LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION REPORT

DECEMBER 2016



LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

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PART I. Introduction

1.1. This document is a full review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in London Borough of Bexley.

1.2. London Wildlife Trust (LWT) carried out the survey in 2013. Erith Quarry was surveyed in 2014.

Purpose and format of this document

1.3. The purpose of this document is to provide detailed guidance to support current Development Plan policies and the development of future Local Plan documents. It is also an important consideration for developers in the preparation of planning applications. It is a material consideration for the assessment of planning applications.

1.4. The document starts with a local context, providing a broad description of protected sites and green wildlife corridors within the borough. This is followed by background information explaining: what biodiversity is, including a list of Bexley's priority species and habitats; and what SINCs are, including the difference between the three grades of SINCs. An introduction to green wildlife corridors is also provided. An explanation of why the Council has adopted a new SINC Assessment including the historic assessment context and a step by step description of the stages undertaken is included in part I. The document then goes into a site-by-site review, composed of 60 individual site citations. Each citation includes the site name, reference, description and map showing the extent of the SINC boundary. Lastly, the document provides a list and description of the 14 adopted green wildlife corridors within the borough.

1.5. The three appendices set out the LWT methodology and field survey results; policy context for SINCs; and policy context for strategic green wildlife corridors.

Bexley context

1.6. Bexley's SINCs form an important part of the green infrastructure provision in the borough. Bexley has a rich network of SINCs, many of which are home to legally protected species such as water voles, bats and reptiles. Within the borough, there are sites of importance to London such as the River Thames and tidal tributaries, Erith Marshes and Crayford Marshes. Due regard must be given to the legal duties associated with protecting these important habitats and species[1], whilst taking opportunities to enhance them wherever possible. The hierarchy of avoid, minimise, compensate must be followed in relation to biodiversity.

1.7. Strategic green wildlife corridors, such as the Green Chain and those identified in this document are important for wildlife. The integrity and connectivity of these corridors will be enhanced where possible and the aims of relevant Biodiversity Action Plan targets carefully considered. Opportunity to reduce deficiencies in access to wildlife will be promoted. The Council aims to achieve a

[1] Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK Legislation

net gain for biodiversity in development proposals, with no (net) biodiversity loss. **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** illustrate the biodiversity network across the borough.

What is biodiversity?

1.8. Biodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of life on earth. This includes wildlife such as animals, birds and plants; the habitats that are the places they live; and, how they interact with their surroundings as part of the ecosystem. Conserving biodiversity involves restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats as well as implementing measures to promote them in the future.

1.9. The Bexley Biodiversity Action Plan 2011[2] sets out those habitats and species that London Borough of Bexley has adopted as key priorities in terms of biodiversity action. These are:

Priority habitats	Priority species
Grazing marsh	Bats
Heathland	Black Poplar
Parks and open spaces	Great Crested Newt
Ponds	Stag Beetle
Reed bed	Water Vole
Rivers and streams	
Woodland	

1.10. Through a number of set targets, these species and habitats and their specific ecological requirements are to be increased, enhanced and/or maintained to ensure their continued value and presence in the borough. Bexley has produced some guidance in relation to the biodiversity information needed to assess planning applications in Bexley[3]. Following species surveys, protected species records should be submitted to GIGL[4].

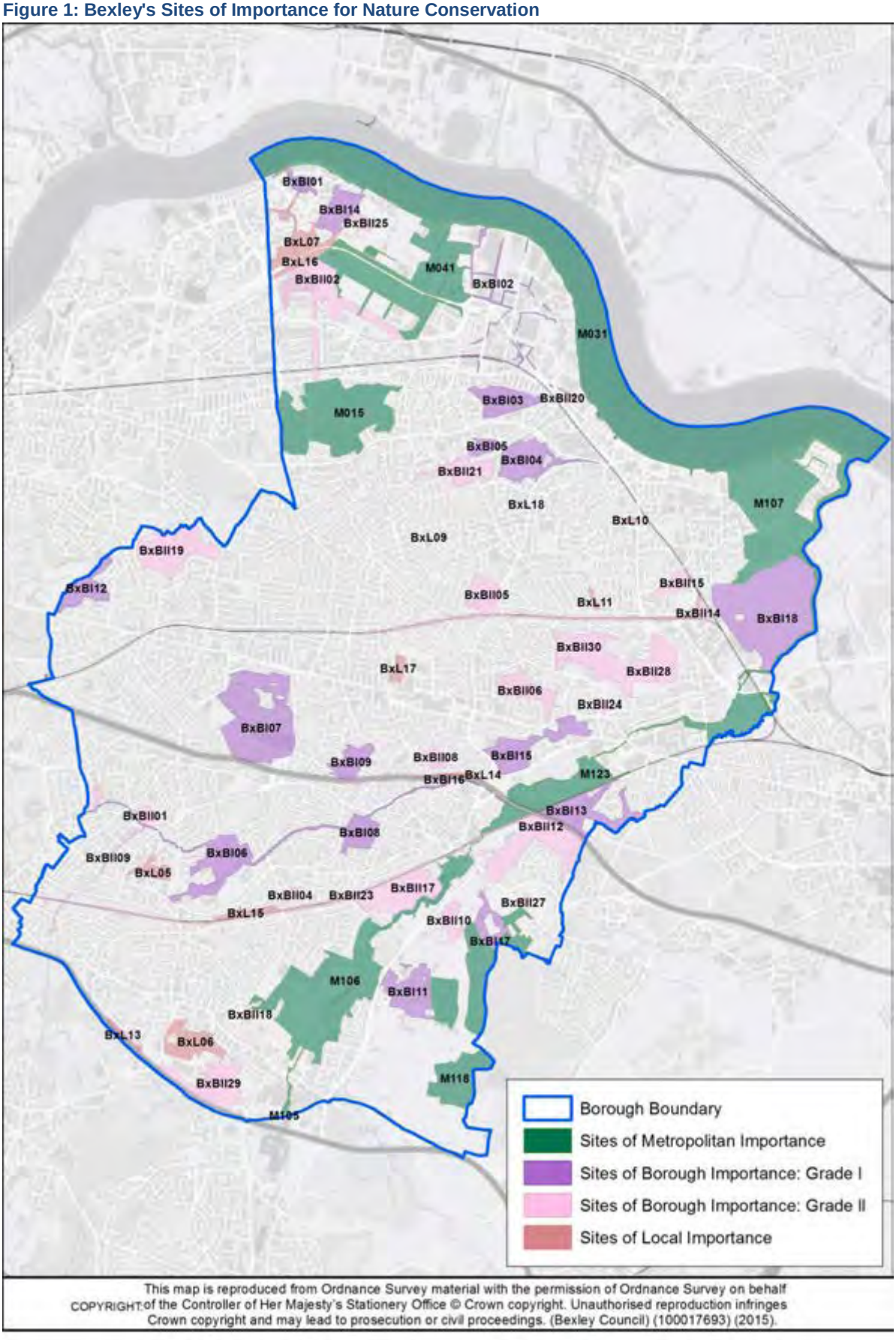
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

1.11. London contains many places of value for biodiversity below the national level of importance. London's important wildlife sites are recognised by the London borough councils as SINCs. The importance of SINCs is referred to in the LWT's Spaces Wild[5] document. SINCs are the best examples of non-statutory designated sites identified by local authorities. There are three grades of sites.

1.12. The top grade, Sites of Metropolitan Importance, includes the best sites in London. Eight Metropolitan SINCs have been identified within London Borough of Bexley.

[2] Bexley Biodiversity Action Plan (2011)
[3] LBB, Protected Species and Planning
[4] Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL)
[5] LWT, Spaces Wild (2015)

Figure 1: Bexley's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf COPYRIGHT of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (Bexley Council) (100017693) (2015).

1.13. The second grade comprises the Sites of Borough Importance. These are divided into two levels based on their quality, but all are important in the borough context. There are currently 17 Borough Grade I SINCs and 23 Borough Grade II SINCs designated within Bexley.

1.14. The third grade comprises the Sites of Local Importance, which provide people with access to nature close to home. There are currently 12 designated Local SINCs in the borough.

1.15. In total, 60 SINCs have been identified within the London Borough of Bexley, (**Figure 1)**. Full details of each individual site are set out in in **Part II** of this document.

1.16. The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (GLA, 2002)[6] provides a detailed description of the three grades of sites. An extract containing the full descriptions has been included within **Appendix B** along with policy context relating to SINCs.

Strategic green wildlife corridors

1.17. Linking many of these sites and areas to each other and to the Green Belt is a network of green wildlife corridors (green corridors). This network allows some species with specialised habitat requirements to extend their distribution into parts of London where they would otherwise not be seen. The rivers, canals and railside land are important components of these corridors, and are a great benefit London's biodiversity.

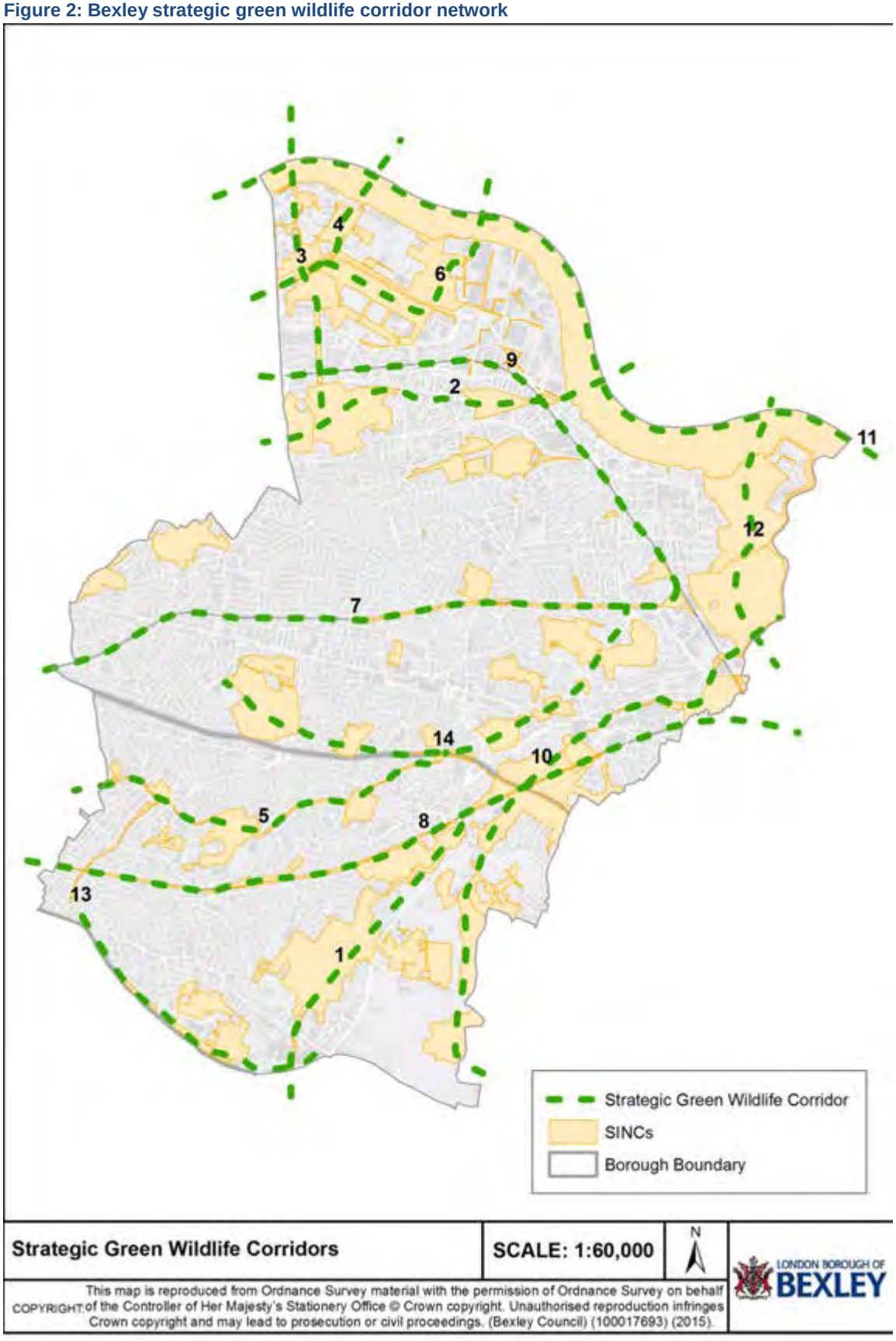
1.18. London Borough of Bexley has fourteen designated strategic green wildlife corridors within the borough. These are identified on **Figure 1**, and include:

1. River Cray Valley corridor
2. Green Chain corridor
3. The Thamesmead Link
4. The Ridgeway Link
5. The River Shuttle Link
6. Thames Marshes corridor
7. Bexleyheath rail corridor
8. Sidcup rail corridor
9. Belvedere rail corridor
10. Coldblow woodland corridor
11. River Thames corridor
12. River Darent corridor
13. A20 road corridor
14. Bexleyheath - Barnehurst corridor

1.19. **PART III** describes these strategic green wildlife corridors in more detail. **Appendix C** provides policy context in relation to strategic green wildlife corridors, including reference to the Mayor's All London Green Grid SPG[7].

[6] Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (GLA, 2002)
[7] Mayors All London Green Grid SPG (2012)

Figure 2: Bexley strategic green wildlife corridor network



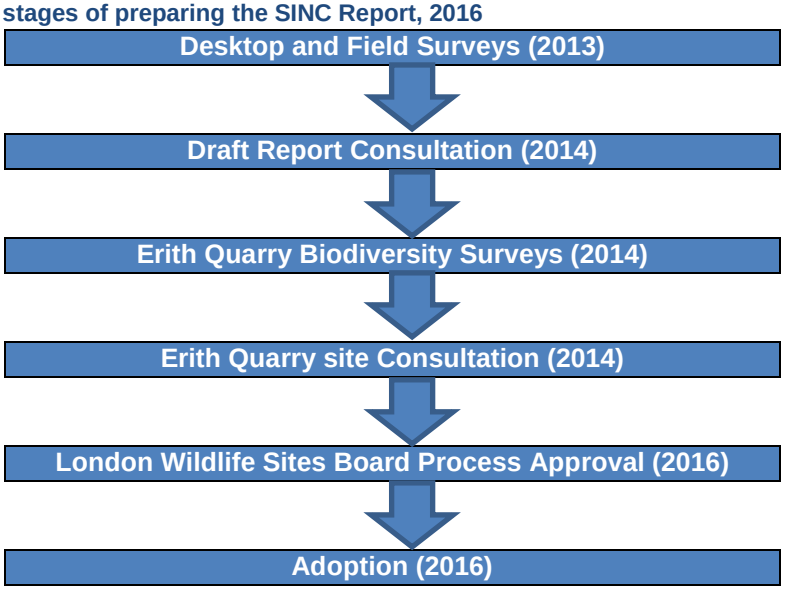
Why has London Borough of Bexley adopted a new SINC assessment?

1.20. An up to date SINC assessment helps to ensure account is taken of relevant legislation and planning requirements when developing future local plan documents, and helps developers in the preparation of planning applications. The series of sites must be kept current, with changes in boundaries and grading reflecting the latest information. Government guidance on local wildlife sites (Defra 2006) recommends that sites be reviewed every 5-10 years.

1.21. Besides the baseline survey of 1984/85, the SINCs in Bexley were fully surveyed in 2003 as part of the GLA Open Space and Habitat Survey for Greater London, with further minor updates in 2007 and 2010 and a partial review in 2011. In 2011, the Council's then Biodiversity Officer looked at suggestions for potential new sites in the partial review. No on-site surveys of existing SINCs were carried out by the officer as part of the review in 2011. Therefore, a full review was needed to provide an up to date picture of biodiversity sites within Bexley.

1.22. London Borough of Bexley commissioned the London Wildlife Trust to carry out a full review of all designated SINCs within the borough in 2013. This full review was carried out in 2013 to 2014. This document was then adopted in 2016.

Figure 3: The stages of preparing the SINC Report, 2016



1.23. The review included desktop surveys and field surveys (Appendix A) of 57 of the existing designated SINCs in the borough. The approved GLA Open Space and Habitat Survey for Greater London Methodology was used to identify and evaluate their current biodiversity value. In addition, eight previously recognised sites that did not currently hold SINC status but had wildlife potential were reviewed and 14 Strategic Wildlife Corridors across the Borough were identified, as required by London Plan policy 7.19. As part of the survey, characteristic, rare and interesting species and plant assemblages were evaluated for their conservation status and assessed as to whether they were notable for the Greater London area. The draft SINC review was completed by the LWT in 2013.

1.24. The London Borough of Bexley carried out a six-week consultation of the draft SINC review between January and February 2014. The consultation involved relevant Council officers, key stakeholders including the Environment Agency and Natural England, and Landowners of the sites where known. Local interest groups and other local experts were also included within the consultation. A total of 24 consultees responded, and the report was amended accordingly.

1.25. After the initial consultation period, additional survey work was carried out by ecological consultants for the new landowners of the Erith Quarry SINC site. The London Borough of Bexley undertook a further consultation during December 2014 specifically regarding the Erith Quarry site, in order that the surveys could be included within the overall SINC report. Two responses were received and considered but this did not lead to further changes to the site citations.

1.26. The London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB), chaired by the GLA, assessed the SINC review document in 2016. The LWSB confirmed that the document and site selection process was consistent with the approach across London in regards to reviewing the boroughs SINCs. One minor mapping change was recommended by the LWSB. The recommended change was carried out.

1.27. One further site was added from the 2011 review and further editing changes were also made to improve the readability, the document was then adopted by London Borough of Bexley in 2016, incorporating 60 SINC citations and 14 strategic green wildlife corridors.

PART II. Site-by-site review

2.1. The site-by-site review is composed of a series of individual citations relating to each of the 60 designated sites in order of SINC grade from highest to lowest. Each citation notes the SINC grade, gives a description of the site and includes observations where relevant, and provides a current boundary map. Do not scale maps within this document.

Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

M015 Lesnes Abbey Woods and Bostall Woods

Summary: These woods, beside the site of the historic Lesnes Abbey, are famous for their wild daffodils.

Name	Lesnes Abbey Woods and Bostall Woods		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M015
Grid reference	TQ 475 782	Area (hectares)	159.37 (86.5 (LBB))
London boroughs	Bexley, Greenwich		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Ancient woodland, Heathland, Scattered trees, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Vegetated wall/tombstones

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley and Royal Borough of Greenwich

Site Description

A large complex of ancient and secondary woodland, with adjacent areas of heathland and acid grassland. Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) dominate older woodland, the extent of the latter being particularly unusual in London. Birch (*Betula spp*.) and oak woodland on former heathland provides further structural variation.

The woodland supports a rich flora, including London rarities spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*), southern woodrush (*Luzula forsteri*), thin-spiked wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*) and wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*), the latter at perhaps its only native site in the capital. Small but significant areas of heath and acid grassland contain heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), with lesser chickweed (*Stellaria pallida*), little mouse-ear (*Cerastium semidecandrum*), subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*) and the nationally scarce lesser calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*).

The walls of the ruined abbey support further regionally uncommon plants, including rue-leaved saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*). The grasslands surrounding the abbey and in the northwest are a mix of amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral and acid grasslands supporting a number of wildflowers such as sown yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and wild carrot (*Daucus carota*).

The avifauna includes all three British woodpeckers, nuthatch and treecreeper. Reptiles include slow-worm and common lizard. The site also appears important for bats, including rare species.

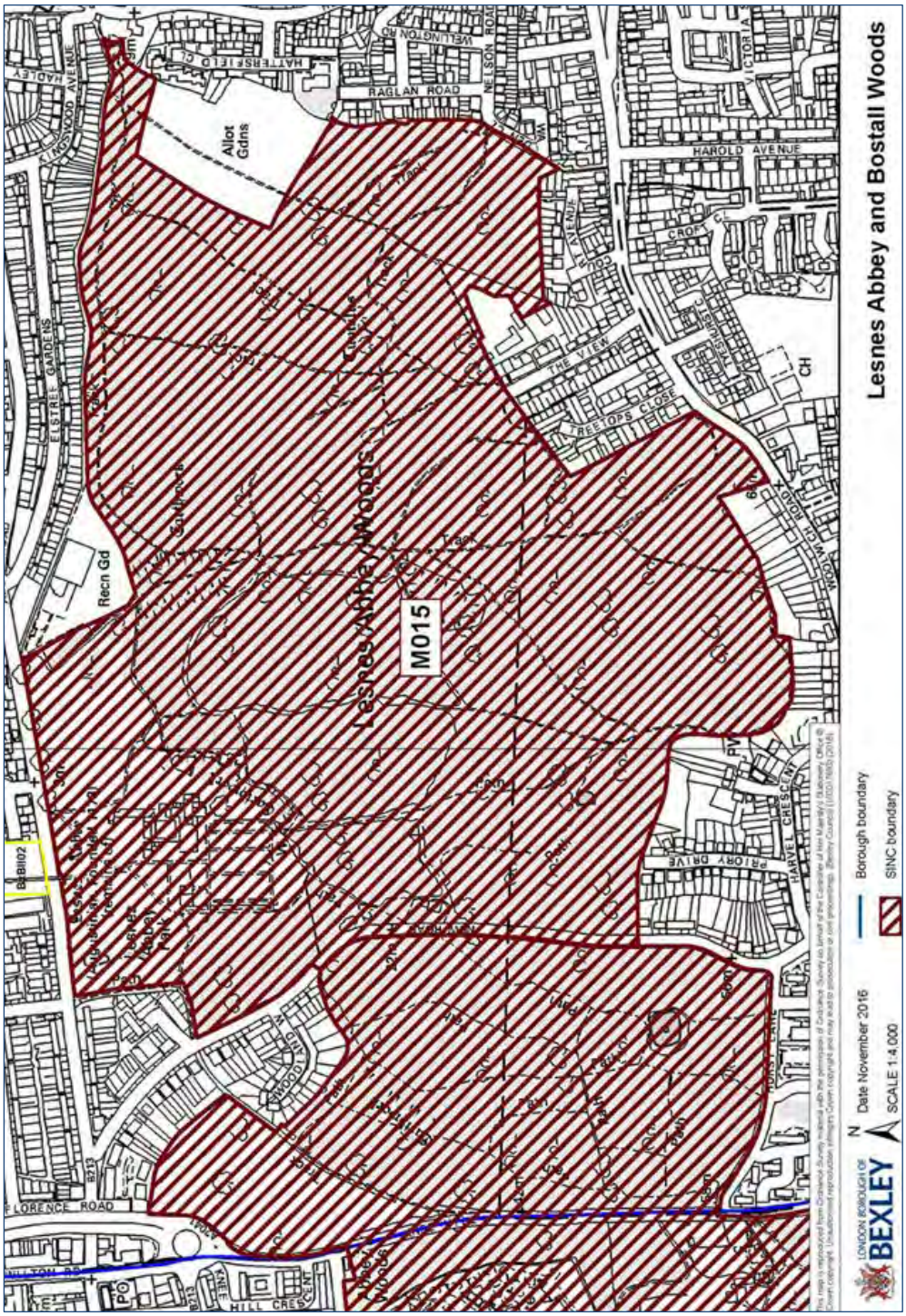
Includes the Abbey Wood Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest. Lesnes Abbey Woods won a Green Flag Award in 2006/7.

site first notified	01/04/1986	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Mayor agreed	25/11/2002
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

It was noted that the London notable thin-spiked wood sedge and the more common wood sedge (Carex sylvatica) were being regularly mown where they were present together along the main pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares through the wood. However, both are present elsewhere in other clearings and less traversed paths. This mowing, along with continued erosion from human footfalls, may in the long term have a detrimental impact upon these two species.

Subterranean clover and the nationally scarce lesser calamint were not located during the survey but the lesser calamint is believed by a number of stakeholders to still be present.



M031 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.

Name	River Thames and tidal tributaries		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M031
Grid reference	TQ 302 806	Area (hectares)	2314.93 (392.97 (LBB))
London boroughs	Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, City of London, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Havering, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Westminster		

Habitat(s): Intertidal, Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Reed bed, Running water, Saltmarsh, Secondary woodland, Vegetated wall/tombstones, Wet ditches, Wet grassland, Wet woodland/carr

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Port of London Authority (Tidal banks) and private (Riparian owners (non tidal banks))

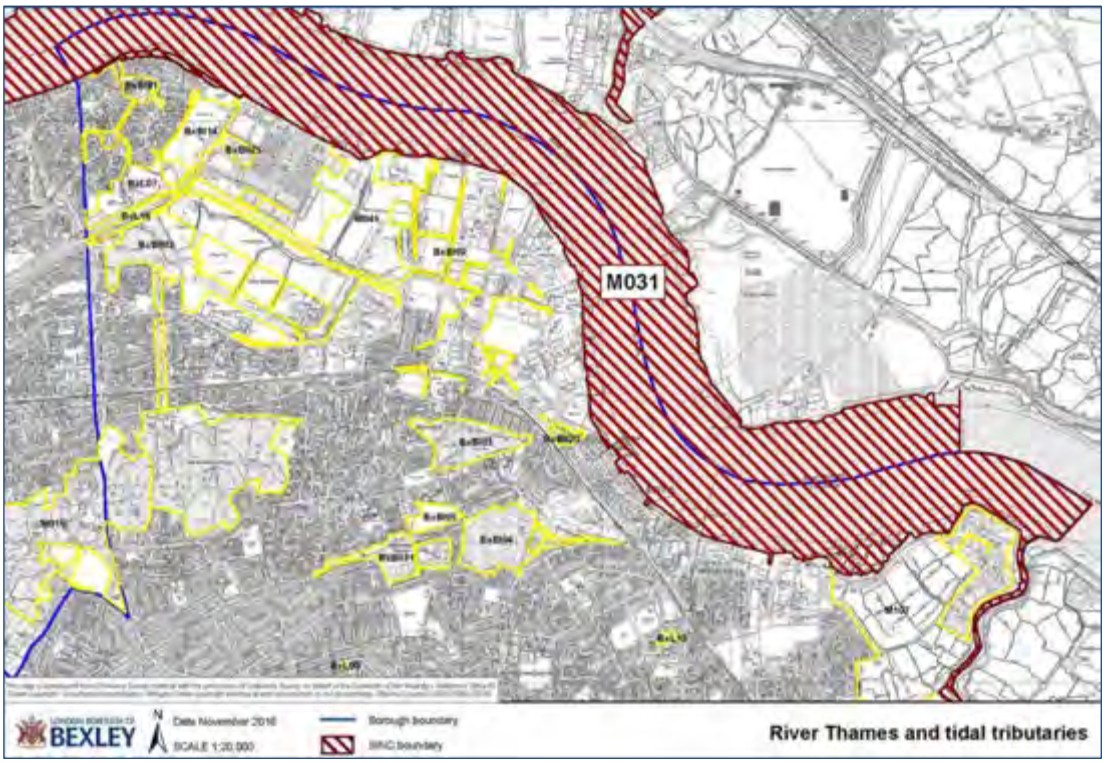
Site Description

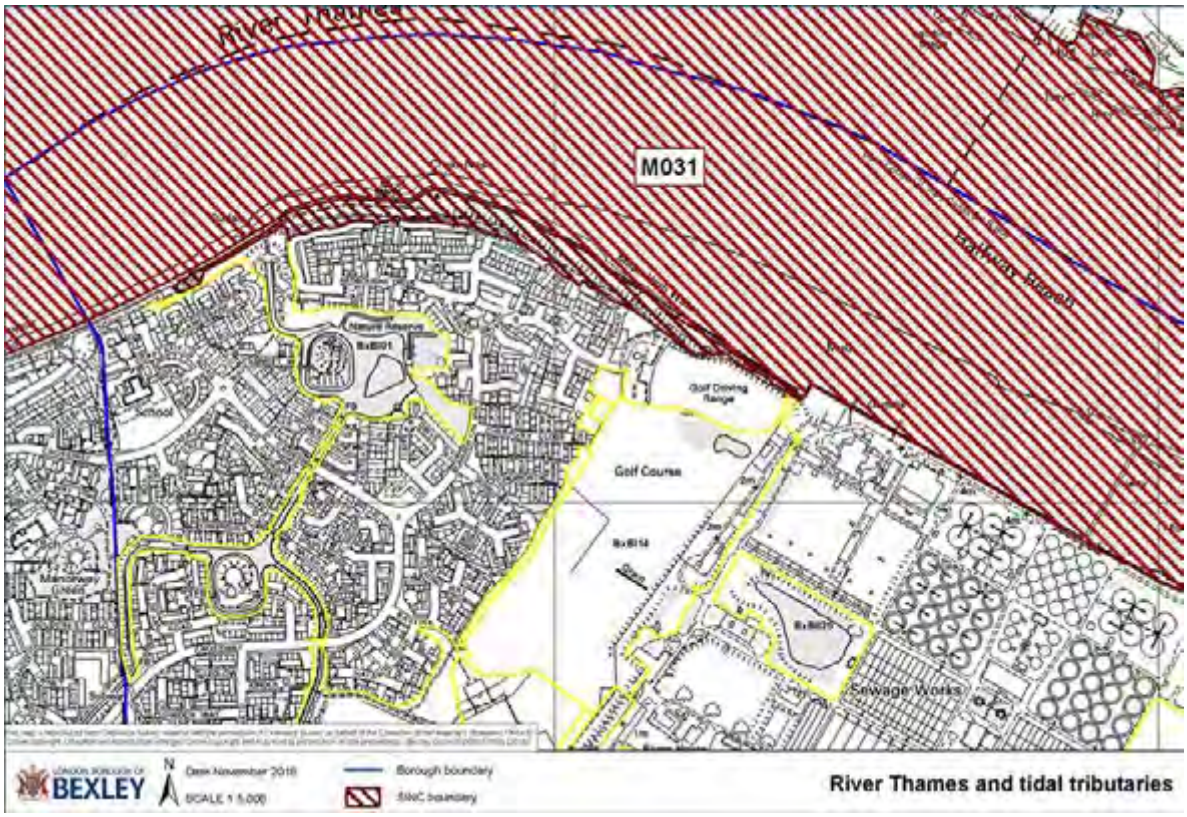
The River Thames and the tidal sections of creeks and rivers that flow into it comprise a number of valuable habitats not found elsewhere in London. The mud-flats, shingle beach, inter-tidal vegetation, islands and river channel itself support many species from freshwater, estuarine and marine communities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

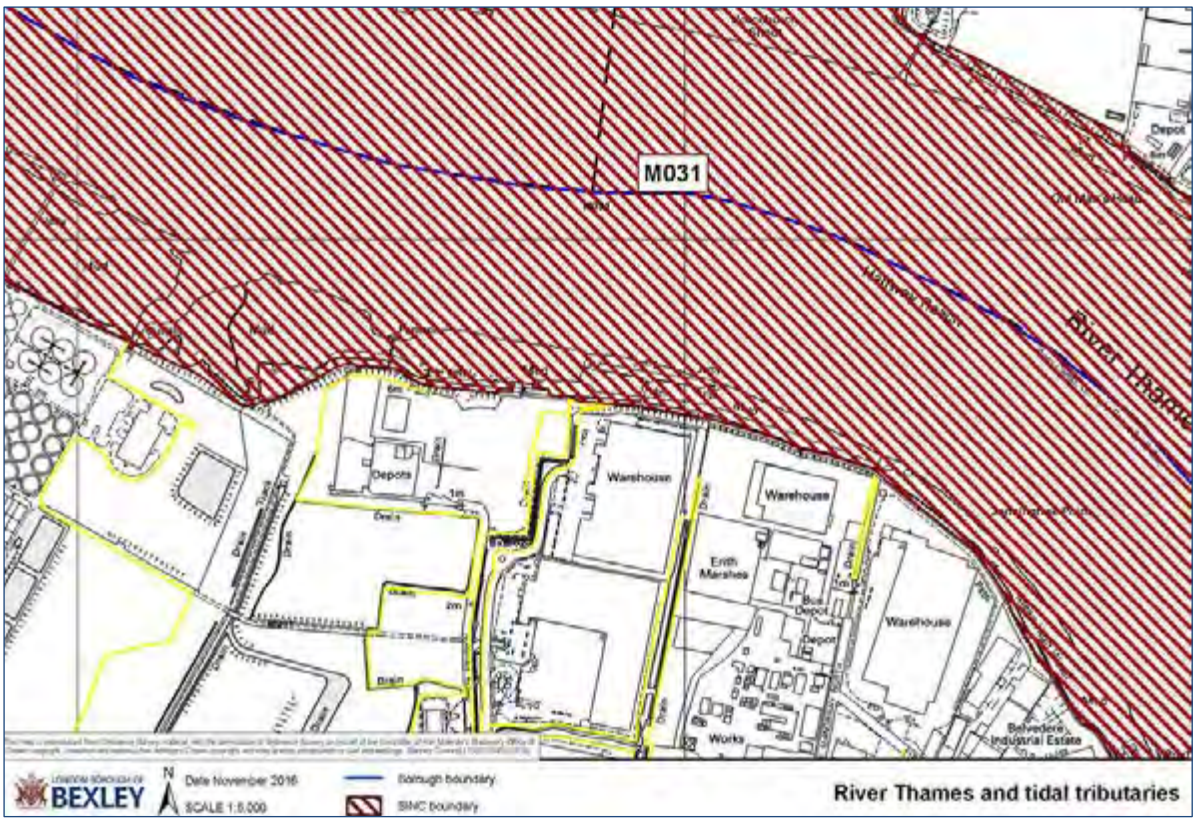
site first notified	01/04/1986	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Mayor agreed	date not known
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

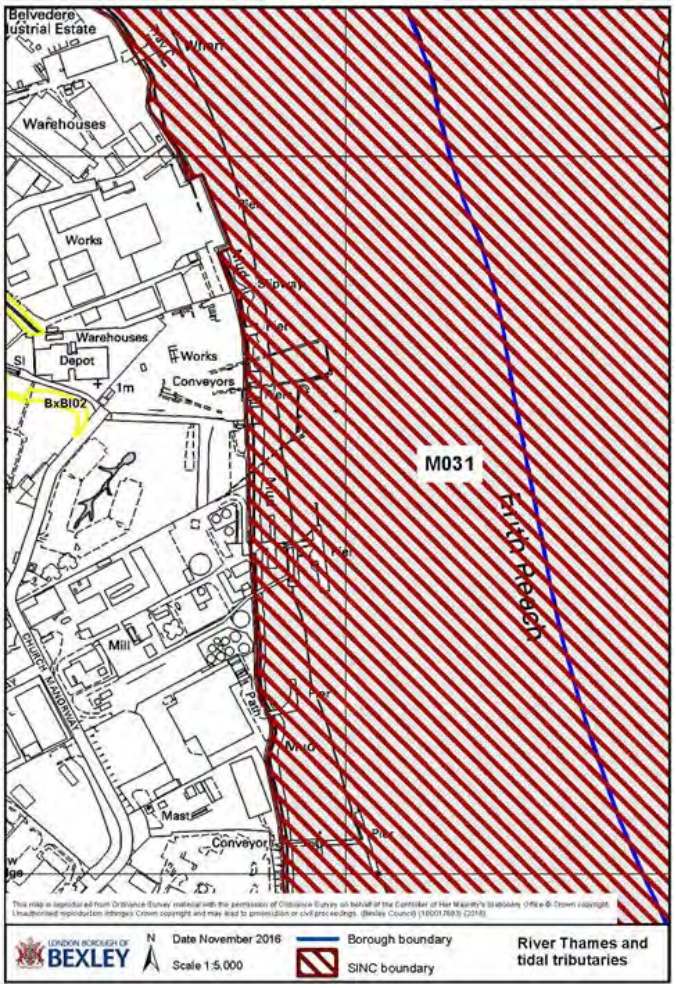
Other observations

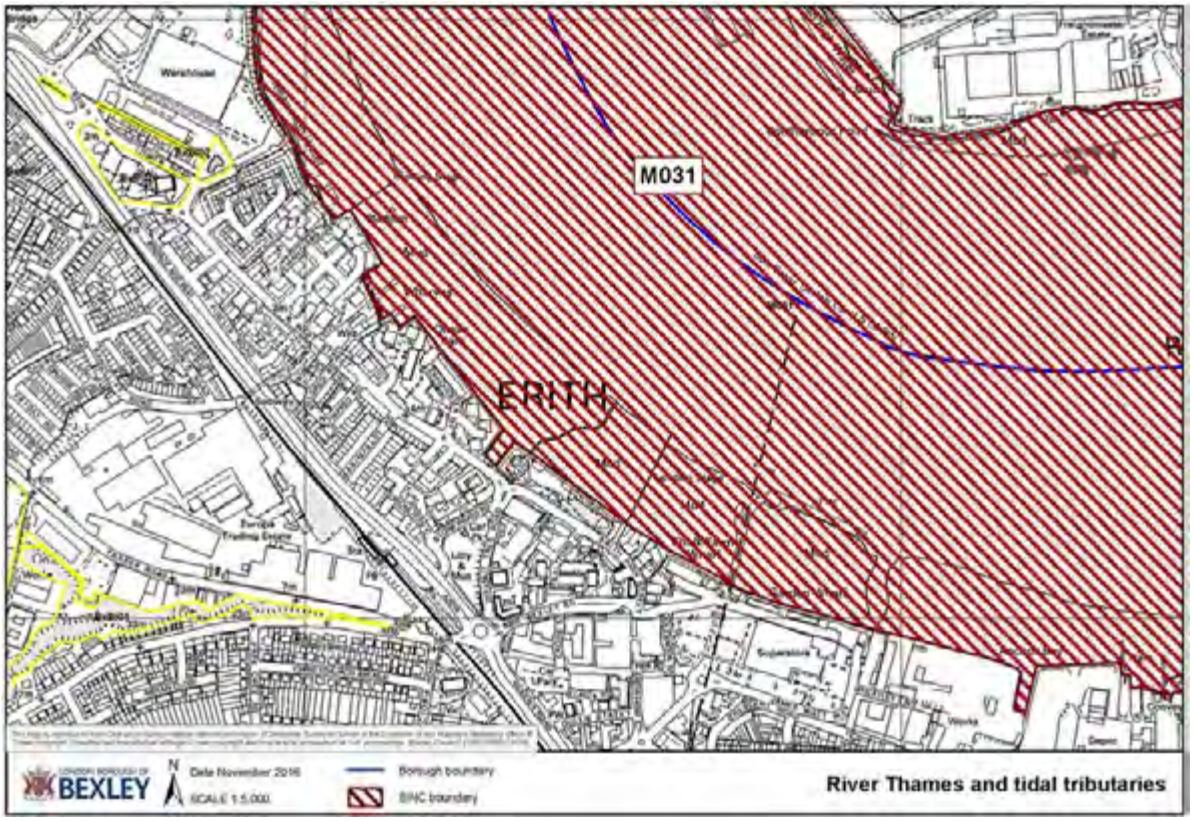
Small pockets of goat's-rue (Galega officinalis) are present along the river Darent. It would be advisable to control further spreading of the plant. Additional non-native invasive species recorded are giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum), which should be removed, and buddleia (Buddleja davidii) on the reinforced embankments of along the river Thames.

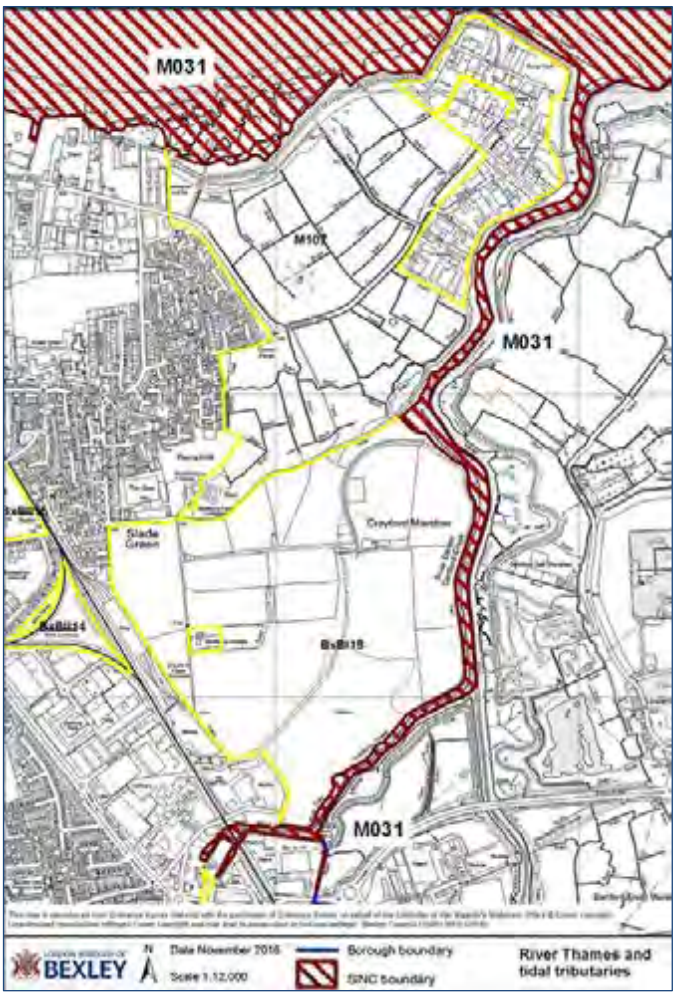





M031
River Thames
Depots
Warehouse
Warehouse
Erith Marshes
Bus Depot
Depot
Warehouse
Works
Belvedere Industrial Estate
BEXLEY
Date November 2016
SCALE 1:5,000
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
River Thames and tidal tributaries


Belvedere Industrial Estate
Warehouses
Works
Warehouses
Depot
Works
Conveyors
1m
BxBI02
M031
River Thames
Mill
Mast
Conveyor
BEXLEY
Date November 2016
Scale 1:5,000
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
River Thames and tidal tributaries


M031
ERITH
BEXLEY
Date November 2016
SCALE 1:5,000
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
River Thames and tidal tributaries


M031
M107
M031
Slade Green
BxBi14
BxBi15
M031
BEXLEY
Date November 2016
Scale 1:12,000
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
River Thames and tidal tributaries

M041 Erith Marshes

Summary One of the very few remaining areas of Thames-side grazing marsh in London, supporting scarce birds, plants and insects.

Name	Erith Marshes		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M041
Grid reference	TQ 485 803	Area (hectares)	90.70
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s) Brownfield**,** Pond/lake, Reed beds, Roughland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Unimproved neutral grassland, Wader scrapes, Wet ditches, Wet grassland

Access Access on public footpaths only

Ownership Thames Water and private

Site Description:

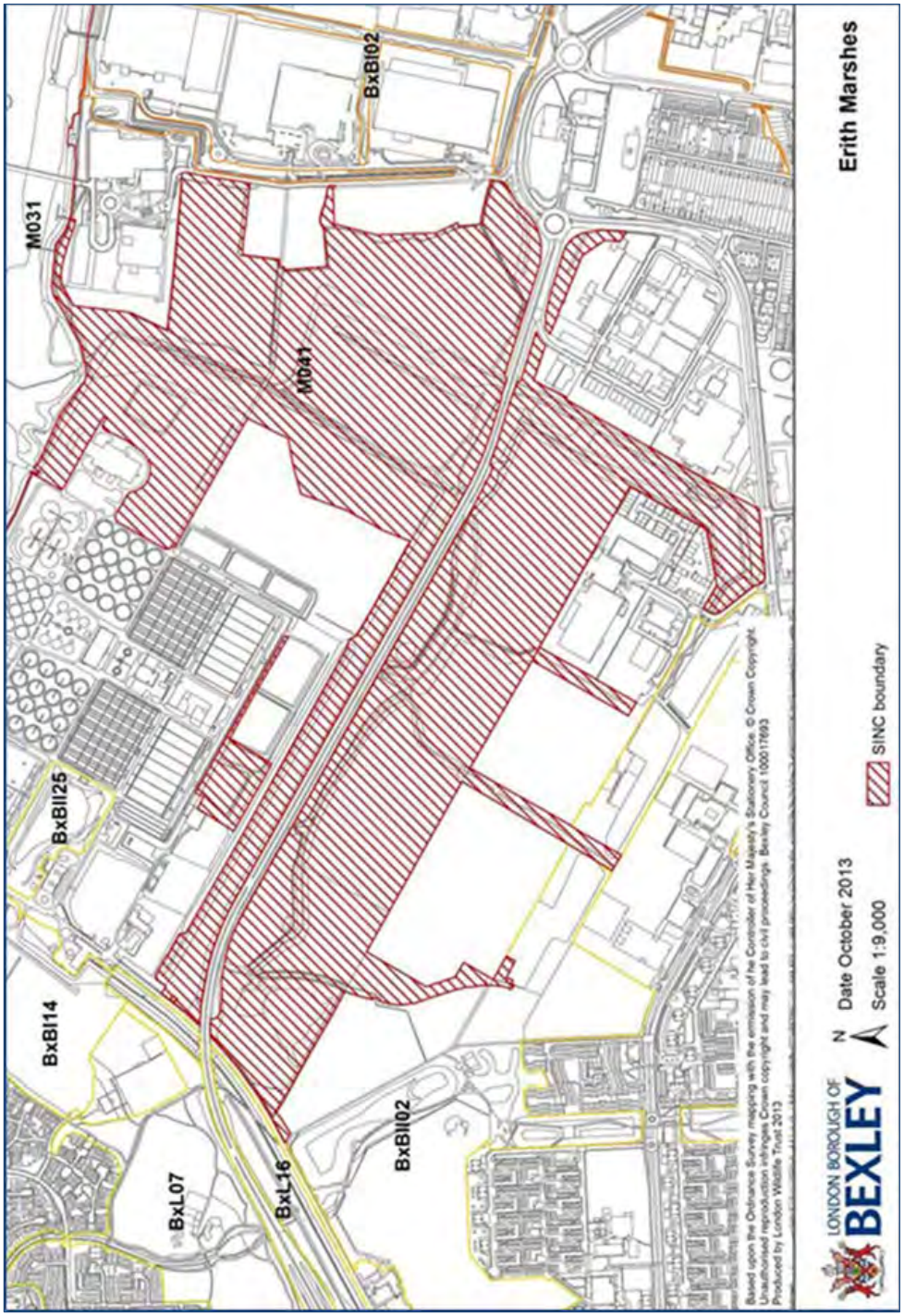
One of the few remaining examples of the Thames-side grazing marshes. The flora of the old sea walls includes several regionally scarce species: corn parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*), knotted hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*) and narrow-leaved pepperwort (*Lepidium ruderale*). The wetland flora is also diverse, including horned pondweed (*Zanichellia palustris*), wild celery (*Apium graveolens*), lesser reedmace (*Typha angustifolium*), pink water-speedwell (*Veronica catenata*) and marsh and water docks (*Rumex palustris*, *R. hydrolapathum*), which are all rare in London. Although quite rank in places, the grassland is comprised of a characteristic Thames grazing marsh community, typified by abundant meadow barley (*Hordeum secalinum*). There are also extensive areas of scrub, tall herbs and ruderal vegetation within the Crossness Sewage Treatment Works. An area of brownfield habitat in the east of the site supports the London notable plants dittander (*Lepidium latfolium*) and narrow-leaved bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*) while soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*) can be found along the footpath running along the southern edge of Crossness Sewage Treatment Works. Additional flora found across the site includes borrers saltmarsh grass (Puccinellia fasciculata), brackish water-crowfoot, (Ranunculus baudotii), hairlike pondweed (Potamogeton trichoides), trifid bur-marigold (Bidens tripartite) marsh yellow-cress (Rorippa palustris) and golden dock (Rumex maritimus).

The site is also important for its breeding and wintering avifauna. Breeding species include barn owl, teal, lapwing, ringed plover, reed warbler, sedge warbler, reed bunting, linnet and skylark. Regular wintering birds include pintail, snipe, redshank, dunlin, black-tailed godwit and green sandpiper. The site serves as a commuting route for bats. The ditches also support an important population of the specially protected water vole, as well as the fish rudd and tench. Invertebrates include the common emerald damselfly (*Lestes sponsa*), roesel's bush-cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*), shrill carder-bee (Bombus sylvarum), and brown banded carder bee (Bombus humilis). A variety of Red Data Book and notable invertebrates are also found on site.Part of the site to the north of Eastern Way is managed by Thames Water as a nature reserve. Public access to Erith Marshes is restricted to footpaths. There is permit access to the nature reserve, through Thames Water's Friends of Crossness Nature Reserve scheme. Thames Water opened a permissive footpath through Crossness Southern Marsh, south of Eastern Way, in 2006.

site first notified	19/09/1988	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Mayor agreed	25/11/2002
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Large areas of the site are managed for wildlife conservation. A number of notable species was not found during the survey but due to access issues to many of the wetland areas it cannot be determined whether they were still present or not. The species not seen are corn parsley and pink water-speedwell.



M105 Ruxley Gravel Pits

Summary One of the few areas of relatively undisturbed open water in south London, of great value for birds, wetland plants and insects. Only a tiny part of this site is in Bexley; the gravel pits themselves are in Bromley.

Name	Ruxley Gravel Pits		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M105
Grid reference	TQ 474 704	Area (hectares)	19.02 (0.17 (LBB))
London boroughs	Bexley, Bromley		

Habitat(s) Scrub

Access Access by prior arrangement

Ownership Environment Agency, managed by Kent Wildlife Trust

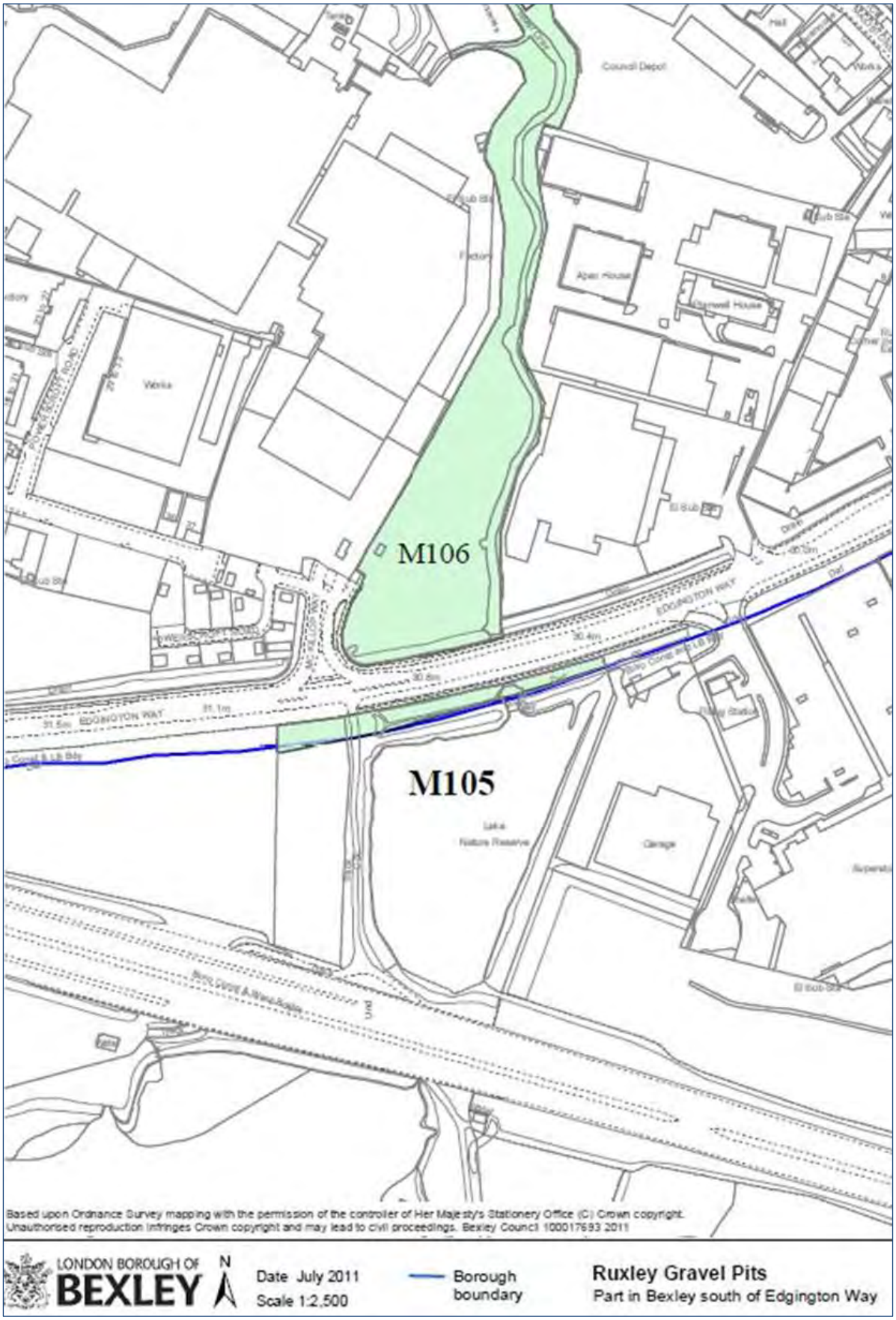
Site Description

The Bexley part of this site is a small area of scrub to the north of the gravel pits. The pits are one of the few areas of relatively undisturbed open water in south London; this site was formerly a gravel pit that became flooded in 1951. Besides open water, the site includes several wooded islands, as well as important marginal areas of dense scrub, swamp and fen.

This range of habitats supports over 500 species of vascular plants, 53 species of breeding birds, and a very rich invertebrate fauna, including an important assemblage of beetles and nine species of dragonfly. Locally rare plant species include greater tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*), grey clubrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*), spiked water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and common meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*).

The breeding avifauna includes great crested and little grebes, reed bunting, and reed and sedge warblers. Wintering species include water rail and common snipe. The vast invertebrate fauna includes numerous local and nationally uncommon species. The specially protected water vole has recently been reintroduced to the site. A Site of Special Scientific Interest.

site first notified	19/09/1988	boundary last changed	16/01/2001
citation last edited	02/09/2011	Mayor agreed	date not known
defunct	N	last updated	date not known


M106
M105
EDGINGTON WAY
Council Depot
Works
Factory
Garage
Nature Reserve
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LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date July 2011
Scale 1:2,500
Borough boundary
Ruxley Gravel Pits
Part in Bexley south of Edgington Way

M106 the River Cray

Summary One of London's finest chalk streams, with some excellent wildlife habitats, including the damp pastures of Footscray Meadows, the Thames Road Wetland site and the ancient North Cray Wood.

Name	River Cray		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M106
Grid reference	TQ 480 722	Area (hectares)	184.99 (176.18 (LBB))
London boroughs	Bexley, Bromley		

Habitat(s) Amenity grassland**,** Ancient woodland, Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Reed bed, Ruderal, Running water, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Unimproved neutral grassland, Tall herbs, Wet ditches, Wet grassland

Access Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership London Borough of Bexley, London Borough of Bromley and private

Site Description

The River Cray is one of the Thames' cleanest tributaries and still possesses a relatively natural profile. A chalk stream rising at Priory Gardens in Orpington, the river flows northeast through Ruxley Gravel Pits to join the Darent Creek in Bexley. Several associated areas are incorporated within this site, the largest being Foots Cray Meadows open space, which contains important areas of neutral grassland, species-rich wet grassland and the ancient North Cray Wood.

The river supports abundant aquatic vegetation throughout its length, including locally uncommon plants such as stream water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus penicillatus*), lesser water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*), great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia)* and pink water-speedwell (*Veronica catenata*). Both fast-flowing and sluggish lengths are present, and the aquatic invertebrate and fish faunas are correspondingly diverse.

At the lower end of the River is the Thames Road Wetland Site, which supports the rare brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*), marsh sow-thistle (*Sonchus palustris*) [introduced using seedlings raised ex situ from the now extinct Crayford marshes population], dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*) and square stalked St John's wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*).

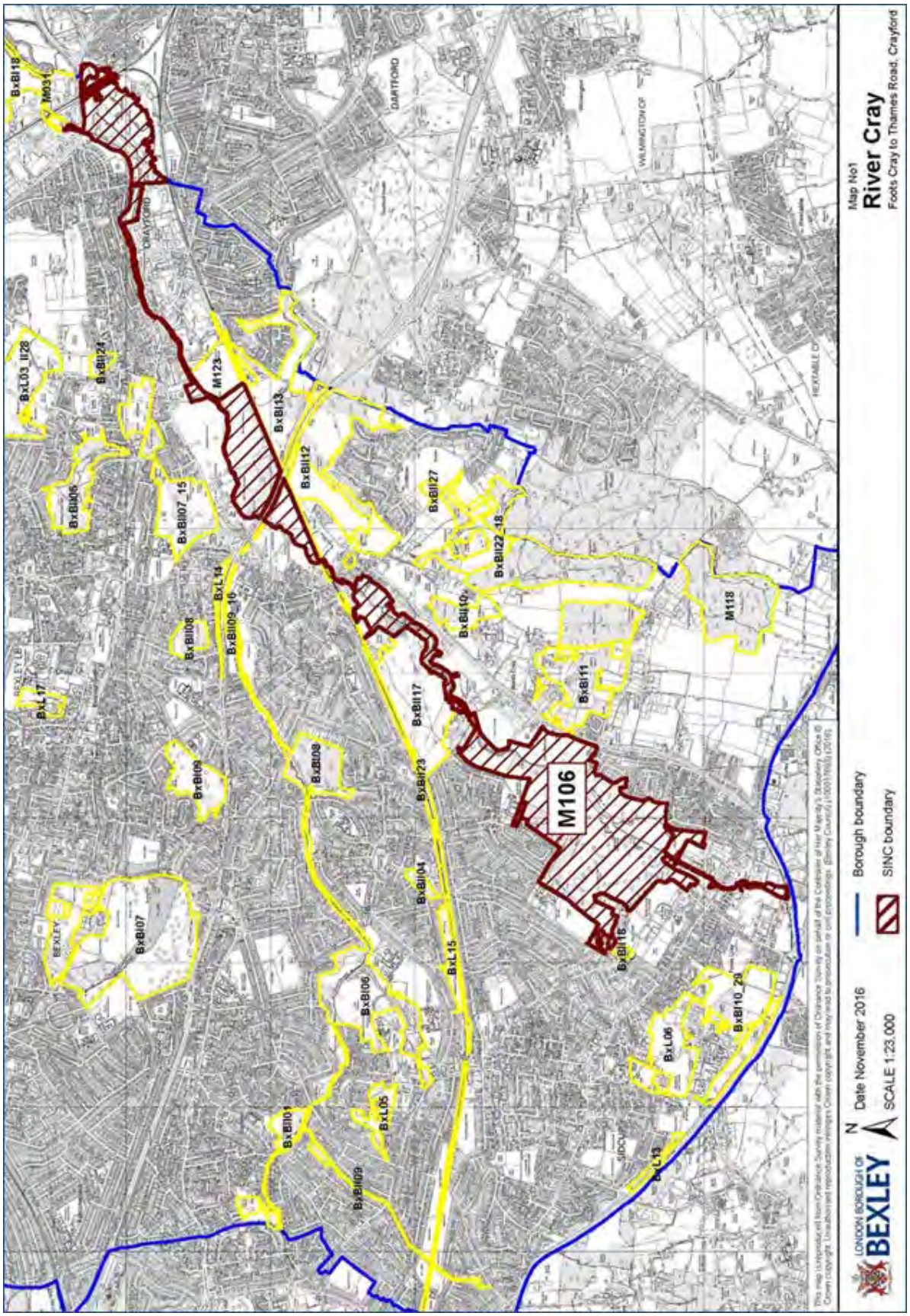
Breeding birds include kingfisher, grey wagtail, and reed and sedge warblers. Wintering species on adjacent flooded grassland at Barnes Cray include lapwing and snipe, where the ditch network also supports specially protected water voles. Several ponds at Foots Cray support the specially protected great crested newt. Terrestrial invertebrates include the nationally scarce white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

Foots Cray Meadows is a Local Nature Reserve and won a Green Flag Award in 2006/7. The Cray Riverway and the London LOOP follow the river in Bexley.

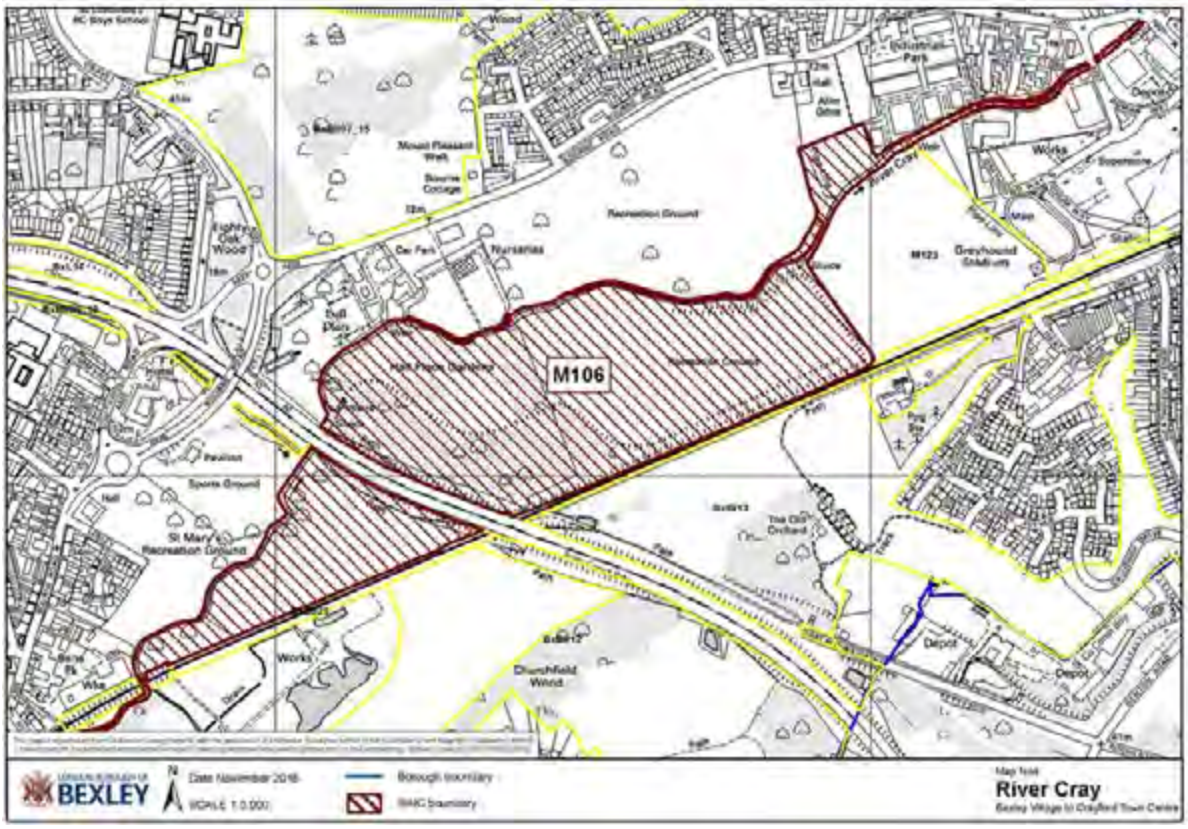
site first notified	19/09/1988	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Mayor agreed	25/11/2002
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

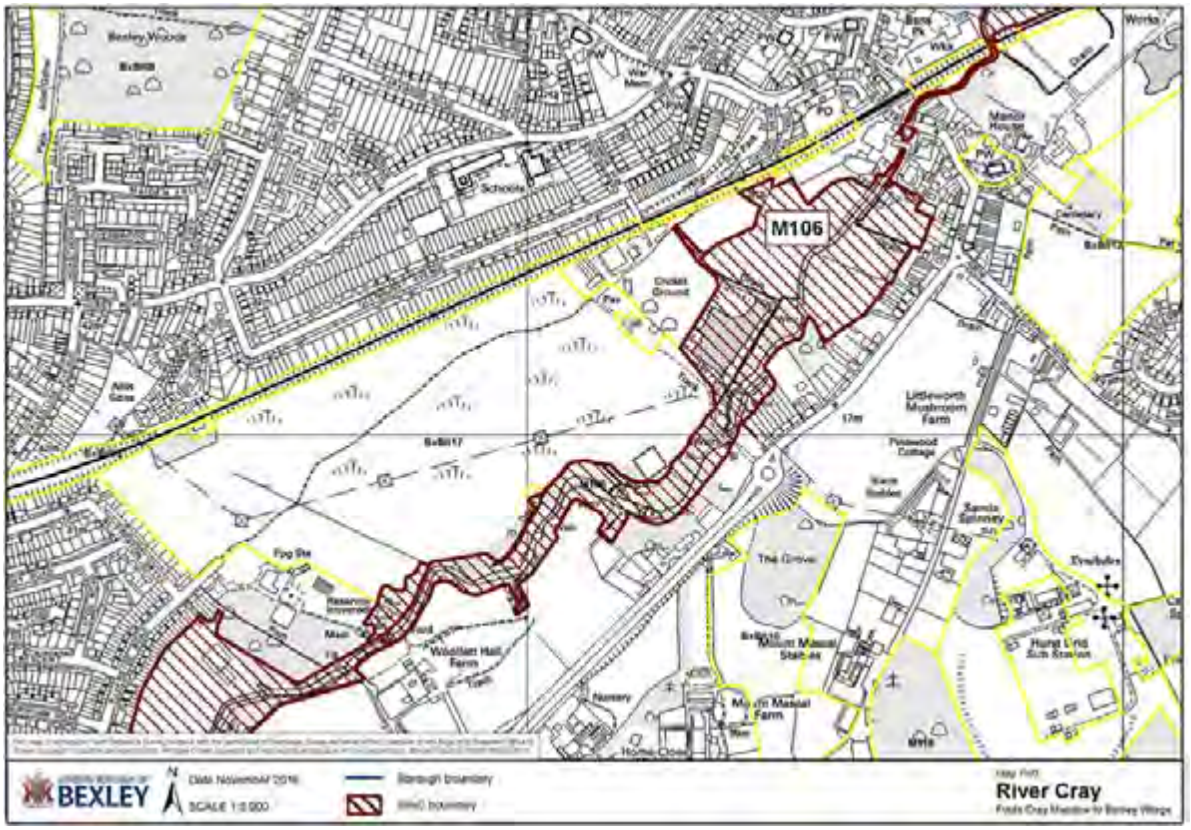
Other observations

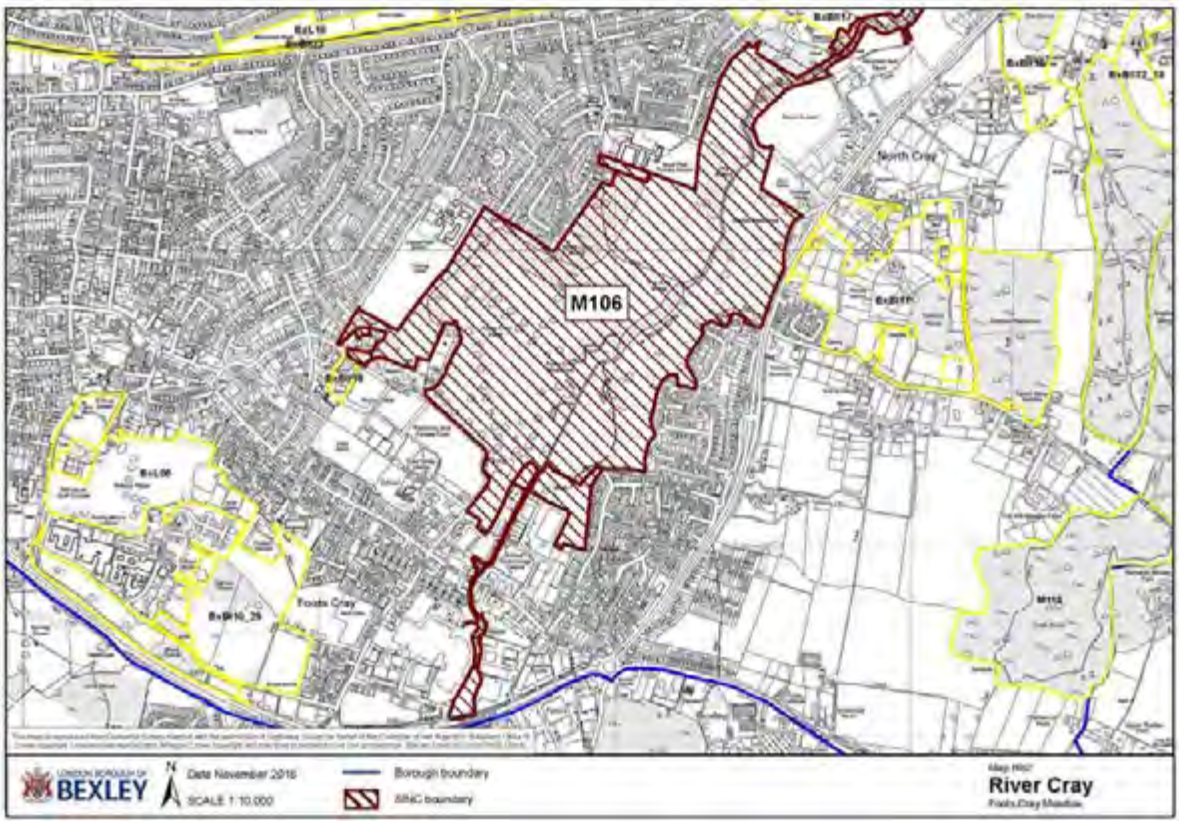
Pink-water speedwell was not located during the survey.




CRAYFORD
M106
BEXLEY
River Cray


M106
BEXLEY
River Cray


M106
BEXLEY
River Cray


M106
BEXLEY
River Cray

M107 Crayford Marshes

Summary One of the few remaining areas of Thames grazing marsh in London, with ditches supporting a wealth of rare plants and animals, and a good range of breeding birds.

Name	Crayford Marshes		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M107
Grid reference	TQ 533 774	Area (hectares)	92.63
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s) Marsh/swamp, Reed bed, Saltmarsh, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Wet ditches, Wet grassland

Access Access on public footpaths only

Ownership Private

Site Description

One of the few remaining extensive examples of grazing marsh in Greater London, with some fringing saltmarsh habitat, adjacent to that within the River Thames and tidal tributaries Metropolitan site. The flora of the ditch network, flooded pasture and saltings is diverse, and includes several local and nationally restricted species. These include brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*), marsh and sea arrow-grasses (*Triglochin palustre*, *T. maritima*), brackish water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus baudotii*), marsh dock (*Rumex palustris*), pink water-speedwell (*Veronica catenata*), wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*), slender hare's-ear (*Bupleurum tenuissimum*), annual sea-blite (Suaeda maritime), sea purslane (Atriplex portulacoides), and the nationally scarce divided sedge (*Carex divisa*). Dry grassland on the sea-wall is also of interest, with further rare plants including knotted hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*) and corn parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*).

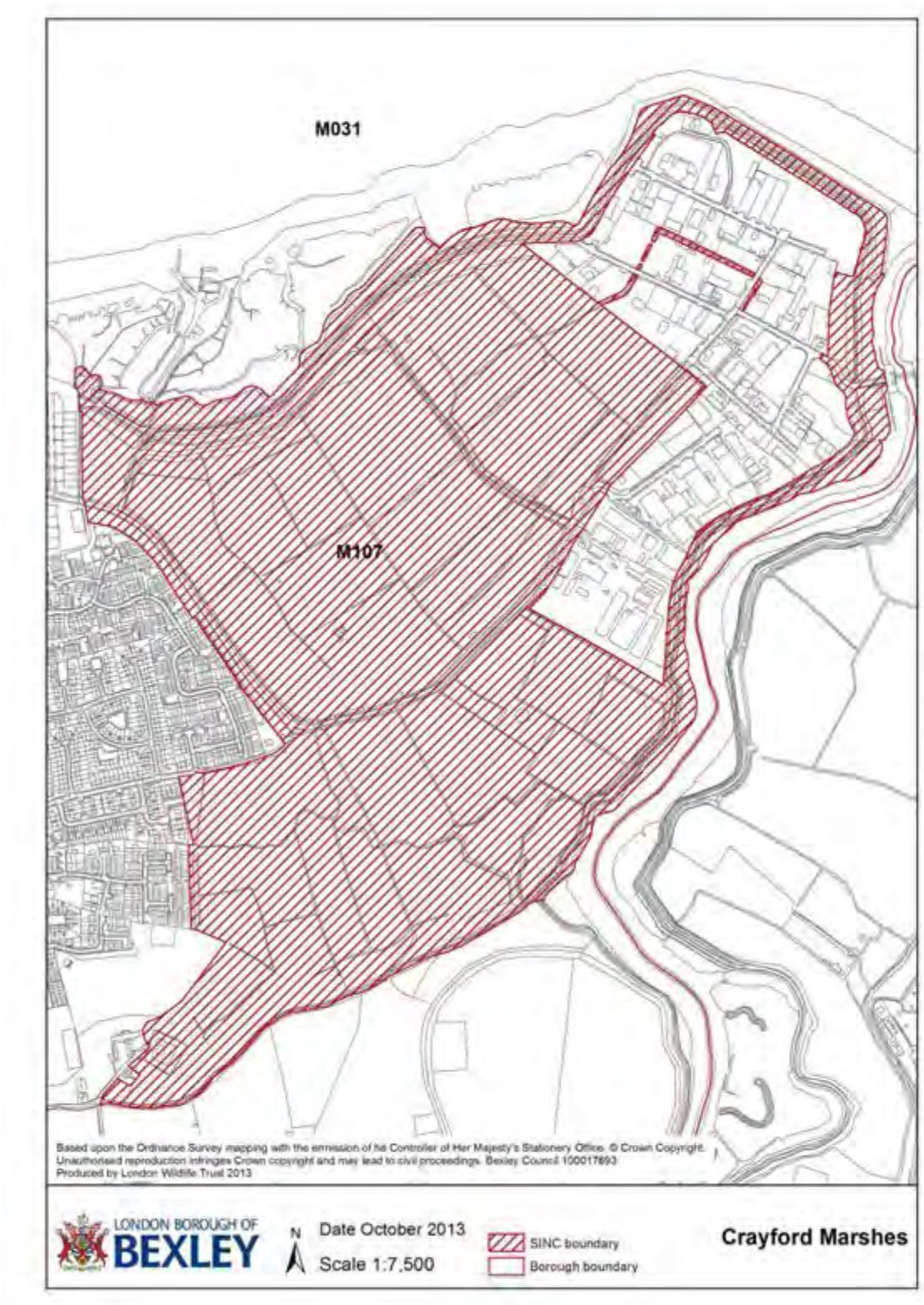
The site's avifauna is equally important. Breeding birds include redshank, lapwing, yellow wagtail, skylark and corn bunting, while wintering species include many wildfowl and waders, short-eared owl and hen harrier, as well as large flocks of finches and thrushes. The aquatic invertebrate fauna of the ditches is also exceptional, and includes many nationally rare and scarce species. An important population of specially-protected water voles is present in the ditches. The site also includes several buildings of archaeological and historical interest.

The site is currently being considered by Natural England as a possible Site of Special Scientific Interest. The London LOOP follows the Thames and Darenth Embankments along the northern and eastern edges of the marshes, while Moat Lane can be followed along the southern edge. Ray Lamb Way crosses the site and has a footway. This site is closely linked with SINC sites M106 the River Cray and M031 the River Thames and tidal tributaries, as well as local wildlife sites in Dartford Borough.

site first notified	19/09/1988	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Mayor agreed	25/11/2002
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Of the noted plants only brackish water-crowfoot, marsh dock, and corn parsley were not located during the survey.



M118 Chalk Wood and Joyden's Wood

Summary A large ancient woodland and areas of heathland in glades, extending into Kent, with exceptionally rich plant life.

Name	Chalk Wood and Joyden's Wood		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M118
Grid reference	TQ 495 708	Area (hectares)	79.68
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s) Ancient woodland, Coniferous woodland, Heathland

Access Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership London Borough of Bexley, The Woodland Trust and Private

Site Description

Part of a large area of ancient woodland which extends into adjacent Kent. The woods are extremely varied in their structure and species composition. Chalk Wood and Gattons Plantation are the most diverse botanically, where the many regionally rare plants include green hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*), early-purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*), broad-leaved helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), orpine (*Sedum telephium*), Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*) and lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*). Chalk Wood also contains more open areas supporting heathland, with heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), common cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), and breeding tree pipit.

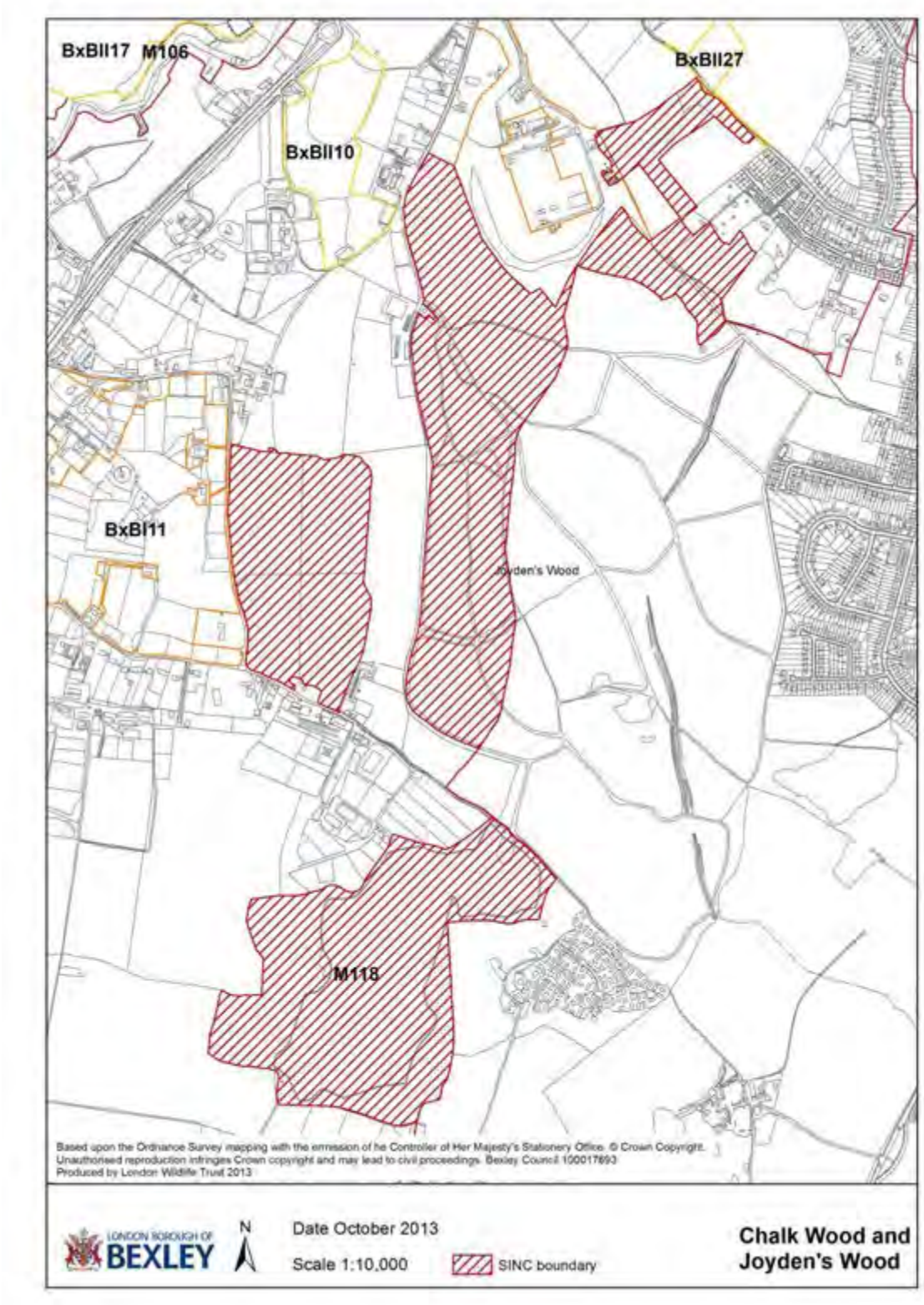
The adjacent Joyden's Wood is a larger area of woodland over acid soils, consisting mainly of ex-commercial conifer plantations. These "Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites" are in a process of restoration by the Woodland Trust, to return them back to native broadleaf woodland. This is being achieved through a carefully managed gradual removal of the exotic conifer species, with some areas now classed as restored. Cavey's Spring is a small woodland to the north of Joyden's Wood which was formerly disconnected but woodland planted in the 1980s has now matured and connects it to Joyden's Wood.

The site is also important for its invertebrates, including the white admiral butterfly, various moths and the southern wood ant (*Formica rufa*), a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species
Joyden's Wood and Gattons Plantation are owned and managed by the Woodland Trust and have free access. Chalk Wood is managed by London Borough of Bexley and also has free access. Cavey's Spring is privately owned and there is no public access.

site first noted	29/10/1990	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Mayor agreed	25/11/2002
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Early purple orchid and broad-leaved helleborine were not located during the survey.


BxBII17
M106
BxBII10
BxBII27
BxBI11
M118
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:10,000
SINC boundary
Chalk Wood and Joyden's Wood

M123 Crayford Rough

Summary: This former rail yard has developed a variety of habitats, creating a home for a wide range of animals and plants, including a population of bee orchids.

Name	Crayford Rough		
Grade	Metropolitan	Reference	M123
Grid reference	TQ 512 744	Area (hectares)	8.47
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ruderal, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs, Wet ditch, Wet grassland

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

Ownership: Private and LB Bexley

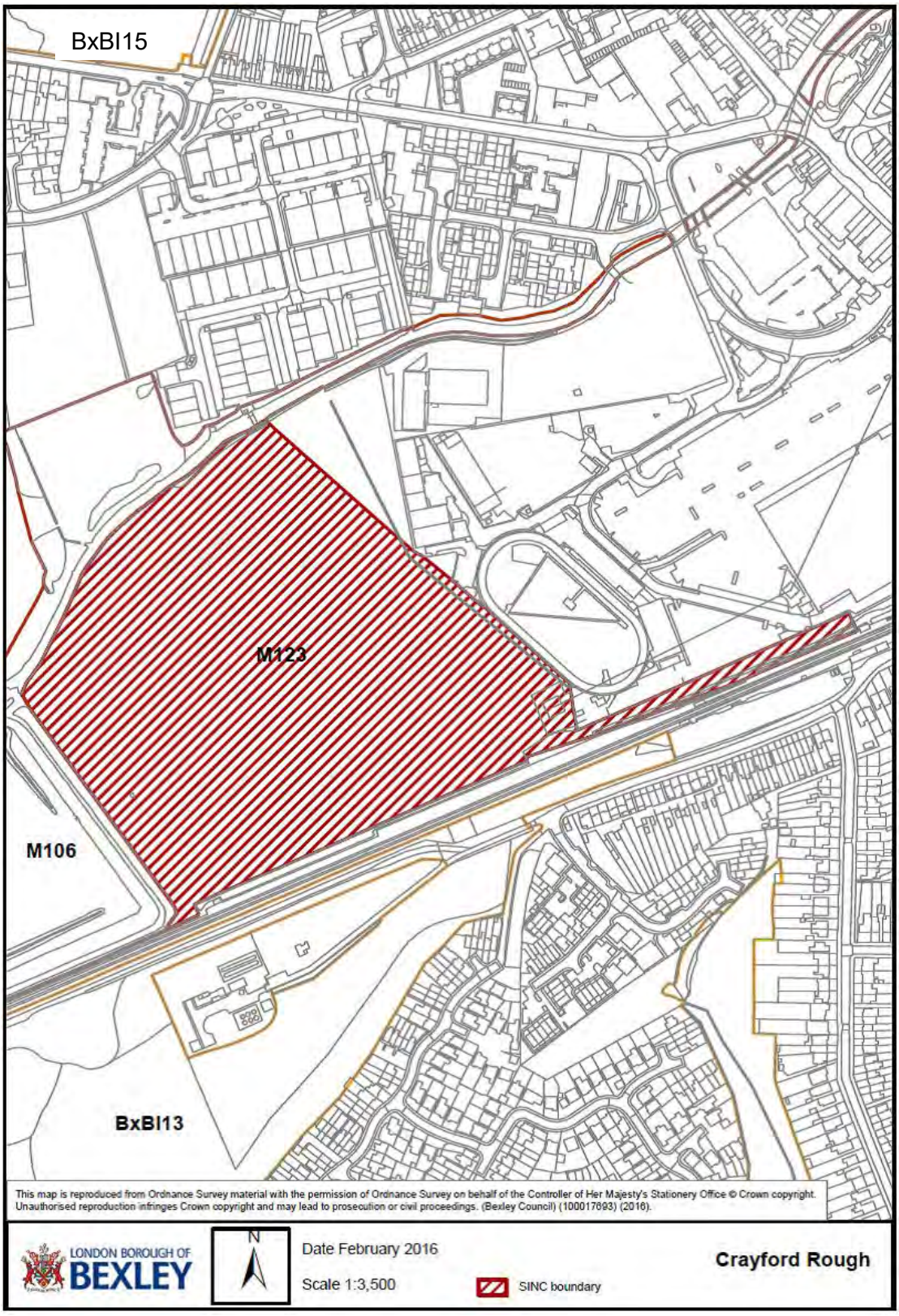
Site Description

Situated alongside the River Cray, this former railyard has developed a variety of habitats supporting an exceptionally diverse flora and fauna. Plants of note include the nationally scarce yellow vetchling (*Lathyrus aphaca*) together with many other London rarities, such as narrow-leaved bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), blue fleabane (*Erigeron acer*), pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and a population of bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*). The scrub and young woodland supports an important breeding bird community, including cuckoo, lesser whitethroat, yellowhammer and reed bunting. Slow worms and common lizard can also be found. The invertebrate fauna is also likely to be of interest and green hairstreak butterfly are present.

site first notified	26/01/1993	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Mayor agreed	25/11/2002
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Scrub encroachment is becoming a problem around important plant populations isolating pockets of grassland and generating shade in the north of the site. Most of the southern section of site appears to have not had a cut for several years and has developed a thick grassland sward with plentiful tall herb stands. It is suggested that to reduce this successional process and improve the grassland value for invertebrates and wildflowers it is placed on a 50% a year rotational cut with each 50% being cut in both spring (late March) and Autumn (a late October cut would be best to avoid harming reptiles). Cut material would need to be removed. Blue fleabane and bee orchid were not located during the survey.


BxBI15
M123
M106
BxBI13
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LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date February 2016
Scale 1:3,500
SINC boundary
Crayford Rough

Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation – Grade I

BxBI01 Crossways Lake Nature Reserve and Thameside Walk Scrub

Summary: A reed-fringed lake, valuable for water birds.

Name	Crossways Lake Nature Reserve and Thameside Walk Scrub		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI01
Grid reference	TQ 476 813	Area (hectares)	5.10
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Pond/lake, Reed bed, Ruderal, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Peabody Housing Trust

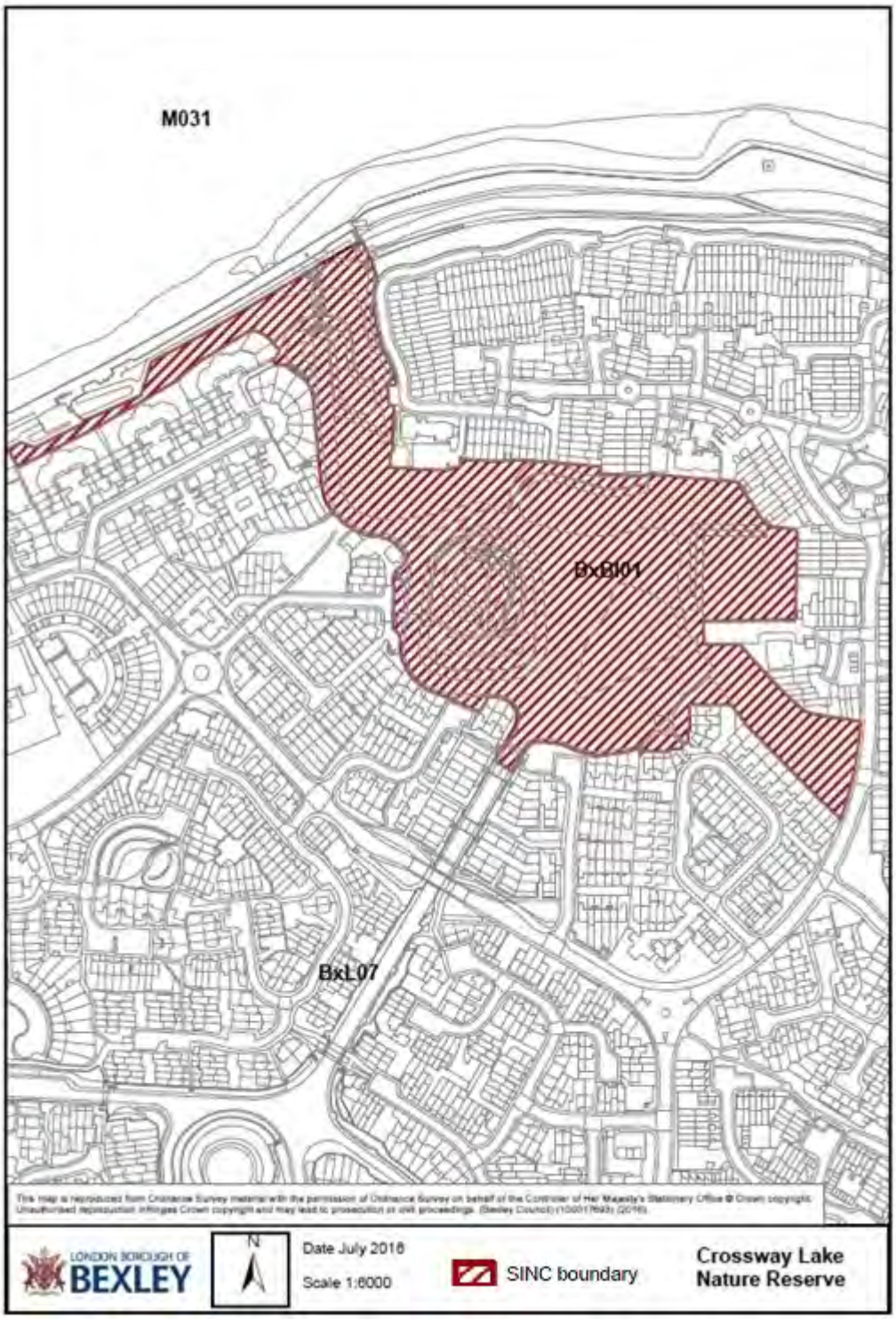
Site Description

Crossways Lake is a small, reed-fringed lake with a wooded island, at the north end of the Thamesmead canal system. It is managed as a nature reserve by Peabody Housing Trust. Grey herons have been reported nesting, and other breeding birds include reed warbler and a good range of common waterfowl. The Thameside Walk Scrub consists of a strip of land of scrub and some semi-improved grassland bordering the River Thames. It supports a number of common species but is of value to migrating birds such as the common whitethroat and lesser whitethroat.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2016
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2016

Site name change

‘Thameside Walk Scrub’ added to the site name.


M031
BxBI01
BxL07
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date July 2016
Scale 1:6000
SINC boundary
Crossway Lake Nature Reserve

BxBI02 Belvedere Dykes

Summary: A number of drainage dykes, providing a home to some rare plants and animals.

Name	Belvedere Dykes		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI02
Grid reference	TQ 500 798	Area (hectares)	10.03
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Reed bed, Wet ditches, Wet woodland, Roughland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Various

Site Description

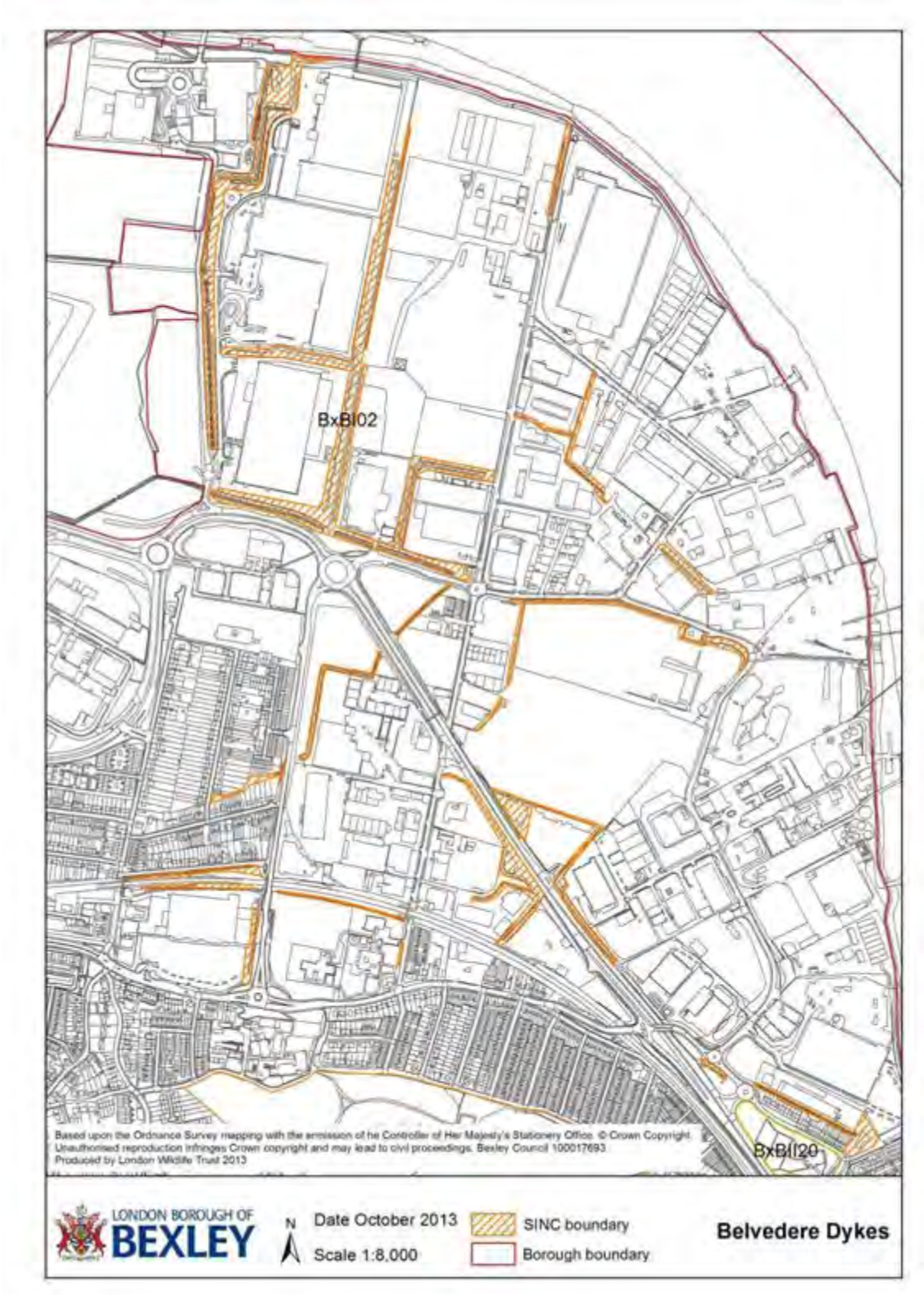
The drainage dykes are well vegetated, dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*), great reedmace (*Typha latifolia*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*); and surrounding wet woodland and roughland areas. The nationally scarce yellow vetchling (Lathyrus aphaca) is also present. A wetland area was created along the east ditch within the waste recovery facility.

Some ditches hold populations of the nationally scarce marsh dock (*Rumex palustris*). The ditches support the specially protected water vole, a priority species in the UK and London Biodiversity Action Plans. Breeding birds include reed warbler. Some also have important populations of fish and invertebrates. Several of the ditches would benefit from vegetation management and removal of litter and tipping.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Some stretches of the ditch network require litter clearance and management of scrub on the banks (mainly bramble) to allow development of marginal vegetation.


BxBI02
BxBI20
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:8,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Belvedere Dykes

BxBI03 Franks Park, Belvedere

Summary: A mature woodland, with acid grassland, containing regionally important plants.

Name	Franks Park, Belvedere		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI03
Grid reference	TQ 500 787	Area (hectares)	17.83
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Ancient woodland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

Probably once an extension of Lesnes Abbey Wood, this site contains mature woodland of sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) standards with neglected sweet chestnut coppice and an understorey of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquilifolia*) and English elm (*Ulmus procera*). The more open areas of the wood and the acid grassland contains the London notable plant species southern wood-rush (*Luzula forsteri*) and bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*). The regionally scarce climbing corydalis (*Ceratocapnos claviculata*) has been recorded here, but has not been seen recently. The wood provides breeding habitat for birds such as hobby, tawny owl, nuthatch, chiffchaff and green and great spotted woodpeckers. This is one of the best recorded sites in the borough for bats.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

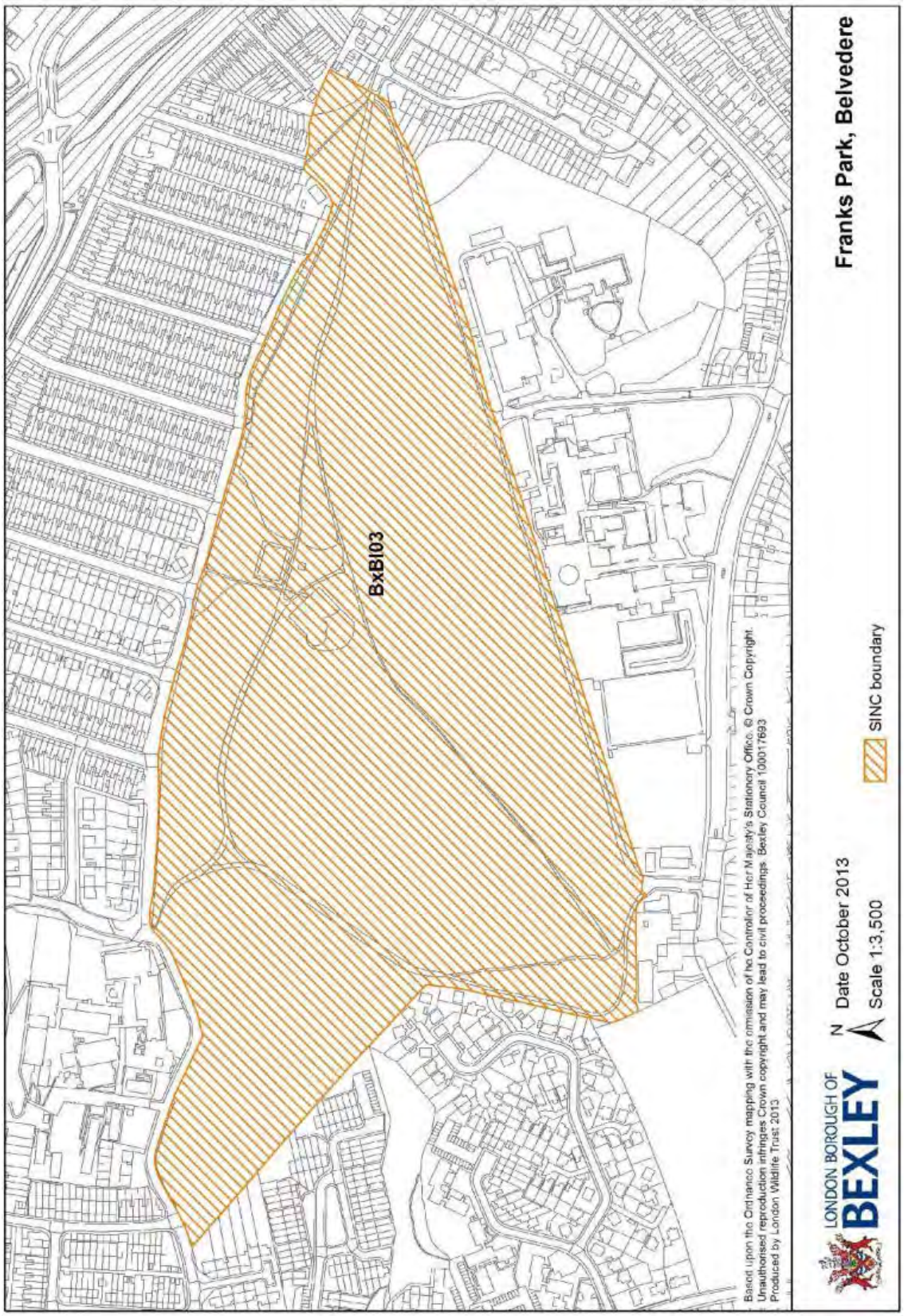
Other observations

Climbing corydalis was not recorded during the survey. This could be due to timing, since the site was surveyed in early May. Also, southern wood-rush was not recorded. Again this could be due to survey done early in the year. It is likely that these plants are still present on the site.

The most significant feature of the site are mature trees with hollows and cracks suitable for birds and bat roosts. The bat records for this site are impressive. Another feature is presence of elm and sweet chestnut coppice. As it is becoming overgrown, it would be beneficial to restore the coppice to maintain the current value of the site.

Ground flora in compartment 4 (south-east strip of woodland) is completely dominated by bramble, with only occasional wood avens plant along the path. It would be beneficial to control the bramble to allow development of woodland ground flora.

A strip of false acacia trees was recorded along the top ridge of the site. As this species is invasive, it is advisable to remove the plants and replace them with other native species which provide nectar and food for birds (members of Sorbus family - rowan, wild service tree; also hawthorn).



BxBI04 Erith Quarry and Fraser Road

Summary: A mixture of woodland, scrub and grassland of value to a range of important birds, invertebrates and plants.

Name	Erith Quarry and Fraser Road		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI04
Grid reference	TQ 503 780	Area (hectares)	23.02
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ruderal, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Private & borough

Site Description

A mosaic of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and birch (*Betula pendula*) dominated secondary woodland and scrub (including stands of gorse and broom) with species rich ruderal communities and false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominated grassland. London notable species include: southern wood-rush (*Luzula forsteri*), knotted hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*), fern-grass (*Catapodium rigidum*), wood forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*), reflexed saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia distans*) and dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*). The site supports abundant populations of common butterfly species and yellow meadow ant. Additionally the site is important habitat for breeding and foraging bird species including: kestrel, goldfinch, greenfinch, linnet, willow warbler, meadow pipit and whitethroat.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

An onsite survey took place during 2014. The survey found that the majority of the site comprises an expanse of Bramble scrub which is of very limited ecological value on account of its uniform nature.

Where areas of grassland remain within the site, these support a greater diversity of flora and are of higher ecological value in the context of the site. Areas of woodland, despite comprising common and widespread species, as well as non-natives, are also of greater ecological value in the context of the site.

General observations were made during the surveys of any faunal use of the Site and wider study area with attention paid to the potential presence of protected species. Specific surveys were also taken with regard to bats, reptiles, breeding birds, invertebrates and Badgers.

Generally low levels of bat registrations were recorded by detectors deployed overnight in strategic locations, with the vast majority pertaining to Common Pipistrelle bats.

Reptile counts translate to a large population of Slow-worms, a low population of Common Lizards and a low population of Grass Snakes in line with Herpetofauna Groups of Britain and Ireland (HGBI)6.

The Red List species House Sparrow and Song Thrush are considered to breed in the woodland habitat at the margins of the site. Whitethroat, Goldfinch, Greenfinch and Linnet, observed during the course of the breeding bird surveys, are all species noted in the site citation for Erith Quarry SINC.

Almost all the invertebrates were recorded away from the areas of Bramble scrub within the

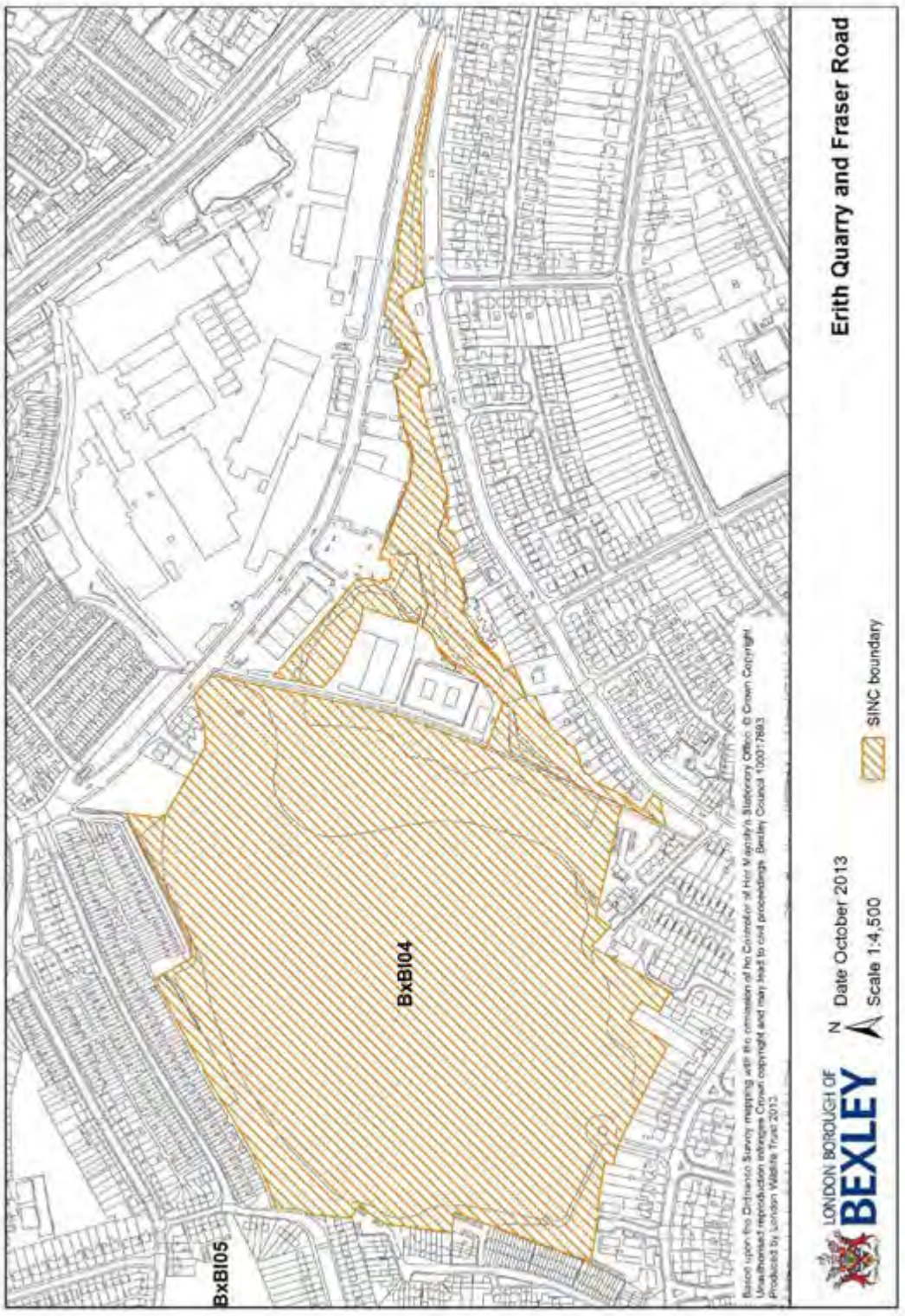
site and so, although bramble may well provide a flower resource for some species and is not without value, it is the smaller, open areas of the site that support the entirety of the invertebrate interest.

Analysis of the invertebrate assemblage at Erith Quarry using the Invertebrate Species habitats Information System, as introduced by Natural England, indicate that the features of greatest value to invertebrate ecology at the site include the edge zones made between scrub and grassland and the unshaded areas of early successional (ruderal) habitat mosaic.

Japanese Knotweed, an invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and

Countryside Act (1981) was recorded to be present in numerous patches throughout the site.

Of some note was the Wood forget-me-not Myosotis sylvatica (detailed as notable on the existing site citation) was recorded towards the periphery of this woodland in more scrubby areas, and Native Bluebell. None of the previously recorded London notable plants species - southern wood-rush, knotted hedge-parsley, fern-grass, reflexed saltmarsh-grass and dittander - were identified during the survey.


Erith Quarry and Fraser Road
LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,500
SINC boundary
BxBI04
BxBI05

BxBI05 Hollyhill Open Space

Summary: A former heathland, now mainly grassland and scrubby parkland.

Name	Hollyhill Open Space		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI05
Grid reference	TQ 498 781	Area (hectares)	4.97
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Scattered trees, semi-improved neutral grassland, wet grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description:

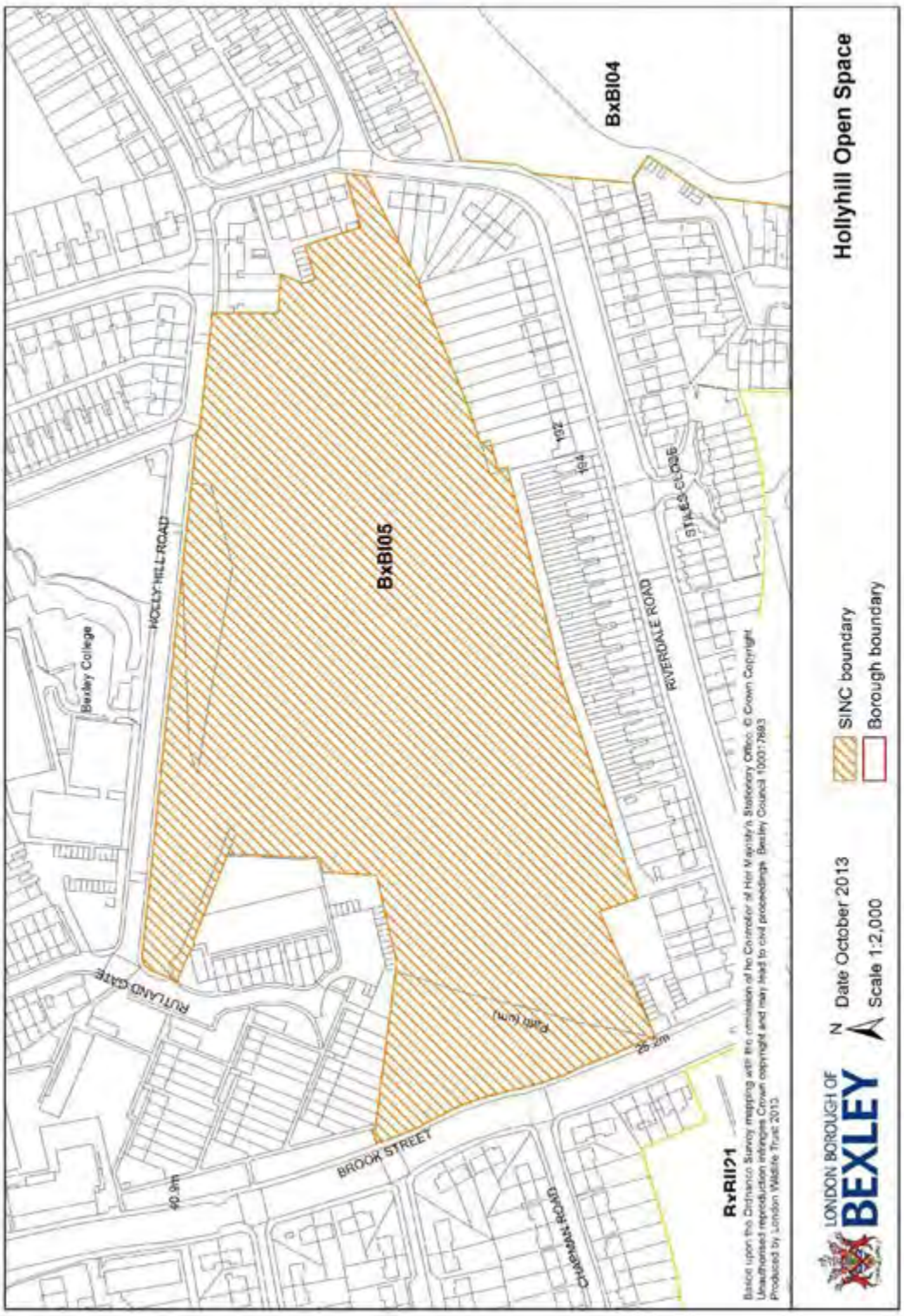
Formerly heathland, this site is now mainly a mix of acid grassland, amenity grassland and scrubby parkland, with some surviving patches of gorse. The closely mown areas of the site support populations of early hair-grass (Aira praecox), bird's-foot (Ornithopus perpusillus), common stork's-bill (Erodium cicutarium) and hare's-foot, knotted and clustered clovers (Trifolium arvense, T.striatum and T.glomeratum). These species, typical of acid grassland, are all scarce in London. The lower slopes, dominated by coarse grasses, support abundant populations of grasshoppers and crickets. A flush has created an area of damp grassland on the lower slopes

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	Cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

No hare's-foot, knotted or clustered clovers were located during the survey but may still be present.

A flush is an area of wet ground over which water flows without being confined to a definite channel.


Hollyhill Open Space
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
BxBI04
BxBI05
RxRII21
HOLLY HILL ROAD
Bexley College
RUTLAND GATE
BROOK STREET
CHARMAN ROAD
RIVERDALE ROAD
STALES CLOSE
132
134
40.9m
29.2m

BxBI06 Sidcup Golf Course and Lamorbey Lake

Summary: A large ornamental lake in the grounds of Lamorbey Mansion and an adjacent golf course with acid grassland and scrub.

Name	Sidcup Golf Course and Lamorbey Lake		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI06
Grid reference	TQ 467 733	Area (hectares)	28.67
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Wet woodland/carr

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

The large ornamental lake supports moderately varied marginal vegetation including alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), willows (*Salix spp*.), sedges (*Carex spp*.), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), common skull-cap (*Scutellaria galericulata*) and celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*). London notable plants include common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*), spiked water-milfoil (*Myriopyllum spicatum*) and lesser pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus*). Gorse (Ulex europaeus) can be found to the east of the lake. The grassland and scrub communities are dominated by pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), elm (*Ulmus sp*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with a ground flora of fescues (*Festuca spp*.), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), early hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Locally-scarce creeping St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) was previously recorded on the site, but not seen recently. On the eastern side of the golf course is a broad band of woodland dominated by sweet chestnut (Castanea sativa), some of which is probably ancient. Parts of this woodland are wet and support willows (*Salix sp*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Scattered broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) can be found on the golf course, as well as a willow carr with wetland area. Breeding bird species present include great spotted and green woodpeckers, nuthatch, grey and pied wagtails, coot, moorhen, mallard, mute swan and probably kingfisher. The park also supports a population of stag beetles.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	31/10/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

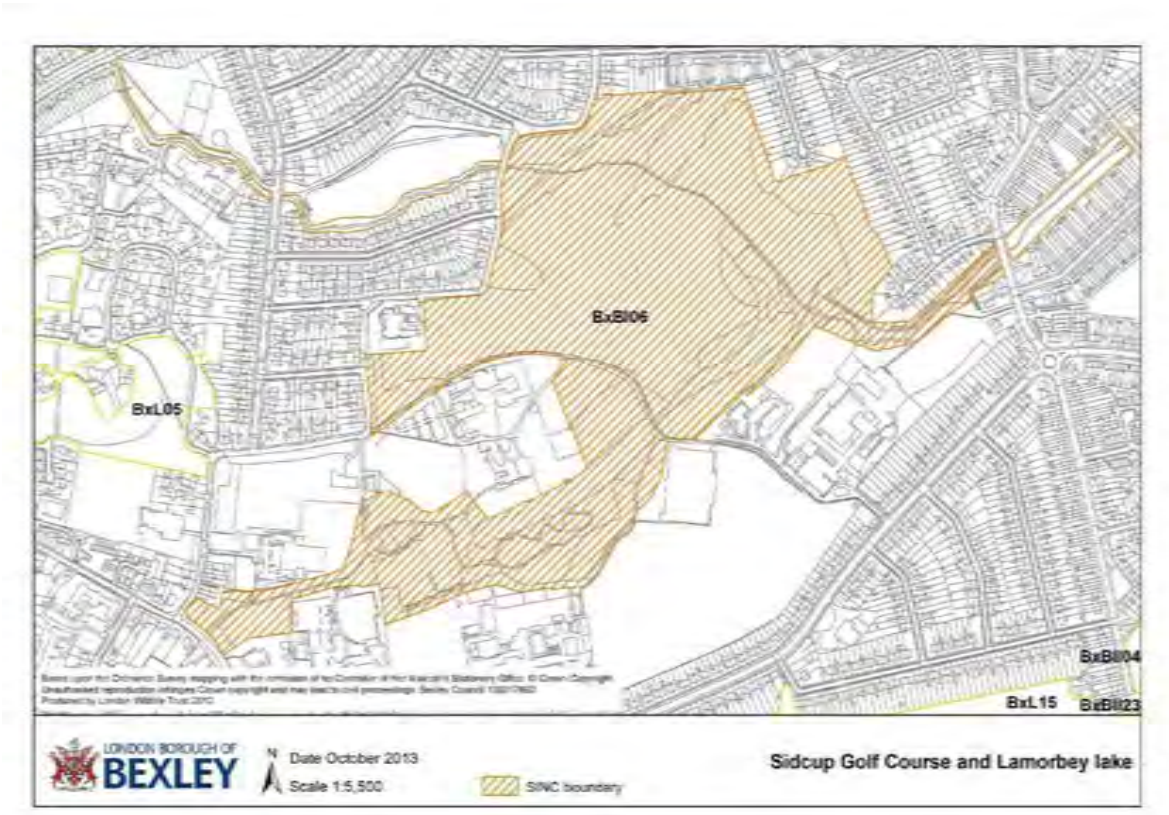
Other observations

Spiked water-milfoil was not observed during the survey, as the lake was murky due to weather conditions. It is likely it is still present in the lake. Pondweed was recorded, but not identified to species level. It is most likely to be the lesser pondweed recorded previously.

Wetland area with willow carr in the middle of the golf course is heavily overgrown with floating pennywort which requires control. There are several valuable habitats within the golf course: willow carr with wetland, river banks, sections of woodland probably of ancient origin and areas of tall herbs along the edges of the golf course. There is also some scattered broom indicating acid character of the site. It is recommended that those areas are conserved through site management.

In addition, it would be beneficial to allow development of marginal vegetation along the river Shuttle within the golf course.

Some invasive species were recorded on the site. These include cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus), Turkey oak (Quercus cerris), holm oak (Quercus ilex), rhododendron (Rhododendron ponticum), false acacia (Robinia pseudoacacia) and Spanish bluebells (Hyacinthoides hispanica). It is clear that these species originate from earlier planting in the park and have an important landscaping role. However, it would be advisable to tightly control their spreading, or even consider gradual reduction of area covered. This would especially be advisable for rhododendron, as it has a strong ability to outcompete any other species present.



BxBI07 Danson Park

Summary: A large park with recreational facilities, particularly pleasure boating, and a wildlife-rich lake with associated wet woodland.

Name	Danson Park		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI07
Grid reference	TQ 471 750	Area (hectares)	68.73
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Veteran trees, Wet woodland/carr, Woodland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

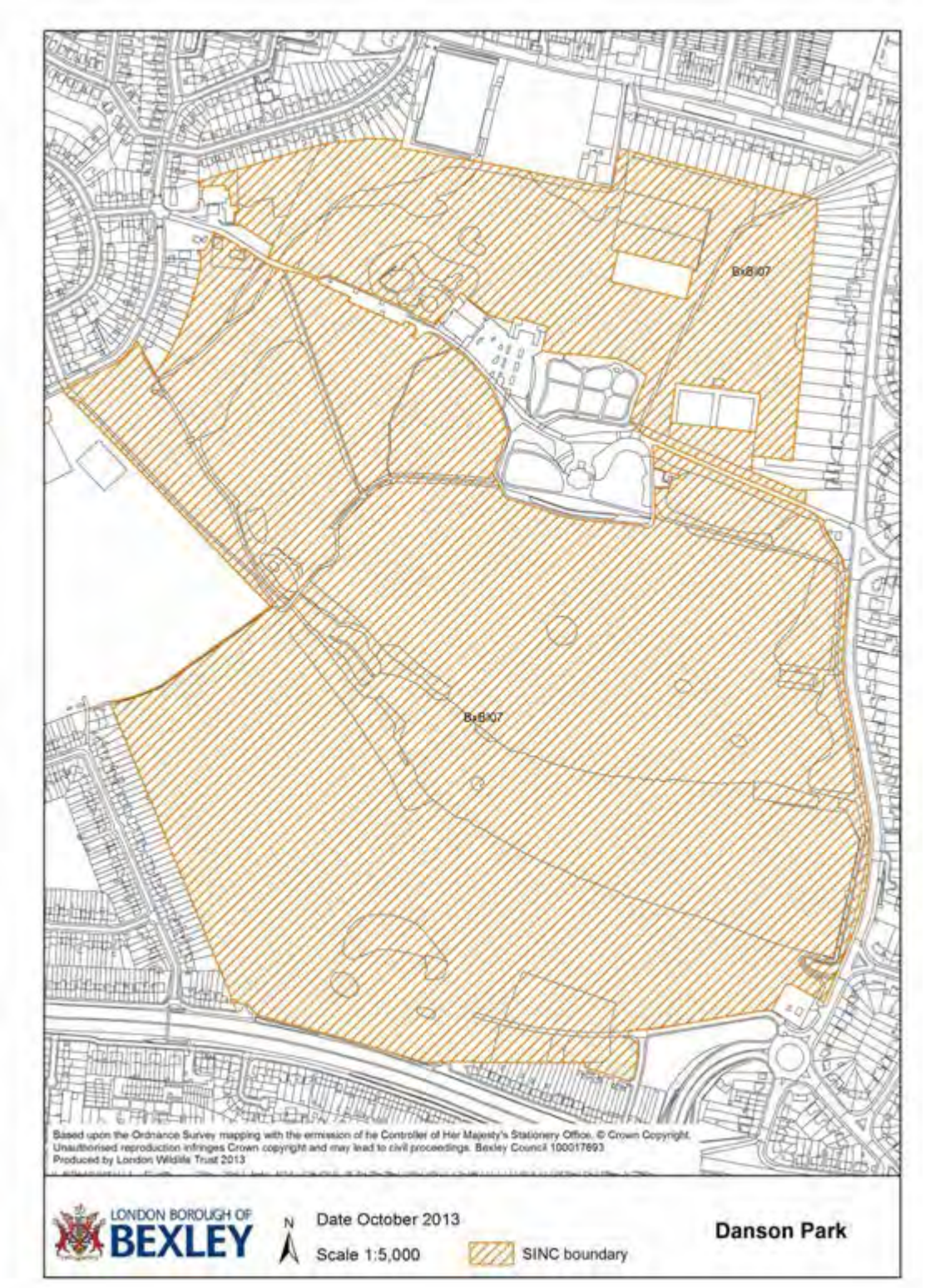
Site Description

A large park with recreational facilities, particularly pleasure boating. The site's wildlife value centres upon the lake and the associated alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and willow (*Salix spp*) carr. The lake margins support populations of watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*). London notable plants include brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), sea club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and oval sedge (*Carex ovalis*). The surrounding wet woodland is a rare habitat in London. The lake and surrounding area support breeding mallard, great crested grebe, coot and moorhen, in addition to a number of Odonata species and common toads (*Bufo bufo*) breeding along the margins. Wintering water birds include shoveler, pochard, tufted duck and water rail, while the lakeside alders support flocks of wintering siskins and other finches. Grassland areas support London rare species knotted (*Trifolium striatum*) and subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*). Remnants of drier woodland support plants such as bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and violets (*Viola spp*), and significant areas of new native woodland have been planted in recent years. There are two mature black poplars (*Populus nigra ssp betulifolia*), a London BAP priority species, near the restaurant, and several magnificent old pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*) within the parkland. The woodland and grass areas support birds such as nuthatch and green woodpecker.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Part of the grassland north of the road is used as overflow parking area. This is affecting the quality of the grassland and its value for wildlife. There is a strong possibility that the area used for parking will quickly deteriorate, in which case the area should be removed from SINC boundary. There is also a need to eradicate the invasive non-native Himalyan Balsam on the Southern margin of the lake.


Bx8.07
Bx8.07
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:5,000
SINC boundary
Danson Park

BxBI08 Bexley Park Woods

Summary: An ancient hornbeam coppice woodland with a good variety of wild flowers, crossed by the River Shuttle.

Name	Bexley Park Woods		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI08
Grid reference	TQ 483 737	Area (hectares)	12.90
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Running water, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

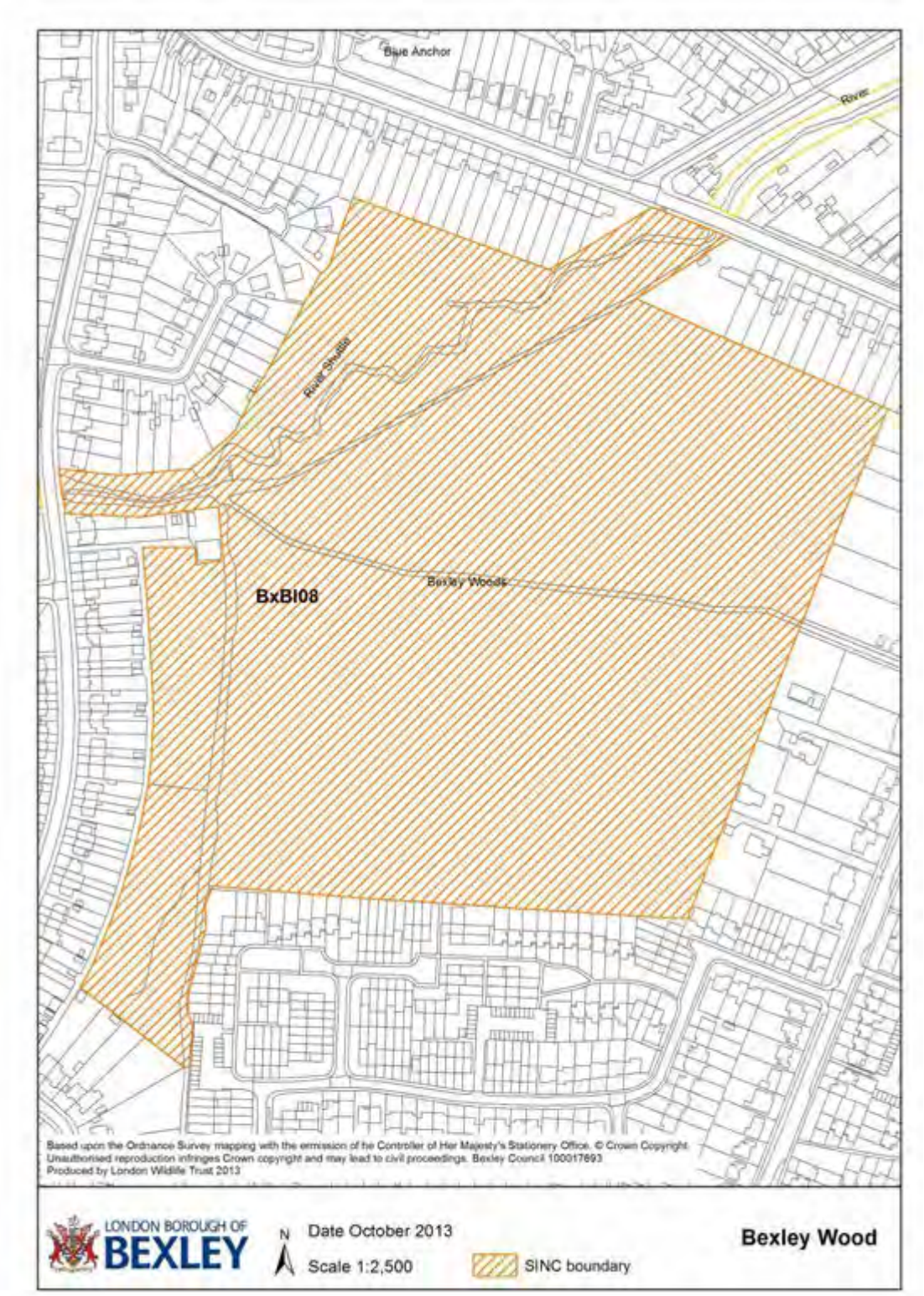
This ancient hornbeam (Carpinus betulus) coppice woodland has a very diverse ground flora, though the woodland is heavily used by local people, and the flora consequently suffers from erosion and trampling. Ancient woodland indicators include slender St John's-wort (Hypericum pulchrum), heath speedwell (Veronica officinalis), three-veined sandwort (Moehringia trinervia), common cow-wheat (Melampyrum pretense), stinking iris (Iris foetidissima), moschatel (Adoxa moschatellina), sanicle (Sanicula europaea), goldilocks buttercup (Ranunculus auricomus), and tutsan (Hypericum androsaemum). Additional species recorded in the past, but not seen recently, include pill sedge (Carex pilulifera), hairy wood-rush (Luzula pilosa), yellow pimpernel (Lysimachia nemorosa) and opposite-leaved golden saxifrage (Chrysosplenium oppositifolium). Breeding birds include nuthatch, treecreeper, blackcap and green and great spotted woodpeckers. The purple hairstreak butterfly is present. The River Shuttle runs through the northern portion of the site, the less heavily eroded banks providing some refuge for plants, such as London rare square-stalked St John's-wort (Hypericum tetrapterum) and thin-spiked wood-sedge (Carex remota). An area of scrub in the south-west of the site supports a good range of butterflies, including ringlet, which is rare in Bexley.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

One of the main characteristics of the site is presence of hornbeam coppice. The coppice is getting over mature and the absence of coppicing cycle affects composition of ground flora. In addition, high visitor pressure results in trampling and a significant issue on the site seems to be nutrition input through dog waste. Combination of these factors is the probable reason why several woodland species seem to disappear from the site. In order to maintain the richness of ground flora it would be advisable to re-instate the coppice and introduce measures to control visitor access to the most fragile areas, with tighter control of dog walkers.

Several invasive species are present on the site: cherry laurel, cotoneaster, Spanish (and hybrid) bluebells and three-cornered garlic. It would be necessary to remove cotoneaster and cherry laurel to preserve current value of the site.



BxBI09 Bexleyheath Golf Course

Summary: A medium sized golf course with patches of restored heathland and acid grassland.

Name	Bexleyheath Golf Course		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI09
Grid reference	TQ 482 745	Area (hectares)	11.48
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Heathland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

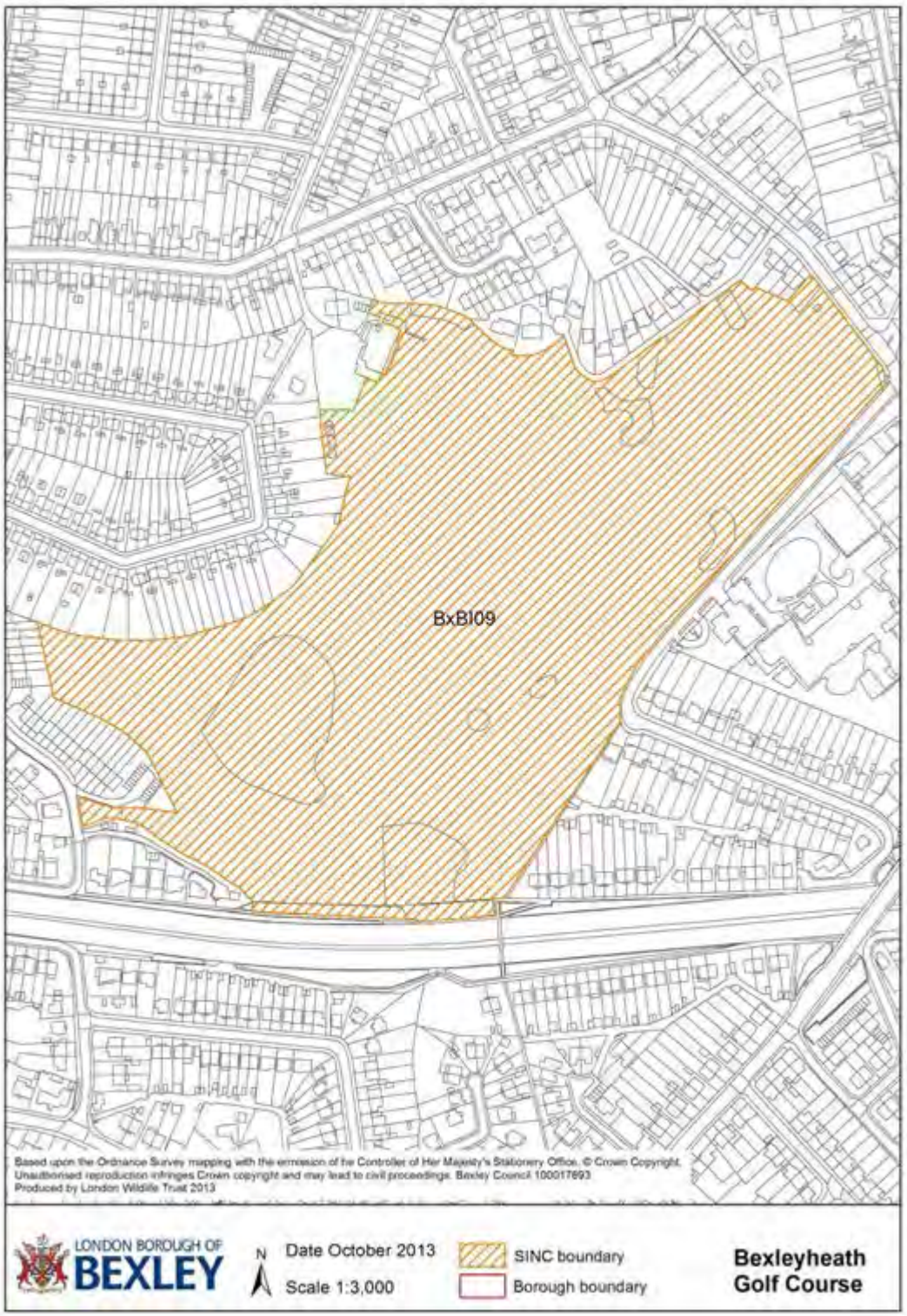
Site Description

A medium sized golf course where successful habitat restoration has been undertaken of the heathland and acid grassland fragments. Interesting plants, typical of acid soils, found in these restored areas include heather (Calluna vulgaris), harebell (Campanula rotundifolia), prickly sedge (Carex muricata), parsley-piert (Aphanes arvensis), bird's-foot (Ornithopus perpusillus), and early and wavy hair-grasses (Aira praecox and Deschampsia flexuosa). The regionally scarce climbing corydalis (Ceratocapnos claviculata) has been recorded here, but has not been seen recently. Breeding birds include green and great spotted woodpeckers, lesser whitethroat, kestrel and sparrowhawk.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

All listed species were found on site.


BxBI09
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:3,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Bexleyheath Golf Course

BxBI11 Home Wood and Bunkers Hill Ponds

Summary: A heavily grazed horse pasture with hedgerows, copses and small ponds.

Name	Home Wood and Bunkers Hill Ponds		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI11
Grid reference	TQ 489 718	Area (hectares)	23.08
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Hedge, Improved agricultural grassland, Pond/lake, Scattered trees, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Private (numerous landowners)

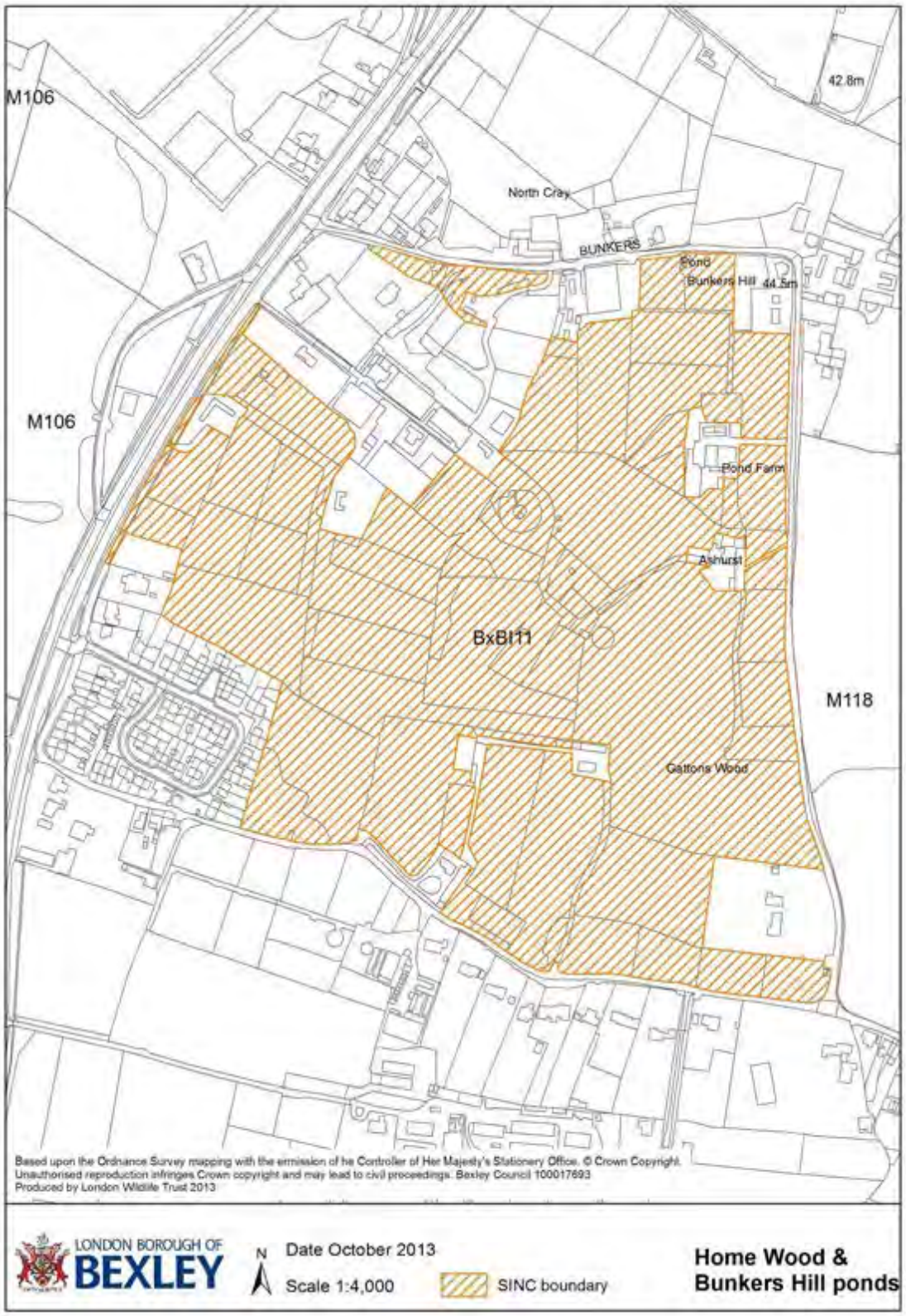
Site Description

This is an area of heavily-grazed horse pasture, hedgerows and copses. Its main nature conservation interest is centred on a number of small ponds, which recently supported a good population of the specially protected great crested newt. The ponds however, are no longer in a favourable condition with one large pond being used as an ornamental pond with large carp, another is heavily poached, prone to drying out and carpeted in New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*). The third pond is also prone to drying out, is overgrown with yellow iris (*Iris pseudocorus*) and is heavily shaded by trees. The plants, water-purslane (*Lythrum portula*) and blue water-speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*) which are rare in London were previously recorded but it seems likely that these are no longer present. The surrounding fields and woods provide plentiful important foraging habitats for newts. The ground flora in the woodland includes barren strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*).

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

If the ponds are now no longer viable for great crested newts (it is suggested that the area is surveyed for them), then this site may now be considered to be degraded as a SINC to Grade II status for just the cemetery and remnant woodland and Gattons Wood as these are the only remaining areas of any value. The rest of the site is predominantly heavily grazed horse fields and offers little in terms of local or borough value.


M106
42.8m
North Cray
BUNKERS
Pond
Bunkers Hill
44.5m
M106
Pond Farm
Ashurst
BxBI11
M118
Gattons Wood
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,000
SINC boundary
Home Wood & Bunkers Hill ponds

BxBI12 Woodlands Farm, Dryden Road open land and Hillview Cemetery

Summary: Mostly a working farm, the closest to central London, with a range of wetland habitats. Cemetery with grassland areas, scrub and hedges.

Name	Woodlands Farm, Dryden Road Open land and Hillview Cemetery		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI12
Grid reference	TQ 451 765	Area (hectares)	15.82
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Hedge, Improved agricultural grassland, Running water, Scrub, Wet ditches, Wet woodland/carr

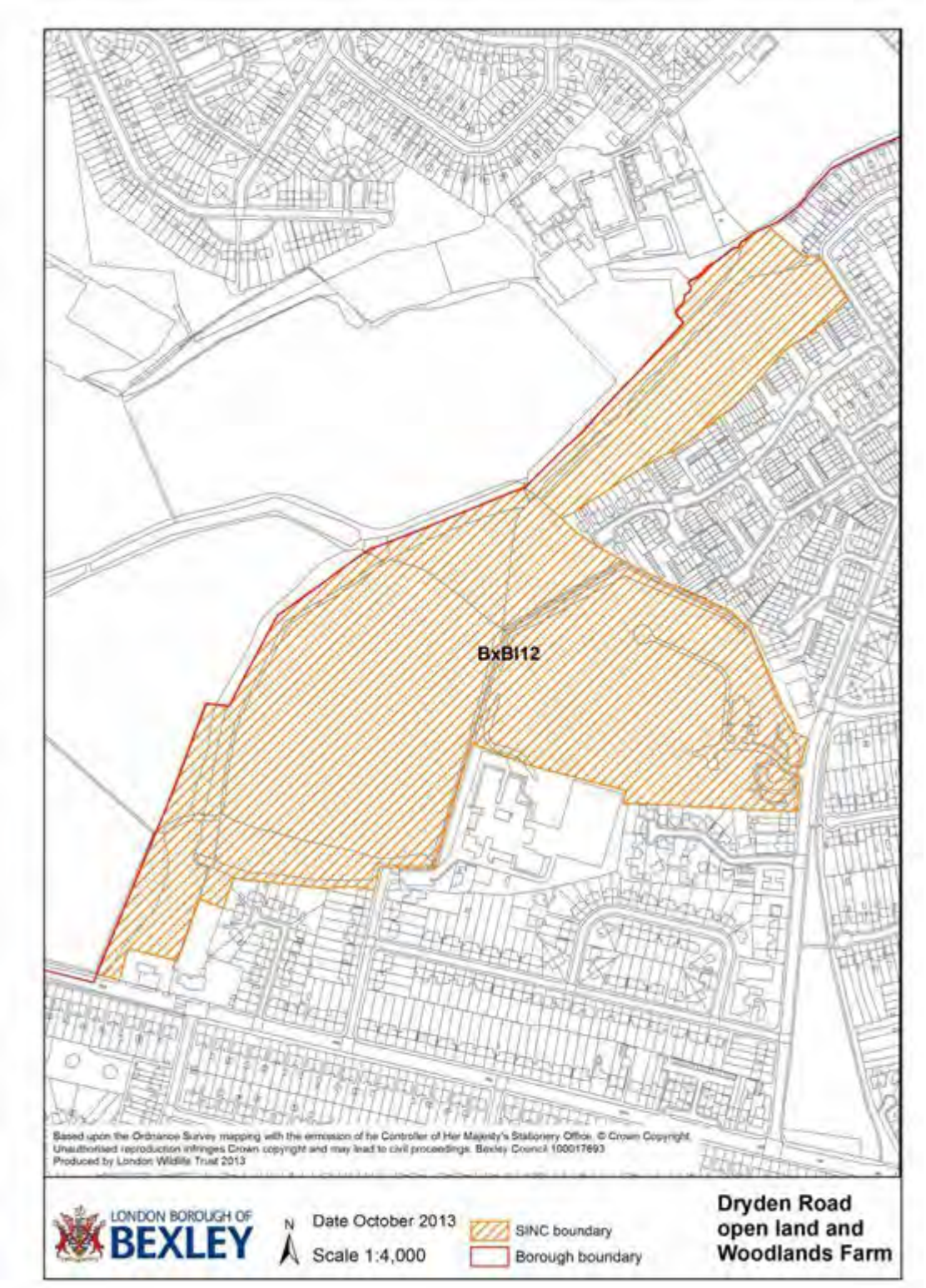
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley, The Woodlands Farm Trust and Private

Site Description

The majority of this site is a working farm, which extends into the London Borough of Greenwich. The Bexley part of the site includes a stream fringed with wet willow (Salix spp) woodland and scrub, which continues into Dryden Road Open Space and is followed by the Green Chain Walk. Parts of the woodland are probably ancient, and contain wild service-tree (Sorbus torminalis). Northern part of the woodland supports alder (Alnus glutinosa) and extends into a bulrush (Typha latifolia) dominated wetland. Most of the fields have been previously ploughed and reseeded, but are gradually becoming more herb-rich with the beneficial cutting and grazing management employed by the farm. A native hedge runs along the east boundary of the farm. A number of ditches support notable species including brooklime (Veronica beccabunga), grey sedge (Carex divulsa) and sharp-flowered rush (Juncus acutiflorus). Apart from the wet woodland, Dryden Road Open Space also includes a sloping area of unmanaged grassland and scrub which helps to shield the nearby houses from the Green Chain Walk. Part of Dryden Road Open Space nearest Dryden Road is formed of a set of animal enclosures.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


BxBI12
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Dryden Road open land and Woodlands Farm

BxBI13 Braeburn Park

Summary: Roughland with associated chalk, neutral and acid grasslands, several ponds, woodland and the important geological site, Wansunt Pit.

Name	Braeburn Park		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI13
Grid reference	TQ 510 739	Area (hectares)	25.17
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Chalk grassland, Pond/lake, Roughland, Ruderal, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs

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

Ownership: The Land Trust

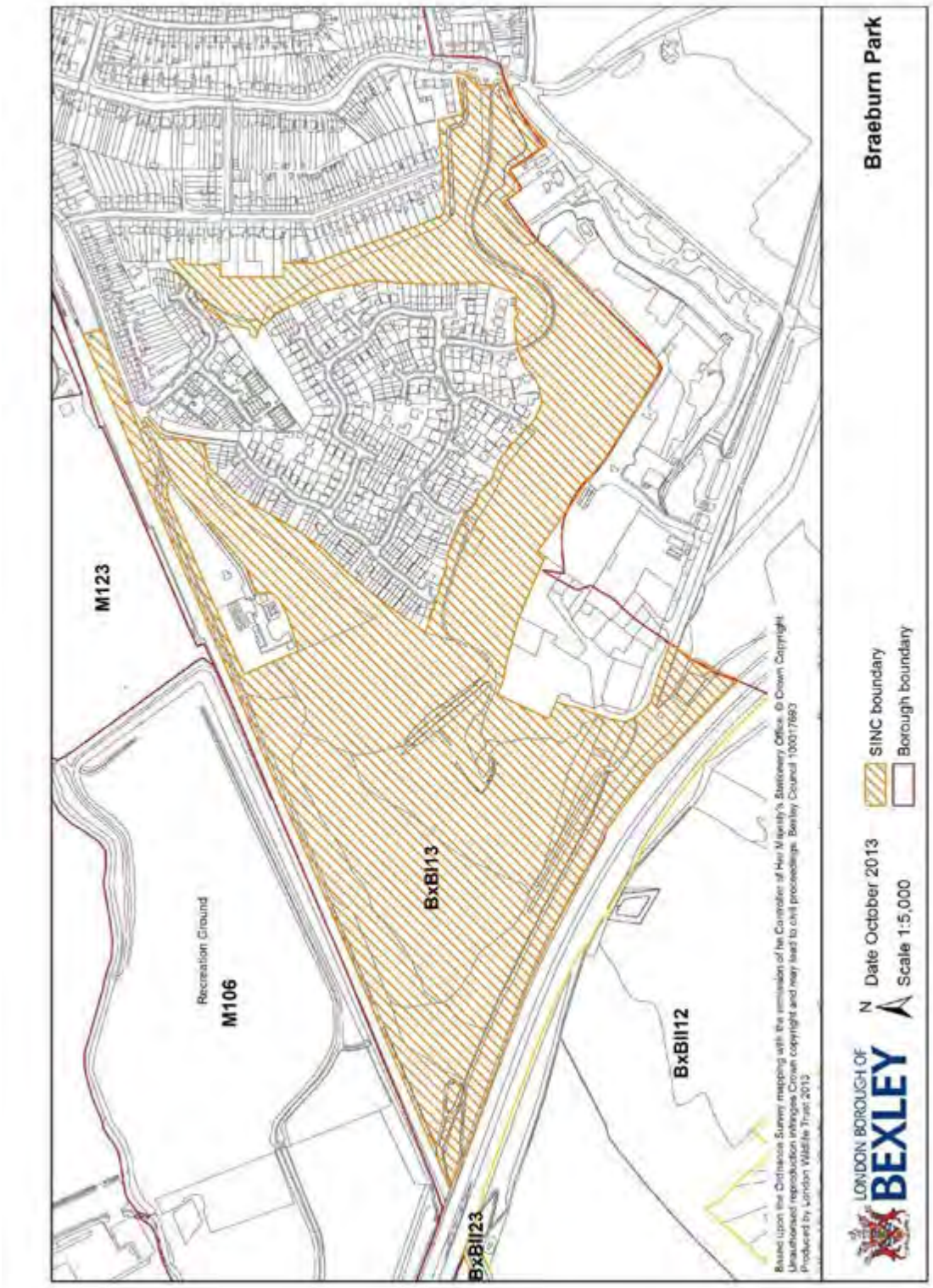
Site Description

Much of the site is roughland with the areas of grassland, some acid and others with an apparent chalky influence, support a number of notable plants, including knotted and hare's-foot clovers (*Trifolium striatum* and *T. arvense*), wild basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), long-stalked crane's-bill (*Geranium columbinum*), hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), narrow-leaved bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), vervain (*Verbena officinalis*), hemp agrimony (*Eupatoria cannabina*), upright hedge-parsley (*Torilis japonica*) and white mullein (*Verbascum lychnitis*) Plants recorded in the past, but not seen recently, include eyebright (*Euphrasia nemorosa*), blue fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) and the nationally scarce yellow vetchling (*Lathyrus aphaca*),. Open sandy areas provide suitable habitat for invertebrates, especially burrowing hymenoptera. Common lizard and slow-worm both occur. The areas of secondary woodland are dominated by silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) with a hazel (*Corylus avellana*) understorey. The ground flora includes great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), stinking iris (*Iris foetidissima*), three-veined sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), black bryony (*Tamus communis*) and hard-fern (*Blechnum spicant*). A balancing pond on the road verge in the south-west of the site supports breeding smooth newts, and formerly supported the specially protected great crested newt. A wide range of common birds are present, including green woodpecker, song thrush, linnet and whitethroat. Part of the site, Wansunt Pit, is a Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest.

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	16/02/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Site is managed by London Wildlife Trust for the Land Trust.


Braeburn Park
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:5,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
M123
M106
Recreation Ground
BxBI13
BxBII12
BxBII23

BxBI14 Thamesview Golf Course

Summary: An area of grassland and small ponds with reedbeds.

Name	Thamesview Golf Course		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI14
Grid reference	TQ 481 809	Area (hectares)	14.95
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Pond/lake, Reed bed, Ruderal, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland.

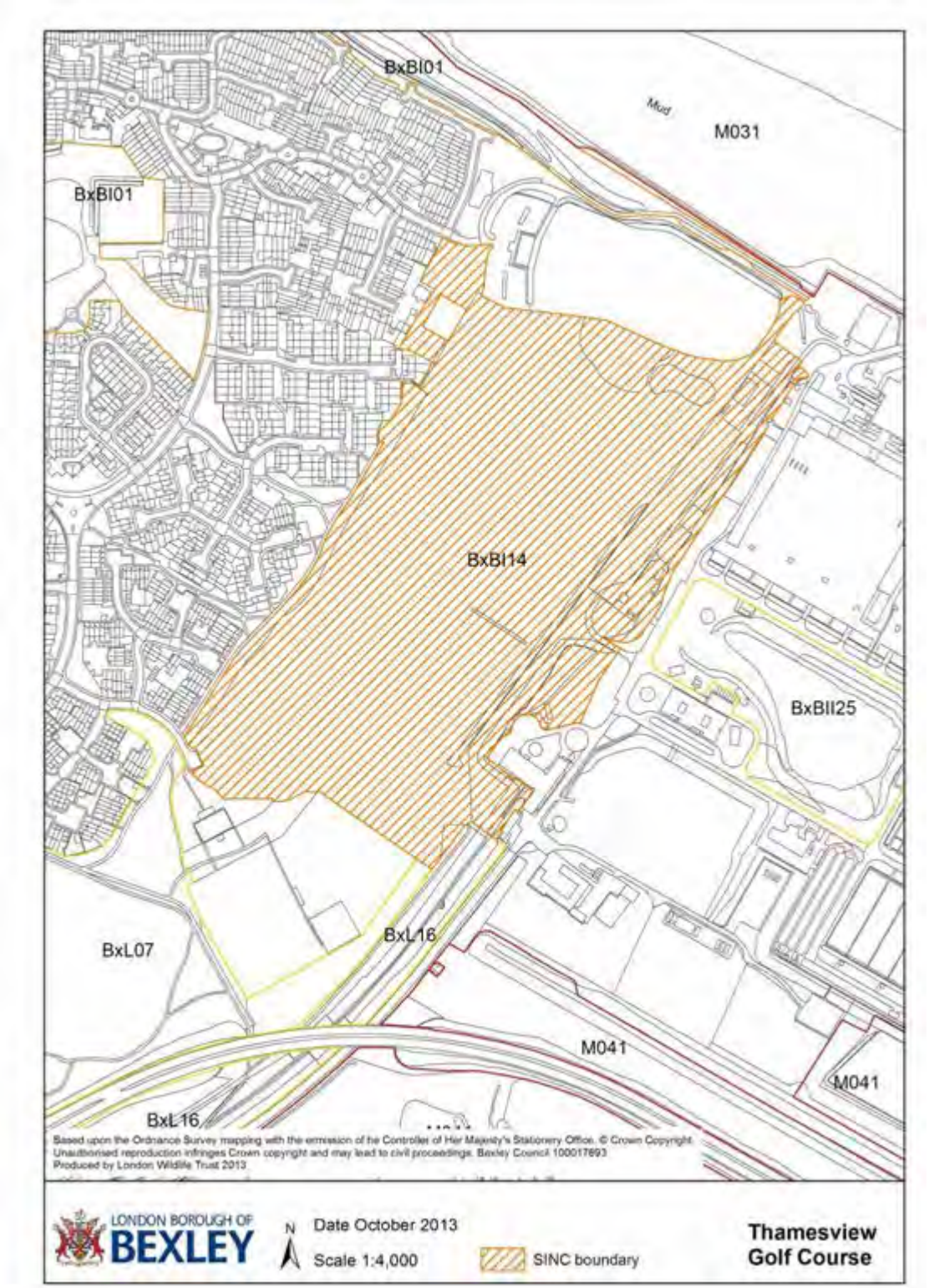
Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Private, Thames Water and LB Bexley

Site Description

The golf course is an area of mostly heavily mown semi-improved acid to neutral grassland, with areas of planted woodland dominated by poplar (*Populus sp*.) and small ponds with reedbeds. The ponds support a number of common dragonfly species. Notable plants include bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) and hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*). Breeding birds include green and great spotted woodpeckers, reed warbler, coot and moorhen. A good diversity of birds visit in winter and on passage, including kingfisher, meadow pipit, snipe and a wide variety of warblers. Invertebrates include the wasp spider (*Argiope bruennichi*).

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


BxBI01
Mud
M031
BxBI01
BxBI14
BxBII25
BxL07
BxL16
M041
M041
BxL16
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,000
SINC boundary
Thamesview Golf Course

BxBI15 Hall Place (North) and Shenstone Park

Summary: Site by the historic Hall Place mansion and gardens, with acid grassland and native shrub plantings.

Name	Hall Place (North) and Shenstone Park		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI15
Grid reference	TQ 501 746	Area (hectares)	25.14
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Veteran trees

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

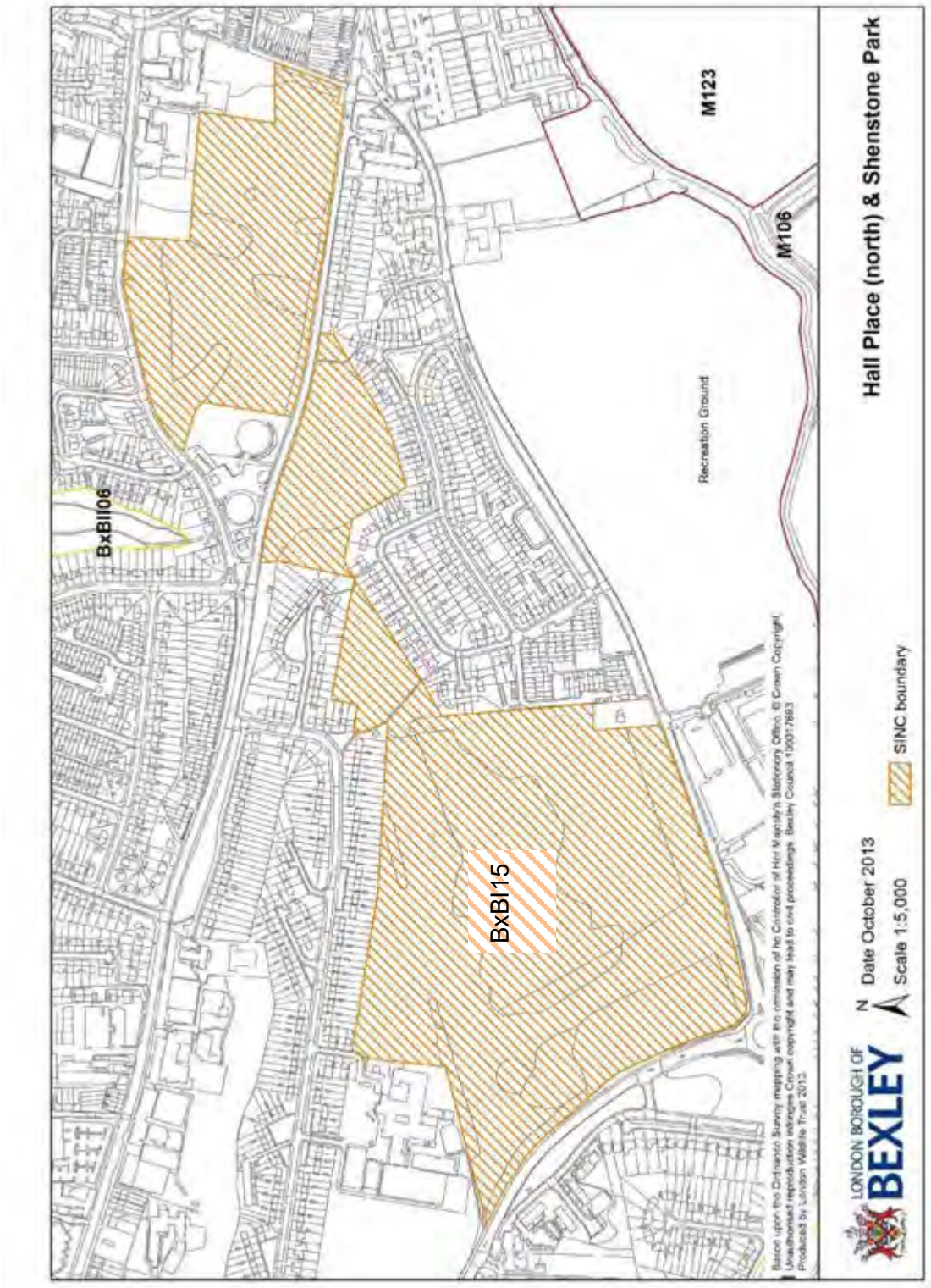
Site Description

Hall Place (North) is located to the north of Hall Place, on the opposite side of Bourne Rd, and east of Gravel Hill, running east into Biggs Hill Wood, with Shenstone Park continuing to the north-east between London Road and Old Road. The site is dominated by parkland with fine historic avenues of lime (*Tilia sp*.). The majority of the site is amenity grassland, although there are areas of acid grassland and native shrub plantings. The acid grassland contains a number of scarce plants, including bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*), pignut (*Conopodium majus*), knotted clover (*Trifolium striatum*), parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis*), fiddle dock (*Rumex pulcher*) and common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). Breeding birds include green and great spotted woodpeckers, and the short grass supports good numbers of feeding redwings in winter. A small area of broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) scrub in Hall Place (North), where the grass is left to grow long, is rich in common wild flowers and good for invertebrates. Purple hairstreak butterflies occur around (and undoubtedly breed in) oak trees (*Quercus sp*) in Hall Place (North). There is a strip of silver birches / scrub which hold breeding warblers in spring and summer. Shenstone Park includes an ecletic mix of trees including non natives such as turkey oak (*Quercus cerris).* Other plant species here include knotted clover (Trifolium striatum) and subterranean clover (Trifolium subterraneum). Tawny owl is also present.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

Previously known as BxBII07 Hall Place (North) and Shenstone Park, this site upgraded to reflect the importance of the presence of London notable species (large knotted clover population and fiddle dock) and veteran trees.


Hall Place (north) & Shenstone Park
M123
M106
Recreation Ground
BxBI06
BxBI15
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:5,000
SINC boundary

BxBI16 River Shuttle

Summary: One of Bexley's most important rivers, with several regionally important plants and supporting varied populations of fish, birds and invertebrates.

Name	River Shuttle		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI16
Grid reference	TQ 493 742	Area (hectares)	8.05
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Running water, Scrub, Tall herbs, Woodland, Semi-improved grassland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley (Most of site) and Private

Site Description

The River Shuttle is second in importance to the River Cray in Bexley. A large proportion of the river has been straightened, but in recent years stretches of the river have been naturalised. The rivers supports a good wetland flora, including curled pondweed (Potamogeton crispus), cyperus sedge (Carex pseudocyperus), arrowhead (Sagittaria sagittifolia), common club-rush (Schoenoplectus lacustris), flowering-rush (Butomus umbellatus), brooklime (Veronica beccabunga), water forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), square-stalked St John's-wort (Hypericum tetrapterum) and sea club-rush (Bolboschoenus maritimus).The rivers support varied populations of fish, including chub and bullhead, the latter a UK BAP priority species. Breeding birds include kingfisher. The river corridor is used by grey wagtail, greenfinch, blackcap, siskin and heron. Habitat suitable for water voles is present along the river and anecdotal evidence suggests they are present in small numbers.

The site includes a small woodland dominated by mature oak (Quercus robur) with elm (Ulmus glabra) and associated semi-improved grassland. The woodland supports purple hairstreak butterflies. The small grassland area supports London rare species narrow-leaved bird's-foot trefoil (Lotus glaber) and hare's-foot clover (Trifolium arvense), as well as thyme-leaved speedwell (Veronica serpyllifolia) and early hair-grass (Aira praecox).

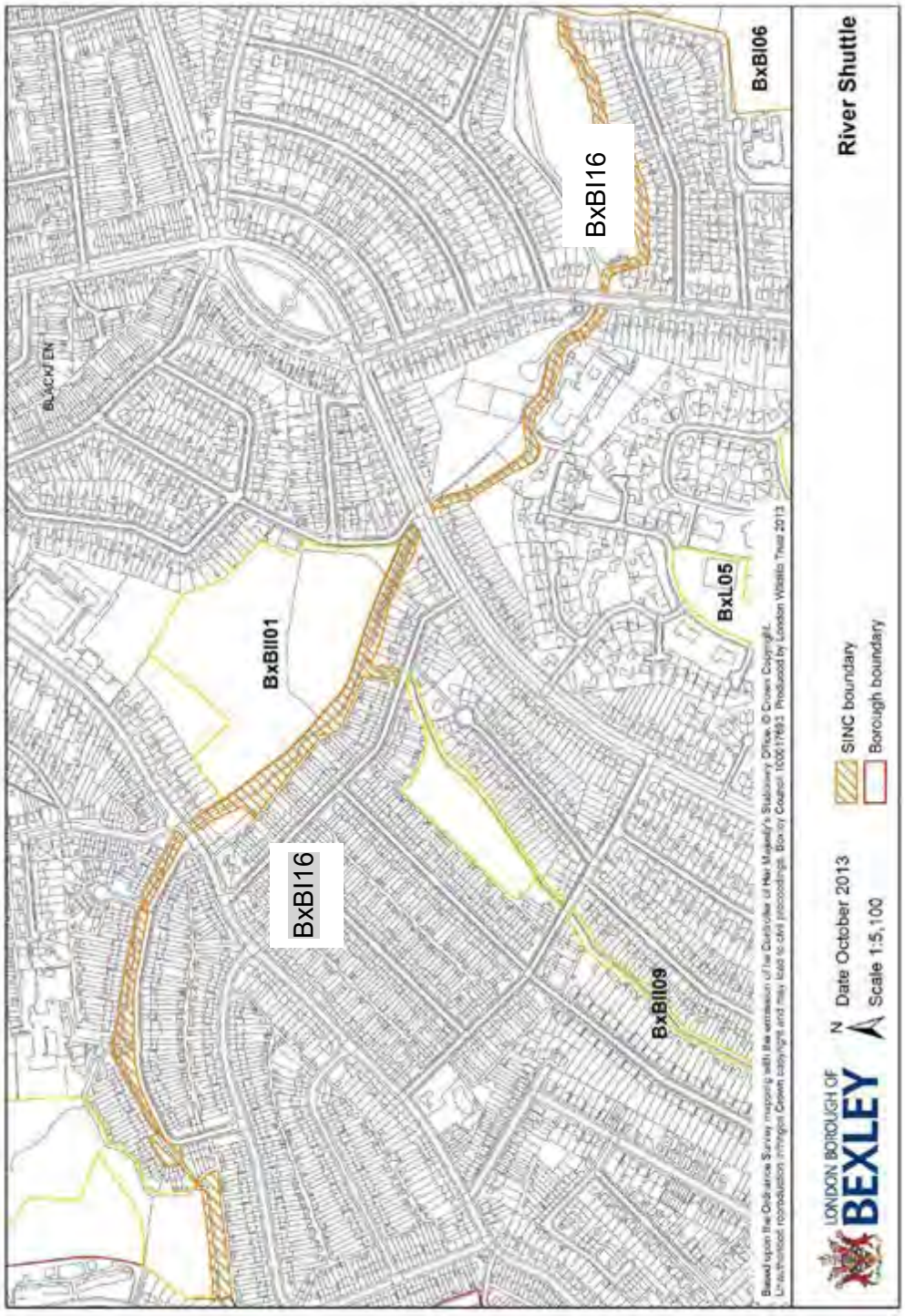
site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

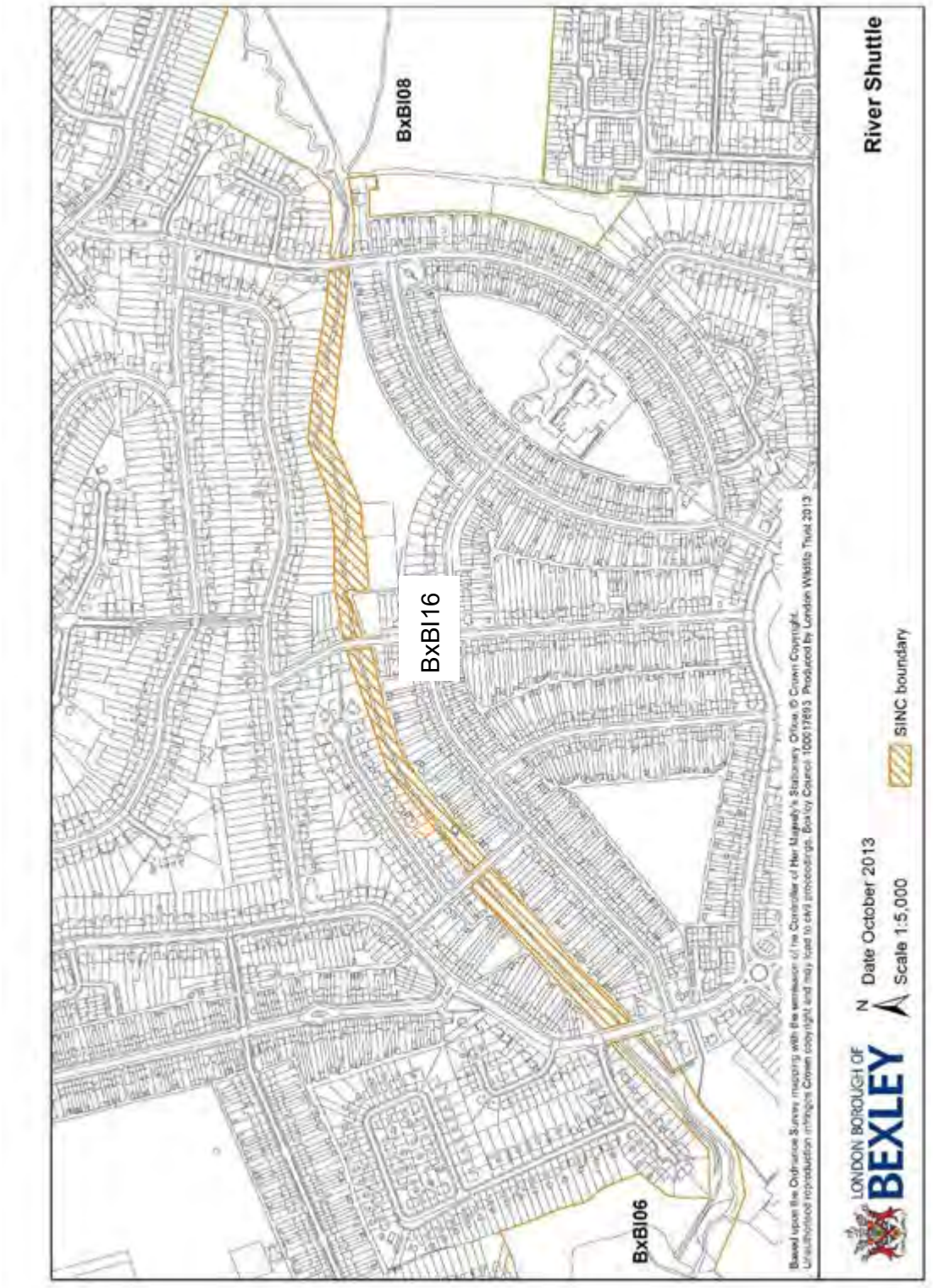
Status Change

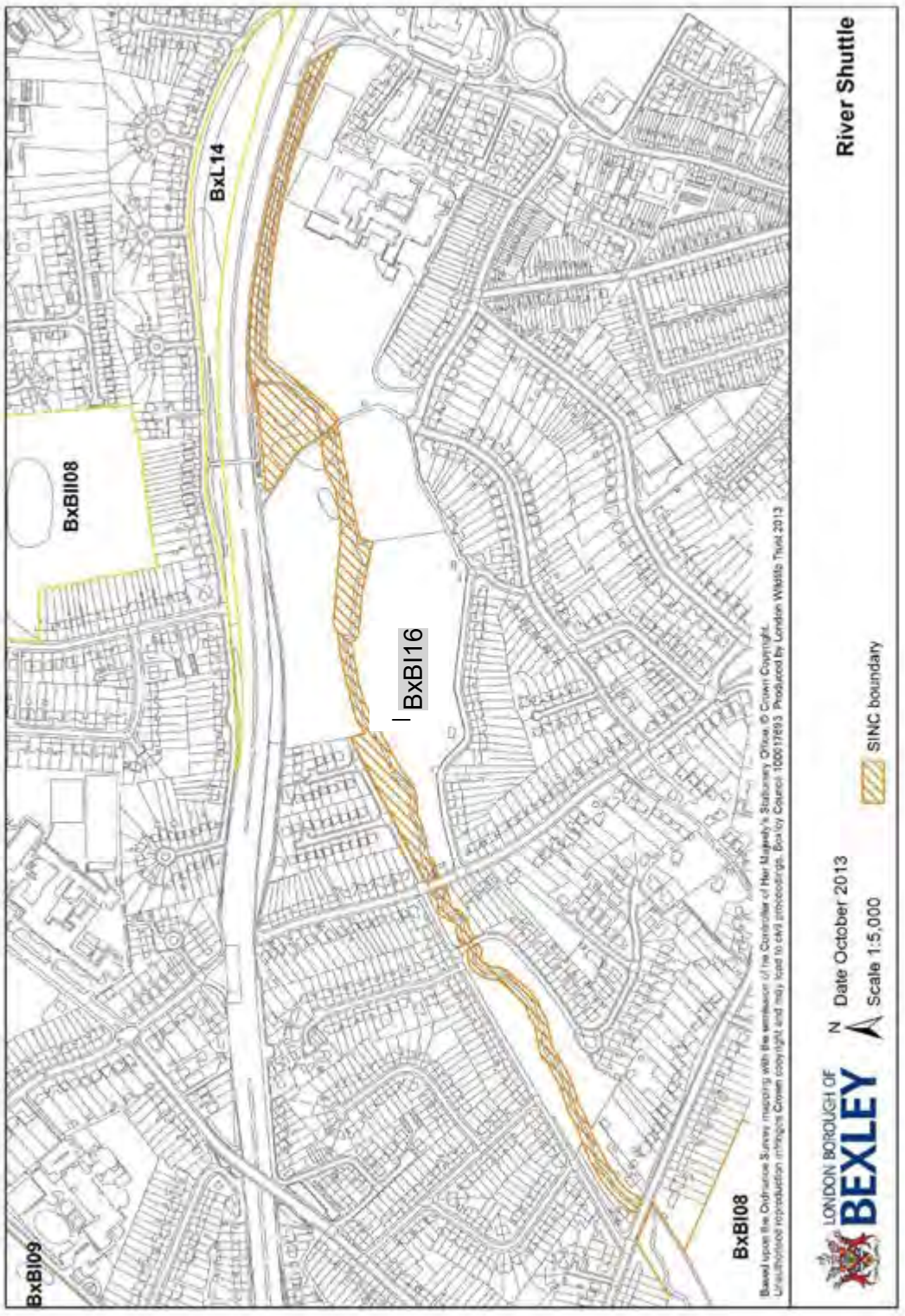
Previously part of BxBII09 River Shuttle and Wyncham Stream. The River Shuttle has been upgraded to Borough Grade I site. The river has undergone significant improvements during past several years and further work is planned through River Shuttle Restoration Acton Plan (LB Bexley). Stretches of the river are now naturalised and re-planted, and they support good quality wetland and marginal habitats. In its current condition, together with its function as an important corridor linking several other SINC sites, the River Shuttle fits the criteria for Borough Grade I site.

Other observations

Arrowhead (Sagittaria sagittifolia) and flowering-rush (Butomus umbellatus) were not recorded during this survey, although this could be due to surveyors missing the flowering window. It is very likely that the species are present on the site. A few plants of Himalayan balsam were recorded near the foot bridge across A2. Removal is strongly advised before the balsam spreads.




BxBI08
BxBI16
BxBI06
River Shuttle
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:5,000
SINC boundary


BxL14
BxBII08
BxBI16
BxBI09
BxBI08
River Shuttle
SINC boundary
LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:5,000

BxBI17 Sands Spinney

Summary: A mixture of woodland and grassland that is an extension of Joyden's Wood.

Name	Sands Spinney		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI17
Grid reference	TQ 499 726	Area (hectares)	9.91
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Ancient woodland, Coniferous woodland, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: National Grid and private

Site Description

This site contains a mosaic of woodland, scrub semi-improved neutral and acid grasslands. The woodland represents a highly degraded extension of Joyden's Wood. Part has been replanted with conifers. Nevertheless, it supports remnant populations of ancient woodland plants including bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*). The acid grassland contains a number of locally scarce plants, including thyme-leaved sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), early hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), and hare's-foot and knotted clovers (*Trifolium arvense* and *T.striatum*). Knotted clover is abundant and appears to be benefitting from the current horse grazing management regime.

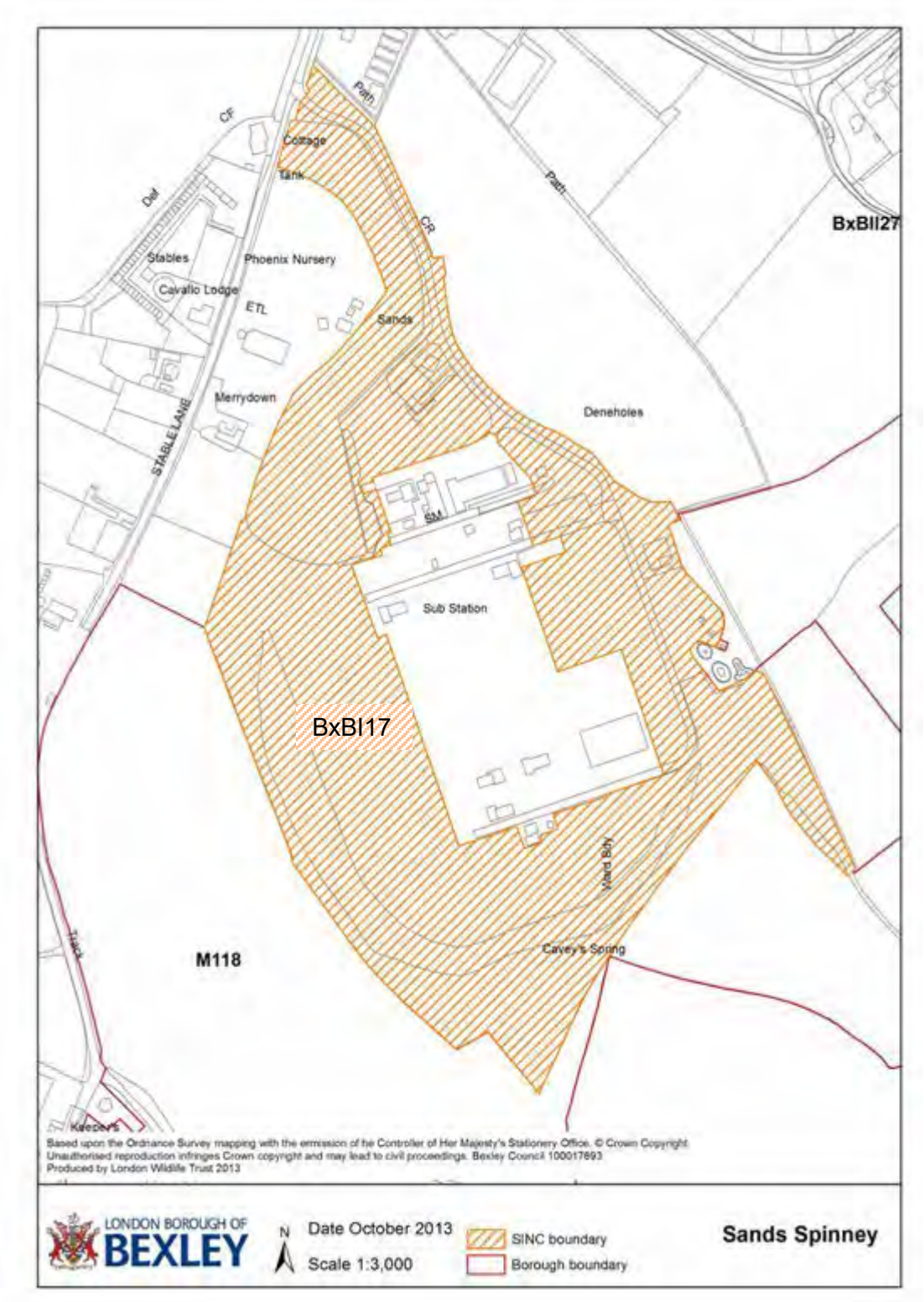
site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	16/02/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

Previously known as BxBII22 Sands Spinney, the site status was upgraded to Borough Grade I due to presence of a very large population of knotted clover, a rare species in London. The area of acid grassland it is present within is managed by horse grazing. This appears to be benefitting this species.

Other observations

All notable species were found during the survey.


Path
Cottage
Tank
CR
Path
BxBII27
Stables
Phoenix Nursery
Cavallo Lodge
ETL
Sands
Merrydown
STABLE LANE
Deneholes
SM
Sub Station
BxBI17
Ward Bdy
Carey's Spring
M118
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:3,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Sands Spinney

BxBI18 Crayford landfill and Howbury Grange

Summary: A former landfill site, now rough grassland supporting a wide variety of plants and important breeding birds.

Name	Crayford Landfill and Howbury Grange		
Grade	Borough Grade I	Reference	BxBI18
Grid reference	TQ 531 763	Area (hectares)	95.80
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Hedge, Ruderal, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Wet ditches

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Private

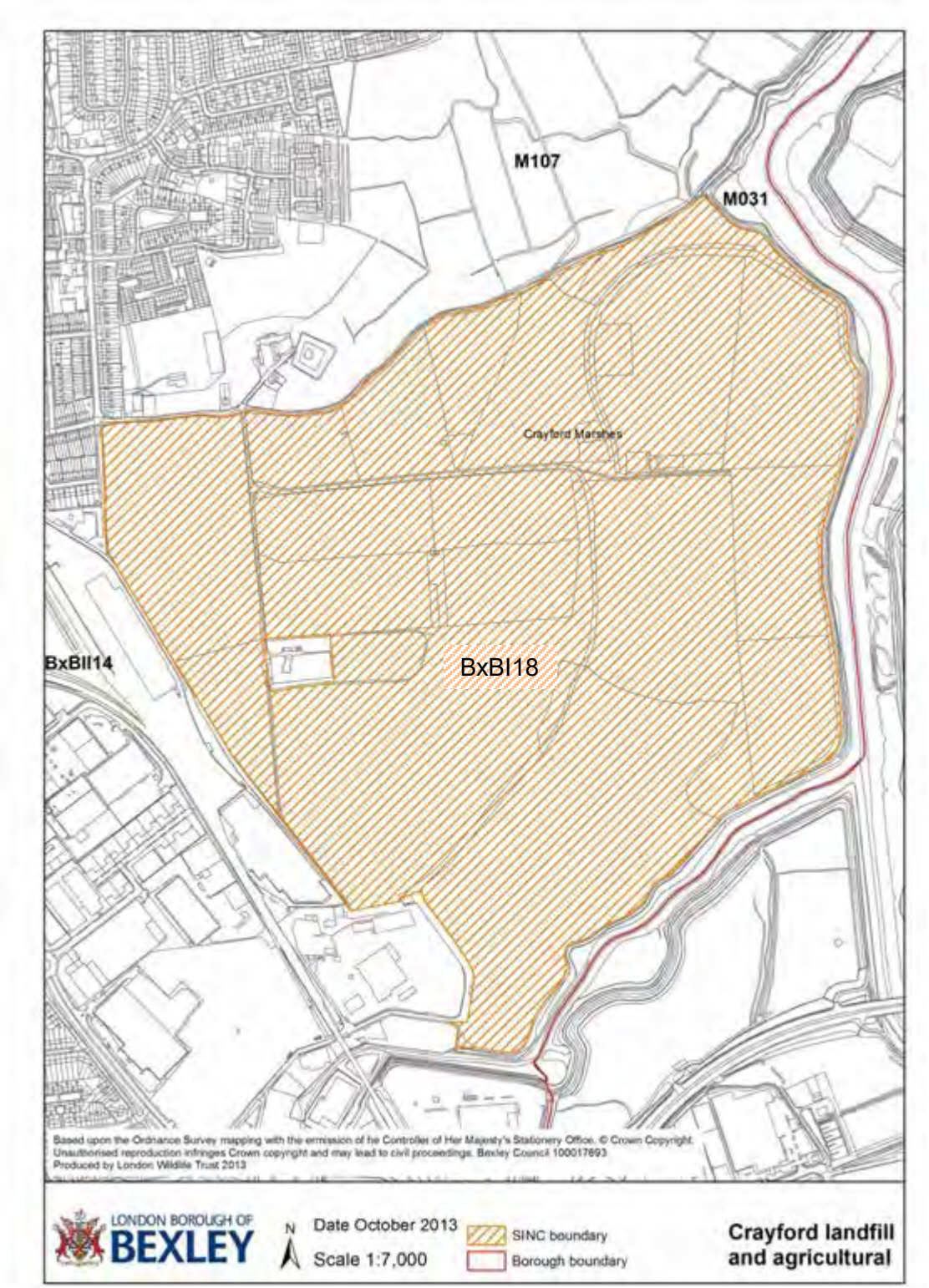
Site Description

This is a large, open site formerly a landfill area now a combination of semi-improved neutral grasslands and ruderal plant communities with a mix of species that includes greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), lucerne (*Medicago sativa*) and the London notable dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*). The extensive area of the site and its proximity to two Sites of Metropolitan Importance (Crayford Marshes and the River Thames and tidal tributaries) further increase its value. Some parts of the site are used as a high-tide roost for gulls, redshank, curlew, lapwing and ringed plover, and *supports breeding skylark, corn bunting and little owl. Barn owl, kingfisher, grey wagtail and wheatear are regular visitors. Site supports large numbers of finches in winter*. The white-letter hairstreak butterfly occurs on elms near Moat Lane. Common lizard is known to inhabit the site.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	07/12/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

Previously named BxBII16 Crayford landfill and agricultural, this site has been upgraded to BI to reflect successional habitat change and increased value within the borough for birds and other fauna.


M107
M031
Crayford Marshes
BxBI14
BxBI18
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:7,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Crayford landfill and agricultural

Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation – Grade II

BXBII01 Blackfen Woods

Summary: Three small woodlands associated with the River Shuttle and Wyncham Stream, important for local bird populations.

Name	Blackfen Woods		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII01
Grid reference	TQ 457 739	Area (hectares)	7.79
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Hedge, Pond, Running water, Scattered trees, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Wet ditches, Wet woodland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

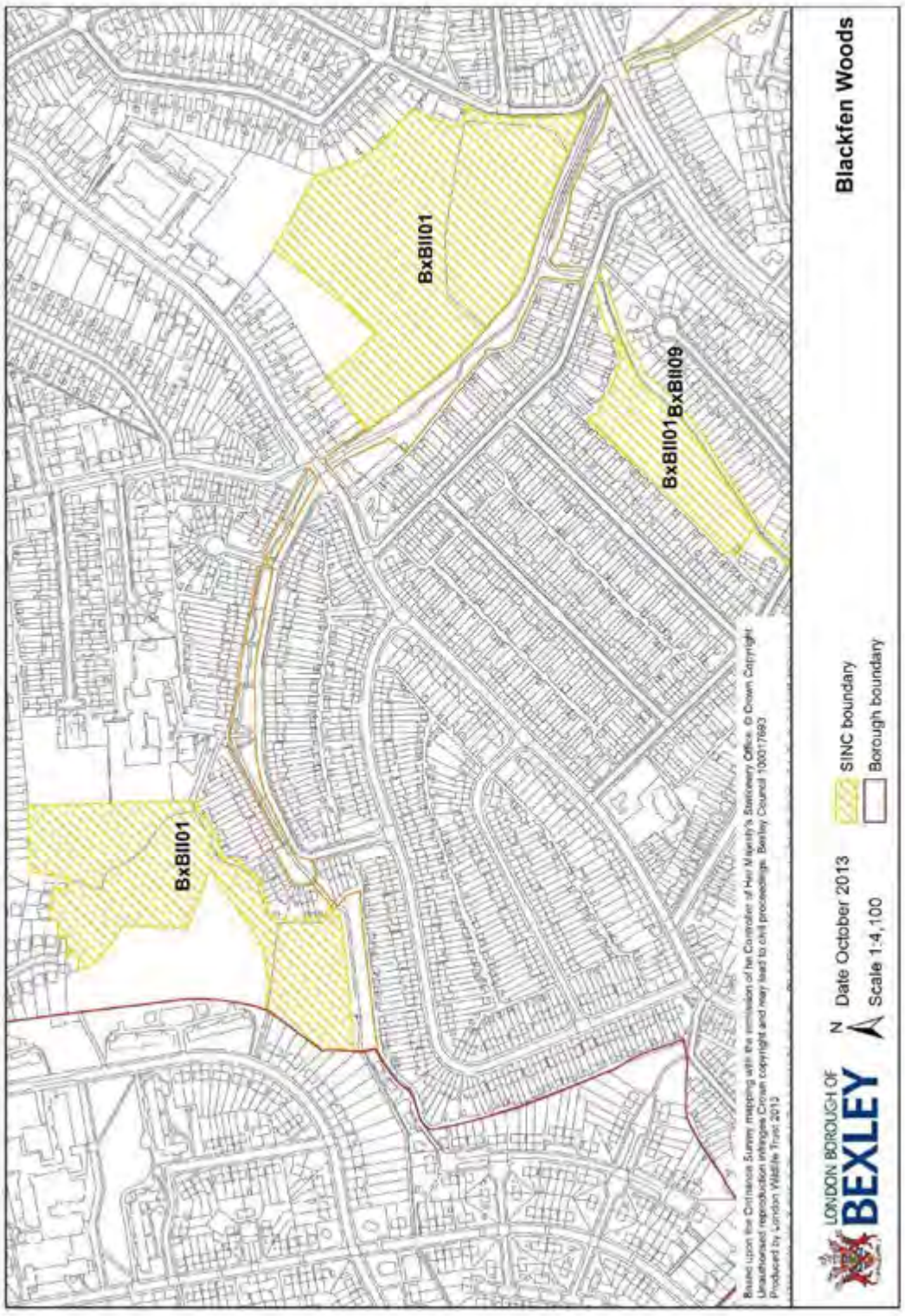
Site Description

Three small, mostly wet woodlands associated with the River Shuttle and Wyncham Stream. Parish Wood is drier and contains mainly pedunculate oak (Quercus robur) and ash (Fraxinus excelsior). The wetter Beverley Wood, by the side of Wyncham Stream, consists mainly of crack willow (Salix fragilis), while Hollyoak Wood is mainly coppiced alder (Alnus glutinosa). The ground flora is dominated by bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg); bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta), violets (Viola spp), meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria), wood-sedge (Carex sylvatica), dog's-mercury (Mercurialis perennis) and wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa) are also present. London notable plants include square-stalked St John's-wort (Hypericum tetrapterum). These woods are important for local bird populations, including breeding sparrowhawks. A pond and meadow, created in 2010 in Parish Wood Park immediately south of the woodland, add to the habitats of the site, as well as the semi-improved grassland areas to the south with scattered trees and wild cherry dominated scrub. Sneezewort (Achillea ptarmica) and greater bird's-foot-trefoil (Lotus uliginosus) grow in damp grassland beside the pond.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Some invasive non-native species were recorded on the site. This includes buddleia (Buddleja davidii) and cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) at Beverley Wood; and goat's-rue (Galega officinalis) at Parish Wood (next to the pond).


Blackfen Woods
BxBII01
BxBII01
BxBII01
BxBII09
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,100
SINC boundary
Borough boundary

BxBII02 Southmere Park &Yarnton Way/Viridion Way

Summary: A large lake mainly used for recreation, with surrounding parkland, a poplar woodland and an accessible corridor of greenspace.

Name	Southmere Park & Yarnton Way/Viridion Way		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII02
Grid reference	TQ 479 799	Area (hectares)	39.23
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Pond/lake, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Wet ditches, Wet woodland

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

Ownership: Peabody Housing Trust and Private

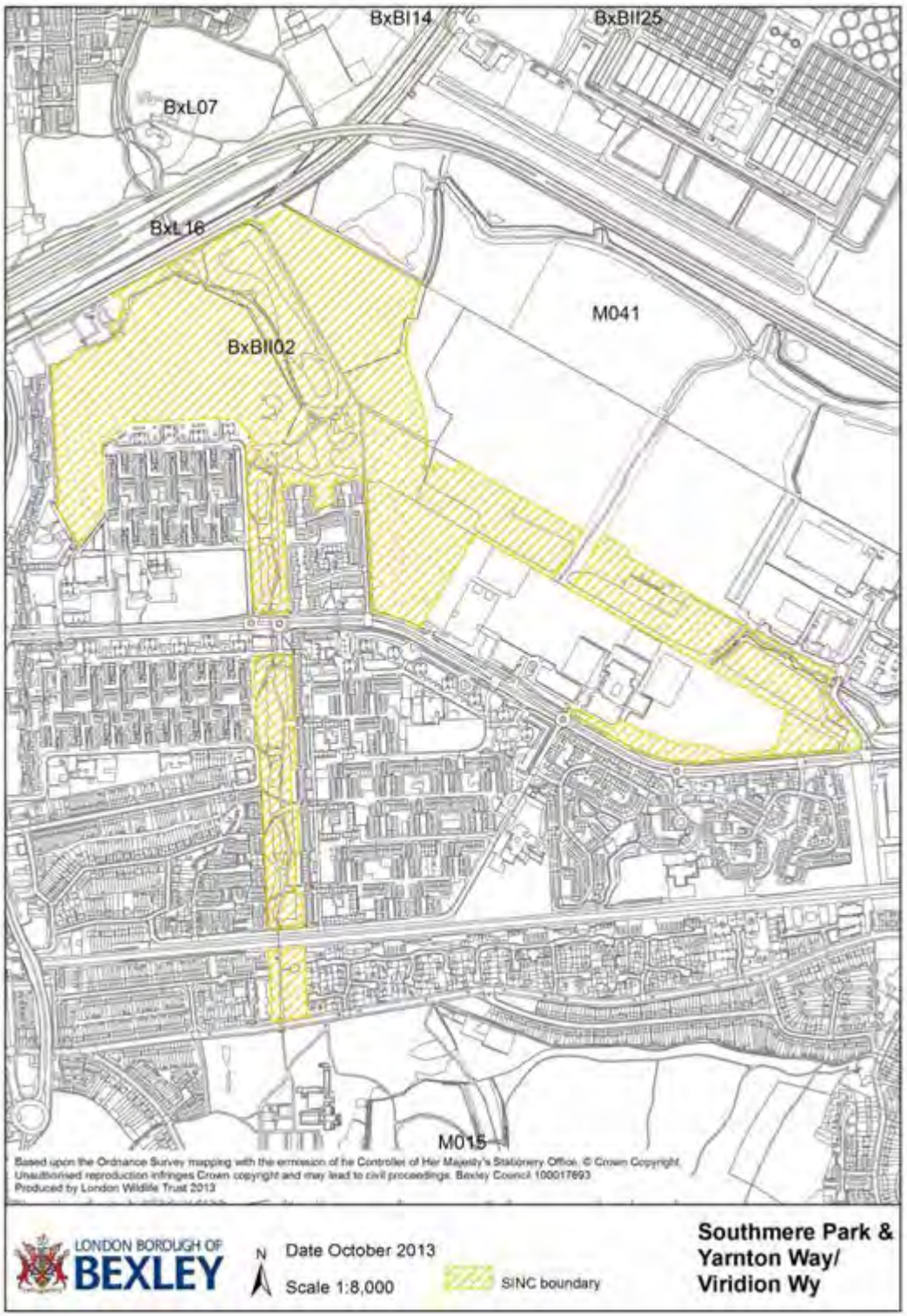
Site Description

Southmere is a large lake with artificial sides mainly used for recreation, its large size being of value to water birds including various gull species, mallard, pochard, cormorant, common tern, shoveler, coot, mute swan, great crested grebe and tufted duck. A large fish population includes bream, carp, perch and eels. The water quality appears high and there has been some habitat creation in areas. Extending south-east from Southmere Park, is Woodland Way, an area of woodland of hybrid black-poplar (*Populus* x *canadensis*), and black poplar (*Populus nigra ssp betulifolia*), a priority species in the London and Bexley BAPs. Much of the woodland is wet and follows the line of an old ditch. Additionally there are some small areas of semi-improved neutral grassland supporting a good mix of wildflowers that incudes ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*). South of the lake a narrow corridor of predominantly amenity grassland and mature scattered trees known as Abbey Way links the site to Lesnes Abbey Wood to the south. The hybrid poplars are gradually being replaced by native trees, using appropriate mixes for the wet and drier areas. Species planted include black poplar (Populus nigra ssp betulifolia), a priority species in the London and Bexley BAPs.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Site name change

Site name changed from ‘Southmere Park and Woodland Way/Abbey’ Way to ‘Southmere Park and YarntonWay/Viridion Way’, to better reflect additional areas of SINC.


BxBI14
BxBII25
BxL07
BxL16
M041
BxBII02
M015
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:8,000
SINC boundary
Southmere Park & Yarnton Way/ Viridion Wy

BxBII04 Rutland Shaw

Summary: A small, publicly accessible woodland with some important plants and birds.

Name	Rutland Shaw		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII04
Grid reference	TQ 475 729	Area (hectares)	1.99
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Scrub

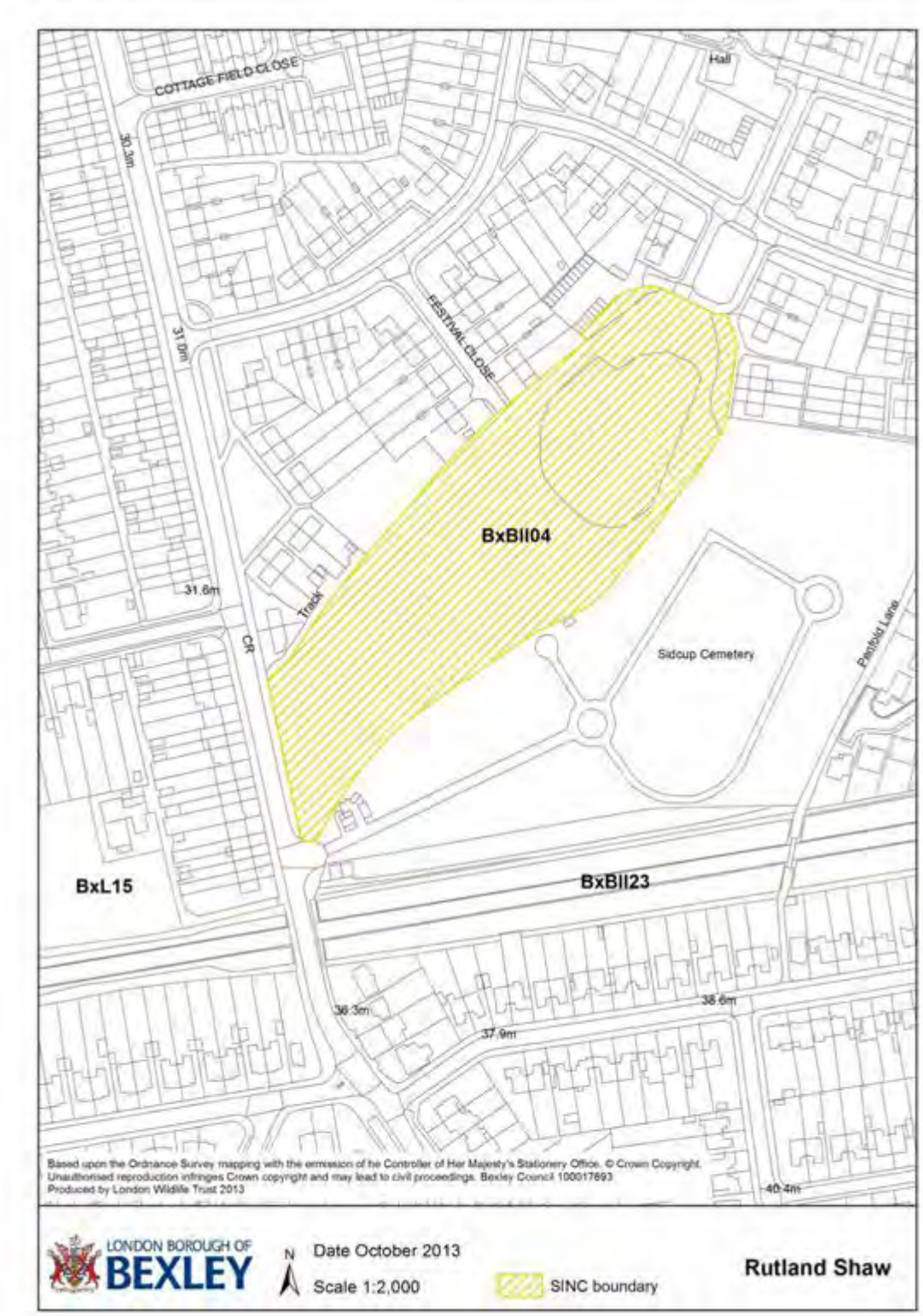
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This small woodland is dominated by oak (*Quercus robur*) with elm (*Ulmus sp*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The ground flora is dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), while bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), dog mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are also present, the latter suggesting an ancient origin. Small damp flushes contain rushes (*Juncus spp*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), along with square-stalked St John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*) and lesser water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*).

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


COTTAGE FIELD CLOSE
Hall
30.3m
31.0m
FESTIVAL CLOSE
BxBII04
31.6m
Track
CR
Sidcup Cemetery
Parkfield Lane
BxL15
BxBII23
36.3m
37.9m
38.6m
40.4m
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
SINC boundary
Rutland Shaw

BxBII05 Bursted Wood open space

Summary: Ancient sweet chestnut woodland with a good range of plants and birds.

Name	Bursted Wood Open Space		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII05
Grid reference	TQ 498 764	Area (hectares)	12.10
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Semi-improved neutral/acid grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

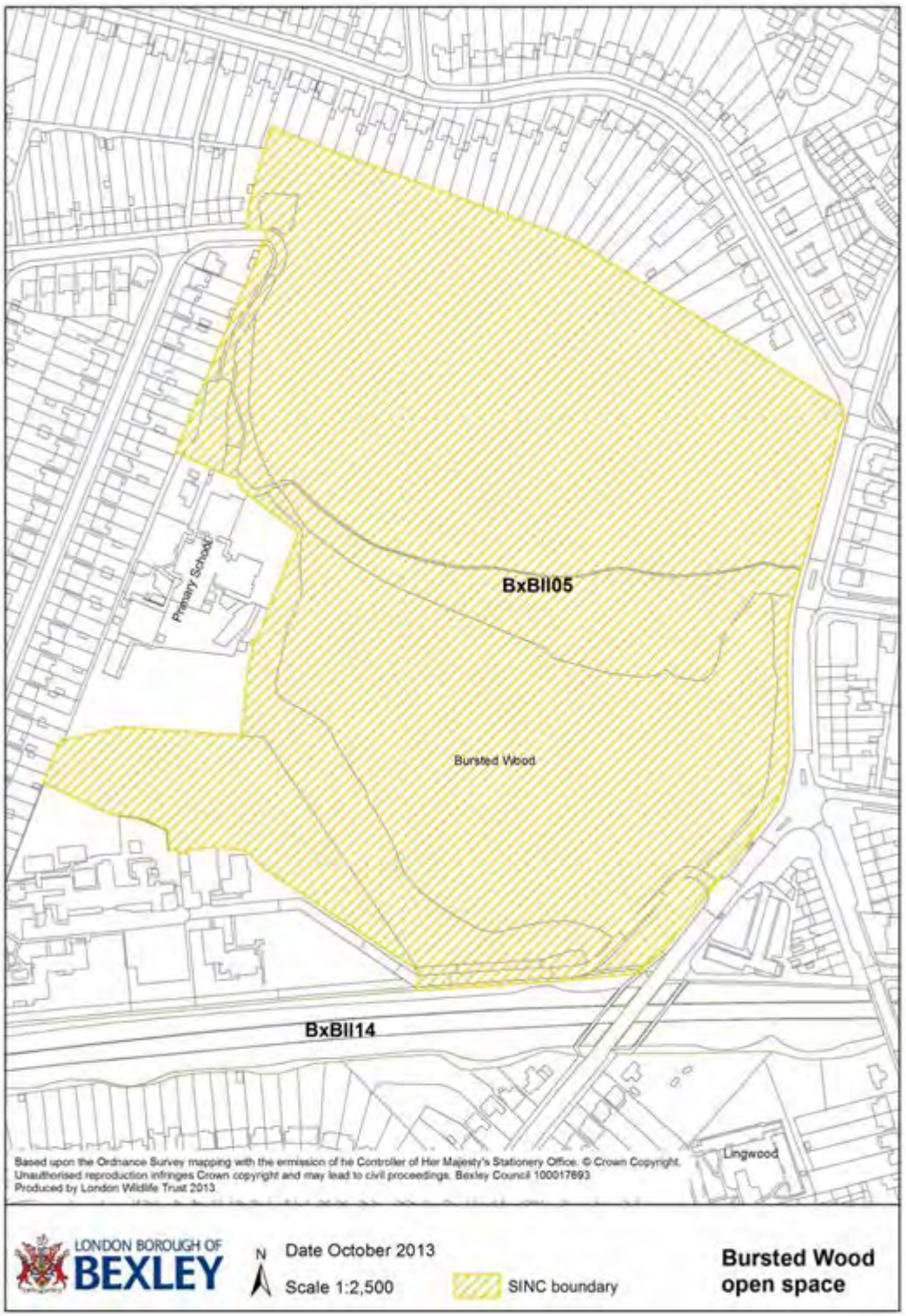
Site Description

This ancient wood is mostly outgrown coppice of sweet chestnut (Castanea sativa), with oak (Quercus robur) and ash (Fraxinus excelsior) standards. The ground flora is dominated by bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg), with bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta), pignut (Conopodium majus), dog's mercury (Mercurialis perennis), wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa), common figwort (Scrophularia nodosa), wood sage (Teucrium scorodonia), climbing corydalis (Ceratocapnos claviculata) and slender St John's-wort (Hypericum pulchrum) are also present. The latter two species are rare in London. Breeding birds include green and great spotted woodpeckers, treecreeper, nuthatch, blackcap and chiffchaff. Purple and white-letter hairstreak butterflies can be seen in the canopy.The grassland around the edges of the wood is slightly acidic, and supports common stork's-bill (Erodium cicutarium) as well as scattered gorse (Ulex europeaus) and broom (Cytisus scoparius). Birds foot (Ornithopus Perpusillus) can also be found. The short grass on the eastern side of the wood supports two nationally notable invertebrates, the hairy-legged mining bee (Dasypoda hirtipes) and the bee-wolf (Philanthus triangularum).

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

It would be good if the volunteer-led effort to eradicate Spanish hybrid Bluebells is continued.


BxBII05
Bursted Wood
BxBII14
Primary School
Lingwood
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LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,500
SINC boundary
Bursted Wood open space

BxBII06 Martens Grove

Summary: A steep-sided woodland with a parkland area, containing tennis courts and flower beds.

Name	Martens Grove		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII06
Grid reference	TQ 503 753	Area (hectares)	14.25
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Ancient woodland, Scattered trees

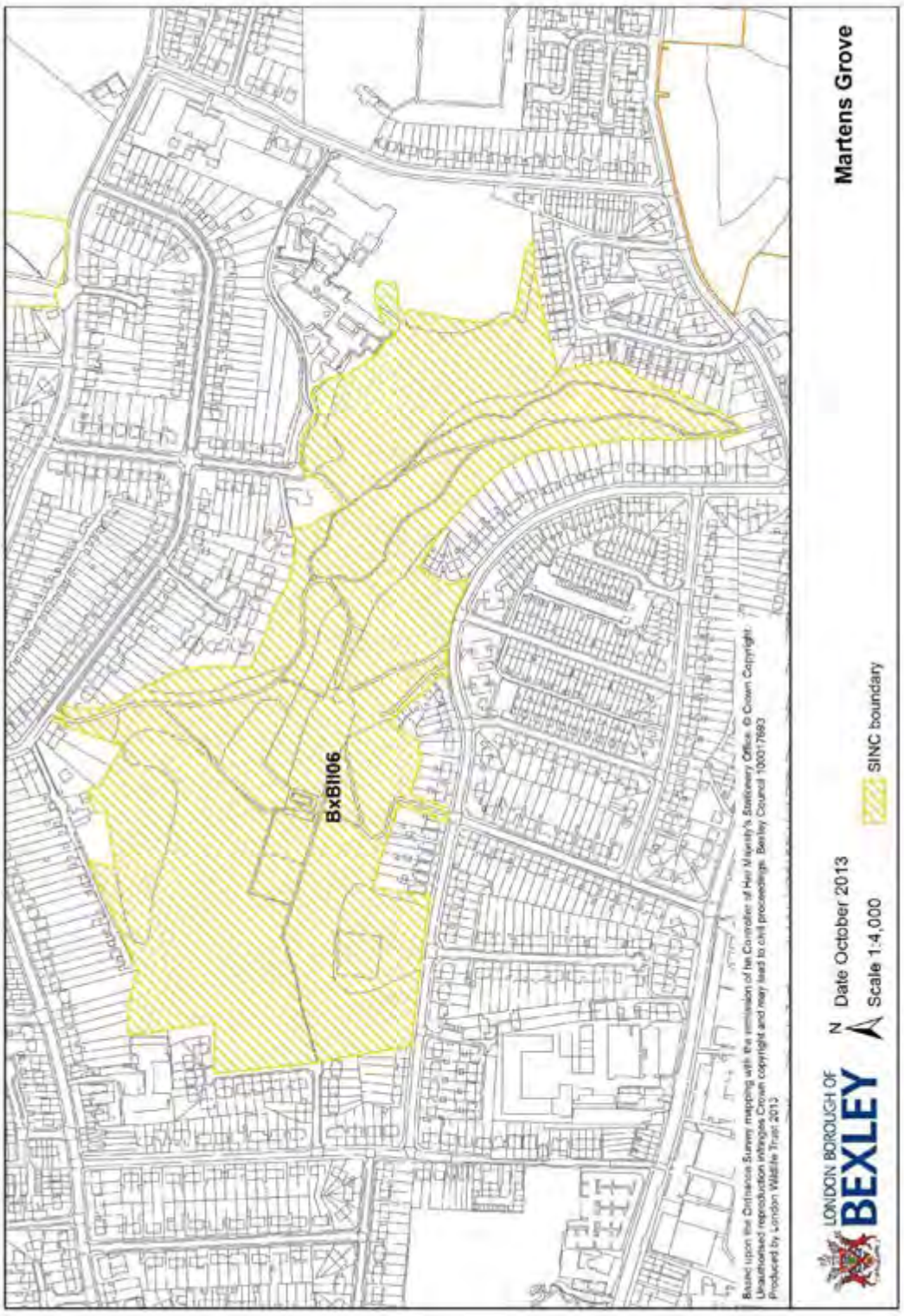
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This large park contains a substantial area of steep-sided woodland dominated by pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) with elm (*Ulmus sp*.), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The shrub layer includes broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).The ground flora is dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) with a good range of other species, including bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), common calamint (*Clinopodium ascendens*), butcher's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Breeding birds include nuthatch, treecreeper and green and great spotted woodpeckers. Purple hairstreak butterflies are common in the woodland. The parkland area contains tennis courts and flower beds. Some of the grassland, though close-mown, is acid grassland and contains species such as parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis*) and mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*). Slender St. Johns wort (Hypericum pulchrum) is also present.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


Martens Grove
BxBII06
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,000
SINC boundary
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013

BxBII08 The Warren

Summary: A small area of woodland dominated by oak and elm, with some acid grassland.

Name	The Warren		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII08
Grid reference	TQ 492 745	Area (hectares)	4.83
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Ancient woodland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This small area of probably ancient woodland is dominated by pedunculate oak (Quercus robur) and elm (Ulmus sp). The ground flora is dominated by bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg), and also contains bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta), wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa) and stinking iris (Iris foetidissima). The woodland supports an abundant population of the purple hairstreak butterfly.

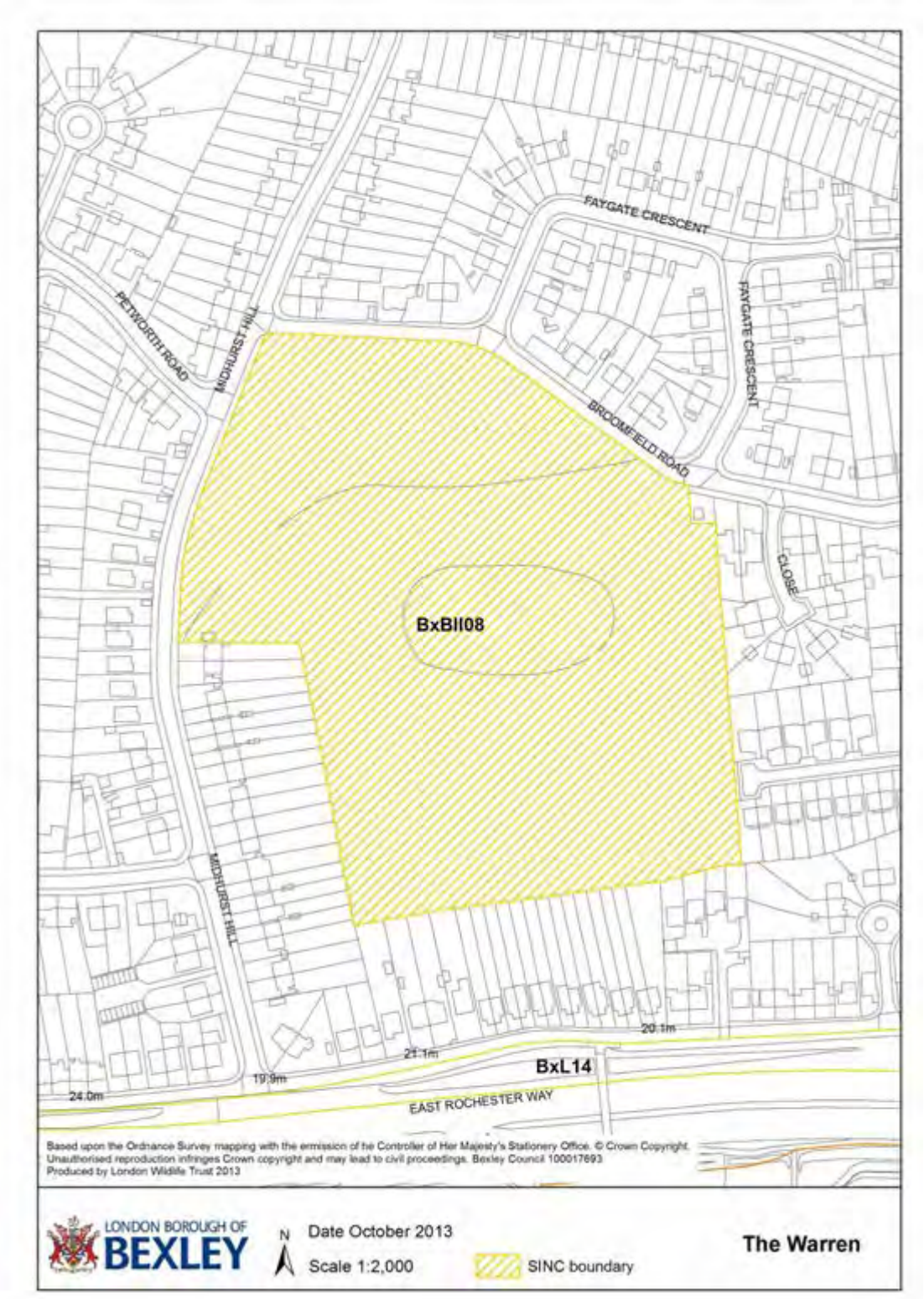
The small central area of short and rather degraded acid grassland contains small populations of parsley-piert (Aphanes arvensis) and hare's-foot clover (Trifolium arvense). Bird's-foot (Ornithopus perpusillus), common stork's-bill (Erodium cicutarium) were previously recorded on the site, but not found recently. In winter redwings and fieldfares use this area for feeding.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Acid grassland in the middle of woodland is degraded and locally eroded as a result of heavy use. Typical acid grassland species survive only on edges of grassland with slightly taller sward. Under current management and visitor pressure (including soil enrichment from dog waste) it is likely that acid grassland species will disappear from the site.

Some green alkanet (Pentaglottis semperivens) was recorded within the woodland.


FAYGATE CRESCENT
FAYGATE CRESCENT
PETWORTH ROAD
MIDHURST HILL
BROOMFIELD ROAD
CLOSE
BxBII08
MIDHURST HILL
20.1m
21.1m
19.9m
24.0m
BxL14
EAST ROCHESTER WAY
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
SINC boundary
The Warren

BxBII09 Wyncham Stream

Summary: Well vegetated river corridor with stands of tall herbs and scrub

Name	Wyncham Stream		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII09
Grid reference	TQ 454 733	Area (hectares)	1.64
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Running water, Scrub, Tall herbs, Scattered trees

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley (Most of site) and Private

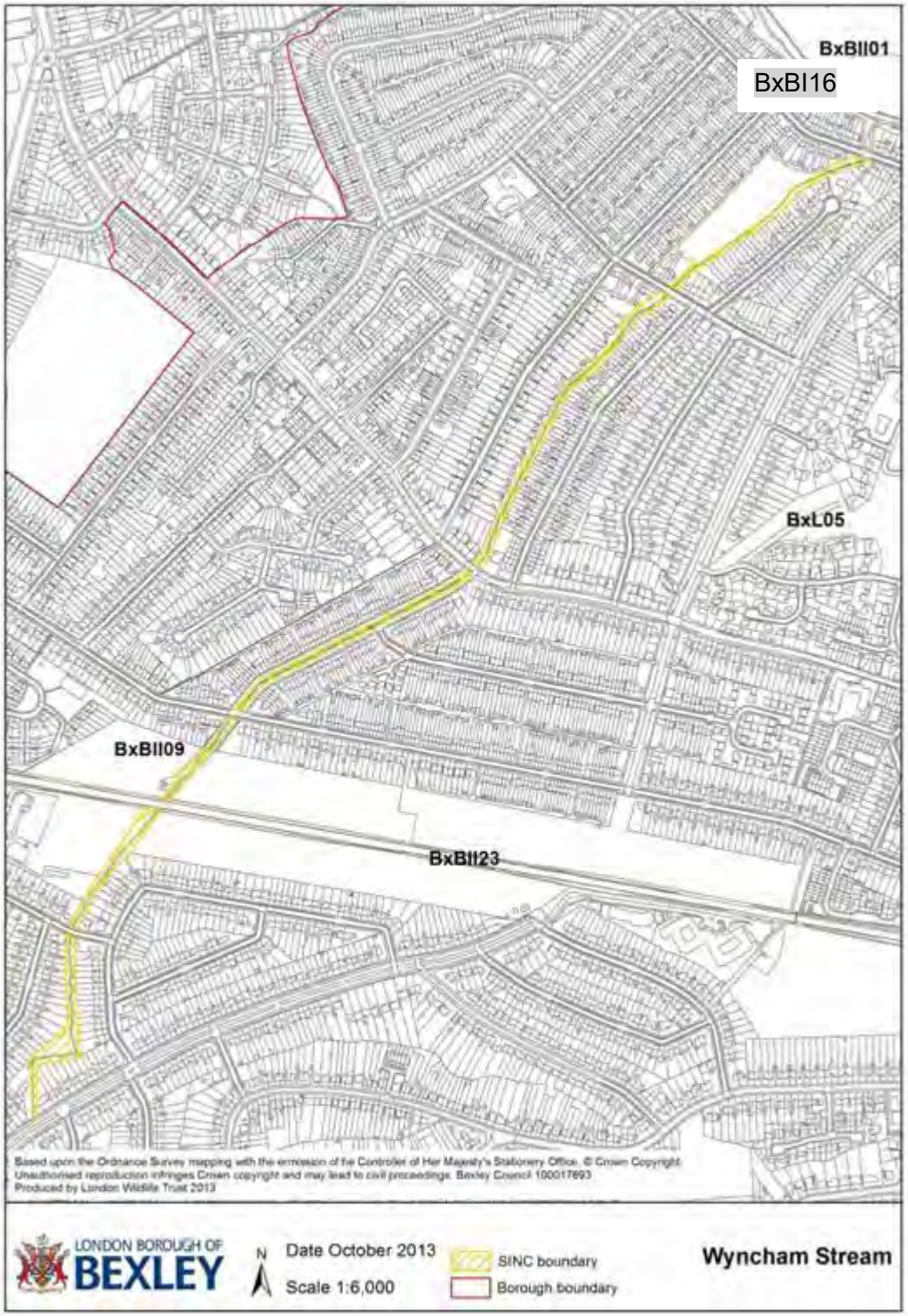
Site Description

The Wyncham Stream is a major tributary of the River Shuttle. A large proportion of the river has been straightened, and the water quality is less good. The river corridor supports stands of tall herbs and scrub and functions as an important green corridor. The banks are lined with field maple (Acer campestre), ash (Fraxinus excelsior), crack willow (Salix fragilis) and alder (Alnus glutionsa). Stands of scrub with elder (Sambucus nigra), wild cherries (Prunus avium) and hawthord (Crataegus monogyna) provide important habitat for birds. Top of river banks supports tall herbs with typical species such as water figwort (Scrophularia auriculata), great willowherb (Epilobium hirsutum) and field horsetail (Equisetum arvense). Formerly included the River Shuttle that was upgraded in 2013 and is now no longer part of this site.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

Previously named BxBII09 River Shuttle and Wyncham Stream. The River Shuttle has been upgraded to Borough Grade I site and can be found under citation reference BxBI16 River Shuttle. Wyncham Stream is characterised by reinforced river banks and heavily modified river channel. It supports limited wetland vegetation, but still functions as important corridor and supports valuable habitats (grassland, tall herbs and scrub) on top of the river banks and on banks of less modified stretches. Wyncham Stream has been kept as a separate Borough Grade II site.


BxBII01
BxBI16
BxL05
BxBII09
BxBII23
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:6,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Wyncham Stream

BxBII10 Mount Mascal Farm and the Grove

Summary: A small ancient copse, and a pond with a population of great crested newts, surrounded by horse-grazed pasture.

Name	Mount Mascal Farm and the Grove		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII10
Grid reference	TQ 494 726	Area (hectares)	6.92
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Improved agricultural grassland, Pond/lake, Scrub

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Private

Site Description

This site consists largely of heavily grazed, improved horse pasture. It has two main features of nature conservation interest. The first is a small, possibly ancient, copse called The Grove. This contains wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*).

A small field pond on southern edge of site is reported to contain a population of great crested newts. The vegetation of the pond is dominated by New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*). It would benefit from control of this invasive species.

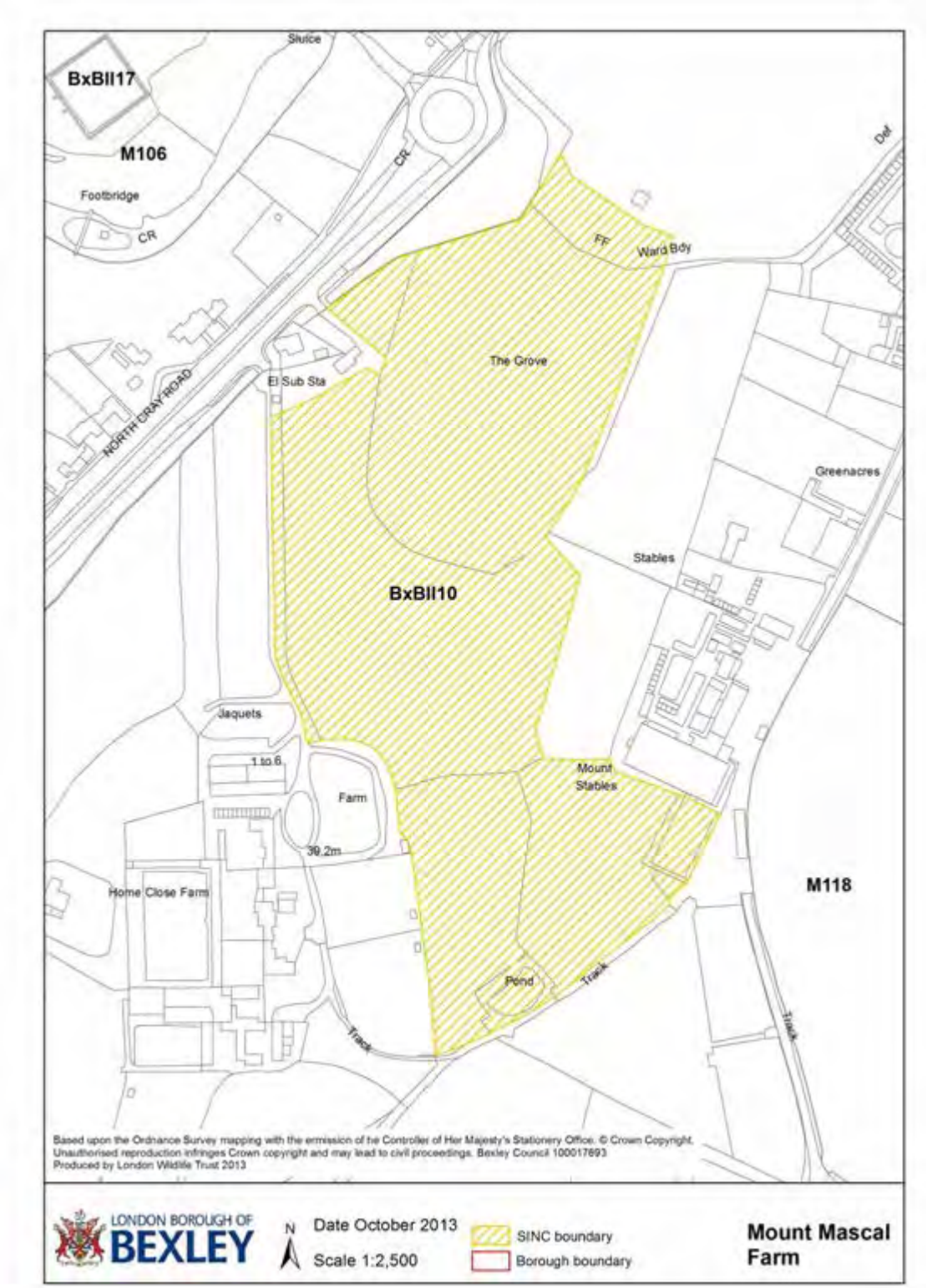
site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Site name change

‘and the Grove’ added to site name.

Other observations

Grassland fields are heavily horse grazed and are of minimal biodiversity value. The pond and woodland are still intrinsically the most valuable components of this site.


BxBII17
M106
Footbridge
CR
Sluice
CR
Def
FF
Ward Bdy
The Grove
El Sub Sta
NORTH CRAY ROAD
Greenacres
Stables
BxBII10
Jaquets
1 to 6
Farm
39.2m
Mount Stables
M118
Home Close Farm
Pond
Track
Track
Track
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,500
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Mount Mascal Farm

BxBII12 Churchfield Wood, Meadows and St Mary's Church

Summary: A narrow belt of ancient woodland with a fine display of bluebells and adjoining meadow.

Name	Churchfield Wood, Meadows and St Mary's Church		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII12
Grid reference	TQ 501 734	Area (hectares)	37.3
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland**,** Ancient woodland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Private

Ownership: Diocese of Rochester (Churchyard) and Private (Churchfield Wood and Meadows)

Site Description

Churchfield Wood is a narrow belt of probably ancient woodland consists of pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with outgrown coppice of hazel (*Corylus avellana*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*). The ground flora is dominated by bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), with yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdelon*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and hairy woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*).The wood supports a good range of typical breeding birds, and the abundance of dead wood is likely to be of high value for invertebrates. A recently planted extension belt of woodland composed of similar species with semi-improved neutral grassland underneath supports a good population of ringlet, meadow brown and skipper butterflies.

Churchfield Meadows consists of several semi-improved neutral grassland fields with some scattered trees and scrub. Some of the meadows are heavily grazed while others are left unmanaged. A small area of acid grassland in the southeast of the site supports the London notable hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*).

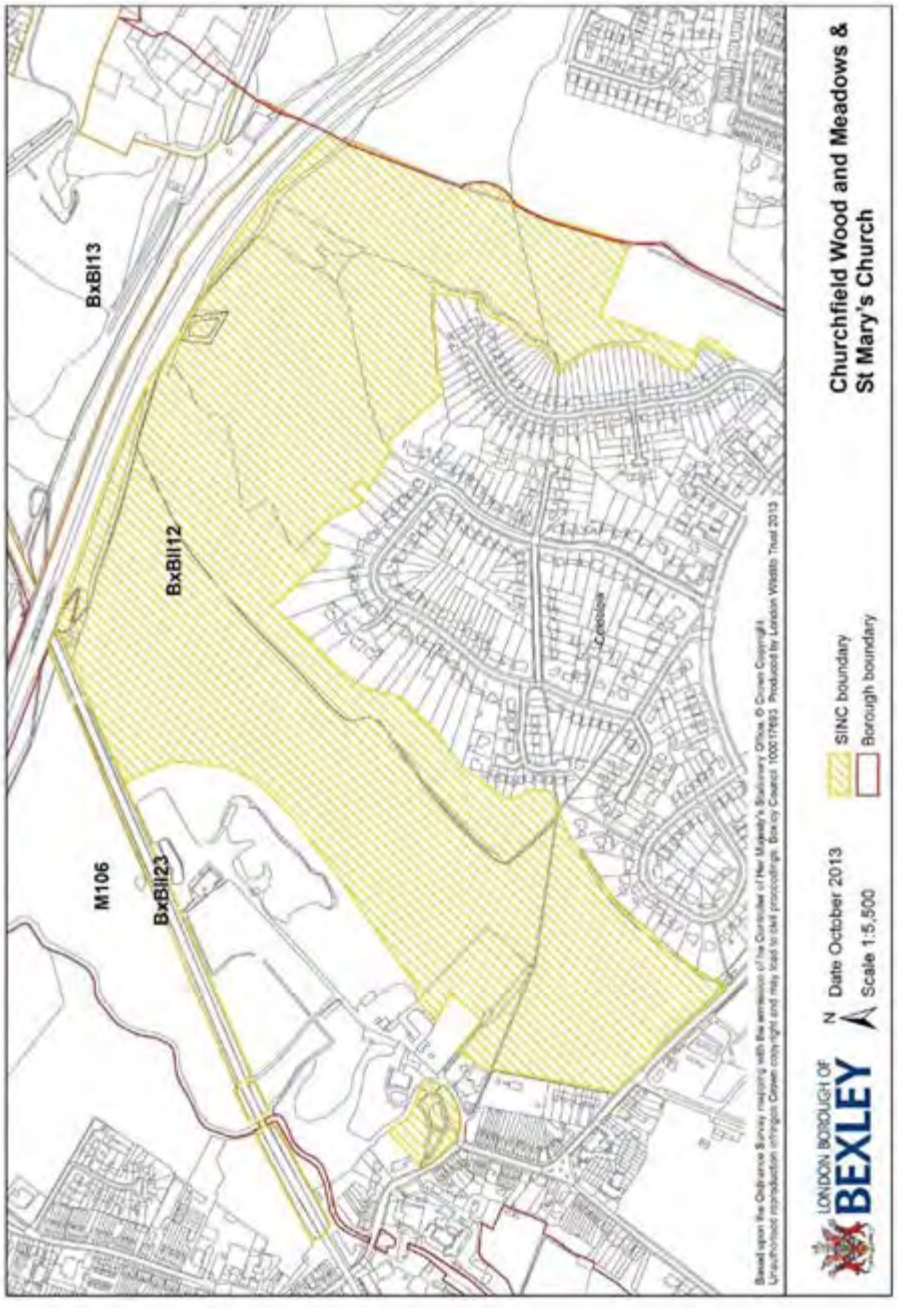
The meadows are also likely to support small mammals. The site is occupied by the three reptile species found in Bexley - slow worm, common lizard and grass snake. St Mary's Churchyard is managed for nature conservation. It contains a moderately herb-rich grassland, including the rare London plant Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*).

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

The land immediately south of the churchyard, running up to Vicarage Road was, until recently, a good area of scrub. This area would benefit from being brought under sympathetic management.

The extensive large meadow is a typical semi-improved neutral grassland field but is very large (possibly one of the largest fields of its type in LB Bexley) and will undoubtedly support a large number of invertebrates and small mammals. Some areas of scrub and piles of soil in this meadow may be of value for birds such as lesser whitethroat and reptiles respectively. The piles of soil may also be of value for invertebrates groups like mining bees.



BxBII14 Railsides from Bexleyheath to Slade Green Triangle

Summary: Well-vegetated railway land visible from passing trains.

Name	Railsides from Bexleyheath to Slade Green Triangle		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII14
Grid reference	TQ 508 762	Area (hectares)	16.46
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

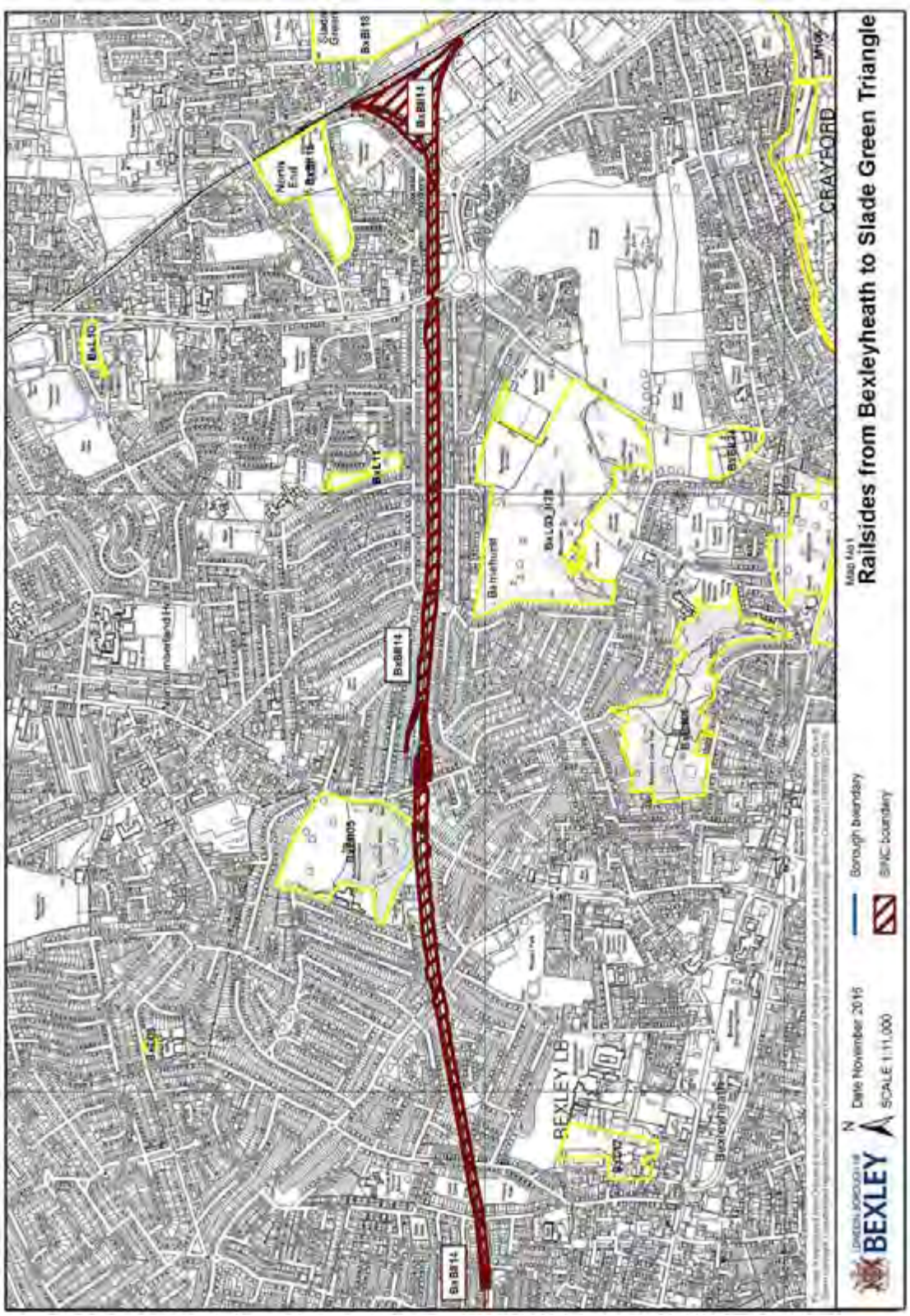
Site Description

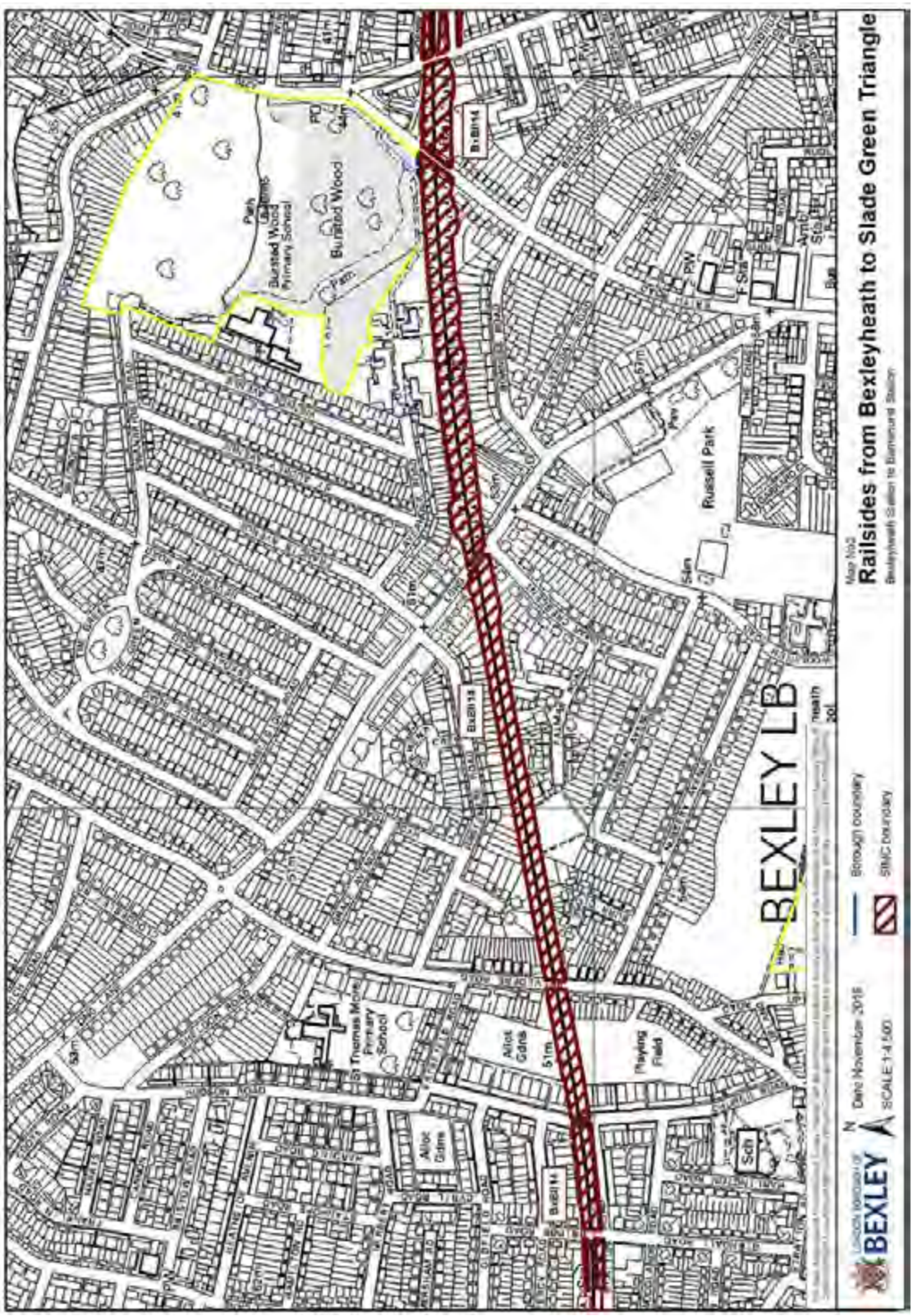
This site is inaccessible, the triangle at the eastern end being surrounded on all sides by railway land. Therefore the site is largely undisturbed and a valuable refuge for wildlife. The triangle is vegetated with a mosaic of scrub and rough grassland. The scrub is dominated by bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg) and hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna). The grassland is dominated by false oat-grass (Arrhenatherum elatius). Similar habitat extends into abandoned allotments north of the triangle.The wildlife habitats continue along railsides to the west of the site. A cutting and then, further west, an embankment contain a mosaic of habitats, including scattered trees, scrub, tall herbs and rough grassland, and form a valuable wildlife corridor leading across the borough. Scrub includes scattered gorse (Ulex europaeus) and broom (Cytisus scoparius), while the grassland supports common wild flowers including oxeye daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare), wild carrot (Daucus carota) and toadflax (Linaria vulgaris), along with large stands of broad-leaved everlasting pea (Lathyrus latifolius). At Barnehurst station, a number of uncommon plants can be found, including lesser meadow-rue (Thalictrum minus), wood spurge (Euphorbia amygdaloides), wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa) and common centaury (Centaurium erythraea); these may be the result of planting. Purple hairstreak butterflies occur around the oaks (Quercus sp) at Barnehurst station.

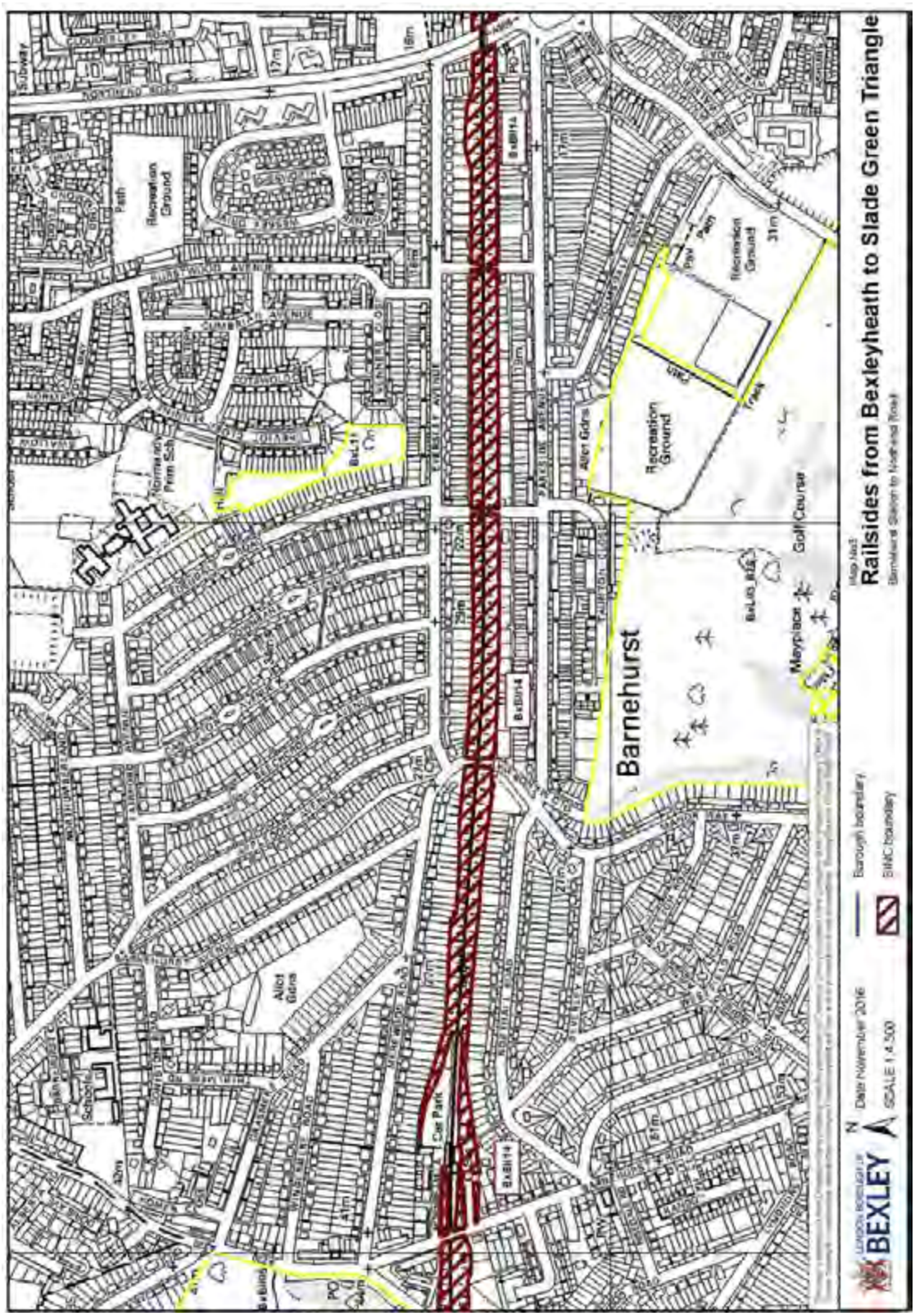
site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

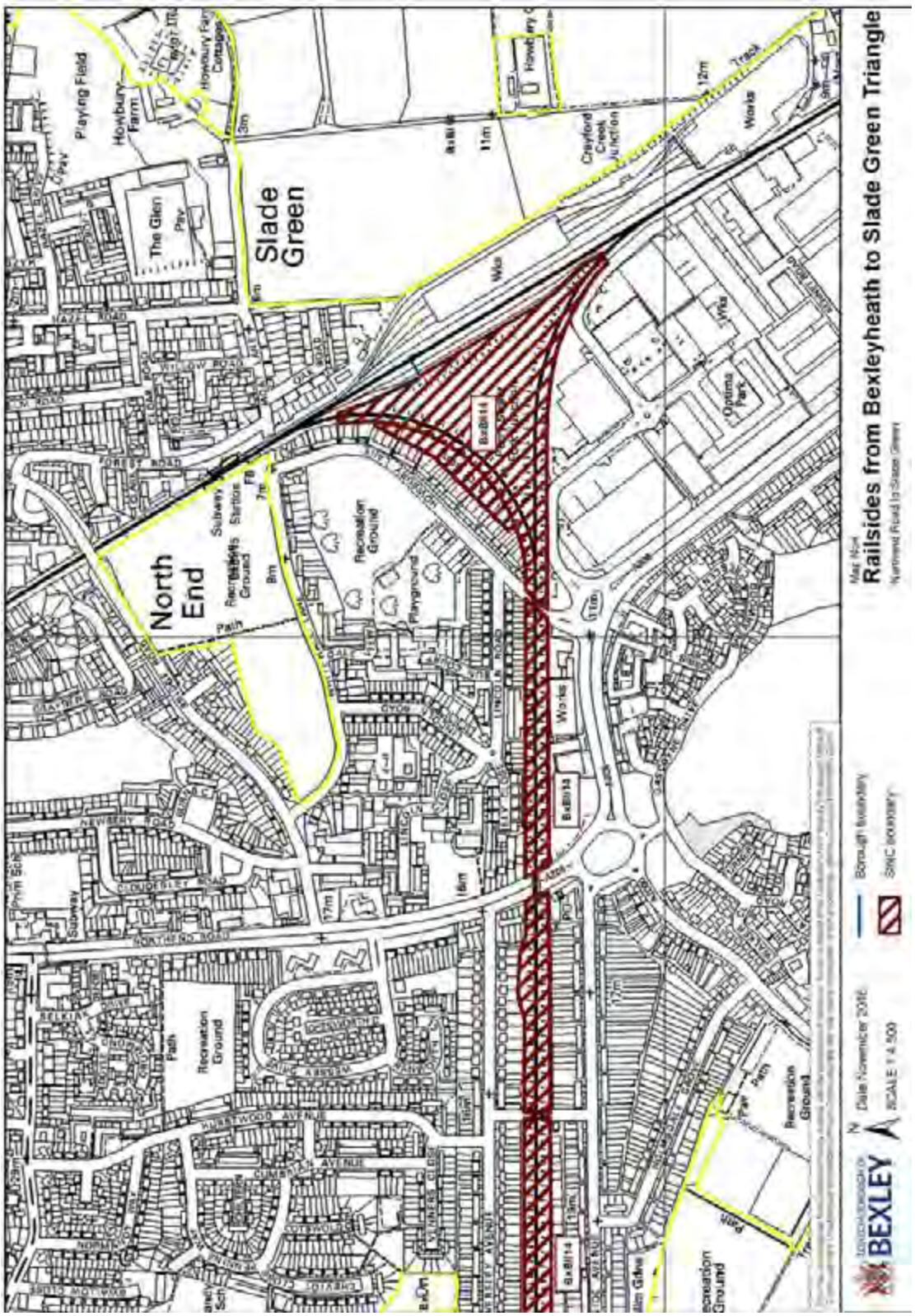
Other observations

There is some fly-tipping present at Howbury allotments. This is an abandoned site without public access. The site is very similar to the Slade Green triangle on the other side of the railway. Areas of scrub are dominated by wild cherries with scattered oak and sycamore trees. Bramble is abundant together with cow parsley and several plants of buddleia are present. A patch of grassland is dominated by false oat-grass and Yorkshire fog. The site seems to have a rich invertebrate fauna and provides a good habitat for breeding birds.


Railsides from Bexleyheath to Slade Green Triangle
CRAYFORD
BEXLEY LB
BEXLEY
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
Date November 2016
SCALE 1:11,000


Railsides from Bexleyheath to Slade Green Triangle
BEXLEY LB
Russell Park
Bursted Wood
Bursted Wood Primary School
St Thomas More Primary School
Playing Field
Allot Gdns
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
BEXLEY


Railsides from Bexleyheath to Slade Green Triangle
Barnehurst
Recreation Ground
Golf Course
Meyplace
Allot Gdns
Car Park
Borough boundary
BWC boundary
BEXLEY
SCALE 1:4,500


Railsides from Bexleyheath to Slade Green Triangle
Slade Green
North End
Playing Field
Howbury Farm
The Glen
Recreation Ground
Playground
Subway
Crayford Creek Junction
Optima Park
Works
Track
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
Date November 2016
SCALE 1:4,500
BEXLEY

BxBII15 Slade Green Recreation Ground

Summary: A grassland site with a hedgerow and large colony of common lizards.

Name	Slade Green Recreation Ground		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII15
Grid reference	TQ 521 766	Area (hectares)	6.45
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Hedge, Ruderal, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This large area of hummocky rough grassland, dominated by false oat-grass (Arrhenatherum elatius), is of value mainly for its very large population of common lizards. Acid grassland species such as parsley-piert (Aphanes arvensis) and buck's-horn plantain (Plantago coronopus) are also present. A hedge of English elm (Ulmus procera) along the southern boundary adds interest.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

- Some buddleia is present on the site. Further spreading should be controlled;
- Japanese knotweed is also present and needs to be eradicated.
- Some fly tipping near the train station – east edge of the site.


Slade Green Recreation Ground
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,500
SINC boundary
BxBII14
BxBII15
Recreation Ground
NORTH END
Site
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BxBII17 Upper College Farm

Summary: An area of roughland, the site is home to a range of interesting plants, invertebrates and birds.

Name	Upper College Farm		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII17
Grid reference	TQ 488 730	Area (hectares)	29.54
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Arable, Hedge, Marsh, Ruderal, Scrub, Scattered trees, Semi-improved neutral grassland

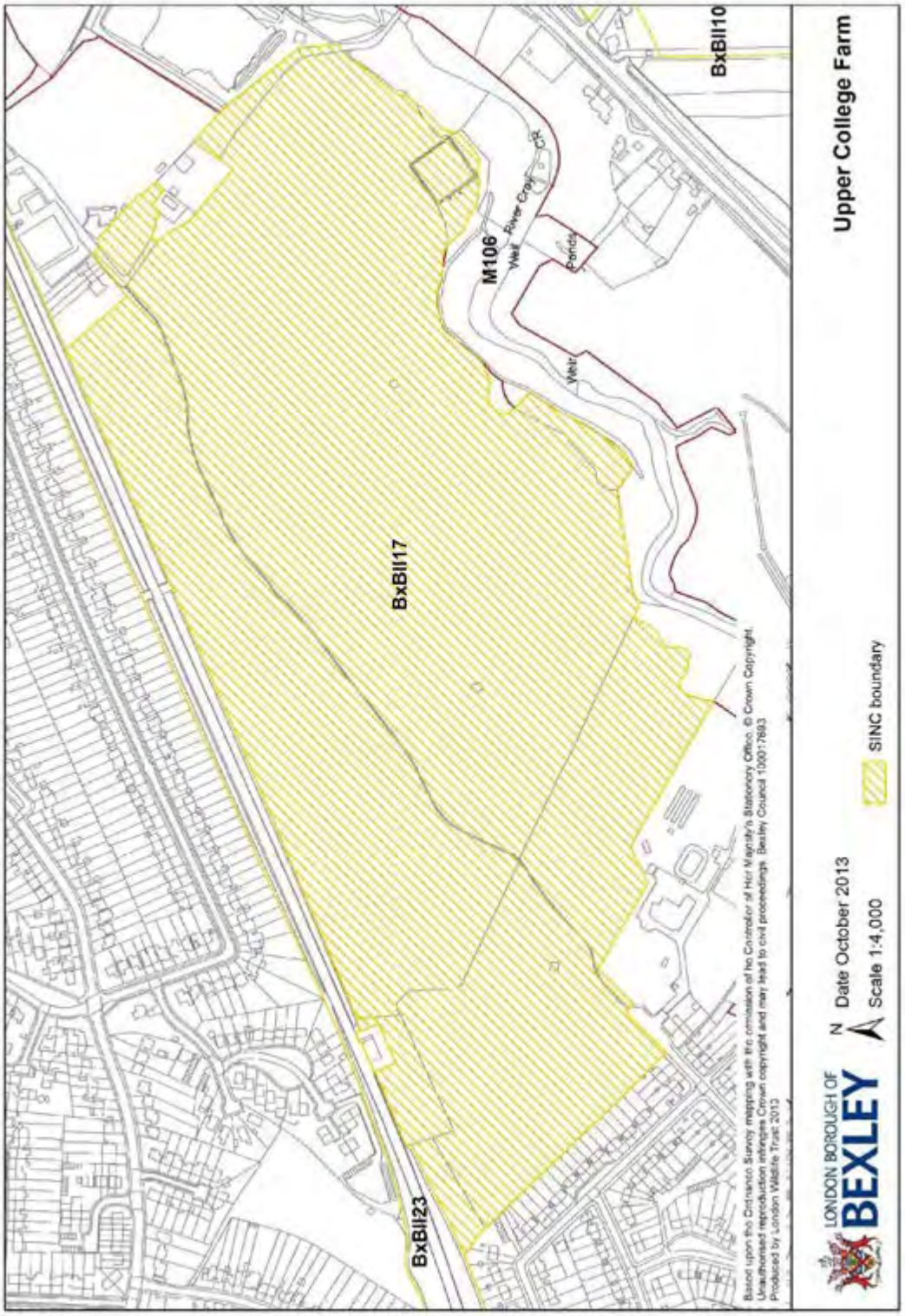
Access: Access on public footpaths only

Ownership: Private

Site Description

A species-rich wasteland site with several successional stages including bare earth, ruderal communities, grassland and scrubland. Notable plant species include thyme-leaved sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*) and narrow-leaved birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*). Breeding birds include skylark and a large population of whitethroats. The site supports large flocks of finches and other seed-eating birds in winter, particularly chaffinch, linnet, skylark, meadow pipit, goldfinch and house sparrow. The site also supports a diverse assemblage of invertebrates including emperor dragonfly, banded demoiselle, red-tailed bumblebee and small skipper. Bee-orchid is also found on the site. A small wetland marsh in the south of the site supports a good population of common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*).

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


Upper College Farm
BxBII10
BxBII17
BxBII23
M106
River Cray
Well
Ponds
Weir
SINC boundary
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,000
N
LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013

BxBII18 Rectory Lane Pond

Summary: A large pond, surrounded by woodland with some rare plants.

Name	Rectory Lane Pond		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII18
Grid reference	TQ 470 715	Area (hectares)	0.88
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Pond/lake, Secondary woodland

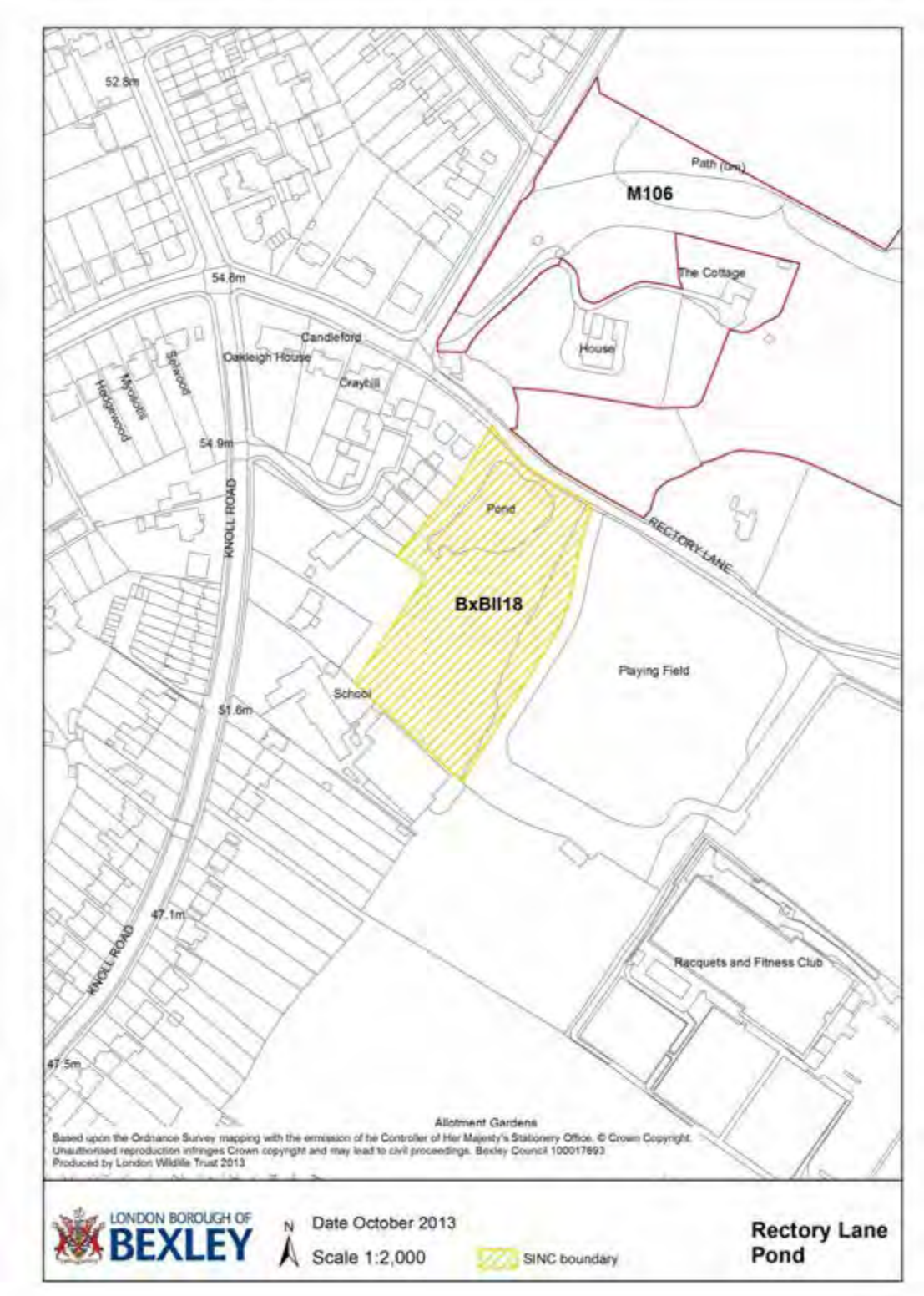
Access: Access by prior arrangement

Ownership: Merton Court Preparatory School

Site Description

A sizeable pond surrounded by woodland. The pond has reasonably good marginal vegetation, including great pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*). It formerly supported the specially protected great crested newt but they have not been seen for several years. There are proposals to create a reed bed around the edge of part of the pond. Much of the woodland is secondary, having developed from overgrown parkland, and is dominated by sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Around the edges is much older woodland, probably relict ancient woodland. The ground flora includes great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), red currant (*Ribes rubrum*) and the ancient woodland indicator species soft shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) and thin-spiked wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*), both of which are very rare in London. Part of the woodland is used as an educational resource for the school.

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	16/02/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


52.8m
54.6m
54.9m
51.6m
47.1m
47.5m
Path (0m)
M106
The Cottage
House
Candleford
Oakleigh House
Craytill
Spinwood
Myrobalis
Hodgenwood
KNOLL ROAD
KNOLL ROAD
Pond
BxBII18
RECTORY LANE
Playing Field
School
Racquets and Fitness Club
Allotment Gardens
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
SINC boundary
Rectory Lane Pond

BxBII19 East Wickham Open Space

Summary: A large area of grassland and woodland currently being managed to improve its value for wildlife.

Name	East Wickham Open Space		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII19
Grid reference	TQ 462 769	Area (hectares)	31.37
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

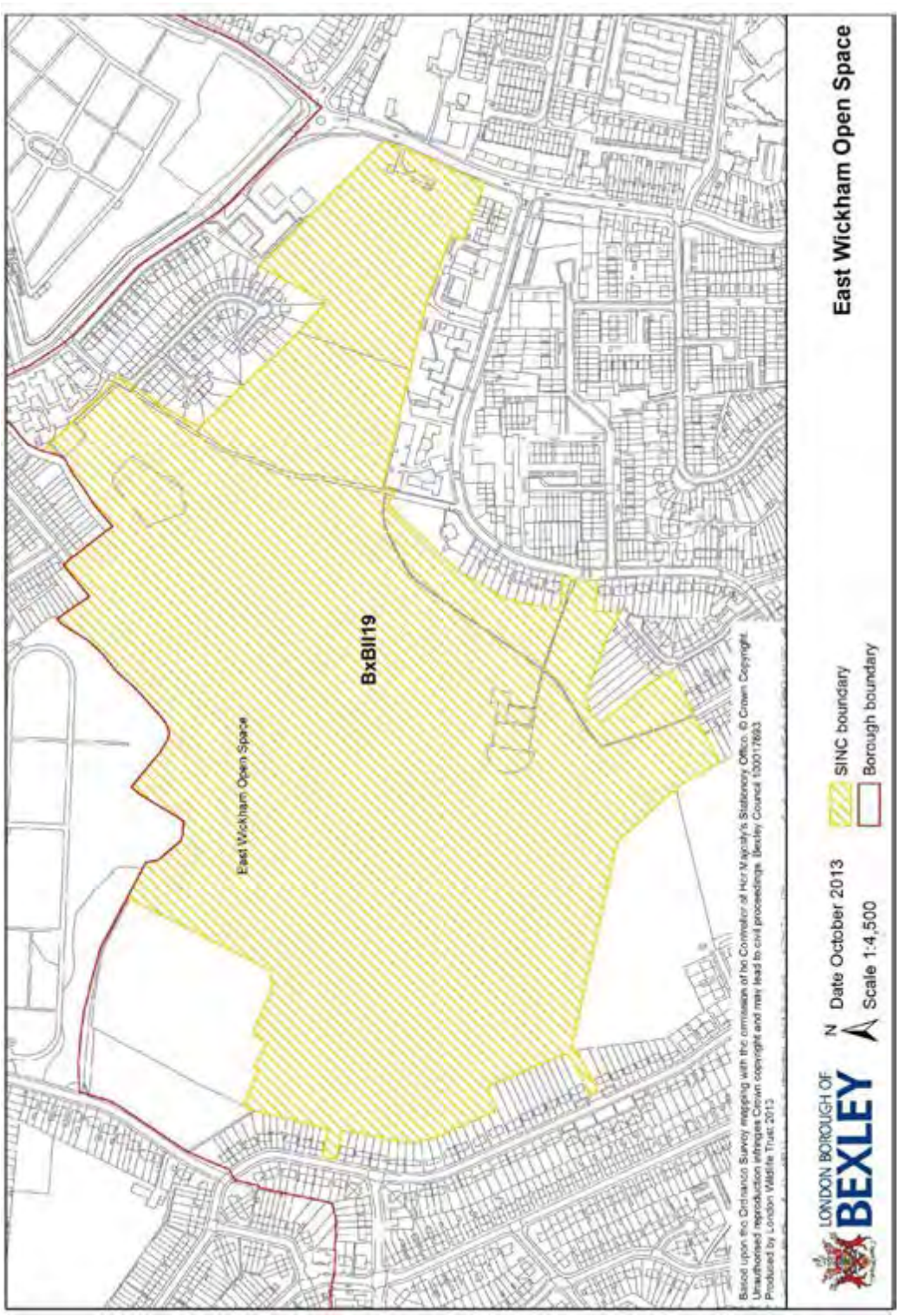
Site Description

A large area of grassland and woodland currently being managed to improve its value for wildlife. Steep banks on the north of the site contain small areas of scrubland and wildflower rich acid grassland with scattered gorse (Ulex europaeus) and broom (Cytisus scoparius). Wet willow (Salix sp.) and hornbeam (Carpinus betulus) woodland in the middle of the site supports a small population of wild garlic (Allium ursinum), species rare in London. Hare's-foot clover (Trifolium arvense) is also present. The site supports breeding sparrowhawk and green woodpecker. The extensive areas of semi-improved grassland support large populations of invertebrates, particularly grasshoppers, locally scarce ringlet butterfly and a population of common lizards.

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	07/12/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

- Invasive cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is present on the site.
- Wet woodland in the middle of the site. The woodland is dominated by willows with abundant alder. Ground seems to be permanently wet as it supports species such as yellow flag iris.


East Wickham Open Space
BxBII19
East Wickham Open Space
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,500
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
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BxBII20 St John the Baptist Churchyard, Erith

Summary: Small churchyard with grassland and an important colony of ivy broomrape, a nationally scarce plant.

Name	St John the Baptist Churchyard, Erith		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII20
Grid reference	TQ 507 787	Area (hectares)	1.23
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

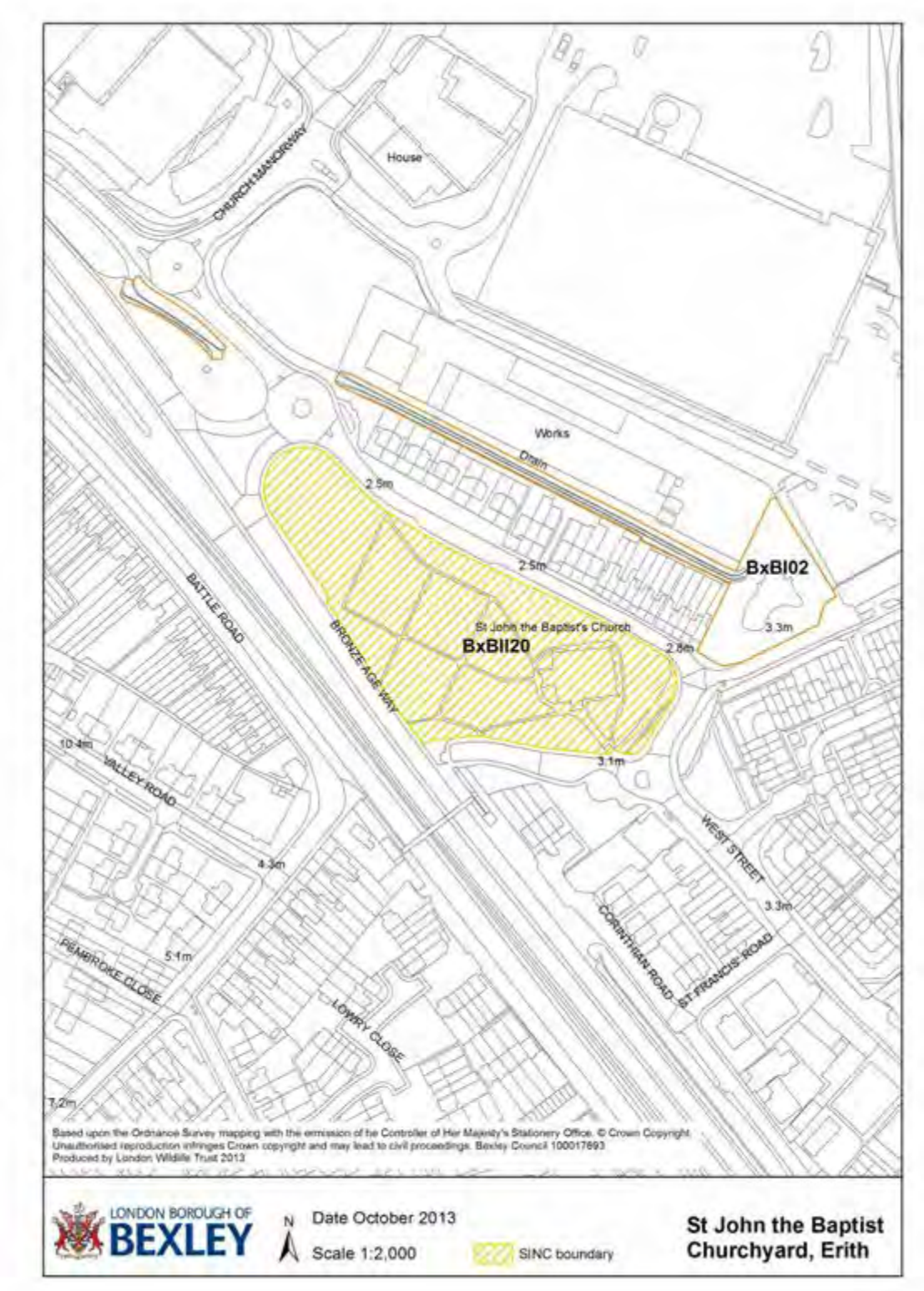
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Diocese of Rochester

Site Description

This small churchyard contains moderately species rich grassland; importantly it also has a large colony of ivy broomrape (*Orobanche hederae*), a nationally scarce species, growing on Atlantic ivy (*Hedera helix ssp hibernica*); 378 flower spikes were counted in 2009.

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	07/12/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


House
CHURCH MANOR WAY
Works
Drain
2.5m
2.5m
BxBI02
3.3m
St John the Baptist's Church
BxBII20
2.8m
BATTLE ROAD
BRONZE AGE WAY
10.4m
VALLEY ROAD
3.1m
WEST STREET
4.3m
3.3m
CORINTHIAN ROAD
ST FRANCIS ROAD
PEMBROKE CLOSE
5.1m
LOWRY CLOSE
7.2m
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
SINC boundary
St John the Baptist Churchyard, Erith

BxBII21 Streamway, Chapmans Land and Erith Cemetery

Summary: A small stream with patchy woodland and a cemetery with grassland habitats.

Name	Streamway, Chapman's Land and Erith Cemetery		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII21
Grid reference	TQ 495 779	Area (hectares)	13.74
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Running water, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Wet woodland/carr

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

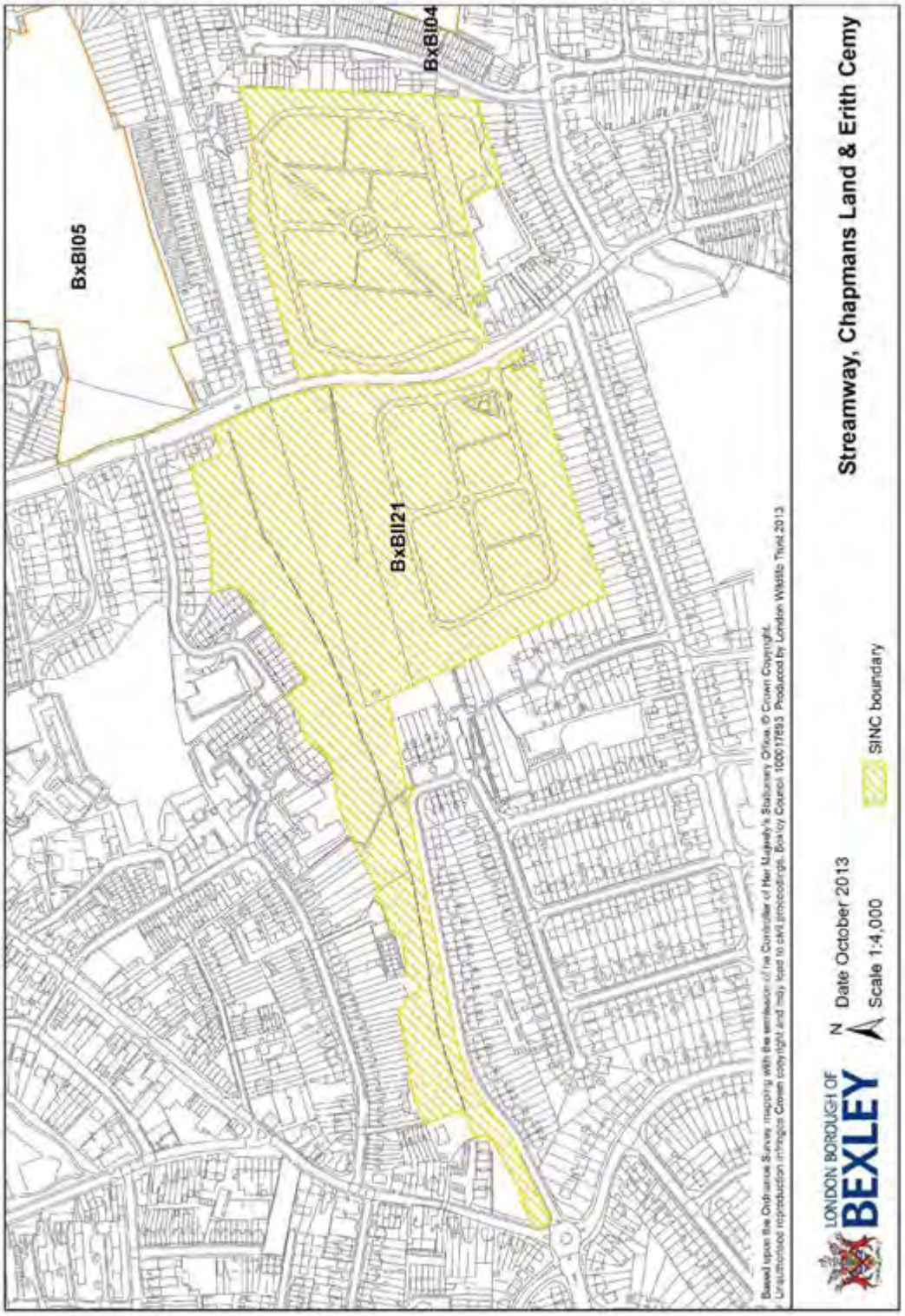
Site Description

This site contains a small stream with watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquatica*) and brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*); the margins are patchy willow (*Salix spp*) and hybrid poplar (*Populus sp*) woodland. The amenity grass area is species poor, but with suitable management could improve. The semi-improved neutral and acid grasslands in the cemetery are relatively species rich and contain a good population of prickly sedge (*Carex muricata ssp pairiae*), common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*) and mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella* officinarum). The wasp spider (*Argiope bruennichi*) occurs in the grassland. The cemetery supports good numbers of finches and thrushes, especially in winter and also supports a good population of changing forget-me-not (*Myosotis discolor*) and a small population of spiked Star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum pyrenaicium*).

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	16/02/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Watercress, prickly sedge and the wasp spider were not found during the survey but all may still be present.


BxBI04
BxBI05
BxBII21
Streamway, Chapmans Land & Erith Cemy
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,000
SINC boundary

BxBII23 Sidcup Line railsides

Summary: Railway linesides offering diverse habitats for a range of animals and plants, and pleasant views for train passengers.

Name	Sidcup Line Railsides		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII23
Grid reference	TQ 476 730	Area (hectares)	14
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Bare ground, Ruderal, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Can be viewed from adjacent paths or roads only

Ownership: Network Rail

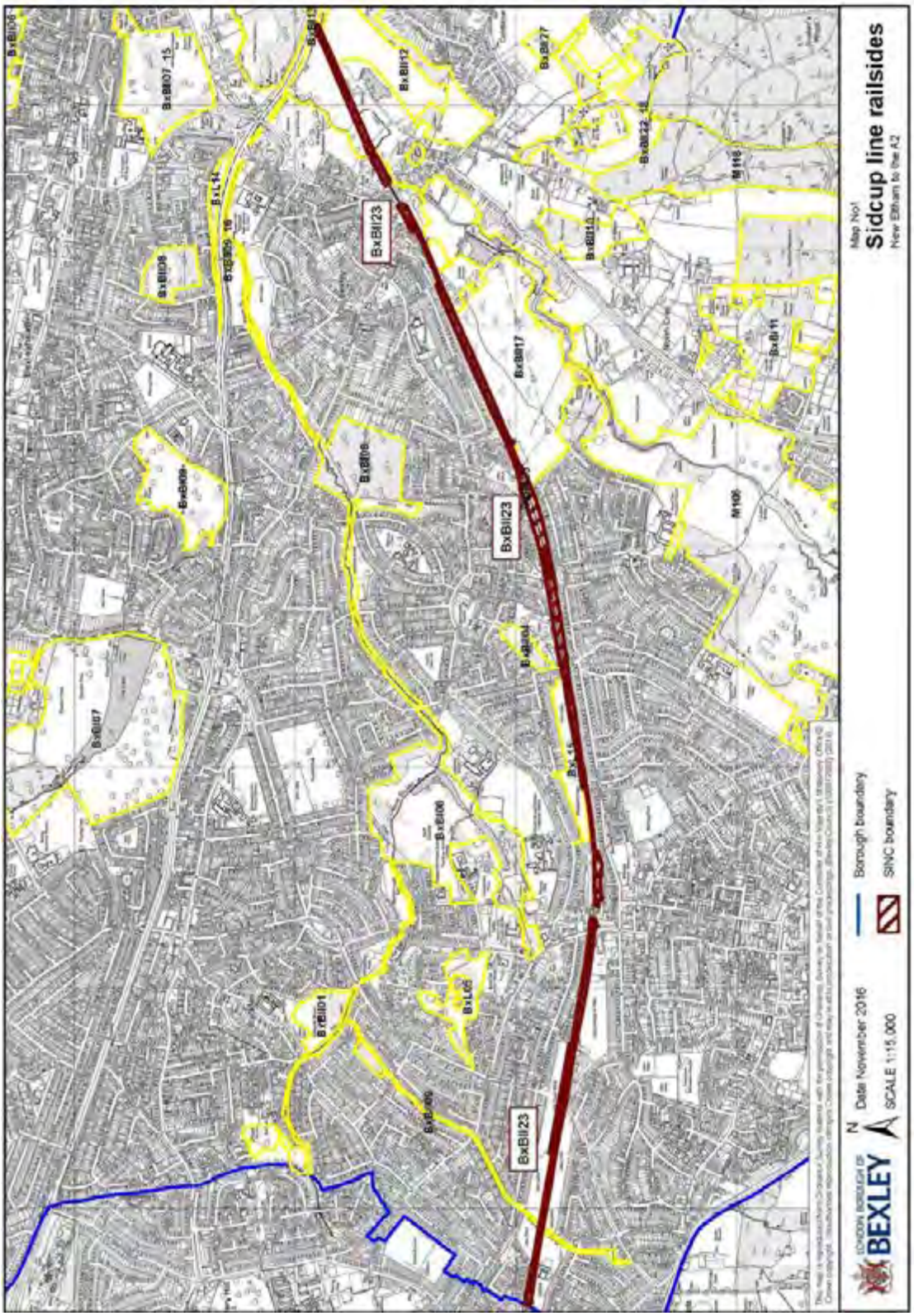
Site Description

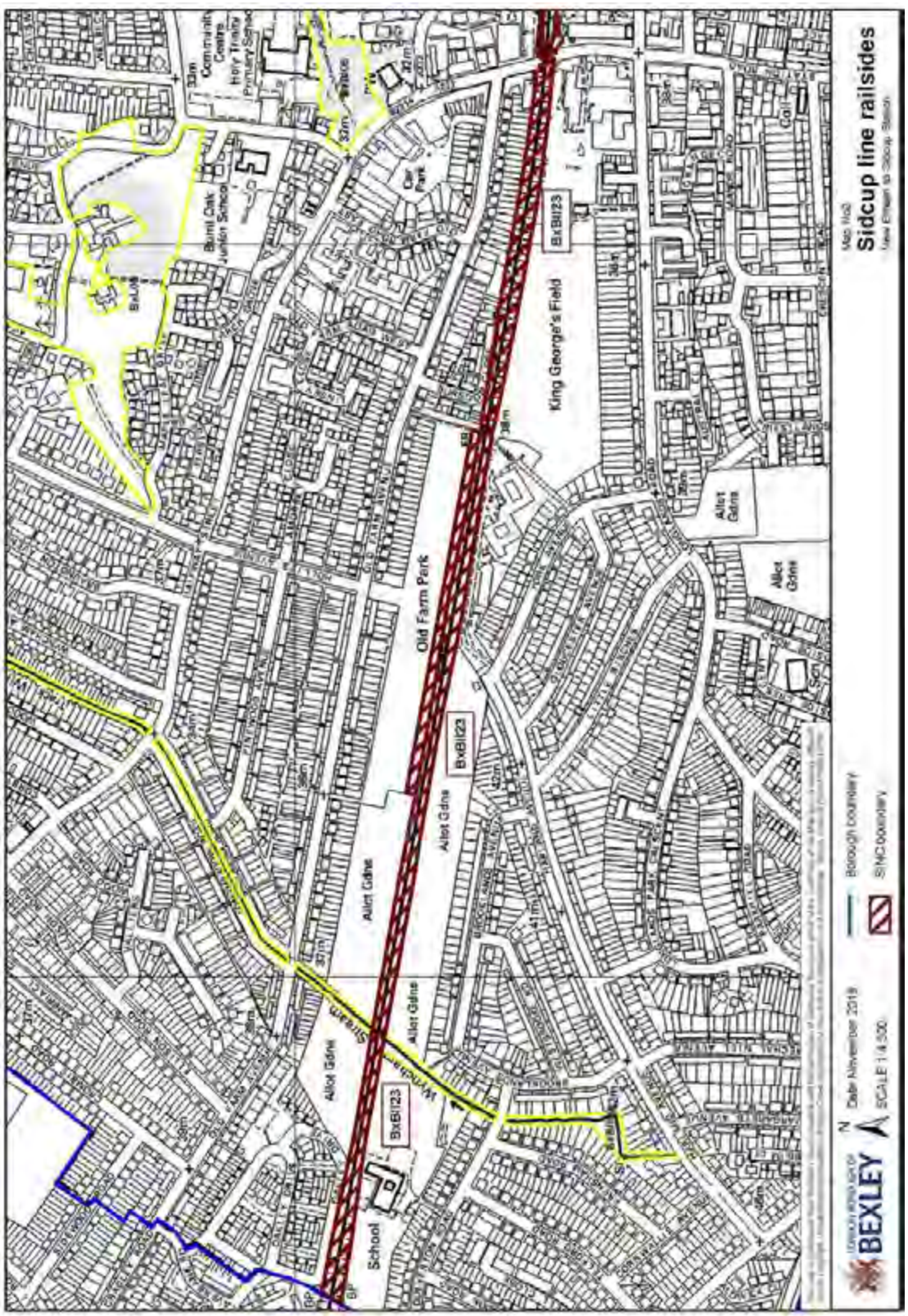
These railsides provide wildlife habitats and an important green corridor extending across the borough boundary into Greenwich, where they are known as Mottingham and New Eltham railsides. The site is a mosaic of woodland, scrub and rough grassland, offering habitats for a range of invertebrates, birds, mammals, reptiles and flowering plants. The woodlands are dominated by pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), whilst the grasslands are dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*).

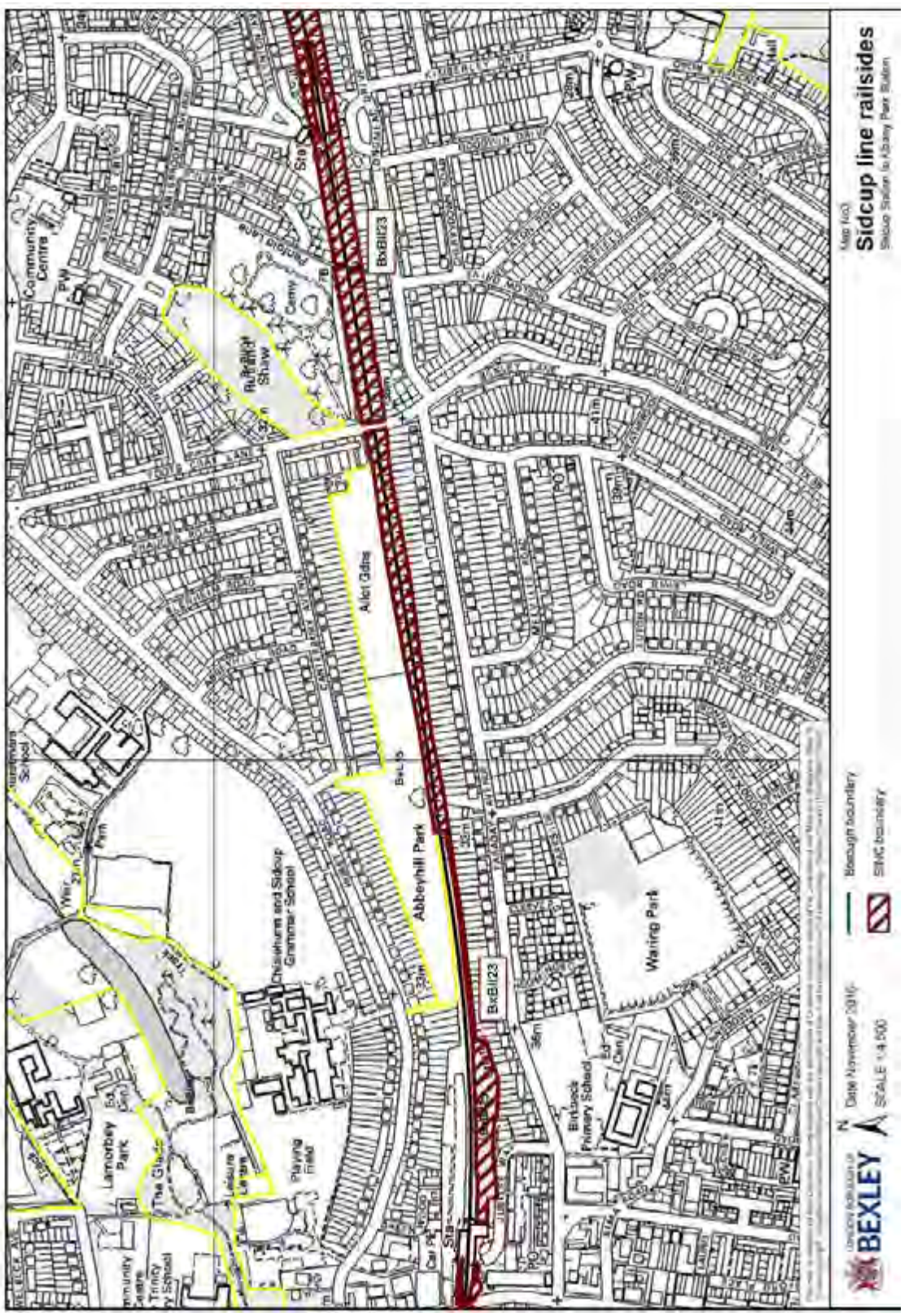
site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

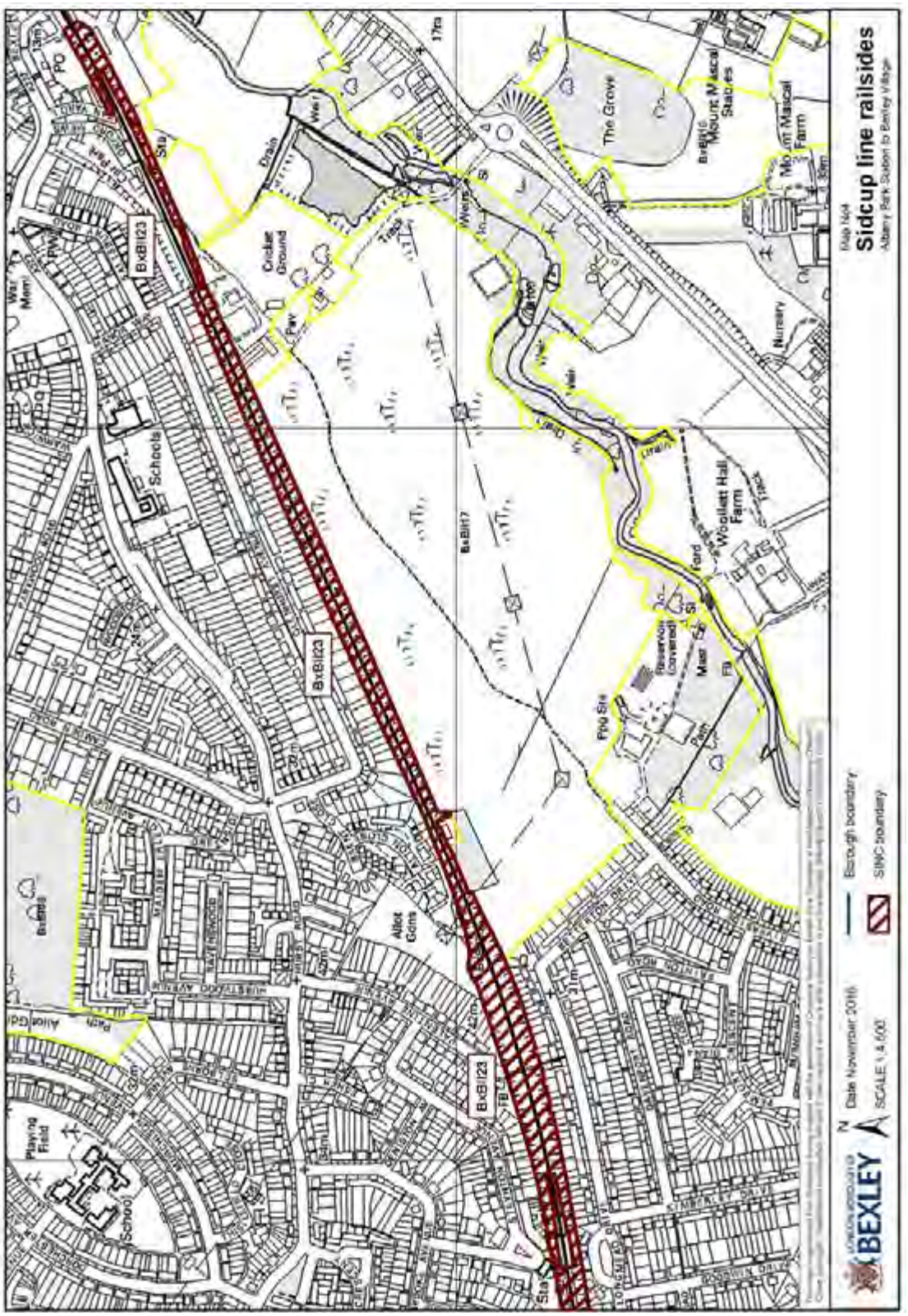
Other Observations

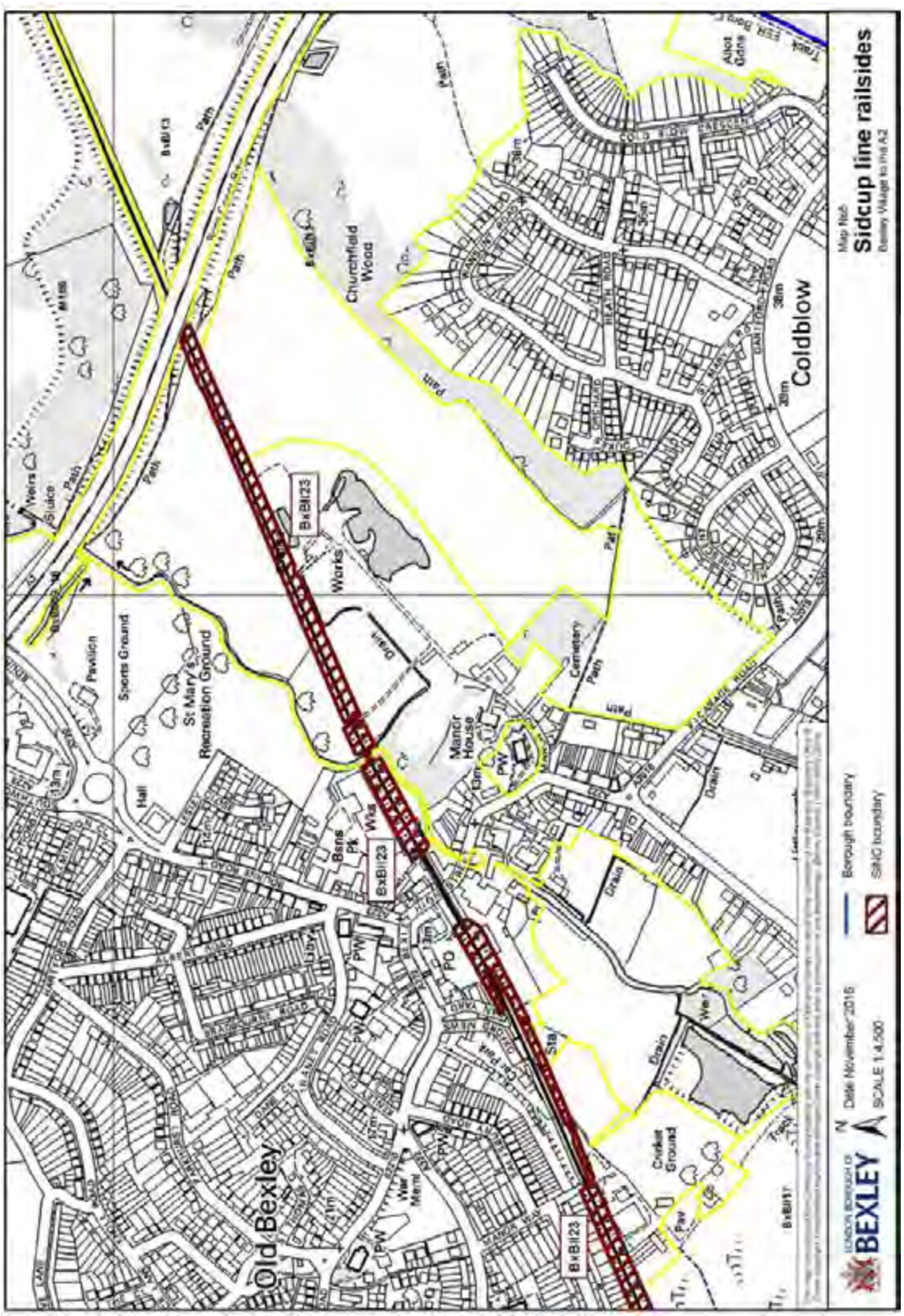
Parallel to the railway is the Old Farm Park with a stretch of planted scrub and woodland. The area is planted with native tree species: ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). Scrub layer is species rich and includes elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avelana*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg). The planted stretch creates a continuous habitat with the overgrown hawthorn and wild cherry hedge along the railway fence. It provides excellent habitat for birds and functions as a natural extension of the habitat along the railways.


Map No1
Sidcup line railsides
New Eltham to the A2
BEXLEY
N
Date November 2016
SCALE 1:15,000
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
BxBil23
BxBil23
BxBil23


Sidcup line railsides
King George's Field
Old Farm Park
Allot Gdns
BxBI23
Burnt Oak Junior School
Holy Trinity Primary School
Community Centre
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
BEXLEY
SCALE 1:4,500
Date November 2016


Sidcup line railsides
Abbeyhill Park
Waring Park
Aylet Gdns
Ruthland Shaw
Lamorbey Park
Playing Field
Leisure Centre
Community Centre
Christchurch and Sidcup Grammar School
Birkbeck Primary School
BxBil23
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
BEXLEY


Sidcup line railsides
Map No4
Albany Park Station to Bexley Village
BEXLEY
Date November 2016
SCALE 1:4,000
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
BxBI123
BxBI17
The Grove
Mount Mascal Stables
Mount Mascal Farm
Cricket Ground
Woollett Hall Farm
Nursery
Schools
Allot Gdns
Playing Field
School
Pond
Reservoir (covered)


Sidcup line railsides
Coldblow
Old Bexley
Churchfield Wood
St Mary's Recreation Ground
Sports Ground
Pavilion
Hall
Manor House
Cemetery
Cricket Ground
Works
Borough boundary
SINC boundary
BEXLEY
SCALE 1:4,500

BxBII24 St Paulinus Churchyard, Crayford

Summary: A parish churchyard in parts over 600 years old, with grasslands and mature trees. Managed with conservation in mind as a 'living churchyard'.

Name	St Paulinus Churchyard, Crayford		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII24
Grid reference	TQ 511 751	Area (hectares)	2.03
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Scattered trees, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Vegetated wall/tombstones

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

Ownership: Diocese of Rochester

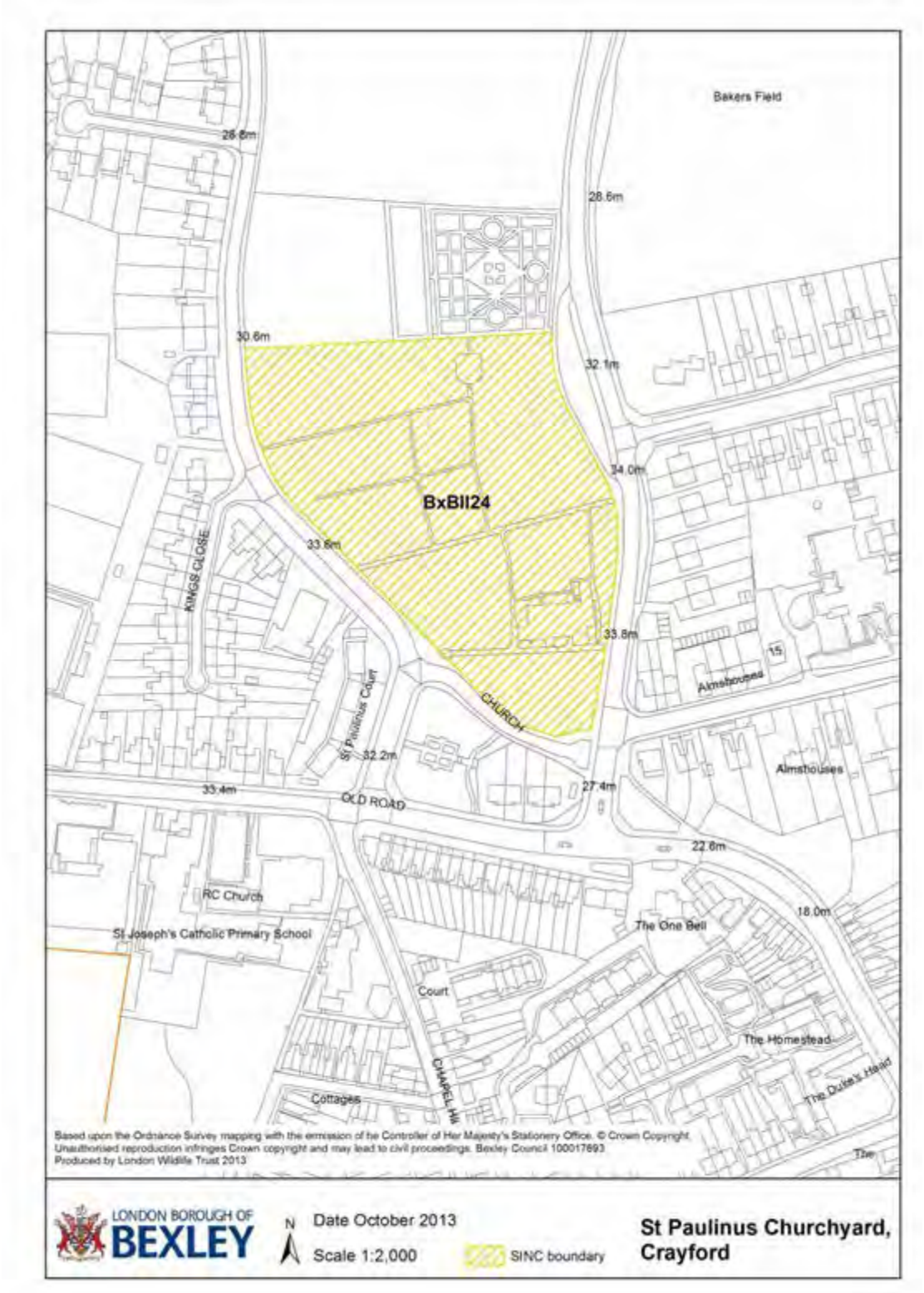
Site Description

Crayford parish church is a good example of how churchyards can act as havens for plant species and habitats. The site has benefited from a relaxation of the management, aimed at nature conservation, through the Living Churchyards scheme. The Churchyard contains relatively species-rich neutral to slightly acid grassland and mature trees. London notable plants include: harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), prickly sedge (*Carex muricata ssp pairiae*), crow garlic (*Allium vineale*) and wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*). The ferns black spleenwort and wall-rue (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* and *A. ruta-muraria*) can be found on the surrounding wall and church.

site first notified	09/06/2004	boundary last changed	07/12/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

All London notables found during the survey.


Bakers Field
28.6m
28.6m
30.6m
32.1m
34.0m
BxBII24
33.6m
33.8m
KINGS CLOSE
St Paulinus Court
CHURCH
15
Almshouses
32.2m
33.4m
OLD ROAD
27.4m
Almshouses
22.6m
RC Church
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
18.0m
The One Bell
Court
The Homestead
CHAPEL HILL
Cottages
The Duke's Head
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
SINC boundary
St Paulinus Churchyard, Crayford

BXBII25 Crossness Sewage Treatment Works Pond

Summary: A lake with good populations of common waterfowl.

Name	Crossness Sewage Treatment Works Pond		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII25
Grid reference	TQ 484 808	Area (hectares)	2.94
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Ruderal

Access: No public access

Ownership: Thames Water

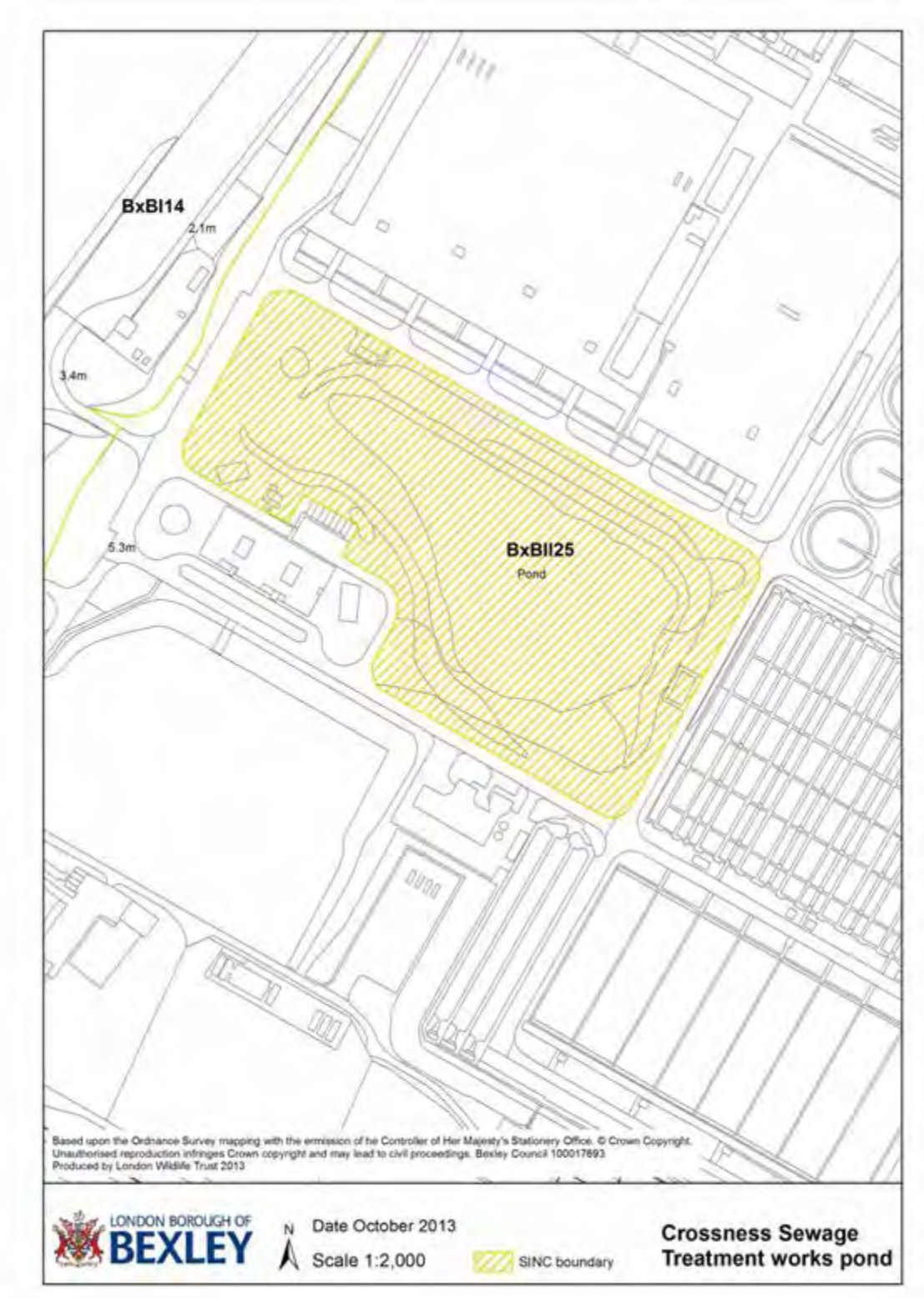
Site Description

This large pond, within the grounds of Crossness Sewage Works, contains good populations of common waterfowl. Up to the late 1990s it used to support a heronry, the only one in the Borough of Bexley, but herons stopped nesting when the trees they used fell down. An artificial replacement structure provided by Thames Water has not so far been used for nesting, though herons and cormorants roost on it. In addition there are good stands of water dock (*Rumex hydrolapathum*), which is scarce in London. The lake supports numerous dragonflies and damselflies. The surrounding grassland is heavily grazed by waterfowl, but supports populations of bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*). Strong anecdotal evidence suggests that the pond supports a population of water voles (*Arvicola terrestris*).

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	24/03/2006
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Information about the habitats and species present on the site are supplied by Thames Water. Strong evidence of water voles presence was recorded on site by Thames Water: this included latrines, feeding stations and burrows.


BxBI14
2.1m
3.4m
5.3m
BxBII25
Pond
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
SINC boundary
Crossness Sewage Treatment works pond

BxBII27 Normans' Wood and Tile Kiln Lane

Summary: A mixed native wood and adjacent ancient trackway.

Name	Normans' Wood and Tile Kiln Lane		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII27
Grid reference	TQ 502 729	Area (hectares)	1.39
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Hedgebanks, Secondary woodland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Private & borough

Site Description

Tile Kiln Lane appears to be an ancient sunken lane, bounded by banks with lines of trees, which runs past the ancient woodland of Cavey's Spring. A good range of trees and shrubs, some of them coppiced or pollarded in the past, include field maple (*Acer campestre*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), dogwood (*Cornus* sanguinea), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), spindle (*Euonymus europaea*), wild privet (Ligustrum vulgare) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The ground flora includes wood meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*) and dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). The banks have been modified in places, and one section in the north-west part is bounded by a wall. The north-east part merges into a private garden with no clear boundary. Normans' Wood is a sizeable block of mixed native broad-leaved woodland, adjacent to Tile Kiln Lane, which appears to be about 25 years old. It is maturing nicely and there is plenty of regeneration of the trees.

site first notified	30/09/2011	boundary last changed	30/09/2011
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Site name change

Site name changed from Cold Blow Wood and Tile Kiln Lane to Normans' Wood and Tile Kiln Lane.


38.1m
45
40.2m
42.5m
BxBII27
42.5m
45.1m
M118
41.9m
41.3m
MONTEREY CLOSE
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:3,000
SINC boundary
Cold Blow Plantation & Tile Kiln Lane

BxBII28 Perry Street Farm

Summary: Large area of grazed horse paddocks supporting a variety of declining bird species

Name	Perry Street Farm		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII28
Grid reference	TQ 516 756	Area (hectares)	27.18
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Improved agricultural grassland, Ruderal, Scattered trees, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Private

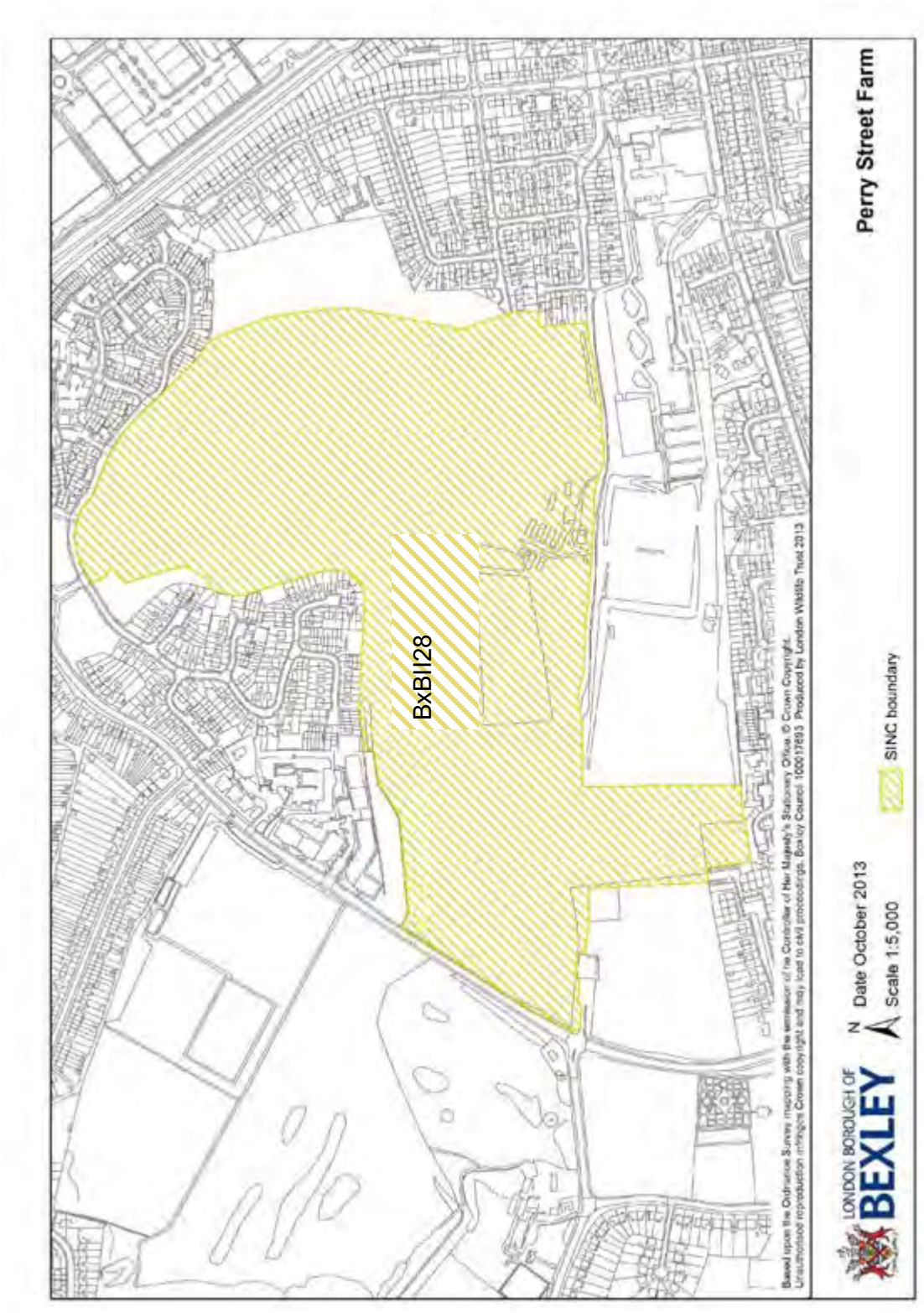
Site Description

A large area of grazed horse paddocks surrounding farm buildings. The ruderal and grassland habitats support a wide variety of typical plants but also includes a small population of the London notable hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*). It is likely to be important for invertebrates and probably also supports reptiles such as the common lizard and slow-worm. The large expanse of undisturbed open grasslands offer important feeding opportunities for starling, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, house martins and finches in winter.

site first notified	11/12/2013	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

New Borough Grade II SINC.


Perry Street Farm
BxBI128
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:5,000
SINC boundary
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BxBII29 Queen Mary's Hospital Grounds

Summary: Hospital grounds with an attractive mix of fields, hedgerows and woodland planted with many exotic trees.

Name	Queen Mary's Hospital Grounds		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII29
Grid reference	TQ 467 707	Area (hectares)	23.28
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Hedge, Improved grassland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Queen Mary's Sidcup Trust

Site Description

This site consists of a matrix of fields, hedgerows and remnant woodland planted with many exotic tree species. Some additional areas of successional scrub and woodland are also present. A few of the fields are relatively species-rich, although continued intensive grazing pressure is having a detrimental impact on them. A reduction in this grazing pressure would benefit the plants, allowing them to flower and set seed. The site may still support the London notable plant species common restharrow (*Ononis repens*), hybrid cinquefoil (*Potentilla* x *mixta*), grey sedge (*Carex divulsa*), thyme-leaved sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), and burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*) but this seems unlikely considering the current grazing pressure. Red bartsia (*Odontites verna*) and vervain (*Verbena officinalis*) are present. There is a diverse range of invertebrates. The hedgerows, scrub and woodland areas support a wide range of common birds.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

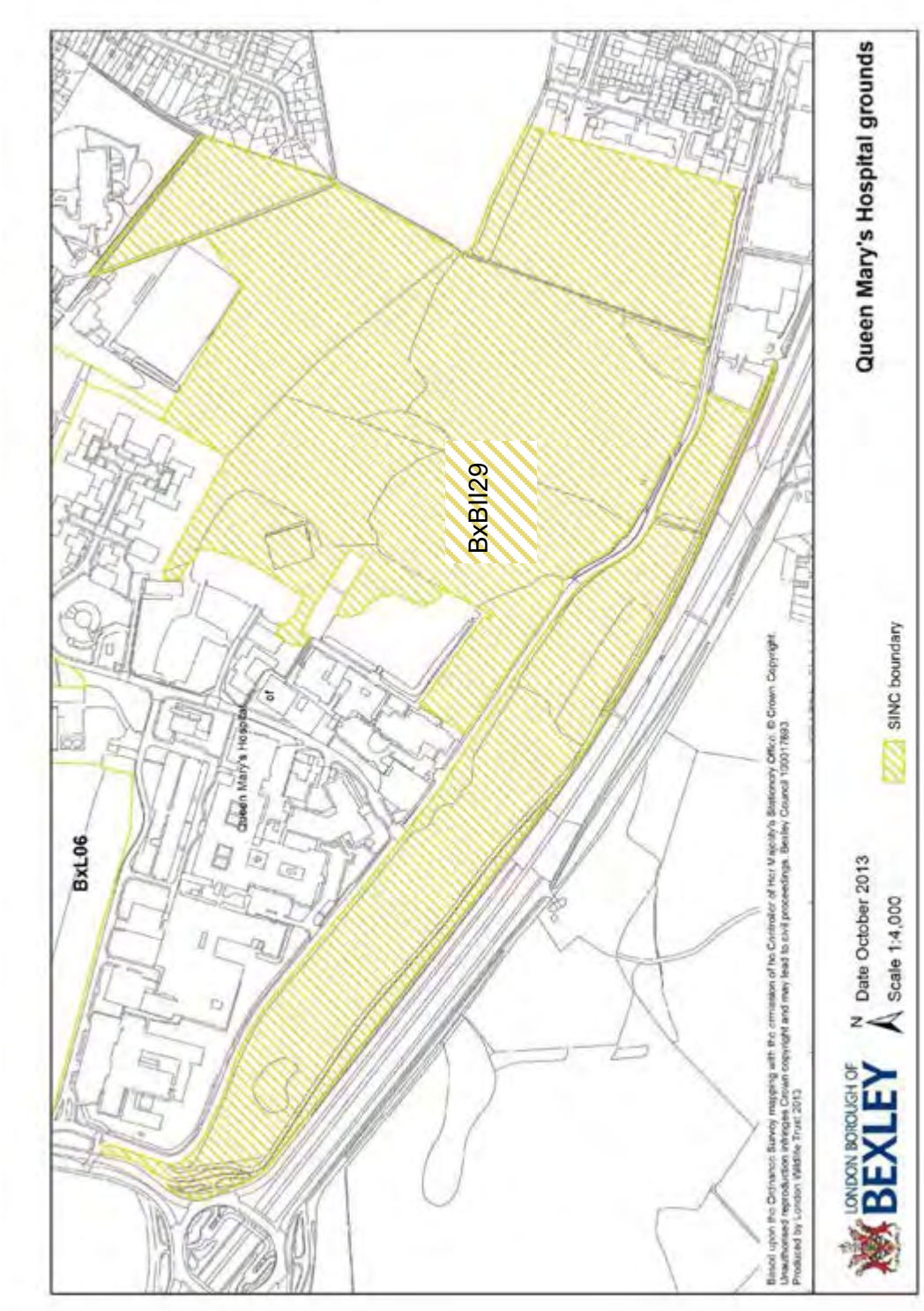
Previously known as BxBI10 Queen Mary's Hospital Grounds, this site has been downgrade from a grade I site to reflect ongoing impact of intensive heavy grazing to most of the fields which has probably led to the loss of a number of London notable plant species. Many of the fields could now be considered improved grassland as a result of the grazing.

Other observations

The areas of woodland, scrub and hedgerows, Lime avenue in the east of the SINC, the large central field plus the field in the extreme west which has a footpath across it are the only areas left of particular value. All other fields are so heavily grazed they have very minimal value for biodiversity. It should be noted that the central field is grazed by point staked horses rather than free running horses like the other fields and could be considered

to be having a slightly positive effect as they are rotated round this field creating a grassland mosaic. However, soil enrichment through their excreta may still be a problem.

Common restharrow (*Ononis repens*), hybrid cinquefoil (*Potentilla* x *mixta*), grey sedge (*Carex divulsa*), thyme-leaved sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), and burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*) were not found during the survey. It is possible that these species have now been lost.



BxBII30 Barnehurst Golf Course

Summary: A sizeable golf course with a number of wildlife habitats, including woodland, flower-rich grassland and scattered trees.

Name	Barnehurst Golf Course		
Grade	Borough Grade II	Reference	BxBII30
Grid reference	TQ 510 757	Area (hectares)	27.29
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Amenity grassland, Scattered trees, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This sizeable golf course contains a number of wildlife habitats, including small areas of woodland and scattered trees. The roughs comprise fairly flower-rich grassland, some of which is acidic. There is further acid grassland with a couple of bushes of gorse (Ulex europaeus) in a “wildlife area” to the north of the golf course. Subterranean clover (Trifolium subterraneum) and common stork’s-bill (Erodium cicutarium), which are rare in London, are found on the golf course, along with commoner wild flowers such as common knapweed (Centaurea nigra) and wild onion (Allium vineale), with scattered scrub of broom (Cytisus scoparius). Daubenton’s bats roost in some of the old trees, and breeding birds include blackcap, whitethroat and green and great spotted woodpeckers. The site supports an excellent range of butterflies, including green, white-letter and purple hairstreaks and small heath. Hawker and common darter dragonflies were recorded in the “wildlife area”.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

Previously known as BxL03 Barnehurst Golf Course, this site has been upgraded to borough Grade II site, based on:

Existing value of acid grassland /roughland mosaic on the north-east part of the site. Acid grassland is a priority habitat in London and the site supports good quality grassland with typical species: broom, gorse, common stork’s-bill;

Areas of woodland of possible ancient origin;

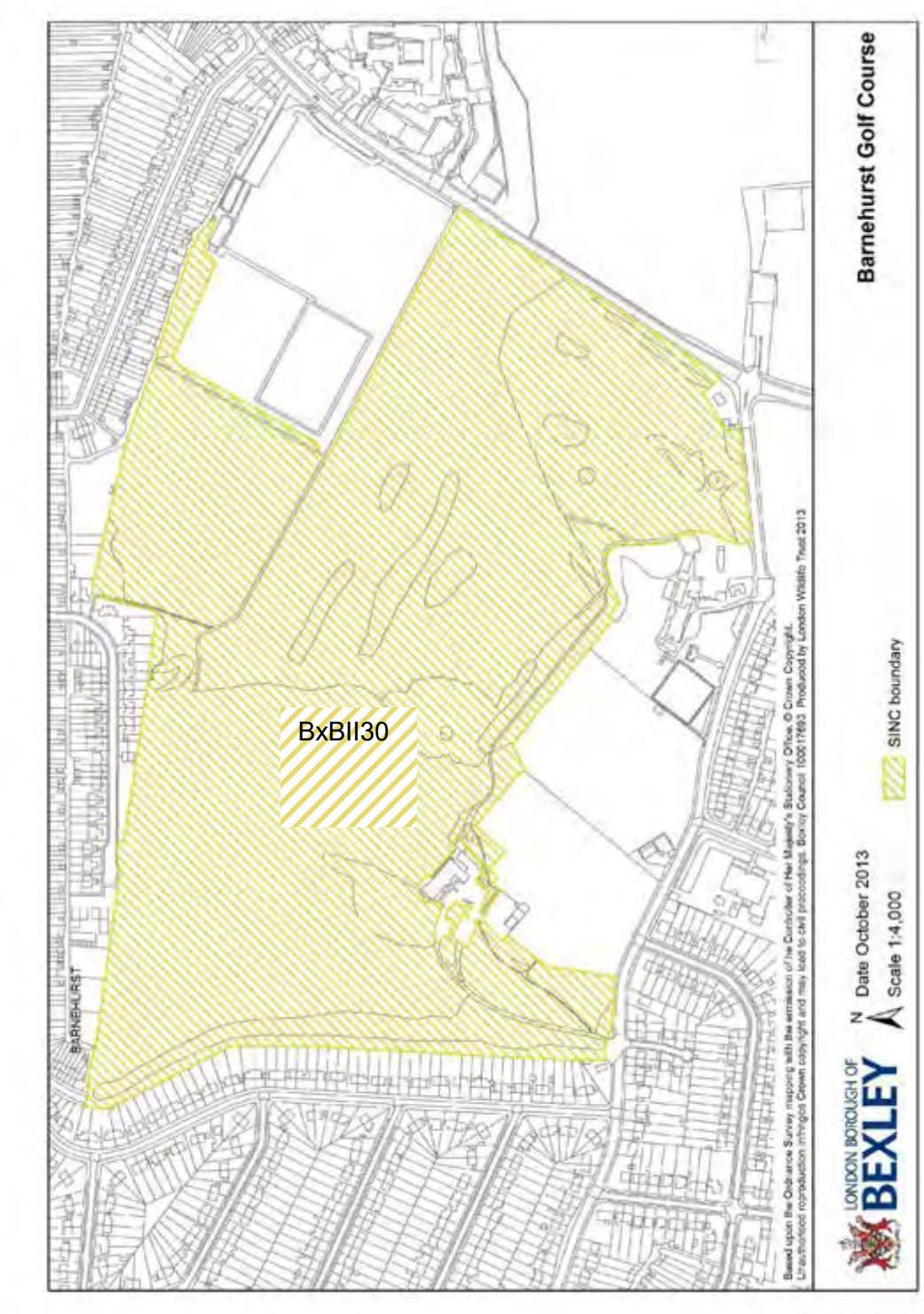
Presence of London rare species: subterranean clover and common stork’s-bill;

Importance of the site for birds, bats and invertebrates (records of Odonata).

Other observations

Maintenance of grassland areas in north-east corner of the site is recommended through annual cut with arisings removed. Additional planting or soil enrichment should be avoided in that area to preserve the valuable grassland habitat.

There is an evidence of more recent tree work that took place after the survey was carried out (19th May 2013). It would be advisable to assess impact of work on overall value of the site.



Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

BxL05 The Hollies Open Space

Summary: Parkland and woodland around a housing estate, supporting a good range of birds and insects.

Name	The Hollies Open Space		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL05
Grid reference	TQ 459 732	Area (hectares)	5.54
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Semi-improved grassland, Scrub, Secondary woodland

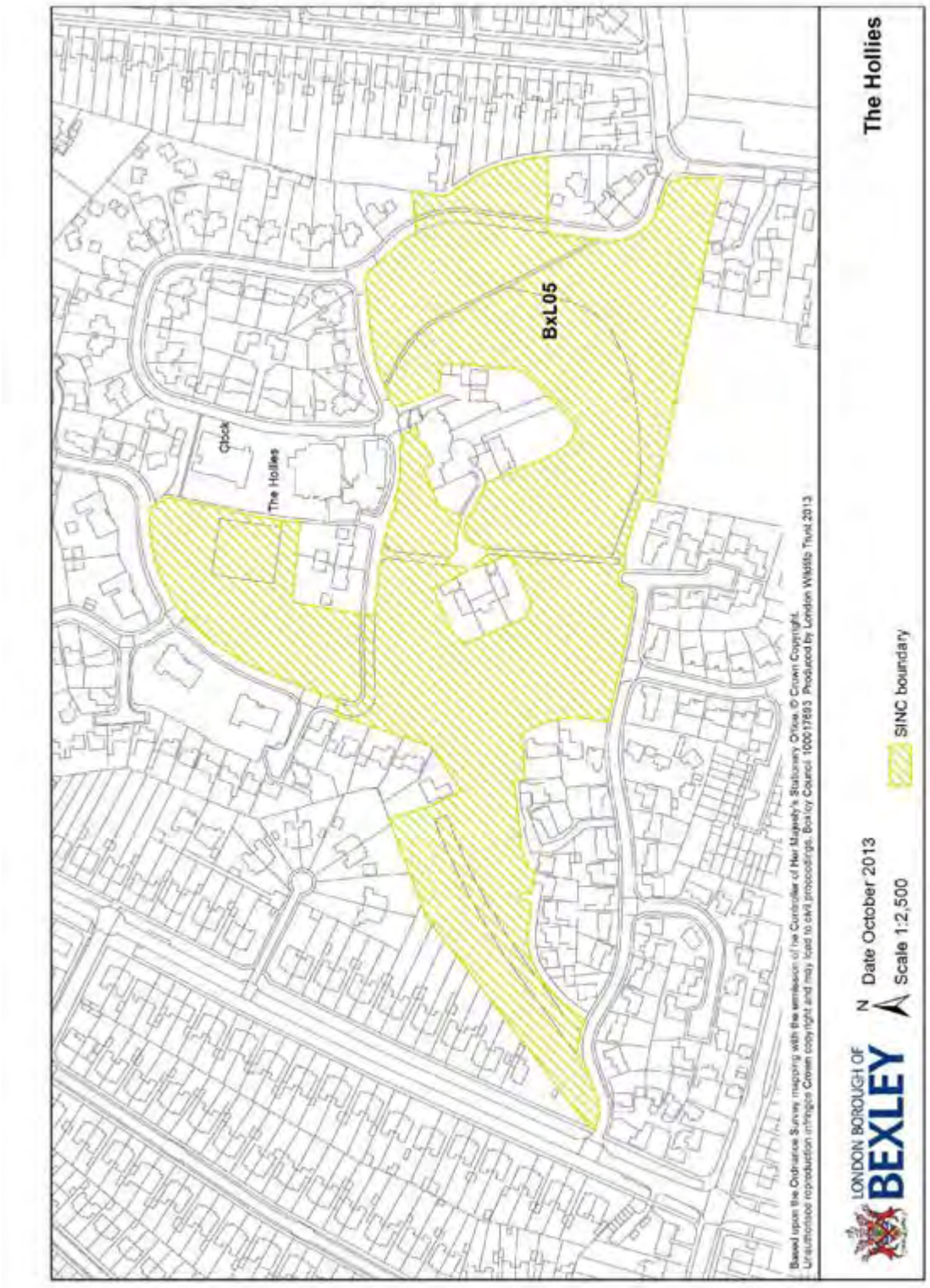
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: Private

Site Description

The mixed parkland around The Hollies housing estate contains several patches of woodland, dominated by oak (Quercus robur), sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and mature mixed ornamental plantings. Large proportion if the site contains semi-improved grassland with red fescue (Festuca rubra) and Yorkshire for (Holcus lanatus) amongst more common grasses. The mix of habitats is of value to breeding birds and invertebrates. Parts of the site are managed to improve their value for wildlife.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


The Hollies
BxL05
Clock
The Hollies
LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,500
SINC boundary
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BxL06 Sidcup Place and Green

Summary: A large park with areas of woodland and a walled garden with rare ferns.

Name	Sidcup Place and Green		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL06
Grid reference	TQ 464 712	Area (hectares)	17.23
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Tall herbs, Vegetated walls

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

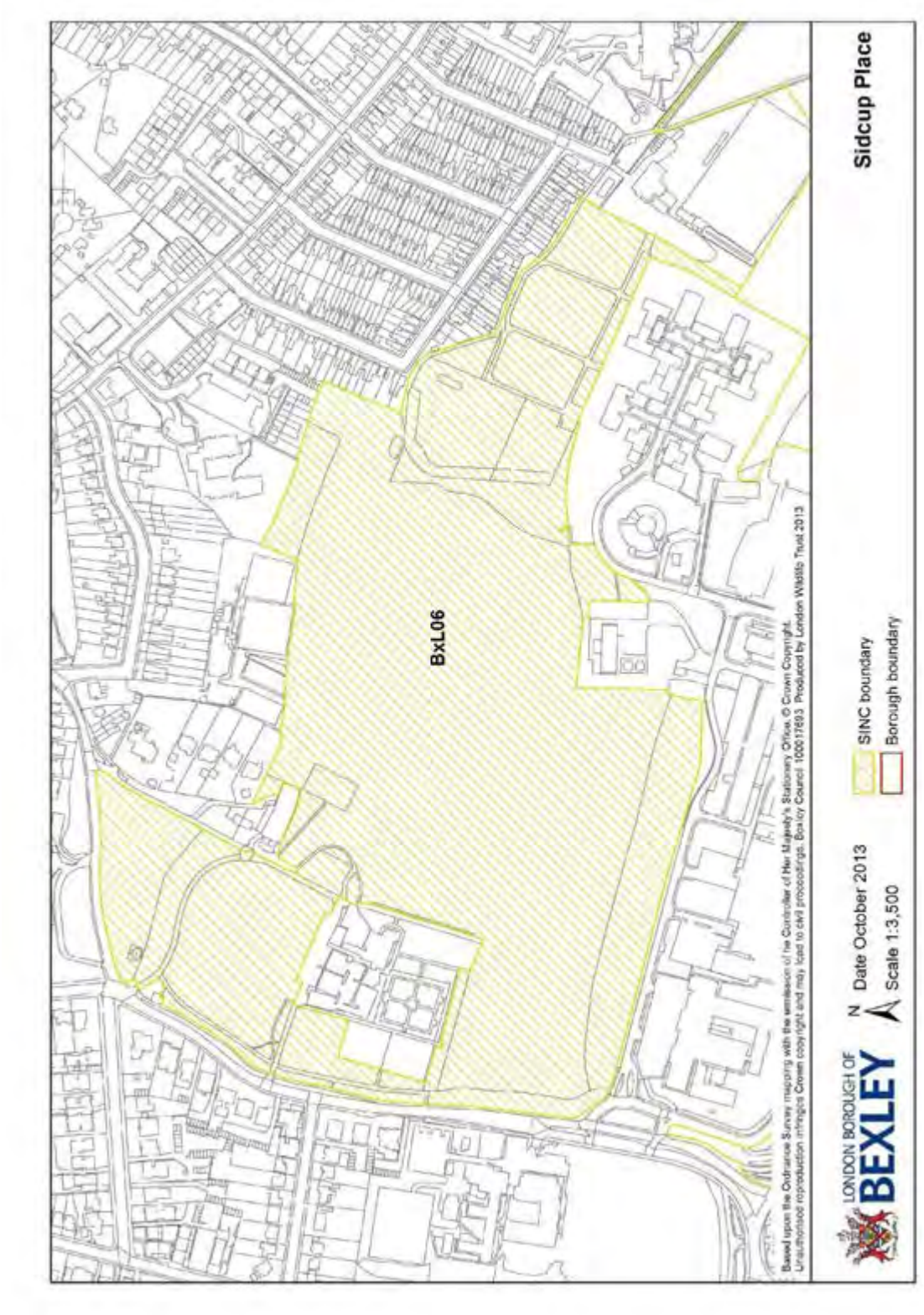
Site Description

This site consists of parkland surrounding the former council offices of Sidcup Place, and the ornamental gardens of Sidcup Green. Parts of the park are managed to improve their value to wildlife. These include areas of scrub, tall herbs and woodland. The woodland is dominated by pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with a small population of the locally scarce grey sedge (*Carex divulsa*) in the ground flora. The woodland and scrub are of value for breeding birds and invertebrates. A low flint-lined ha-ha supports a number of locally rare ferns, including wall-rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) and maidenhair and black spleenworts (*A. trichomanes* and *A. adiantum-nigrum*).

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Site name change

Site name changed from ‘Sidcup Place’ to ‘Sidcup Place and Green’


BxL06
Sidcup Place
LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:3,500
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
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BxL07 Crossway Park and Tump 52

Summary: Informal parkland with areas of woodland, scrub and wetlands.

Name	Crossway Park and Tump 52		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL07
Grid reference	TQ 476 806	Area (hectares)	16.13
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Canal, Pond/lake, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland

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

Ownership: Peabody Housing Trust

Site Description

Crossway Park is a sizeable area of informal parkland, with areas of planted woodland and scrub dominated by poplar (*Populus sp*) and willow (*Salix spp*), interspersed with rough grassland containing the locally scarce chicory (*Cichorium intybus*). A series of wetland habitats are linked by canals. The water and marginal areas support a fairly dense growth of aquatic plants, dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and coarse grasses, with occasional lesser water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*) and brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). The invasive floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) is scattered across the site and requires control.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Lesser water-parsnip and brooklime were not found during the survey but may still be present. Some of the wetland areas were difficult to access and view.


BxBI01
BxBI14
Thamesmead
BxL07
Thamesmead
M041
BxL16
BxBII02
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,500
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Crossway Park & Tump 52

BxL09 Belmont Primary School Nature Area

Summary: School nature garden with a pond and scrub for nesting birds.

Name	Belmont Primary School Nature Area		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL09
Grid reference	TQ 491 771	Area (hectares)	0.15
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Pond/lake, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Access: No public access

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This small school nature garden is situated in a shallow dip, and the bottom of which is a pond containing various water plants including great reedmace (Typha latifolia) and yellow iris (Iris pseudacorus). The garden also contains areas of scrub, dominated by English elm (Ulmus procera), and containing a variety of other native and ornamental shrubs. The site supports suitable habitat for breeding garden birds and invertebrates.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

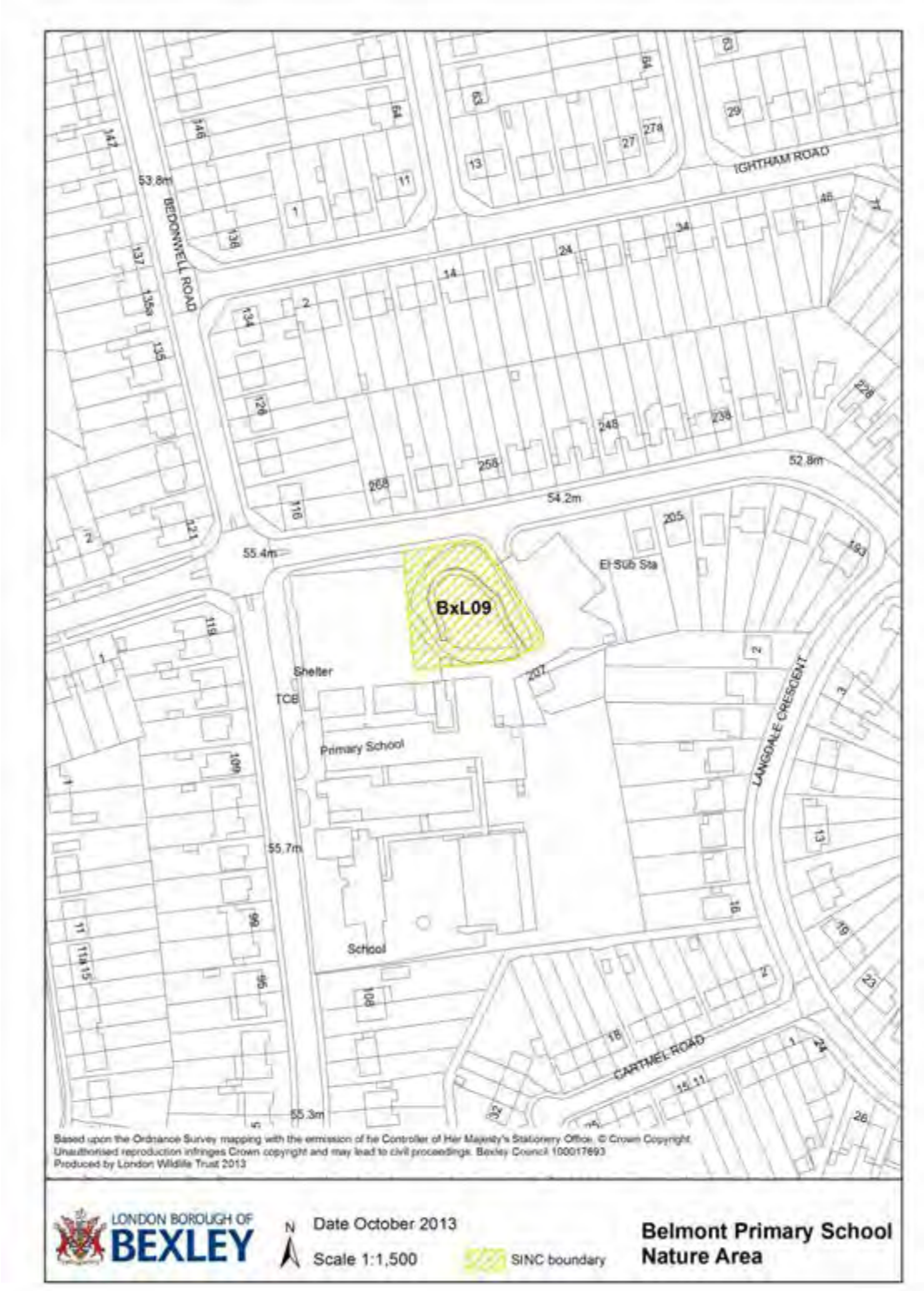
Site name change

Site name changed from ‘Belmont School Nature Garden’ to ‘Belmont Primary School Nature Area’.

Other observations

Fox was seen on the site during the survey.

Some vegetation control is required to prevent the pond from getting overgrown by wetland plants and dried up.


BxL09
BEDONWELL ROAD
IGHTHAM ROAD
LANGDALE CRESCENT
CARTMEL ROAD
Primary School
School
Shelter
TCB
El Sub Sta
53.8m
54.2m
52.8m
55.4m
55.7m
55.3m
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:1,500
SINC boundary
Belmont Primary School
Nature Area

BxL10 Land at Larner Road, Erith

Summary: An informal open space with a mosaic of scrub rough grassland.

Name	Land at Larner Road, Erith		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL10
Grid reference	TQ 515 773	Area (hectares)	0.81
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland

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

Ownership: Orbit Housing Association

Site Description

This is an area of rough ground, forming an informal open space on the northern edge of the Waterhead housing estate. The well-developed roughland consists of a mosaic of hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) and bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg) scrub and false oat-grass (Arrhenatherum elatius) dominated grassland. The locally scarce hairy St John's-wort (Hypericum hirsutum) can be found in the grassland. The north slope supports a variety of ruderal plants. The site supports suitable habitat for breeding garden birds and invertebrates. Kestrels are known to breed on the adjacent tower blocks and regularly hunt over the site, suggesting the presence of small mammals and/or reptiles.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

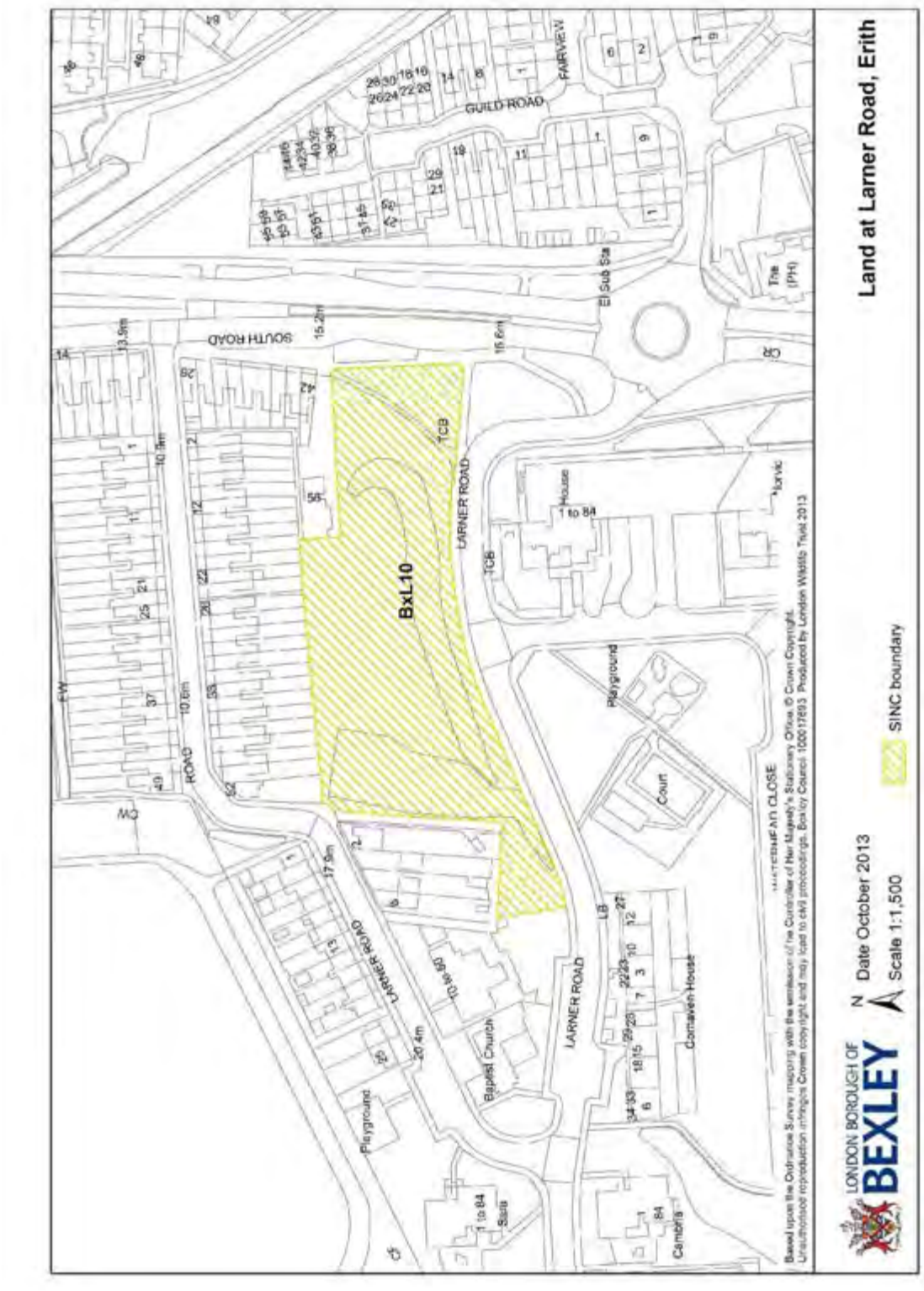
Other observations

The grassland was cut just before the survey was carried out. Hairy St John's-wort (Hypericum hirsutum) was not recorded, but it could be present on the site.

There is a significant amount of fly-tipping and litter on the site. It would be beneficial to remove arisings after mowing rather than leaving them on site.

Some Japanese knotweed was recorded on the site.

The site is part of the Erith Park redevelopment and is due to be enhanced as part of this development.



BxL11 Edendale Road, Barnehurst

Summary: An area of scrub and rough grassland surrounded by housing.

Name	Edendale Road, Barnehurst		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL11
Grid reference	TQ 510 764	Area (hectares)	0.96
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs

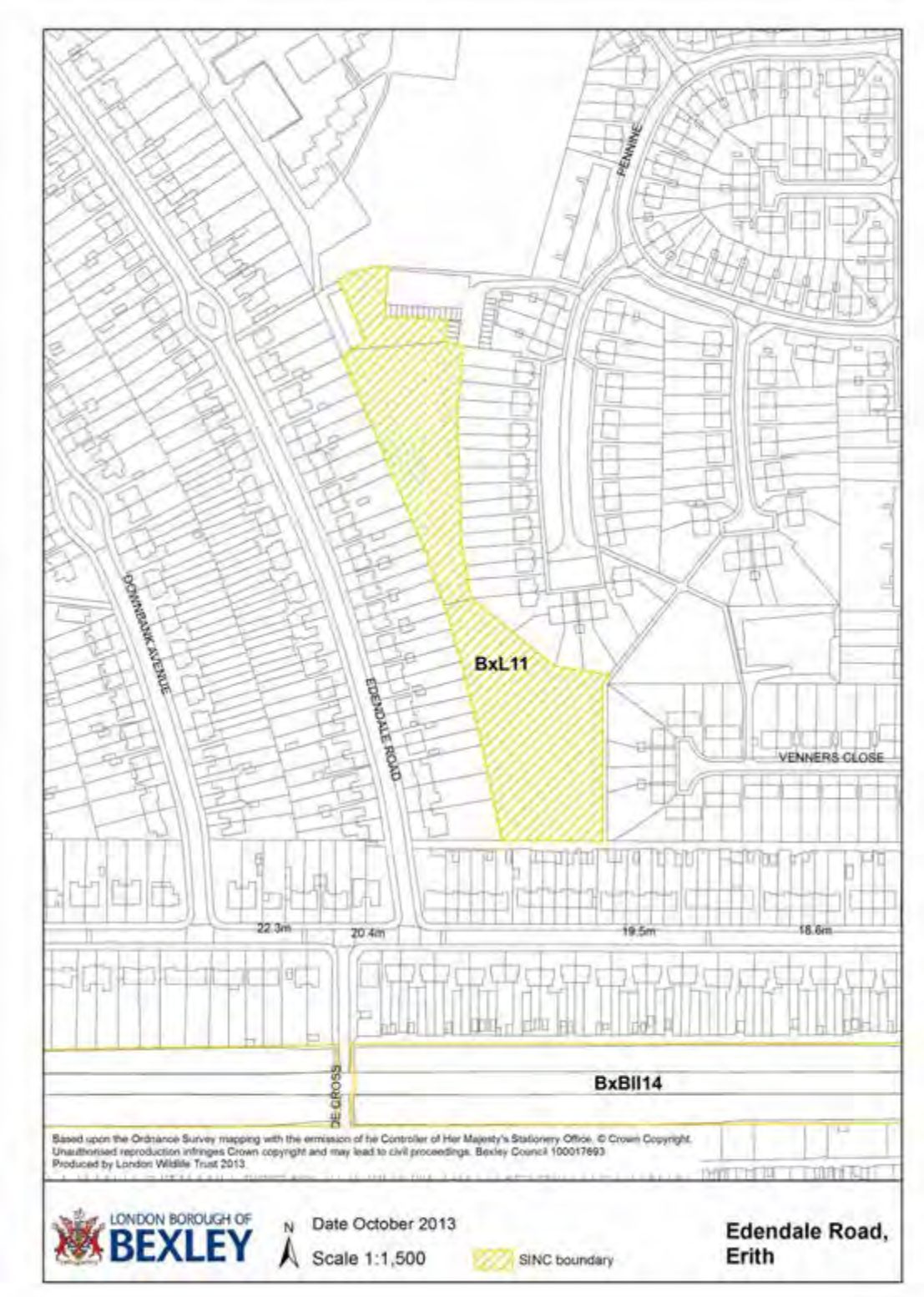
Access: No public access

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This backland site contains a well-developed mosaic of scrub, rough grassland and tall herbs. The scrub is a dense thicket of bullace (Prunus domestica ssp insititia), hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) and bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg), and the grassland is dominated by false oat-grass (Arrhenatherum elatius), interspersed with tall herbs such as perennial wall-rocket (Diplotaxis tenuifolia) and stands of nettle (Urtica dioica). The site supports suitable habitat for breeding garden birds and invertebrates. There is no public access, but the site is an important reservoir of birds and other animals which visit nearby gardens.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


PENNINE
DOWNSBANK AVENUE
EDENDALE ROAD
BxL11
VENNERS CLOSE
22.3m
20.4m
19.5m
18.6m
DE CROSS
BxBII14
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:1,500
SINC boundary
Edendale Road, Erith

BxL13 Hoblands Wood

Summary: A narrow strip of woodland alongside Sidcup bypass.

Name	Hoblands Wood		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL13
Grid reference	TQ 456 713	Area (hectares)	2.13
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Ancient woodland, Scrub, secondary woodland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley and Private

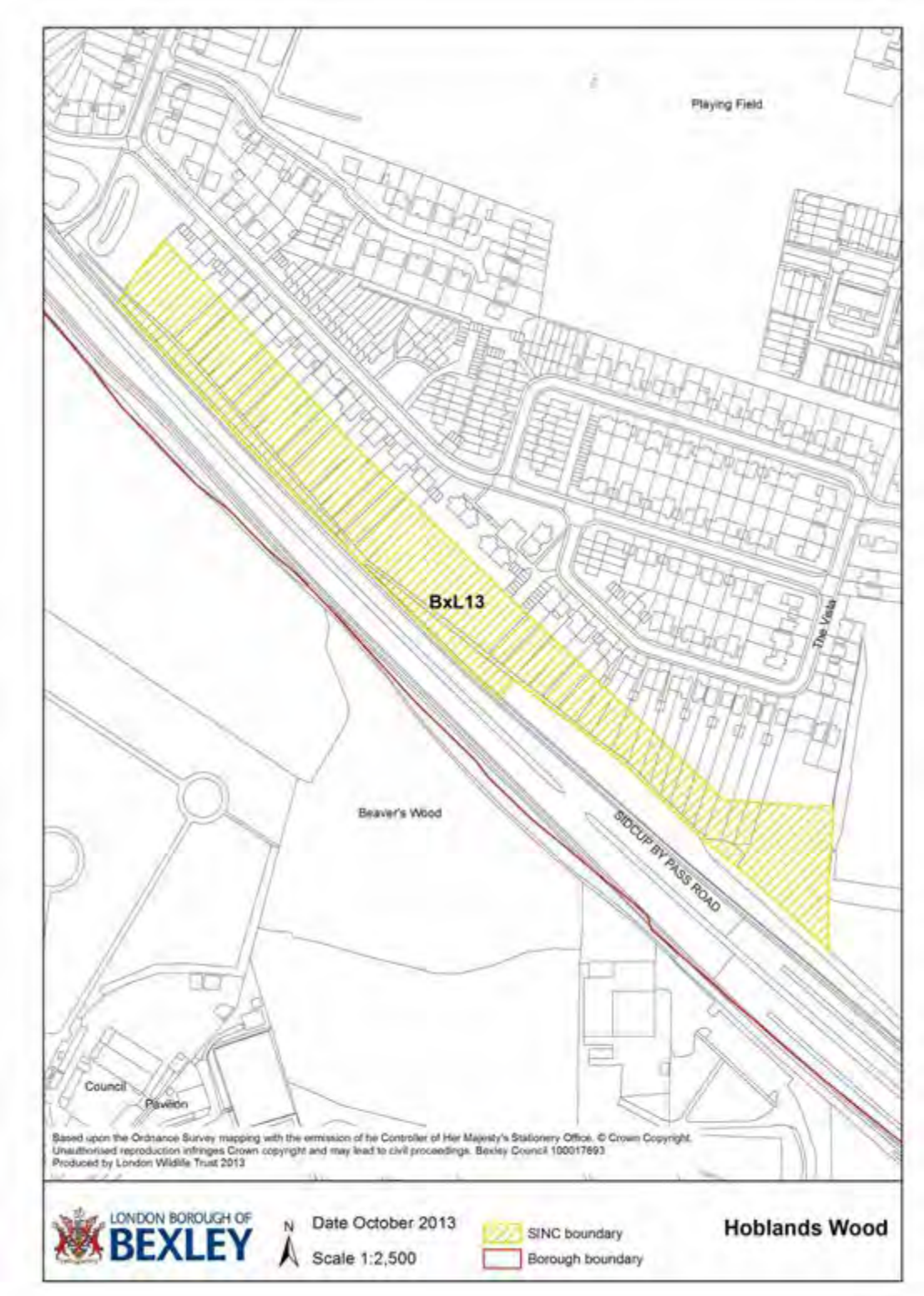
Site Description

A linear woodland, probably a fragment of ancient woodland, running alongside Sidcup bypass, much of it in private back gardens. The ancient woodland part of the site is dominated by outgrown hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) and English elm (*Ulmus procera*), with a ground flora dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and containing honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). The site supports suitable habitat for breeding garden birds and invertebrates.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	24/07/1996
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Area of recently planted woodland and amenity grasslands to the north of the site along the A20 were viewed but not surveyed and may be of some value in the future as the trees mature. They currently have minimal value. More favourable conservation management of the grasslands associated with the trees could raise these woodlands and grasslands to be Local SINC status. The trees in the back gardens of this site appear to be predominantly intact but as they were not properly accessed it is difficult to ascertain their individual treatment.


Playing Field
BxL13
The Vista
Beaver's Wood
SIDCUP BY PASS ROAD
Council
Pavilion
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,500
SINC boundary
Borough boundary
Hoblands Wood

BxL14 A2 Rochester Way East Embankment

Summary: The broad embankment on the north side of the A2 contains a mix of wildlife habitats.

Name	A2 Rochester Way East Embankment		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL14
Grid reference	TQ 495 743	Area (hectares)	2.04
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Roughland, Secondary woodland

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: Transport for London

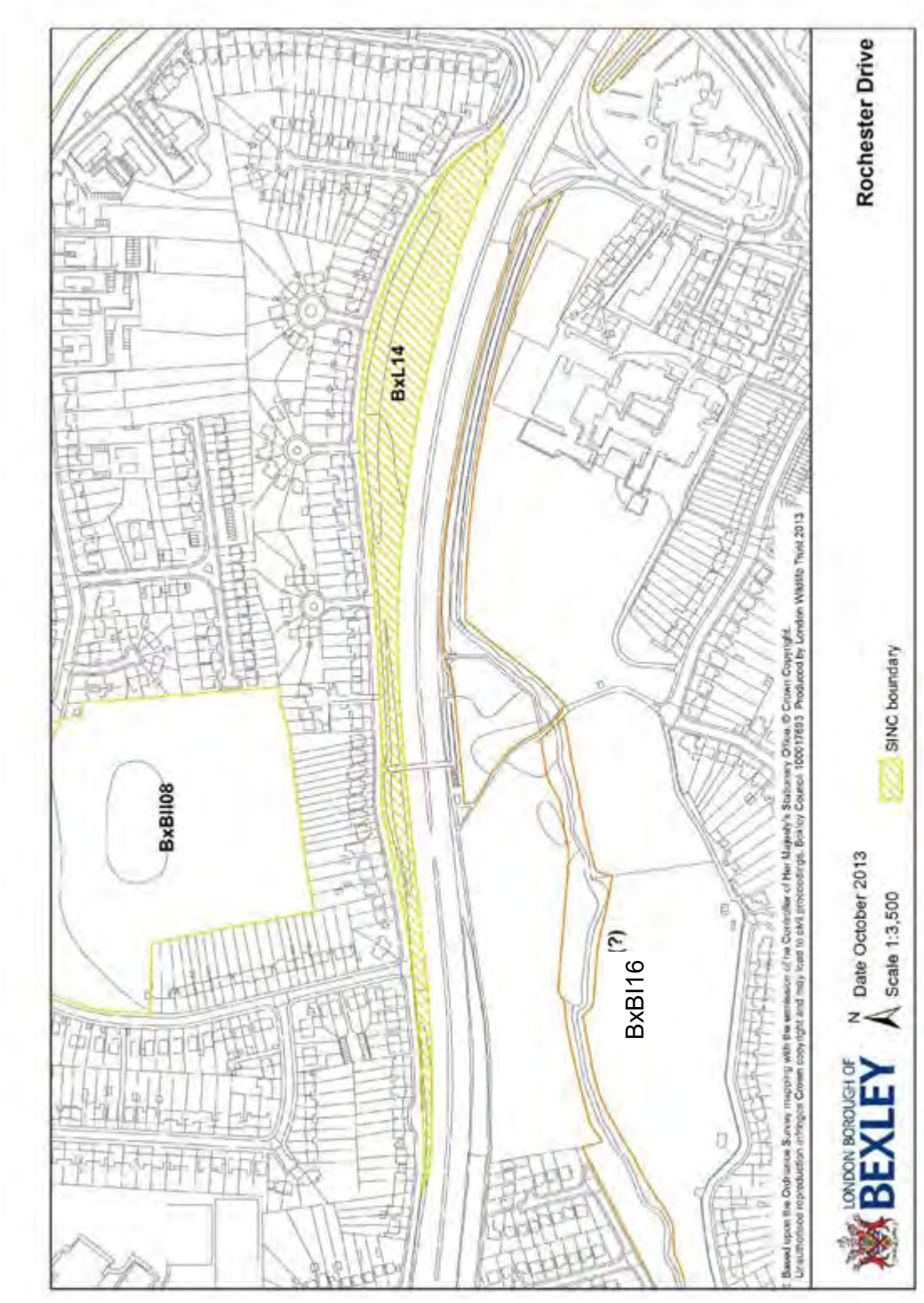
Site Description

This broad embankment on the north side of the A2 contains a mix of wildlife habitats. The rough grassland and scrub has been supplemented with plantings of native and ornamental trees. These are now maturing towards woodland. The site supports suitable habitat for breeding garden birds and invertebrates.

site first notified	01/11/1991	boundary last changed	01/11/1991
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Site name change

Site name changed from ‘Rochester Drive‘to ‘A2 Rochester Way East Embankment’.


Rochester Drive
BxL14
BxBI108
BxBI16 (?)
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:3,500
SINC boundary

BxL15 Abbey Hill Park

Summary: A small park with extensive plantings of native trees.

Name	Abbey Hill Park		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL15
Grid reference	TQ 470 727	Area (hectares)	4.42
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Scattered trees, Secondary woodland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

Site Description

This small park is being managed for nature conservation by London Borough of Bexley. It is dominated by rough grassland and scrub, with extensive plantings of mostly native trees. These are now maturing into woodland. The site supports suitable habitat for breeding garden birds and invertebrates.

site first notified	16/02/2004	boundary last changed	16/02/2004
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013


BxBII04
BxBII23
BxL15
BxBII06
Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School
Abbeyhill Park
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:3,000
SINC boundary

BxL16 The Ridgeway

Summary: An attractive linear walk with a good range of habitats.

Name	The Ridgeway		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL16
Grid reference	TQ 477 803	Area (hectares)	5.31
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Roughland, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Tall herbs

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

Ownership: Thames Water

Site Description

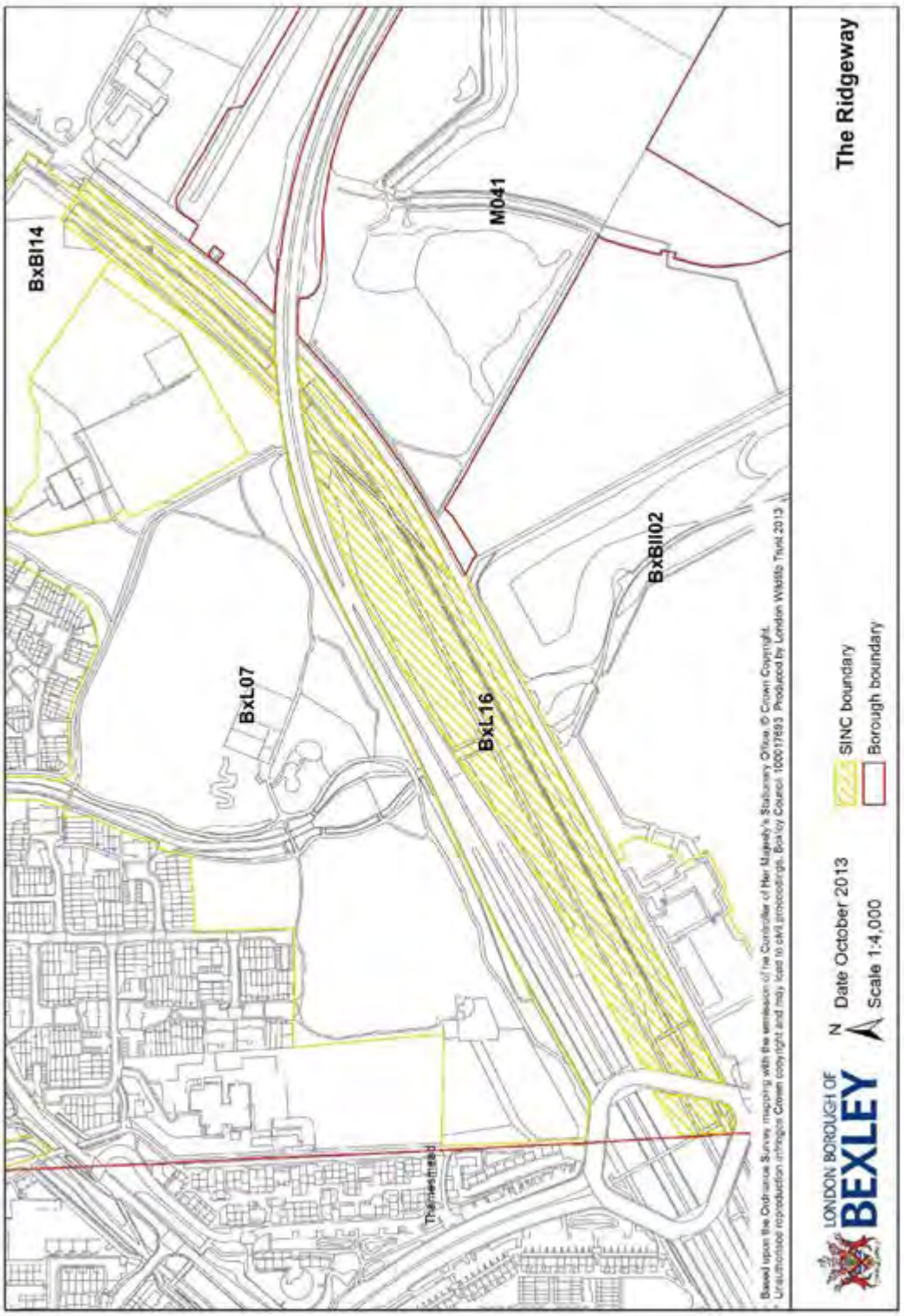
The Ridgeway is a linear footpath on the bank of the Southern Outfall Sewer. It is vegetated with a mosaic of roughland, bramble, scrub and woodland, with more mature woodland on the embankment of Eastern Way. It supports good numbers of breeding birds, including blackcap, whitethroat, lesser whitethroat and chiffchaff. It is an important component of the wildlife habitat in this part of Thamesmead, and is surrounded by the SINCs of Erith Marshes, Southmere Park, Crossway Park and Thamesview Golf Course. Recent works adjacent to the site has improved access.

site first notified	30/09/2011	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Area has value for birds and other species but due to access improvements on the adjoining Crossway Park and an increase in tall herbs and scrub encroachment in places the site is less appealing for access (has an enclosed feel presenting safety and security issues). The site also has no formalised access route that goes anywhere in particular reducing its value as a local site. With improved access (which is proposed) the site could be upgraded to a Borough Grade II site in line with the rest of the Ridgeway in neighbouring Greenwich.

There are further plans to enhance the walkway of the Ridgeway itself.


BxBl14
M041
BxBl102
BxL07
BxL16
The Ridgeway
LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:4,000
SINC boundary
Borough boundary

BxL17 Bexleyheath Cemetery

Summary: A cemetery containing species-rich acid grassland.

Name	Bexleyheath Cemetery		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL17
Grid reference	TQ 488 755	Area (hectares)	3.65
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Bexley

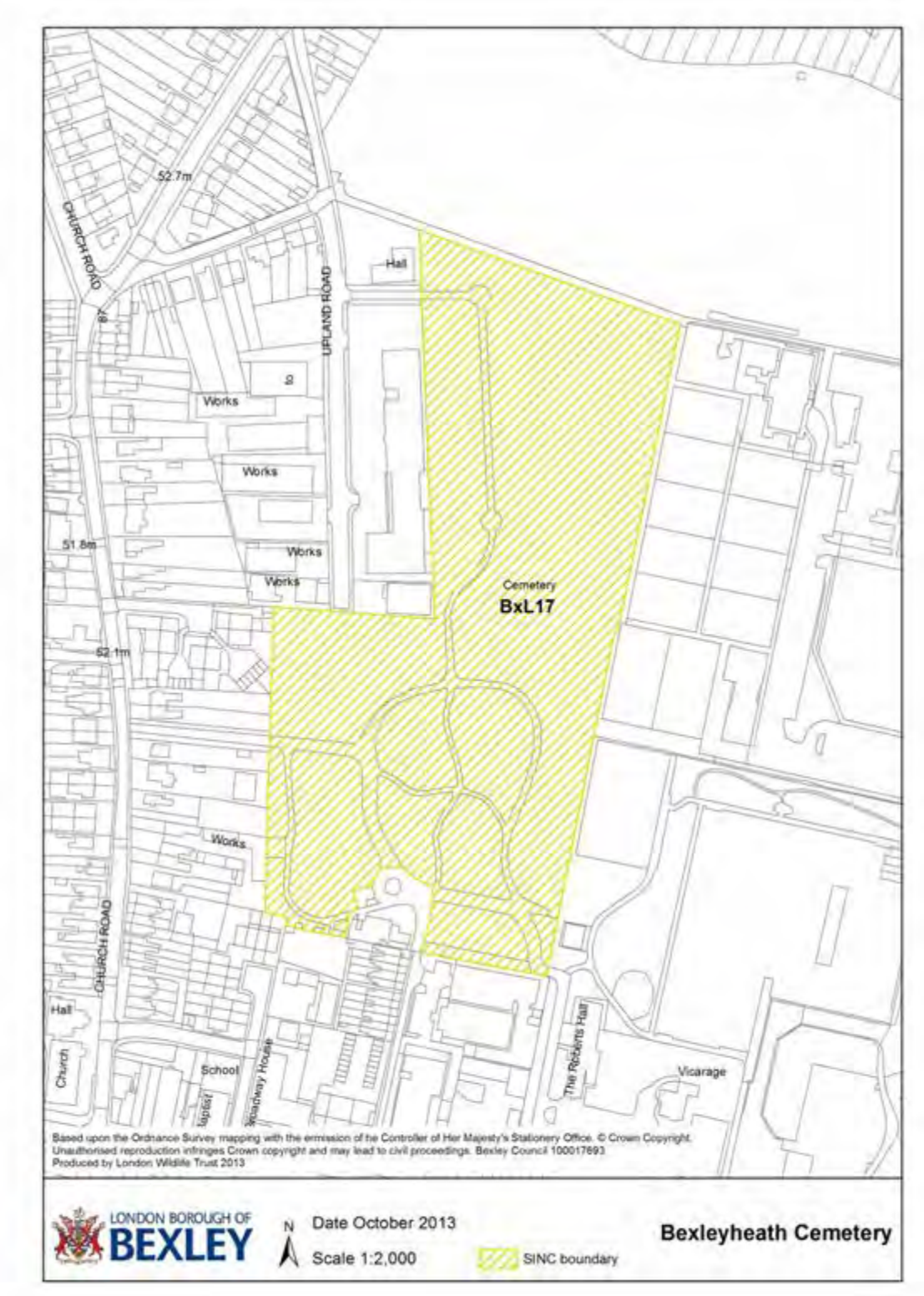
Site Description

Although this cemetery in the town centre is intensively managed, it nevertheless contains some species-rich acid grassland, a scarce habitat in the Borough. Plants characteristic of acid grassland, and scarce in the borough, include abundant bird's-foot (Ornithopus pusillus) and mouse-ear hawkweed (Pilosella officinarum), harebell (Campanula rotundifolia) alongside commoner species such as sheep's sorrel (Rumex acetosella), lady's bedstraw (Galium verum), sticky groundsel (Senecio viscosus), barren strawberry (Potentialla sterilis) and birdsfoot-trefoil (Lotus corniculatus).

site first notified	30/09/2011	boundary last changed	30/09/2011
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Other observations

Invasive species: buddleia, cotoneaster.


52.7m
CHURCH ROAD
UPLAND ROAD
Hall
Works
Works
Works
Works
51.8m
52.1m
Cemetery
BxL17
Works
CHURCH ROAD
Hall
Church
School
Broadway House
The Residents Hall
Vicarage
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Produced by London Wildlife Trust 2013
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
N
Date October 2013
Scale 1:2,000
SINC boundary
Bexleyheath Cemetery

BxL18 Our Lady of Angels Cemetery

Summary: Small cemetery supporting important plant assemblages including a population of devil's-bit scabious

Name	Our Lady of Angels Cemetery		
Grade	Local Importance	Reference	BxL18
Grid reference	TQ 503 775	Area (hectares)	0.14
London boroughs	Bexley		

Habitat(s): Acid grassland**,** Ruderal, Scattered trees, Vegetated tombstones/walls

Access: Free public access

Ownership: Diocese of Rochester

Site Description

Small cemetery of acid grassland supporting mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and a population of devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) which is rare in London. The site has several trees including sessile oaks (*Quercus petraea*) and appears to be managed in a favourable way for wildlife.

site first notified	11/12/2013	boundary last changed	11/12/2013
citation last edited	11/12/2013	cabinet member agreed	22/12/2016
defunct	N	last updated	11/12/2013

Status Change

New Local SINC.



PART III. Bexley's designated Strategic Green Wildlife Corridors

The London Plan[8] describes green corridors (green wildlife corridors) as 'relatively continuous areas of open space leading through the built environment, which may be linked and may not be publicly accessible. They may allow animals and plants to be found further into the built-up area than would otherwise be the case and provide an extension to the habitats of the sites they join.'

The list of 14 designated Strategic Green wildlife corridors in Bexley can be found below. **Appendix C** contains policy context in relation to strategic green wildlife corridors.

No 1. River Cray Valley corridor

Described in the Mayors All London Green Grid (ALGG) SPG (2012) Area 5 River Cray and Southern Marshes

Between the A206 and A2 at Crayford, the River Cray corridor is dominated by industrial and commercial development. Between the A2 and A20 the valley becomes steep-sided and is characterised by extensive woodland, grazed water meadow, horse paddock, and arable fields.

The corridor runs along M106 the River Cray and includes the following SINCs: M031 the River Thames and tidal tributaries (small south section); BxBI18 Crayford landfill and Howbury Grange; M123 Crayford Rough; BxBII17 Upper College Farm. It links with A20 Road corridor, Sidcup rail corridor and River Darent corridor. This corridor could link with green corridors in London Borough of Bromley and Borough of Dartford.

No 2. Green Chain corridor

Described in the Mayors ALGG SPG Area 5 River Cray and Southern Marshes

The Green Chain corridor starts at the Thames in London Borough of Bexley at Erith Riverside, it then goes through Franks Park and Lesnes Abbey before passing into Bostall Woods then via a network of open spaces in Royal Greenwich and London Borough of Lewisham on its way to Crystal Palace in London Borough of Bromley.

No 3. The Thamesmead Link

Described in the Mayors ALGG SPG Area 5 River Cray and Southern Marshes:

'The Thamesmead Link connects the Thames riverfront and the Green Chain and includes Erith Marshes, Lesnes Abbey Woods and Southmere Park. The lower part of the link is characterised by canals, lakes and wetland habitats. A green route connects Lesnes Abbey Wood with Southmere Park, and the path continues along the Thamesmead canal system and through the housing estate to the river adjacent to the Victorian Pumping Station. The route crosses up and over the Ridgeway – the path that sits atop the Southern Outfall Sewer which runs to the Crossness works on the west side of Erith Marshes. Thamesmead has areas of high density residential housing and a challenging mix of issues requiring management.'

[8] The London Plan (GLA, March 2016)

The corridor connects the following sites: M031 the River Thames and tidal tributaries; BxBI01 Crossways Lake Nature Reserve; BxL07 Crossway Park & Tump 52; BxL16 the Ridgeway; BxBII02 Southmere Park and Yarnton Way/Viridion Way; and, M015 Lesnes Abbey Woods and Bostall Woods. It also links together the following green wildlife corridors: River Thames corridor, the Ridgeway Link, Thames Marshes Corridor, Belvedere Rail corridor and Green Chain corridor. This could link with a potential corridor in London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

No 4. The Ridgeway Link

Described in the Mayors ALGG SPG Area 5 River Cray and Southern Marshes:

'The Ridgeway Link is an elevated path established above a major Victorian sewer. It forms a green link between the Thames Path at Crossness Sewage Treatment Works, to Plumstead. It is a key gateway from the west into the rich network of green open spaces and waterways in Thamesmead and Erith Marshes.'

This green wildlife corridor provides connectivity between the following sites: M031 the River Thames and tidal tributaries; BxBI14 Thamesview Golf Course and BxL16 the Ridgeway. It also links the following corridors: River Thames corridor, Thames Marshes Corridor and the Thamesmead link. This could link with potential corridors in Royal Borough of Greenwich and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

No 5. The River Shuttle Link

Described in the Mayors ALGG SPG Area 5 River Cray and Southern Marshes:

'The River Shuttle Link runs from Avery Hill Park within the South East London Green Chain to Hall Place. It links a number of open spaces of various types including small local parks, school playing fields, a golf course, a number of narrow linear spaces between back gardens, woodland and allotment gardens. The Shuttle Riverway footpath follows most of the river course and links the open spaces together.'

The corridor connects the following sites: BxBII01 Blackfen Woods; BxBI16 River Shuttle; BxBII09 Wyncham Stream; BxBI06 Sidcup Golf Course and Lamorbey Lake; BxBI08 Bexley Wood Park; and M106 the River Cray. This could link with a potential corridor in Royal Borough of Greenwich.

No 6. Thames Marshes corridor

The Thames Marshes Corridor runs from the Thamesmead estate through Erith marshes and the Belvedere Dyke network and ends at the River Thames. It follows the route of several wetlands taking in areas of wet grasslands, canal, reed bed, open water ponds, the River Thames and vegetated ditches as well as areas of grassland and woodland and urban bankside development. It also links closely with the River Thames Corridor, the Thamesmead Link and the Ridgeway Link.

The corridor runs through the following SINCs: BxL07 Crossway Park & Tump 52; M041 Erith Marshes; and BxBI02 Belvedere dykes. It also links together the following green wildlife corridors: River Thames corridor, the Thamesmead link and the Ridgeway Link. This could link with potential corridors in London Borough of Havering and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

No 7. Bexleyheath rail corridor

This corridor follows the railline from Falconwood station in LB Greenwich through Welling, Bexleyheath and Barnehurst stations to join with the other rail corridors at Slade Green. It incorporates mostly railside habitat of grasslands, woodland and roughland. Part of the corridor extending from Bexleyheath station to (and including) Slade Green triangle is designated borough grade II SINC. The corridor also includes BxBII05 Bursted Wood open space and runs close to BxL10 Land at Larner Road, Erith. It links with the Belvedere rail corridor and river Darent corridor. This could link with a potential corridor in the London Borough of Greenwich.

No 8. Sidcup rail corridor

This corridor follows the line of the railline from New Eltham station in LB Greenwich through Sidcup, Albany Park, Bexley and Crayford stations to join with the other rail corridors at Slade Green. It incorporates mostly railside habitat of grasslands, woodland and roughland connecting a significant number of SINCs and other green spaces. This relatively wide and well vegetated railway corridor provides connectivity between the following sites: BxBII23 Sidcup Line Railsides; BxL15 Abbeyhill Park; BxBII04 Rutland Shaw; BxBII17 Upper College Farm; M106 The River Cray; BxBII12 Churchfield Wood & St Mary's Church; BxBI13 Braeburn Park and M123 Crayford Rough. In addition, the corridor connects an extensive range of valuable green spaces such as allotments, school grounds, private gardens, Sidcup cemetery and sports grounds. It links with River cray corridor.This could link with potential corridors in Royal Borough of Greenwich and Borough of Dartford.

No 9. Belvedere rail corridor

This corridor follows the line of the railline from Woolwich Arsenal station in LB Greenwich through Abbey Wood, Belvedere and Erith Crayford stations to join with the other rail corridors at Slade Green. It incorporates mostly railside habitat of grasslands, woodland and roughland. The corridor connects several SINCSs: BxBII02 Southmere Park & Yarnton Way/Viridion Way; BxBI02 Belvedere dykes; BxBII15 Slade Green Recreation Ground and BxBII14 Bexleyheath Station to Slade Green triangle. It also intersects the following green wildlife corridors: The Thamesmead Link; Green Chain corridor and Bexleyheath rail corridor. This could link with a potential corridor in Royal Borough of Greenwich.

No 10. Coldblow woodland corridor

A corridor of woodland that borders Kent, running from Braeburn Park woodland in Crayford under the A2 through Churchfield Wood into Coldblow where it links with the woodlands of the Joyden's Wood ancient woodland complex ending in the south of the Borough at Chalk Wood. It incorporates a variety of secondary and ancient woodlands.

The wide corridor links the following SINCs: BxBI13 Braeburn Park; BxBII12 Churchfield Wood and St Mary's Church; BxBI17 Sands Spinney; M118 Chalk Wood and Joyden's Wood; BxBI11 Home Wood & Bunkers Hill ponds; and BxBII10 Mount Mascal Farm. It connects with Sidcup rail corridor and River Cray Valley corridor. This could link with a potential corridor in Borough of Dartford.

No 11. River Thames corridor

The River Thames runs the entire length of the northern boundary of London Borough of Bexley and links both up and down river plus across it to London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, and Essex plus further up and down stream. It

also links terrestrially with the Thames bank walk taking in a variety of terrestrial habitats on the River Thames shoreline. It includes M031 the River Thames and tidal tributaries and links with the following green wildlife corridors: the Ridgeway Link, the Thamesmead Link, Thames Marshes corridor, Green Chain corridor and River Darent corridor. This corriodor continues into London and Kent.

No 12. River Darent corridor

The River Darent forms the boundary of LB Bexley with Kent in the northeast of the Borough. It follows the route of the River Darent from Dartford to the River Thames taking in the adjoining terrestrial lands of Crayford and Dartford Marshes.

The corridor is described in the ALGG SPG Area 5 River Cray and Southern Marshes:

The Crayford and Dartford Marshes are divided by the River Darent, which is characterised by embankments on either side. The fresh water grazing marshes are drained by a network of ditches and grazed by cattle. The marshes are very open and exposed and can feel quite desolate. An ongoing problem of neglect and fly tipping adds to the sense of insecurity.

Nevertheless, the marshes mirror those on the north bank at Rainham and comprise one of the most ecologically significant areas in Greater London.

The corridor links together valuable wetland areas: M031 The River Thames and tidal tributaries; M107 Crayford Marshes; BxBI18 Crayford landfill and Howbury Grange; and M106 The River Cray. It also links with green spaces in Slade Green across the Bexleyheath rail corridor, and links River Thames corridor with the River Cray Valley corridor. This could link with potential corridors in the London Borough of Havering and Dartford Borough Council.

No 13. A20 road corridor

The A20 road corridor follows the route of the A20 road which runs along the southern boundary of LB Bexley with LB Bromley. The corridor runs along the north edge of the road and includes roadsides vegetated with grasslands and woodlands providing a contiguous open space link along most of its length. It runs through BxL13 Hoblands Wood; BxBII29 Queen Mary's Hospital grounds; BxL06 Sidcup Place and M106 The River Cray. The corridor links with River Cray Valley corridor and through short stretch of private gardens with Wyncham Stream. This could link with potential corridors in the London Borough of Greenwich, Dartford Borough Council, and Sevenoaks District Council.

No 14. Bexleyheath - Barnehurst corridor

A wide stretch of open spaces runs north of the A2. It follows a series of extensive private gardens, allotments and vegetated road verges from Danson Park through Bexleyheath Golf Course, sports pitches at Townley road, Rochester Drive road verge (BxL14), The Warren and adjacent woodland areas stretching west. The corridor then links with BxBI15 Hall Place (north) & Shenstone Park (previously BxBII07) and BxBII24 St Paulinus Churchyard incorporating BxBII06 Martens Grove and BxBII30 Barnehurst Golf Course. It continues through BxBII28 Perry Street Farm to connect with the Bexleyheath rail corridor. This corridor is crucial for connectivity between the green spaces along the River Cray Valley corridor and SINCs north of Bexleyheath rail corridor.

PART IV. Appendices

Appendix A: Desktop and field survey 2013

Appendix A provides details of the LWT desktop and field survey carried out in 2013[9]. Reference is made in the text to documents and planning policy current at the survey was carried out. Some of these documents and planning policies have since been updated, however the principles remain the same

Executive summary

London Wildlife Trust (LWT) was commissioned by London Borough of Bexley to undertake a review of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within the Borough.

The review was required to undertake desktop surveys and field surveys of the current 57 SINCs, and identify and evaluate their current biodiversity value in line with the GLA Open Space and Habitat Survey for Greater London Methodology (GLA, 2004). In addition nine previously recognised sites not currently SINCs with wildlife potential were required to be reviewed and a series of Strategic Wildlife Corridors across the Borough were to be identified.

Each surveyed site was to be reviewed for potential boundary changes (loss or gain of SINC valued habitat) and against the GLA Open Space and Habitat Survey for Greater London SINC Status Criteria.

In addition it was proposed that a total of 14 Strategic Wildlife Corridors be recognised within the Borough.

Introduction

Background

London Wildlife Trust (LWT) was commissioned by London Borough of Bexley (LB Bexley) to undertake a review of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within the Borough.

The survey methodology for determining a SINC was first developed and used in 1984/85, when the Greater London Council commissioned the London Wildlife Trust to complete the first comprehensive survey of wildlife habitats in Greater London. It has since been updated and consolidated by the London Ecology Unit and, more recently, by the Greater London Authority (GLA).

The updated survey methodology for the Open Space and Habitat Survey in Greater London was adopted by the Mayor in his Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. The Mayor's policies, procedures and criteria for evaluation of nature conservation sites (Appendix 1 of the Strategy), includes the use of this survey methodology, which is now the main information basis for nature conservation planning in the capital.

[9] *Review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the London Borough of Bexley, December 2013. Report Authors Tony Wileman and Petra Sonic Davies. Report checked by Alister Hayes and Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust. Registered in England and Wales No. 2401237)*

The format was further modified in 2004 to take account of the open space typology of PPG17. The survey is needed:

- to keep the database up to date;
- to extend the original survey to document additional sites of nature conservation interest than those originally documented;
- to monitor changes in the amount or quality of open space and wildlife habitats, within individual boroughs and in London as a whole.
- to provide up-to-date wildlife SINC information for Detailed Policies and Sites Document Policies Map

This survey format is broadly similar to Joint Nature Conservation Committee's Phase I methodology (JNCC, 2003). There are a few small differences in habitat classification, but the two specifications collect essentially the same ecological information, in the same detail, with the same comprehensive coverage. The differences in habitat classification are largely due to the essentially urban setting for which the London survey specification is designed. The other main difference from Phase I is that every site has an individual survey form, in addition to a map, in the London format. This reflects the fragmented nature of green spaces in the urban setting, makes retrieval of data much simpler, and facilitates comparison of sites.

Aims of the review

The aims include:

- Undertake a desktop and site based survey that will:
  - focus on changes;
  - focus on existing SINCs and those agreed potential SINCs (see Table 2); and,
  - note the presence of Invasive species;
- Identify, assess and justify strategic green corridors, as referred to in policy 7.19 (Biodiversity and access to nature) of the London Plan;
- Compile a series of GIS mapping layers covering each SINC (original boundary, proposed addition/removed areas, proposed updated boundary) in ESRI shape file format to be included on the Local plan policies map; and,
- Compile a report that includes:
  - proposed new SINCs and SINC boundary modifications;
  - site description updates;
  - Strategic Green corridors to meet London Plan guidance; and,
  - Updated SINC descriptions.

Part 1: Desktop survey

Citation information

Each of the citations (cartographic and descriptive information) for each of the agreed 2011 SINCs was provided by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) on behalf of LB Bexley. These citations provided the baseline information for the justification of the grade status agreed in 2011. Information from them was considered vital for undertaking the on-site field surveys and a copy of them was taken into the field for review.

Additional BNEF supplied information

LB Bexley provided LWT with a review of some of the SINCs undertaken by the Bexley Natural Environment Forum (BNEF) and some further (mainly species) information from the BNEF provided by email.

The information provided in this review and the emails were useful for the fieldwork surveys by highlighting known recent changes and/or issues on a selection of sites worth checking in the field.

Consideration was given to all of the BNEF comments and this SINC Review was adapted to include them where they were appropriate to the Open Space and Habitat Survey criteria.

Additional sites

Besides providing updated information on species and the SINCs the BNEF review also provided information on a series of other potential new sites that it considered of importance for nature conservation requested to be included in the review survey. LB Bexley also provided other additional sites. The full list of additional sites proposed was as follows:

- All of the ditches and dyke networks, including Allders Dyke
- Open land north of Churchfield Wood
- Habitat creation around Belvedere incinerator
- Thames Road Wetland Site
- Perry Street Farm
- A block of woodland on the west Side of Gravel Hill (Gravel Hill woodland)
- Our Lady of the Angels Church grounds
- Former Howbury allotment site
- Grasmere Road Allotments
- Barnehurst Infant and Junior Schools
- Waring Park, Sidcup
- Sidcup Cemetery
- Brownfield habitats

Table 2 shows those sites that were accepted in agreement with LB Bexley to be included for on-site surveys as part of the SINC review.

Table2: Agreed additional sites to be surveyed

Agreed additional sites	Reasons for inclusion
All of the ditches and dyke networks, including Allders Dyke	Requirement of tender brief
Open land north of Churchfield Wood	Requirement of tender brief
Habitat creation around Belvedere incinerator	Requirement of tender brief
Thames Road Wetland Site	Requirement of tender brief (later noted that this site was already part of the M106 River Cray SINC)

Agreed additional sites	Reasons for inclusion
Perry Street Farm	BNEF information supplied indicated the site to be of particular value for birds. Also site is particularly large
A block of woodland on the west Side of Gravel Hill (Gravel Hill woodland)	Possible section of 'forgotten' ancient woodland
Our Lady of the Angels Church grounds	Presence of the rare devil's-bit scabious
Former Howbury allotment site	Adjoins existing SINC with known contiguous habitat
Grasmere Road Allotments	Considered in 2011 as a potential SINC but not assessed.

Barnehurst Infant and Junior Schools, Waring Park, Sidcup, and Sidcup Cemetery were considered by BNEF as other sites that could be surveyed by volunteers, and were not under any threat of change. As a result, these sites were not included in this survey.

The surveying of all known brownfield sites in Bexley was considered to be a valid proposition as they can be, typically, important for a number rare or declining invertebrates and plants. However, the lack of existing knowledge on their whereabouts, the number of sites and probable access constraints, their inclusion in the SINC review was considered to be untenable within the time constraints of the review. The Trust would be happy to be considered for this as an additional survey proposal should it be considered by LB Bexley.

With the additional eight sites (Thames Road wetland site not included) the total number of sites agreed with LB Bexley to be surveyed was 65.

Part 2: Fieldwork surveys

SINC survey methodology

An open space and habitat survey was undertaken between the dates of 3 May and 28 August 2013 by ecologists Tony Wileman and Petra Sovic Davies[10] on all the current SINCs and the proposed additional sites. In addition, several additional sections of land (usually adjoining or near to the SINCs) were also surveyed as they were considered to have some wildlife value by the surveyor at the time of the visit. Most sites were surveyed by one ecologist (TW or PSD) while some of the sites were surveyed by both ecologists due to their size, complexity or concerns over safety and security.

The field survey followed standard GLA Open Space and Habitat Survey for Greater London methodology although data was initially collected using tablets rather than paper forms and maps. However, this proved to be slow and cumbersome and was after a short while rejected and data was then collected using paper forms and inputted into electronic format manually.

Aerial surveys accessible on the internet were occasionally used to assist in identifying boundary edges when these were difficult to judge at ground level.

As part of the survey, characteristic, rare and interesting species and plant assemblages were evaluated for conservation designations and assessed as to whether they were

[10] Janie Burrage assisted PSD on a couple of sites

notable for the Greater London area. Notable is defined as species which were recorded from 15% or fewer of the 400 two-kilometre recording squares (tetrads) in Greater London in the *Flora of the London Area* (Burton 1983). Notable species are important in part determining the potential grading value of a SINC.

Some casual recording of fauna was attempted throughout the duration of the surveys.

Site data gathering and mapping

Each site was surveyed by site overall and habitat parcel. This was similar to that previously undertaken in the open space and habitat survey but with a slight difference as more obvious differences in habitat type were used as boundaries for each surveyed parcel. In some cases this was identical to those parcels originally surveyed in previous years but most differ. This style of surveying was agreed by GIGL to help provide them and their partners with a more accurate picture of the habitat locations on any given SINC.

Most sites therefore, have been surveyed by division into parcels of a dominant habitat type with some other minor habitat(s) (if present) making the coverage up to 100%. The dominant habitat is typically greater than 50%.

Site and parcel information collected was as follows:

Site information

- survey details (site name, survey access details, surveyor, date of survey, time spent on survey etc);
- access (public accessibility, accessibility by various modes of transport, predominant recreational usage etc);
- typology (broad land use types, maintenance and management condition etc);
- threats and disturbances (invasive species issues, anti-social behaviour, safety and security, erosion, vandalism, litter/dog fouling etc); and,
- other information (notable changes, nature conservation value, brief description etc).

Parcel information

- plant species present (listed with abundance using DAFOR[11] Scale (see below));
- habitats present (listed with percentage cover of parcel);
- additional habitat features (list of habitat qualifiers inc. mowing types, details of hedges, rows of trees, aquatic vegetation types, dead wood etc.); and
- interest areas (groups of flora/fauna parcel has an interest for).

Limitations of the surveys

Seasonal plants and animals

The timings of the survey visits were considered good to characterise the species and habitats likely to be found present on site. As a result it is probable that most plant species in existence on the site were located but it is possible some flowering plants were not

[11] DAFOR Scale is a sampling method used to provide a quick estimate of the relative abundance of species (usually plants) in a given area. The categories are D-Dominant, A- Abundant, F- Frequent, O-Occasional, R-Rare.

located especially those species known to be rare, very small, or having very small populations which could be easily overlooked. The timing of the survey is considered adequate for recording invertebrates and adequate for recording vertebrate fauna. It is considered good for recording breeding bird species and bird species overall. Most species found on site were identifiable to species although some were identifiable to Genus only.

It should be noted that only those animal species typically very easily seen, such as butterflies, dragonflies, birds and some mammals (deer, grey squirrel), are more readily recorded. Reptiles, amphibians, many small mammals and most invertebrates are not readily seen while undertaking open space and habitat surveys and therefore they are less likely to be recorded.

Access

It is inevitable that during any given survey of this scale there will be access issues to sites or part of sites. Landowners of sites without public access were contacted where possible to minimise this limitation but on occasion they are either unobtainable or reluctant to provide access. In addition, some areas of given sites cannot be surveyed because there are obstacles (natural or artificial) that prevent access (high fences, walls, dense scrub cover, rivers and other wet habitats etc.). In cases where access is not obtained, sites are surveyed as much as possible from neighbouring boundaries with the assistance of binoculars where this is possible.

Plant nomenclature and rarity

The *New Flora of the British Isles* (Stace, 2010), the standard text, was consulted for plant nomenclature. English names have been used in preference to Latin (only quoted in the first instance) in order to facilitate readability of the report.

Any uncommon vascular plant species were identified in the London context using the *Flora of the London Area* (Burton, 1983). For national rarity *The New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora* (Preston, Pearman & Dines, 2002) was referred to (where a taxon appearing in 150 or less 10 x 10km squares was considered rare).

Part 3: Fieldwork survey results

Surveyed sites

Access was sought to survey all of the 65 proposed sites. Table 3 sets out the level of accessibility obtained to these sites.

Level of accessibility	Number of sites accessed
Site accessed and surveyed	52
Site not accessed but surveyed from neighbouring land	12
Site not accessed at all and therefore not surveyed	1 (see note below)

N.B. The one site that was not accessed and surveyed was the Crossness Sewage Treatment Works pond. However, information from this site on recent management works and species sightings was obtained from the landowner, Thames Water, along with internet available aerial photographs and used to determine its current SINC status and boundaries.

Additional site: Coldblow Paddocks

In addition to these proposed 65 sites a single additional site; Coldblow Paddocks, was also surveyed during the field survey period. This site was initially thought upon a brief visual inspection to potentially be of value for biodiversity to be considered for designation. It was therefore surveyed as an addition to the 65 approved sites as best as possible. It was found to be almost entirely composed of poor quality semi-improved neutral grasslands of which had some wildlife value but not of a level to be considered for a SINC designation.

Proposed SINC Changes

After field surveying, a series of proposed changes to SINC status were rigorously checked against the criteria of the GLA Habitat Open Space and Habitat SINC designation criteria to ensure that they were compliant. Furthermore, any proposed boundary changes were discussed within the LWT team (Alister Hayes and Mathew Frith, Planning and Policy) to ensure consistency across the sites and that the changes were appropriate for that given site. All of the changes proposed were based on the knowledge of the surveying ecologists and the LWT team overall.

Below are the main findings of the review. They were all included in the final SINC document.

1. One Borough Grade II SINC to be removed entirely, which was the Church Manorway Nature Area (BxBII26), as this site has been developed;
2. One Borough Grade II SINC (River Shuttle and Wyncham Stream) to be split into two, with the River Shuttle (BxBI16) upgraded to a Borough Grade I SINC;
3. Three Borough Grade II SINCs to be upgraded to Borough Grade I SINCs, these being: Hall Place (North) and Shenstone Park (BxBI15), Sands of Spinney (part of Joyden's Wood) (BxBI17) and Crayford landfill and Howbury Grange (BxBI18);
4. One Local Grade SINC to be upgraded to a Borough Grade II SINC, which is Barnehurst Golf Course (BxBII30);
5. One Borough Grade I SINC to be downgraded to a Borough Grade II SINC, which is Queen Mary's Hospital grounds (BxBII29);
6. One site that is not currently a designated SINC to be graded as Borough Grade II SINC, which is Perry Street Farm (BxBII28);
7. One site that is not currently a designated SINC to be graded as a Local SINC, which is Our Lady of Angels cemetery (BxL18);
8. Nineteen SINCs are proposed to be increased in size; and,
9. Twelve SINCs are proposed to be reduced in size.

The survey results of the other seven agreed sites are as follows.

All the ditches and dyke network: All of the ditch network not formerly located within the SINC designated areas, have now been added. A small ditchline south of M041 Erith Marshes was included within that SINC and a section of ditch north of M107 Crayford Marshes is proposed to be added to that SINC.

Open land north of Churchfield Wood: This area of meadow was surveyed and has been included as part of BxBII12 Churchfield Wood and St Mary's Church which already incorporated a number of similar meadow areas.

Habitat creation around Belvedere incinerator: This small area of recent wildlife improvement works to a pond and areas of grassland has been included in the BxBI02 Belvedere Dykes SINC.

Thames Road Wetland Site: The Thames Road Wetland Site was already fully part of the M106 The River Cray SINC.

Gravel Hill Woodland: This woodland was not accessed but was viewed from a few locations around its boundary. Although it has a number of large trees and may support common birds and bats. Its lack of access and species composition; the site was overgrown, has extensive cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) cover making it very dark and has a ground flora of mostly ivy suggesting it is secondary in origin and not ancient). It is therefore not considered to be of significant value to be graded as a Local site.

Former Howbury allotment Site: This site consisted of roughland and scrub habitat of value to local birds and invertebrates and may support reptiles. It has been been added to the BxBII14 Bexleyheath Station to Slade Green Triangle SINC.

Grasmere Road Allotments: This site was not accessed but was viewed from main gate. It was not considered to be of a value worthy of a SINC based on this.

In addition, 14 strategic wildlife corridors have been included in the final SINC document.

1. River Cray Valley corridor
2. Green Chain corridor
3. The Thamesmead Link
4. The Ridgeway Link
5. The River Shuttle Link
6. Thames Marshes corridor
7. Bexleyheath rail corridor
8. Sidcup rail corridor
9. Belvedere rail corridor
10. Coldblow woodland corridor
11. River Thames corridor
12. River Darent corridor
13. A20 road corridor
14. Bexleyheath - Barnehurst corridor

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Appendix B: Policy context – Sites of importance for nature conservation

Legislation and Acts of Parliament

The main piece of legislation relating to nature conservation in Great Britain is The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The Act gives protection to native plant and animal species, controls the release of non-native species and enhances the protection of SSSIs and other protected areas. It is important that developers and planners consider this legislation.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 require Local Authorities to have regard to conserving biodiversity.

National planning policy and guidance

NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' and the NPPF Planning policy guidance on 'Natural Environment' are relevant.

The National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) lists the contribution to conserving and enhancing the natural *environment* and reducing pollution as one of its main principles. It promotes planning for biodiversity at landscape- scale by establishing coherent ecological networks. The policy specifically relating to locally designated sites is found in several paragraphs which provide the direction for local authorities to identify, map and protect these sites through local plans. The policy also requires protection of Local Wildlife Sites (SINCs) to recognise the importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks, as stated in the Government's Natural Environment White Paper (HM Government, 2011).

109. The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

114. Local planning authorities should:

- set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure;

117. To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:

- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;

The London Plan and other Mayoral strategies

The London Plan (GLA, 2016)

The London Plan supports a proactive approach to protection and management of biodiversity and natural heritage for the benefit of current and future Londoners. It plans for protecting and enhancing London's natural environment and habitats, while also extending and making the most of the capital's open and green spaces – ranging from the Royal Parks to local recreation grounds – for all the benefits they bring to the capital and its people.

Policy 7.19 'Biodiversity and access to nature', requires proposals to make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity wherever possible; and supports the protection of borough SINCs.

Connecting with London's nature – The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (GLA, 2002)

This document sets out policy, criteria and procedures for identifying nature conservation sites in London. The network is described in Appendix 1 to the strategy and defined as follows:

A1.2.1 There are three kinds of site, which are chosen on the basis of their importance to a particular defined geographic area. This use of search areas is an attempt, not only to protect the best sites in London, but also to provide each part of London with a nearby site, so that people are able to have access to enjoy nature.

Sites of metropolitan importance

A1.2.2 Sites of metropolitan importance for nature conservation are those sites that contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites that contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites that are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London.

A1.2.3 They are of the highest priority for protection. The identification and protection of metropolitan sites is necessary, not only to support a significant proportion of London's wildlife, but also to provide opportunities for people to have contact with the natural environment.

A1.2.3.1 The best examples of London's habitats include the main variants of each major habitat type, for example hornbeam woodland, wet heathland, or chalk downland. Habitats typical of urban areas are also included, eg various types of abandoned land colonised by nature ('wasteland' or 'unofficial countryside'). Those habitats which are particularly rare in London may have all or most of their examples selected as Metropolitan Sites.

A1.2.3.2 Sites of Metropolitan Importance include not only the best examples of each habitat type, but also areas which are outstanding because of their assemblage of habitats, for example the Crane corridor, which contains the River Crane, reservoirs, pasture, woodland and heathland.

A1.2.3.3 Rare species include those that are nationally scarce or rare (including Red Data Book species) and species which are rare in London.

A1.2.3.4 A small number of sites are selected that are of particular significance within heavily built up areas of London. Although these are of lesser intrinsic quality than those sites selected as the best examples of habitats on a London-wide basis, they are outstanding oases and provide the opportunity for enjoyment of nature in extensive built environments. Examples include St James's Park, Nunhead Cemetery, Camley Street Natural Park and Sydenham Hill Woods. In some cases (e.g. inner London parks), this is the primary reason for their selection. For sites of higher intrinsic interest, it may only be a contributory factor. Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified.

A1.2.5 Should one of these sites be lost or damaged, something would be lost that exists in a very few other places in London. Management of these sites should, as a first priority, seek to maintain and enhance their interest, but use by the public for education and passive recreation should be encouraged unless these are inconsistent with nature conservation.

Sites of borough importance

A1.2.6 These are sites, which are important on a borough perspective in the same way as the metropolitan sites, are important to the whole of London. Although sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, damage to these sites would mean a significant loss to the borough. As with metropolitan sites, while protection is important, management of borough sites should usually allow and encourage their enjoyment by people and their use for education.

A1.2.7 since 1988, borough sites have been divided based on their quality into two grades, but it must be stressed that they are all important on a borough-wide view.

A1.2.8 In defining sites of borough importance, the search is not confined rigidly to borough boundaries; these are used for convenience of defining areas substantially smaller than the whole of Greater London, and the needs of neighbouring boroughs should be taken into account. In the same way as for sites of metropolitan importance, parts of some boroughs are more heavily built-up and some borough sites are chosen there as oases providing the opportunity for enjoyment of nature in extensive built environments.

A1.2.10 Since essentially a comparison within a given borough is made when choosing sites of borough importance, there is considerable variation in quality between those for different boroughs; for example, those designated in Barnet will frequently be of higher intrinsic quality than those in Hammersmith and Fulham, a borough comparatively deficient in wildlife habitat. Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified.

Sites of local importance

A1.2.11 A Site of Local Importance is one which is, or may be, of particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools). These sites may already be used for nature study or be run by management committees mainly composed of local people. Where a Site of Metropolitan or Borough Importance may be so enjoyed it acts as a Local site, but further sites are given this designation in recognition of their role. This local importance means that these sites also deserve protection in planning.

A1.2.12 Local sites are particularly important in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites. To aid the choice of these further local sites, Areas of Deficiency (see below) are identified. Further Local sites are chosen as the best available to alleviate this deficiency; such sites need not lie in the Area of Deficiency, but should be as near to it as possible. Where no such sites are available, opportunities should be taken to provide them by habitat enhancement or creation, by negotiating access and management agreements, or by direct acquisition. Only those sites that provide a significant contribution to the ecology of an area are identified.

In addition, paragraph A1.6.1 of Appendix A sets out the protection of SINCs in local planning policies:

A1.6.1 The Authority recommends that the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation all be afforded protection in London's Unitary Development Plans, against proposals that may harm their value. The detailed policy wording should take planning guidance into account.'

The Local Plan and other local strategies

Bexley Core Strategy (LB Bexley, 2012)

This primary local plan document sets out policy to protect and enhance biodiversity. One of the most significant sections of this policy is within policy CS18 Biodiversity and geology parts *B, C and D.*

Unitary Development Plan (LB Bexley, 2004)

Saved UDP policy ENV23 'Nature conservation' requires the Council to 'resist development, including changes of use, which would damage or destroy habitats.'

Bexley Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015 (LB Bexley, 2011)

This action plan sets out those habitats and species that the Council has adopted as its key priorities in terms of biodiversity action. These are:

Priority habitats	*Priority species*
Grazing marsh	Bats
Heathland	Black poplar
Parks and open spaces	Great crested newt
Ponds	Stag beetle
Reed beds	Water vole
Rivers and streams	
Woodlands	

Through a number of set targets these species and habitats and their specific ecological requirements are to be increased, enhanced and/or maintained to ensure their continued value and presence in the borough.

Appendix C: Policy context – strategic green wildlife corridors

Networks of natural habitats provide a valuable resource. They can link SINCs and provide routes or stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species in the wider environment. Although there is no accepted definition, these `green wildlife corridors' / 'green corridors' have been described in the following environmental policies:

National planning policy and guidance

Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (HM Government, 2011)

This White Paper of the natural environment states, in a text box entitled 'Natural networks' on page 17:

The natural environment is sometimes seen as a series of disconnected places: gardens, parks, farmland, forests, coastland, wetlands, rivers and seas. We should be thinking not of isolated spots of green on a map of England but of a thriving green network linking wildlife sites with farmland, forestry and urban parks and gardens across the country.

'Making Space for Nature' highlighted action to support ecological networks as an effective response to conserve wildlife in environments that have become fragmented by human activities. It stated: 'An ecological network comprises a suite of high quality sites which collectively contain the diversity and area of habitat that are needed to support species and which have ecological connections between them…'

The elements of life – biodiversity, healthy soils, clean air and water, and diverse landscapes – need to be managed in ways which recognise the vital connections between them. Connections can be made over land; through water or by air; or through continuous green corridors or stepping stones, to create a dynamic and resilient landscape.

Paragraph 2.11 of the White Paper notes that:

'Making Space for Nature' emphasised the need to restore natural networks across the country, working at a range of geographical scales from local networks of small urban parks and green spaces, to major schemes operating over thousands of hectares.

Paragraph 2.12 of the White Paper sets out the role of corridors and 'stepping stones,' which enable 'species to move between core areas. These can be made up of a number of small sites acting as 'stepping stones' or a mosaic of habitats that allows species to move and supports ecosystem functions.'

National planning policy framework (NPPF) and planning policy guidance (PPG)

The NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' and the NPPF Planning policy guidance on 'Natural Environment' refer to the importance of wildlife and habitat corridors.

The London Plan and other Mayoral strategies

London Plan (GLA, 2016)

Policy 2.18 'Green infrastructure: the multifunctional network of green and open spaces' outlines the strategic approach to green infrastructure.

Policy 7.19 'Biodiversity and Access to Nature' part F(d) identify and protect and enhance corridors of movement, such as green corridors, that are of strategic importance in enabling species to colonise, re-colonise and move between sites.

The All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance (GLA, 2012)

The All London Green Grid (ALGG) has been developed to provide a strategic interlinked network of high quality green infrastructure and open spaces that connect with town centres, public transport nodes, the countryside in the urban fringe, the Thames and major employment and residential areas. This approach has been successful in accelerating delivery of green infrastructure in the borough.

The ALGG objectives are to:

- adapt to climate change and promote urban greening
- increase access to open space
- conserve and Enhance biodiversity and increase access to nature
- improve sustainable travel connections
- promote healthy living
- conserve and enhance heritage features, geodiversity and landscape character
- enhance distinctive destinations and boost the visitor economy
- promote sustainable design, management and maintenance
- enhance green space and green infrastructure sector skills
- promote sustainable food production
- improve air quality and soundscapes
- improve the quality of and access to the Greenbelt and the urban fringe
- conserve and enhance the Thames and its tributaries riverside spaces

The ALGG is not a stand-alone and isolated network; a key objective is to link it with other strategic economic and environmental programmes. Whilst nature and biodiversity are seen as important aspects they are not the sole determining factors in establishing strategic corridors and links as described (but not defined) in the SPG. The River Cray Valley corridor and the Green Chain corridor are described in the SPG Area 5 River Cray and Southern Marshes. Three links including: the Thamesmead Link, the Ridgeway Link and the River Shuttle Link are also described.

Eleven area frameworks have been produced that expand on the strategic opportunities set out in the ALGG, including the River Cray and Southern Marshes Area Framework (5).

The Local Plan and other local strategies

Bexley Core Strategy (LB Bexley, 2012)

The Local Plan for the borough sets out policy to protect, enhance and promote Bexley's green infrastructure including open spaces and waterways as valuable resources. One of the most significant sections of this policy is within policy CS17 Green infrastructure, parts d, e, f, g and h.