breeding avifauna includes kingfisher, tawny owl, lesser spotted woodpecker and spotted flycatcher. The invertebrate fauna is also of importance and includes several nationally rare and notable beetles.

Site first notified: 28/03/1994 **Boundary last changed:** 28/03/1994

Citation last edited: 24/07/2002 **Mayor Agreed:** 25/11/2002

Appendix 4 – GLA SINC maps to accompany February 2006 Survey

SINC Changes Bridgewise Meadows LeL25

■ New Site

□ Old Site



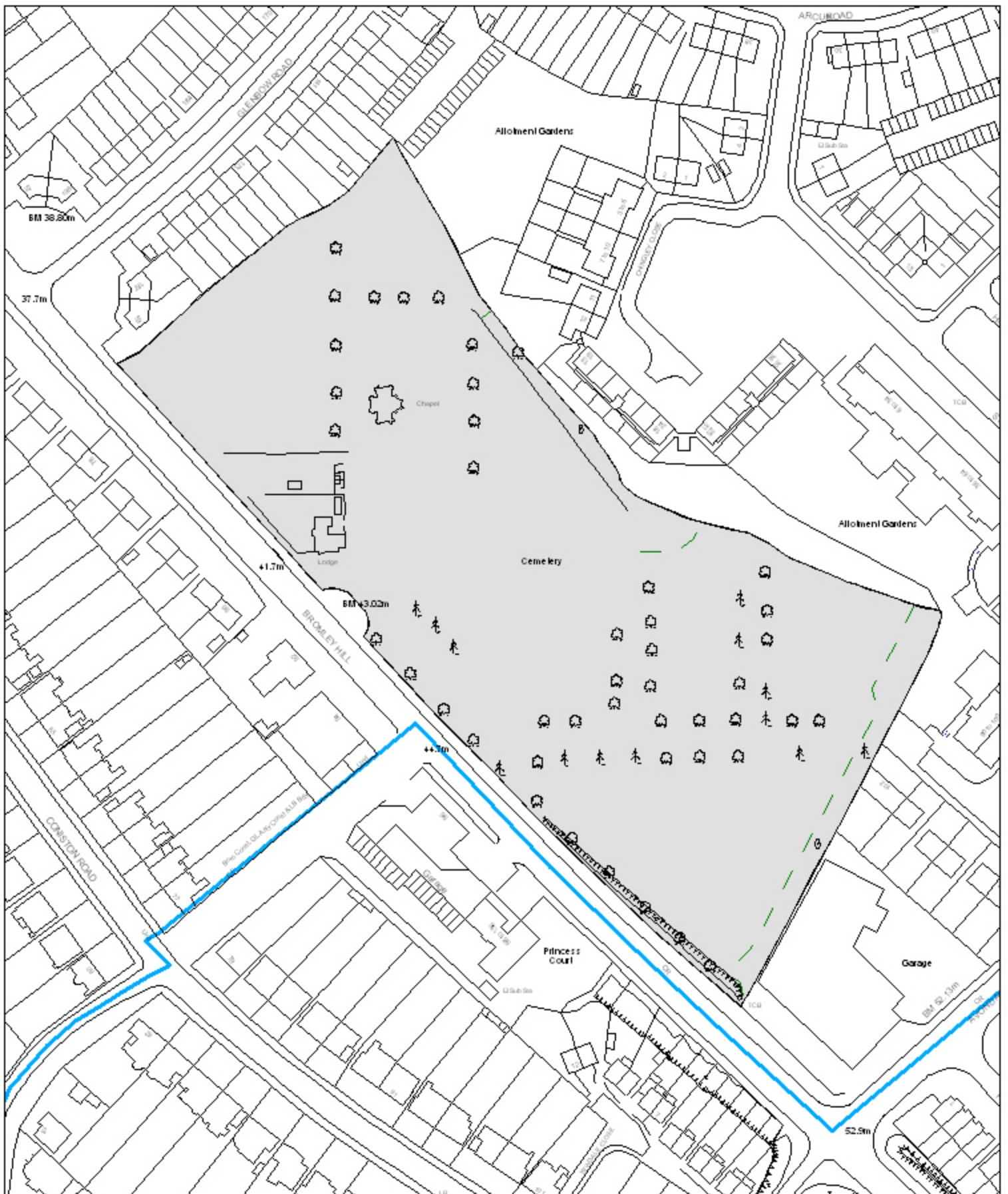
SINC Changes Bromley Hill Cemetery LeL24



New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes Chinbrook Allotments

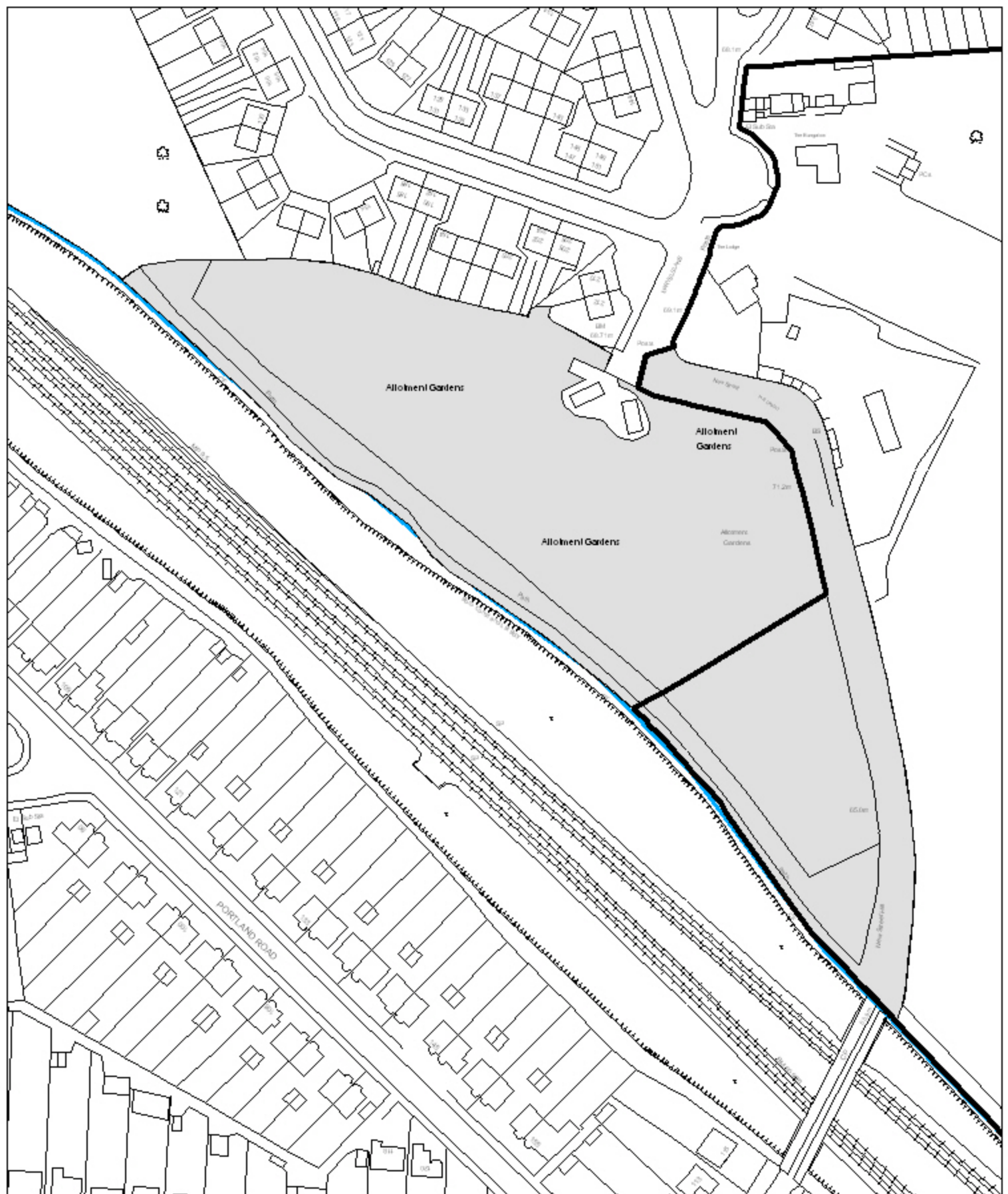
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New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes Chinbrook Meadows

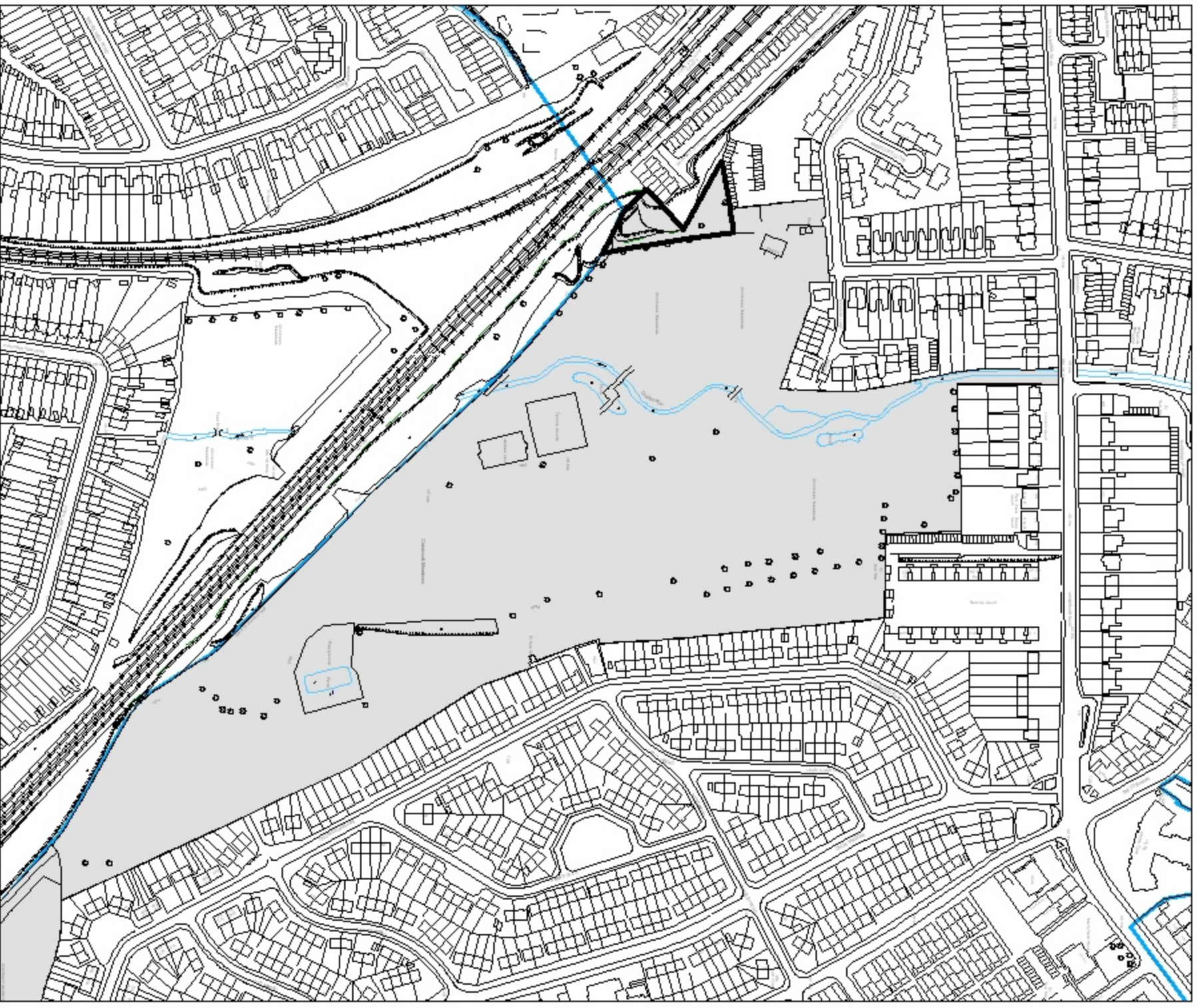
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New Site



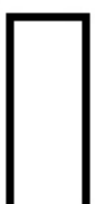
Old Site



SINC Changes LeB1103 to Le B107 Forster Memorial Park



New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes

Gilmore Rd Triangle

LeL26



Old Site



New Site



SINC Changes Grove Park Cemetery

LeBII07



New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes Grove Park Nature Reserve

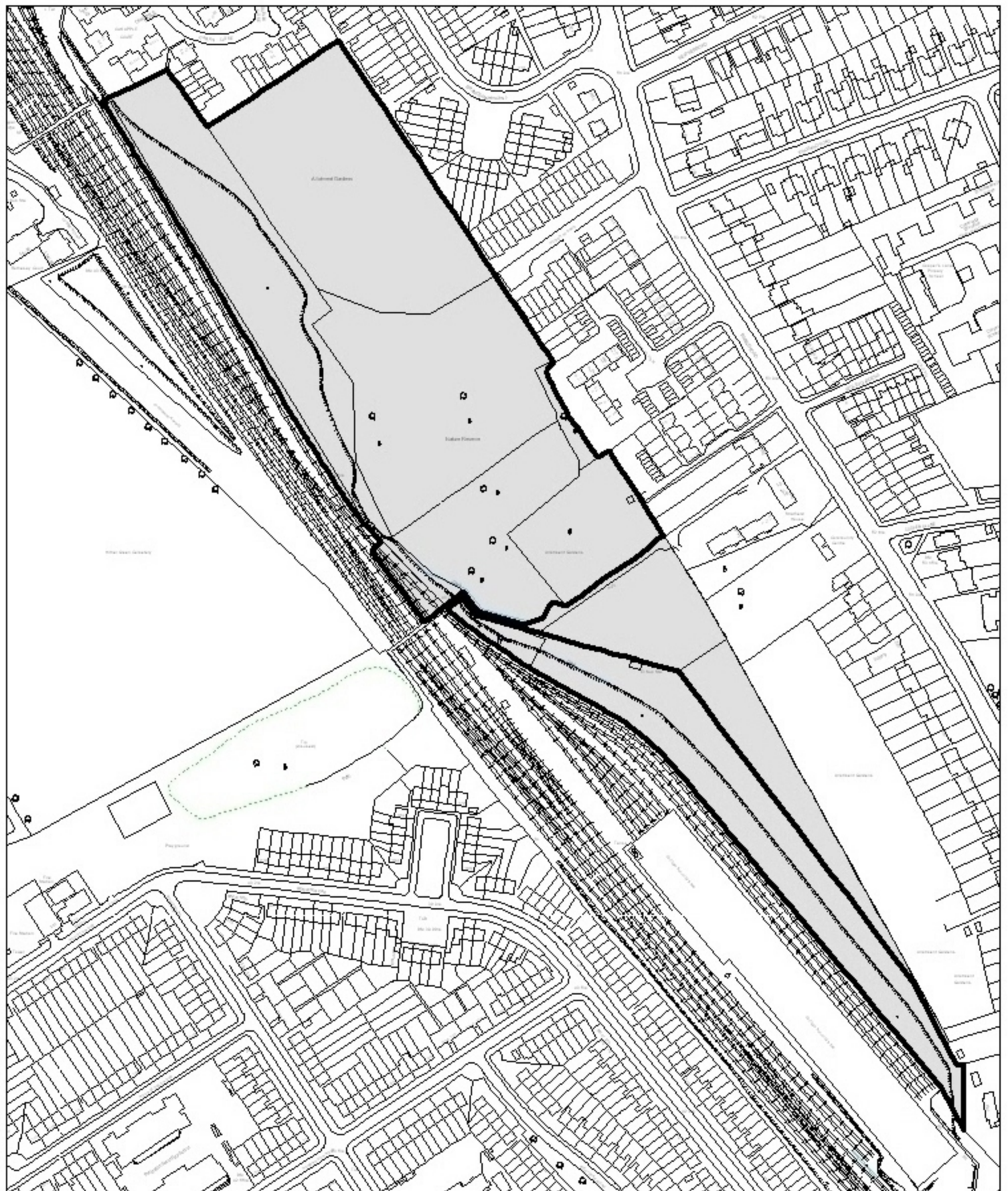
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New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes Hillcrest Estate Woodland

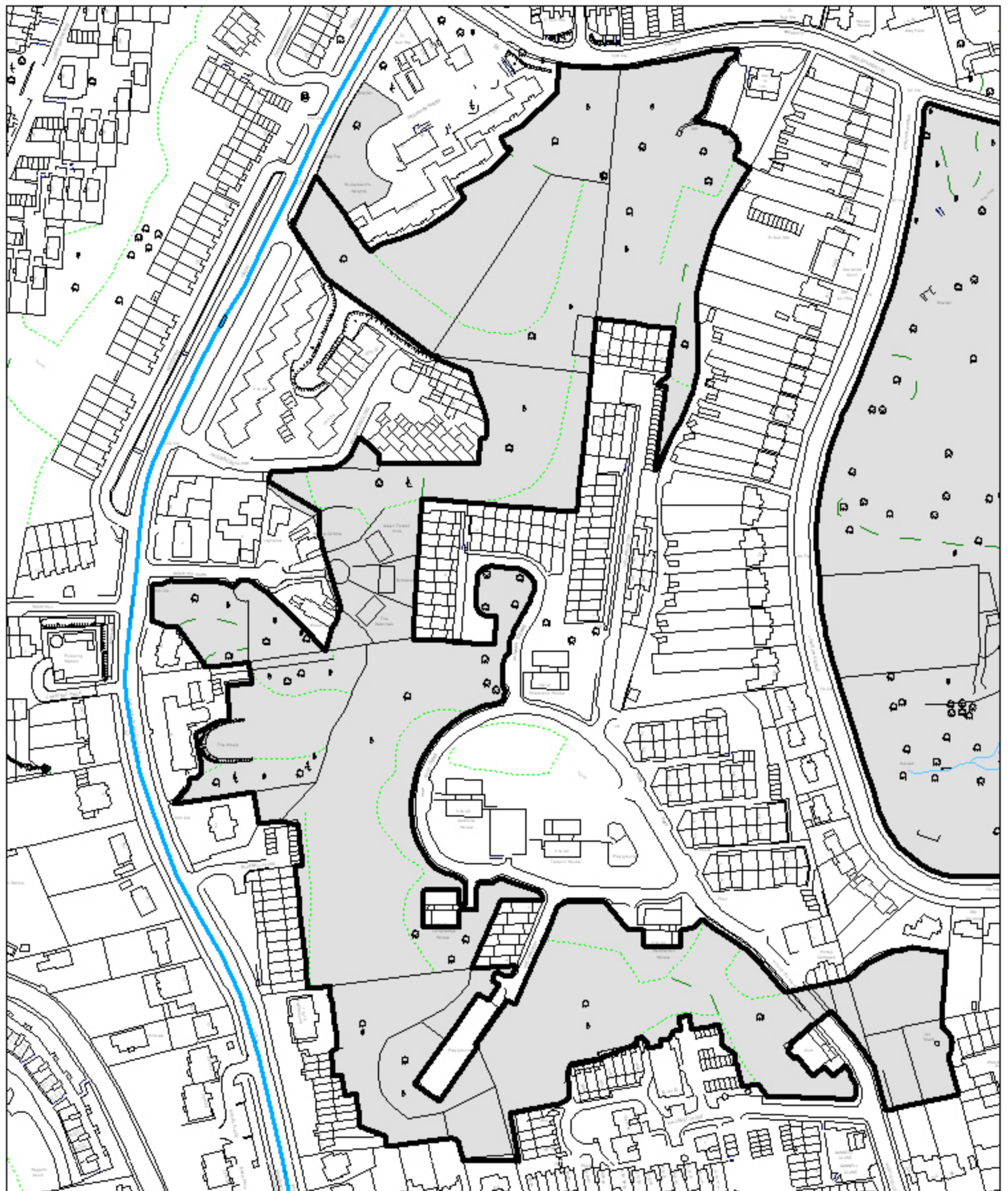
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New Site



Old Site

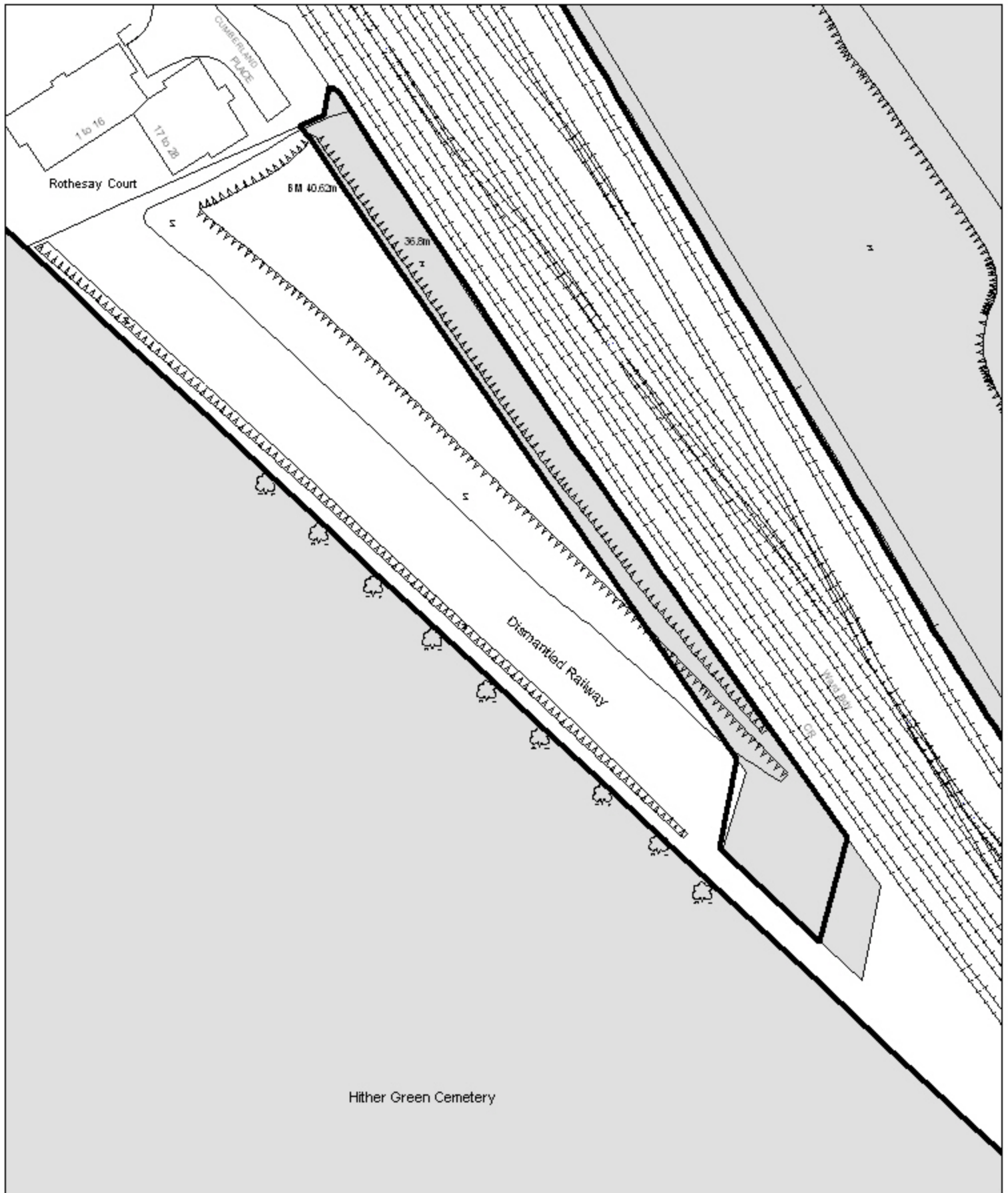


SINC Changes LeBI02

 New Site

Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crem.
& Reigate Rd Open Space

 Old Site



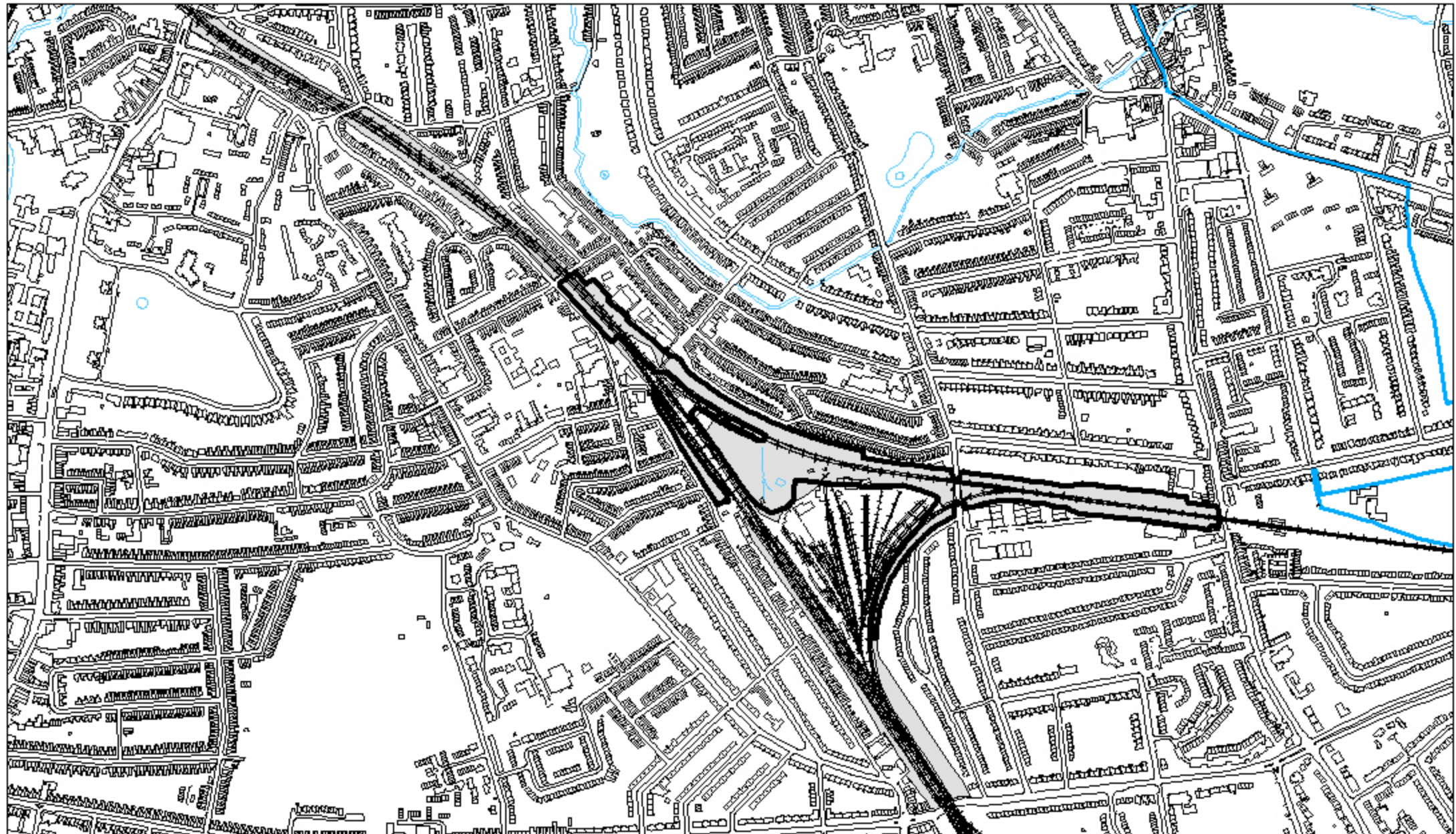
SINC Changes

LeBII15H

 New Site

Hither Green Railsides

 Old Site



SINC Changes

Railside Land:Hither Green Sidings

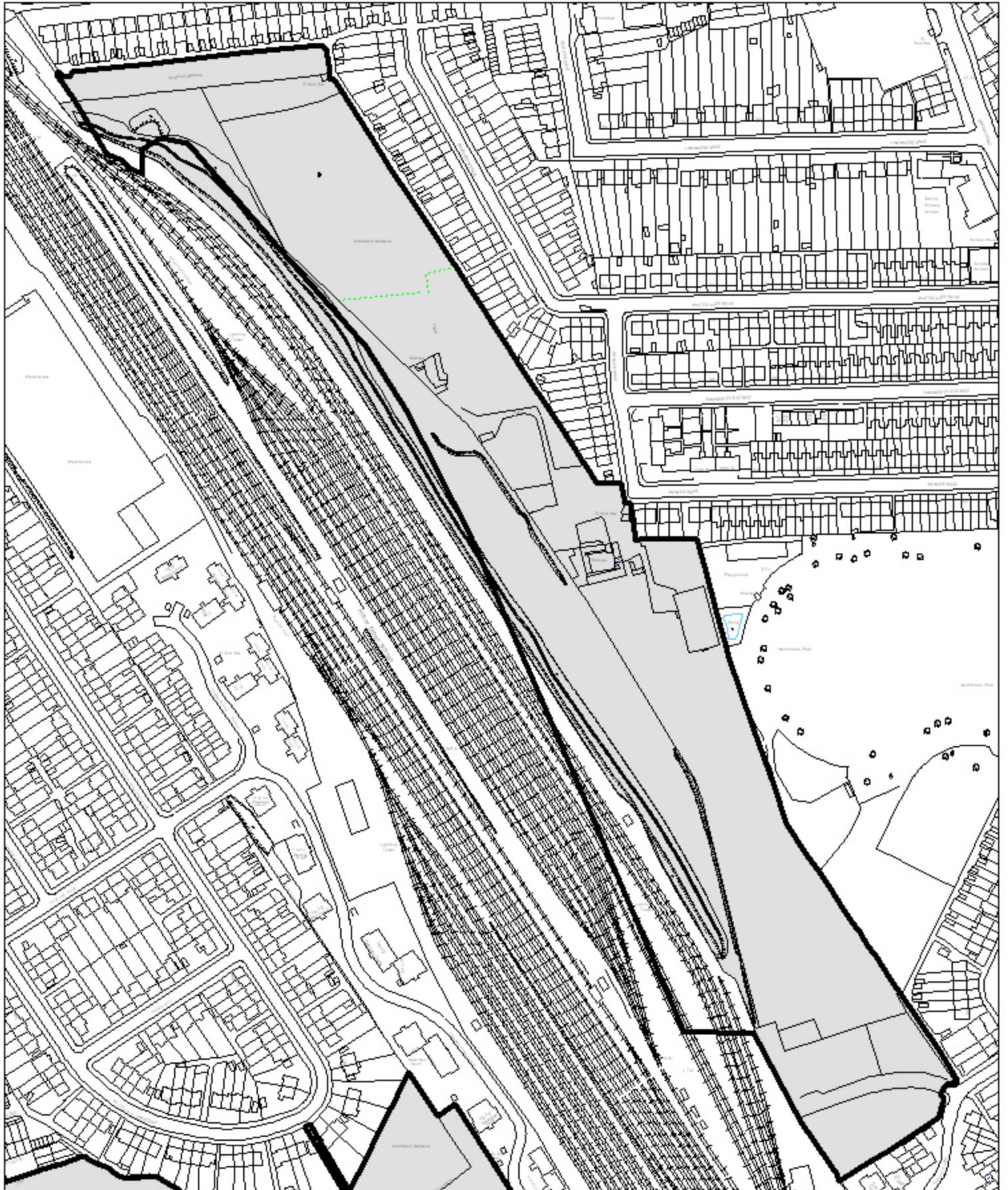
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New Site



Old Site



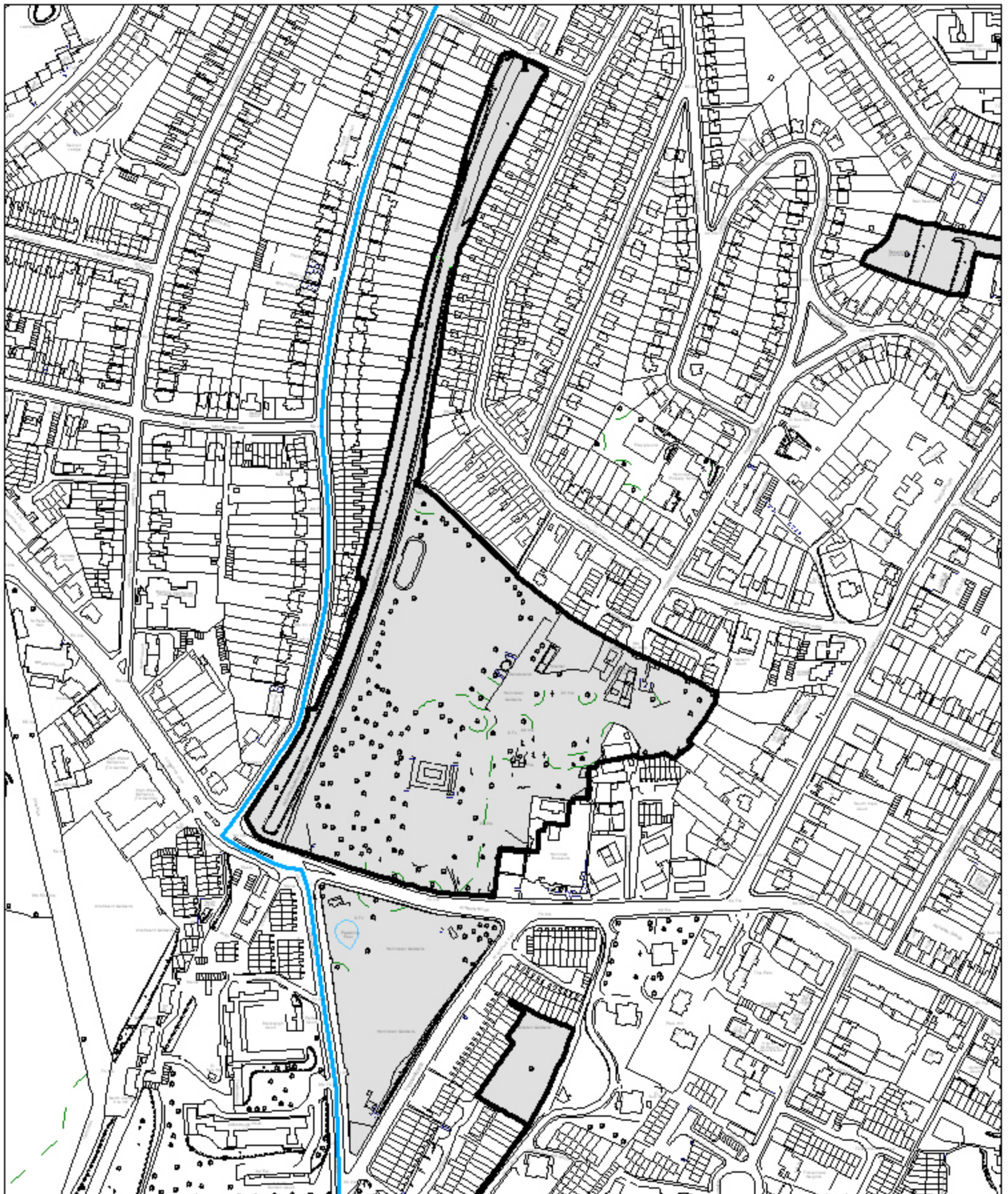
SINC Changes Horniman Gardens and Triangle LeBII02





New Site

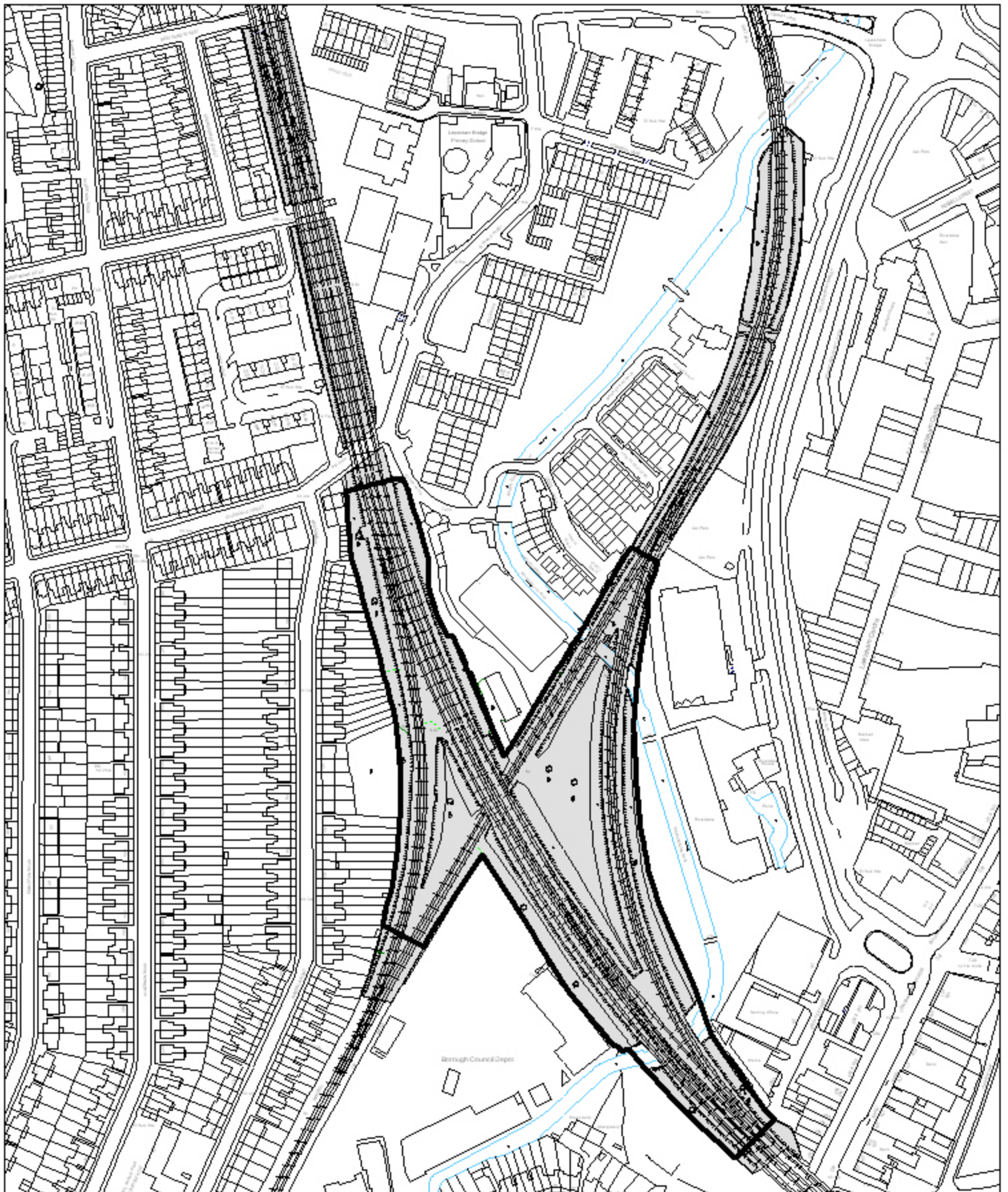


Old Site



SINC Changes Lewisham Railway Triangles

LeBII15F  New Site  Old Site



SINC Changes

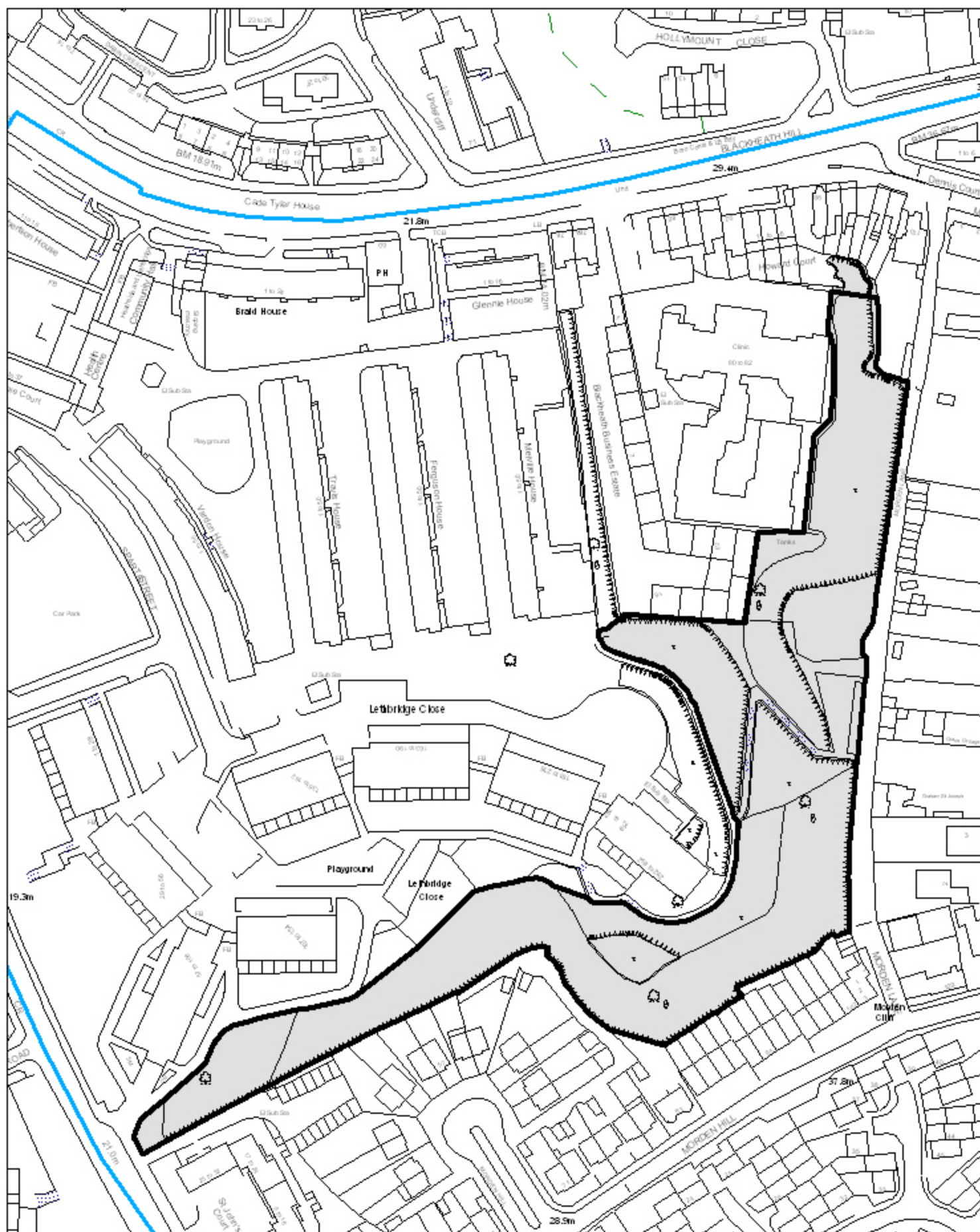
Loats Pit LeB1106



Old Site



New Site



SINC Changes LeL13 to Le BI18 Mountsfield Park



New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes

LeBl150

New Cross & New Cross Gate Railsides

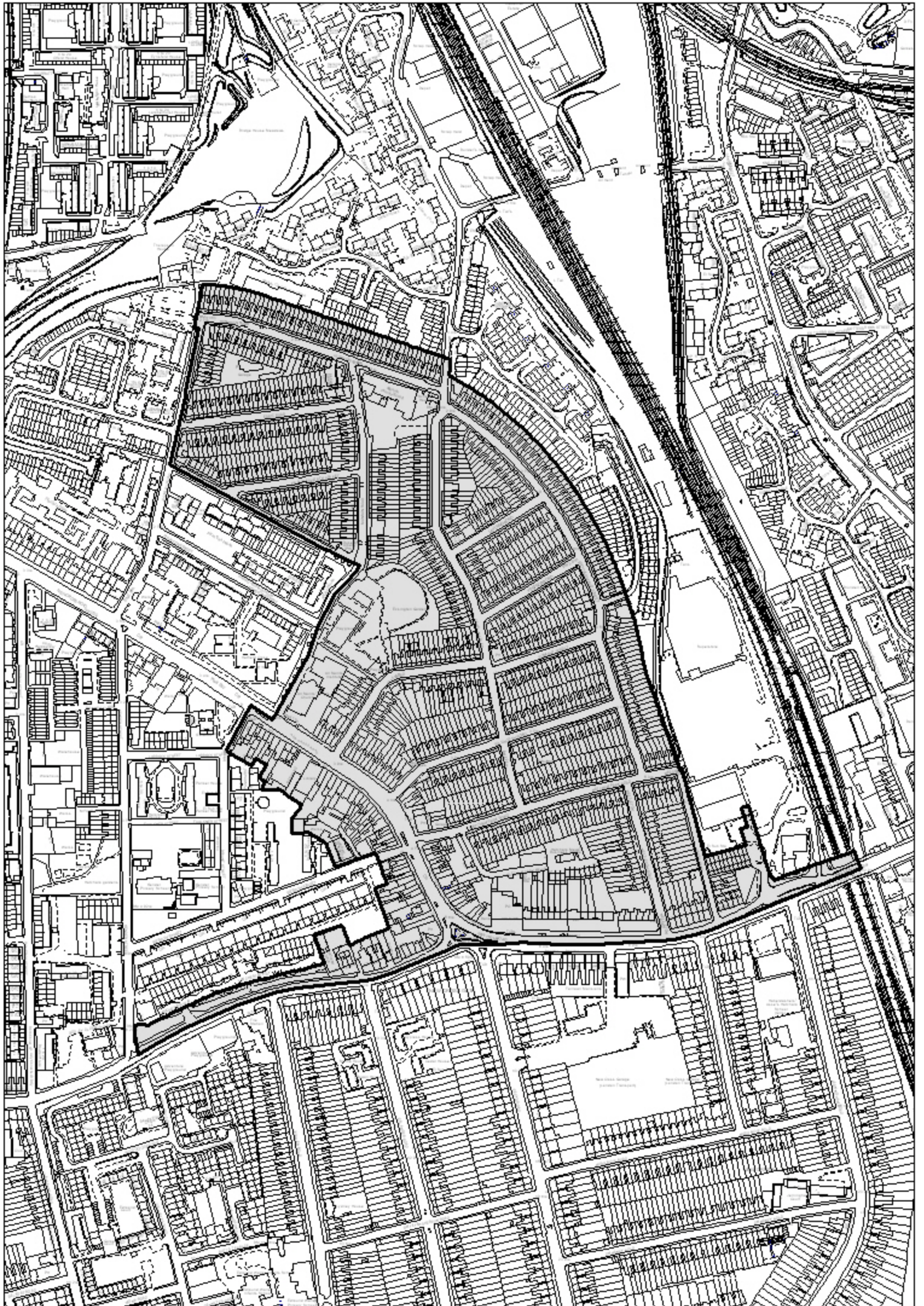


Old Site



New Site





SINC Changes Nunhead Cutting

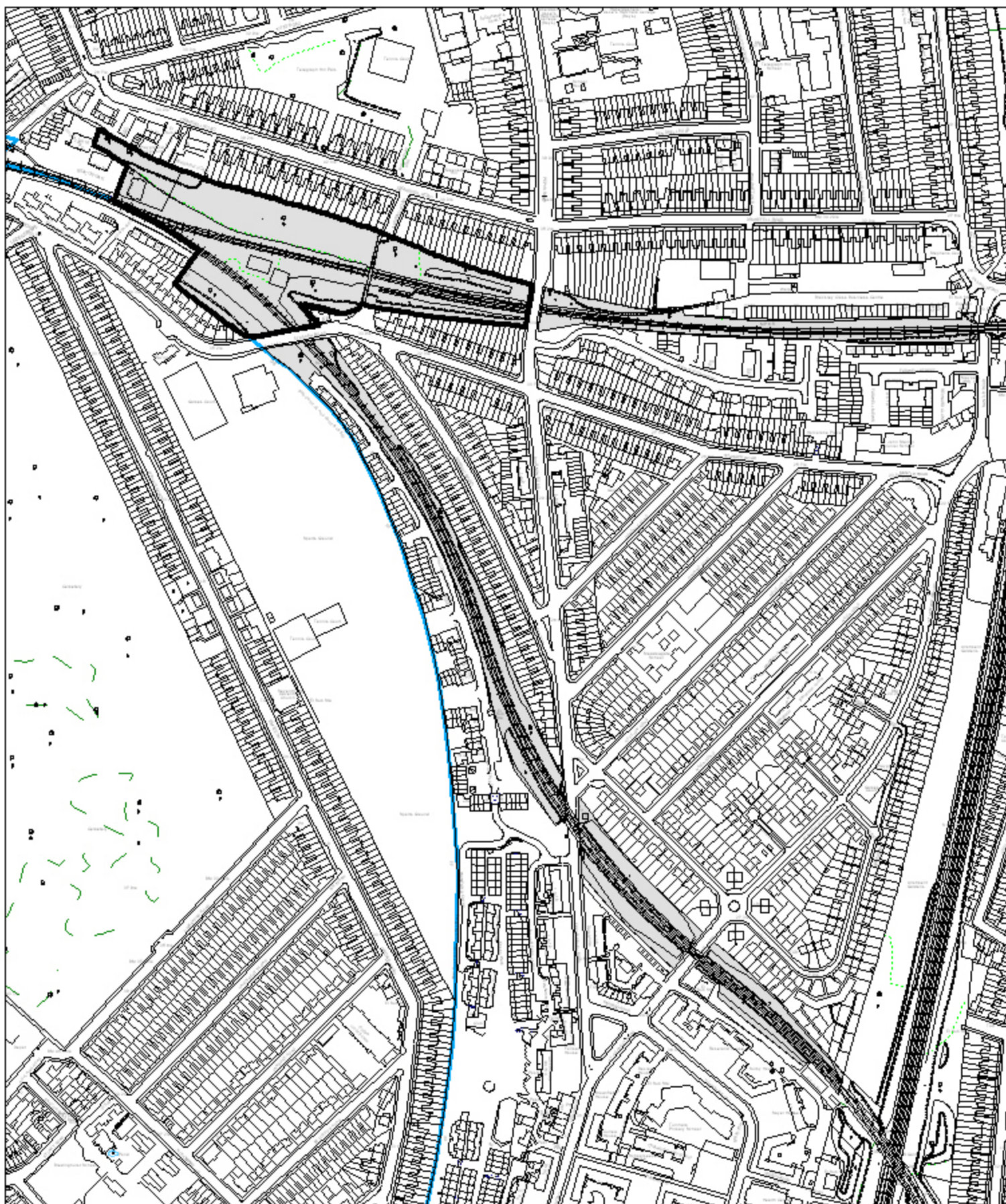
LeBII15C



New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes Old Forbanks Sports Ground

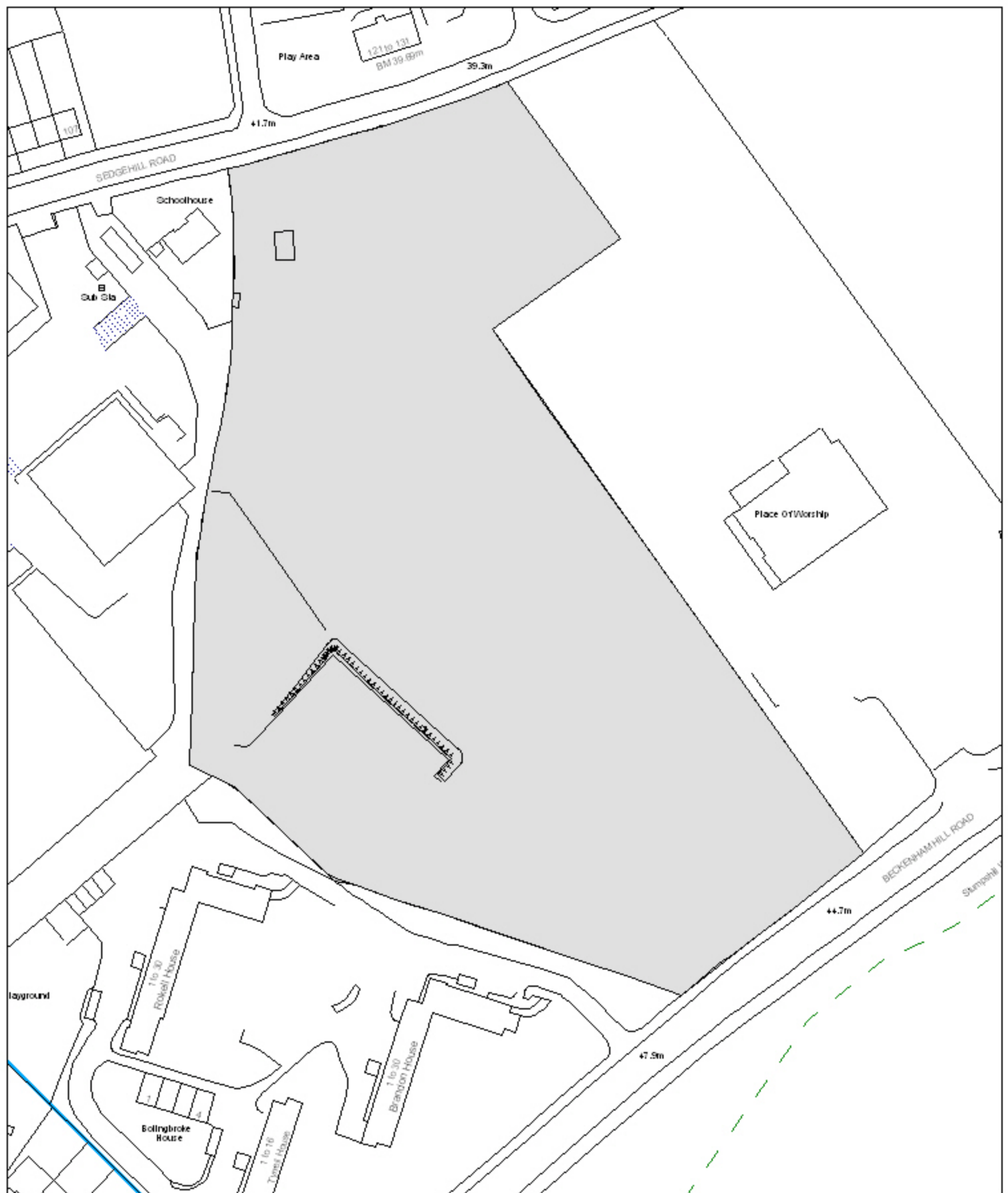
LeBII21



New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes Pepys Park Nature Area

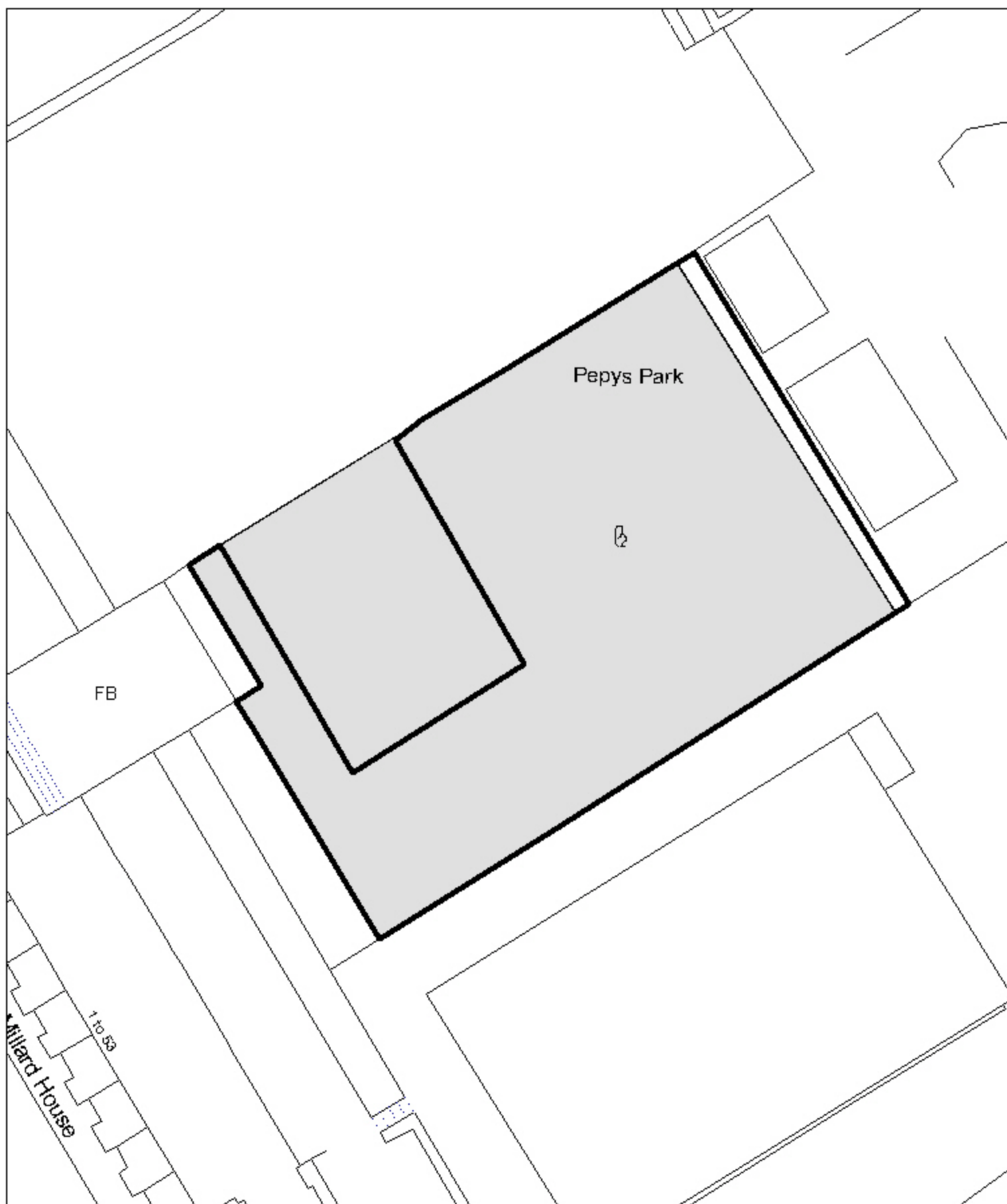
LeL21



New Site



Old Site



SINC Changes Pool River Linear Park LeBI04



New Site



Old Site

