

Lewisham and Catford flood alleviation scheme

June 2014

Flood risk in Lewisham and Catford

The River Ravensbourne and its main tributary, the River Quaggy, pass through the heart of the London Borough of Lewisham.

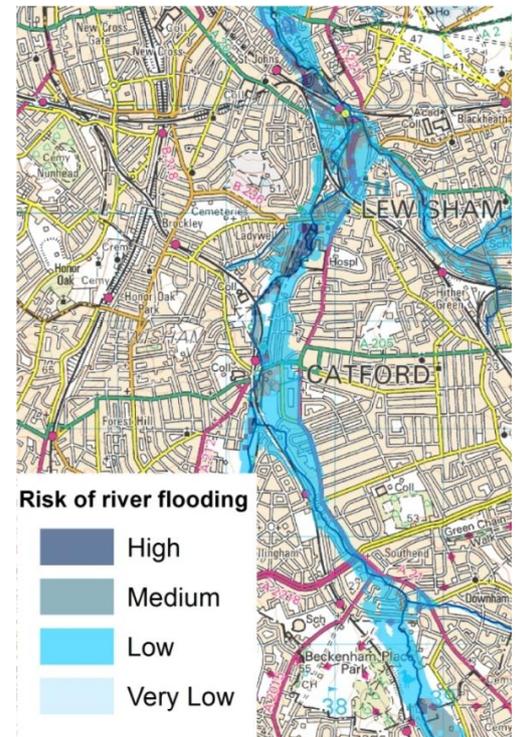
Flooding from the River Ravensbourne has been recorded in the Lewisham and Catford area since 1809. The last major flood was in September 1968 where heavy rainfall caused the river to burst its banks, flooding several hundred homes and businesses. Less severe river flooding was also recorded in 1977, 1992 and 1993.

Approximately 90 properties are at risk of flooding from the Honor Oak Stream, which is a tributary of the River Ravensbourne. We have considered this as part of the scheme, as what we do in one area of the catchment could affect another.

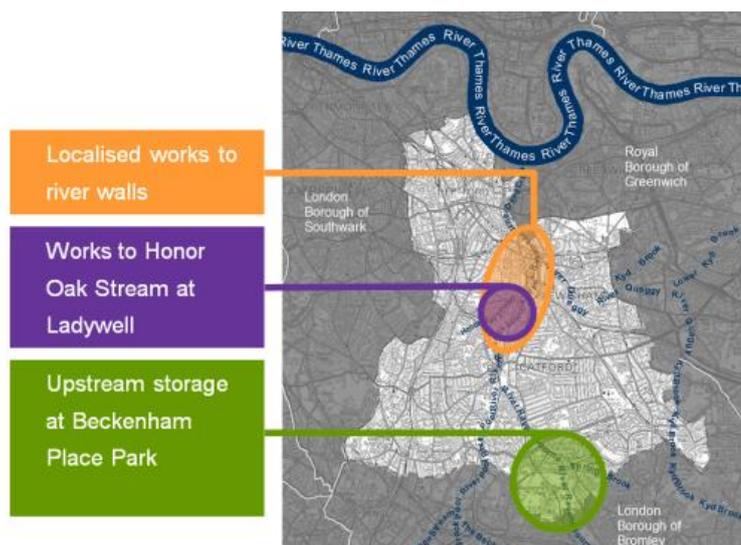
There are approximately 1,400 homes and businesses located within the floodplain of the River Ravensbourne and Honor Oak Stream between Catford and Lewisham. Of these, approximately 400 homes and 280 businesses are at 'high' or 'medium' risk of river flooding. If nothing is done, climate change will increase the number of properties affected.

Our outline proposals

Over recent years we have been working with the London Borough of Lewisham to investigate ways to reduce flood risk in the borough, whilst understanding their aspirations for the area and how our flood alleviation measures can complement their plans. Our proposed scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to approximately 400 homes and 280 businesses locally.



Risk of river flooding in the Lewisham and Catford area



We have considered a wide range of ways to do this, including wall raising and flood storage in alternative locations. We then considered each of these options against their technical, social, environmental and economic costs and benefits. The option that best meets all of these criteria is a combination of three elements:

1. Flood storage at Beckenham Place Park

As one of the largest green spaces in the area, the park provides an opportunity to temporarily store flood water upstream, keeping it away from homes and businesses. This means that most defences downstream won't need to be raised. To do this we would need to re-landscape the park to the east of the railway line to include raised earth embankments. This work would also

provide an opportunity to enhance this side of the park. We expect the space would only be used for storing floodwater every few years.

2. Works on the Honor Oak Stream in Ladywell

Two options have been identified to reduce the localised risk of flooding from the Honor Oak Stream. These are either, creating a new small flood storage area in Slagrove Place or pumping water from the stream in times of flood to the River Ravensbourne.

3. Localised works to existing river walls

Even with the proposed flood storage at the park, our river investigations have shown that there are nine low points in the defences downstream where they need to be raised. Raising these low points will allow more water to be held within the river channel. We would do this by raising the existing walls, embankments or footpaths at these nine locations.



The flood storage area at Sutcliffe Park

Benefits

Approximately 400 homes and 280 businesses will benefit from a reduced risk of flooding and many more businesses will be able to remain open during more extreme weather conditions.

Key infrastructure will also benefit from a reduced risk of flooding. This includes nine electrical substations, Deptford pumping station, critical roads, the Docklands Light Railway and national rail line between Ladywell and Catford Bridge. We estimate that a total of £240 million worth of flood damages could be avoided if these works are done.

Our plan for the flood storage area includes making the river through Beckenham Place Park a key focal point, similar to other successful sites we have helped deliver, including Sutcliffe Park and Ladywell Fields. This will create a new vibrant space for the local community to use. Also, by reducing river flood flows leaving the park, there will be greater opportunities in the future to improve biodiversity in the river channel downstream.

Heritage Lottery Funding

We are working in partnership with the London Borough of Lewisham and local interest groups, and are in the process of bidding for Heritage Lottery Funding. If successful, this funding will help ensure that these flood alleviation proposals in the eastern half of the park form part of a joined up plan to rejuvenate the whole of Beckenham Place Park. This will create a new space for recreation and education for more local people to enjoy.

Funding

Currently we expect that the scheme will cost a total of £15.6 million. We are completing a business case for the proposal which will set out the principles of the scheme and whether it is suitable to move forward to detailed design. To allow the scheme to go ahead we will need to identify external funding sources and we are currently working with the London Borough of Lewisham on this.

Next steps

We're keen to share our outline plans with the community and hear your views. To do this we will be holding a number of events in the area where your feedback will help to shape the final scheme. The events will be held on:

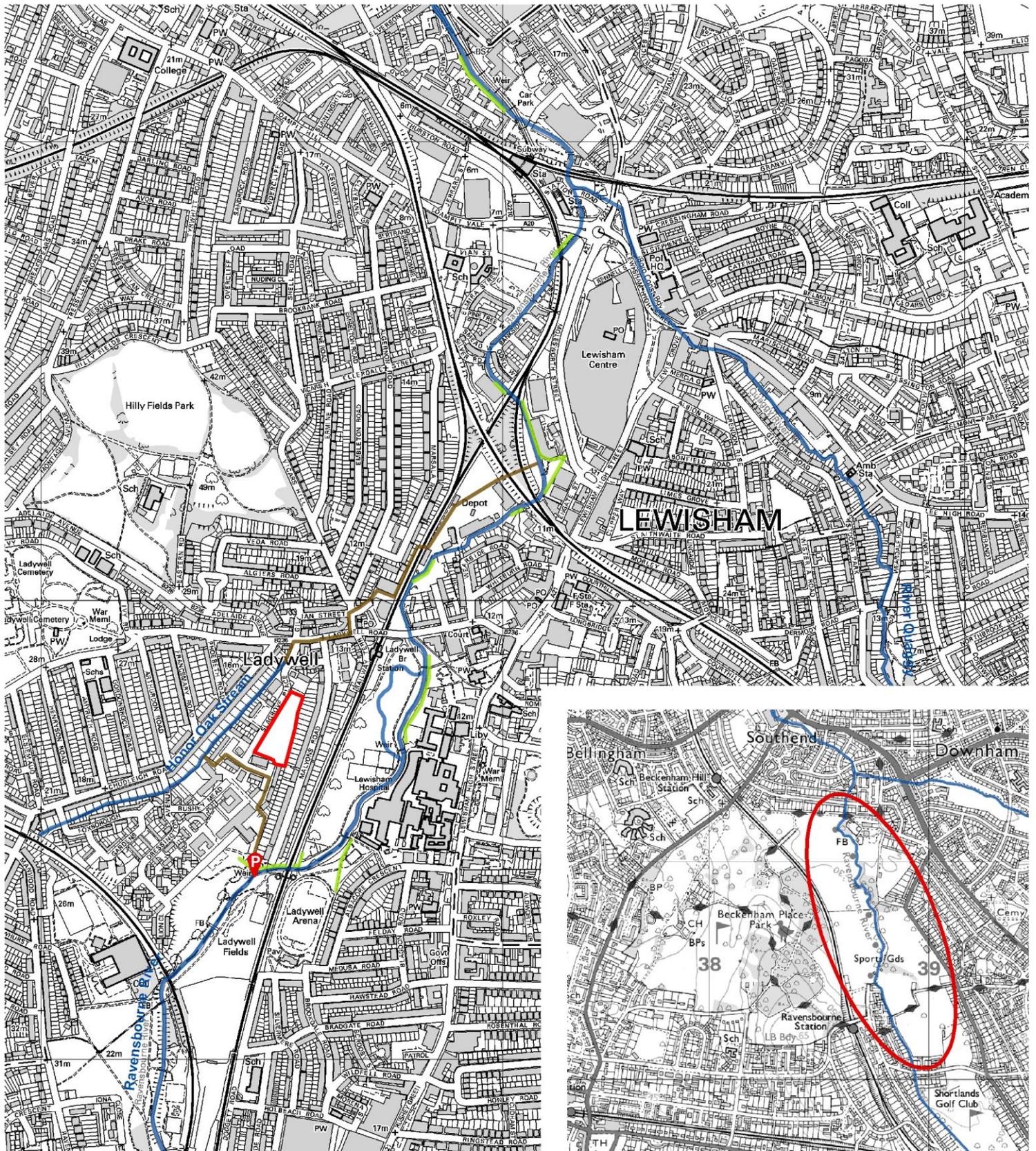
- Thursday 26 June, 2:30pm-6:30pm - Ravensbourne Community Centre, Brangbourne Road, BR1 4LW
- Friday 4 July, 10am-3pm - Lewisham Shopping Centre (main entrance), SE13 7HB
- Friday 18 July, 10:30am-1pm - Catford Civic Suite, Catford Road, SE6 4RU
- Friday 18 July, 1:30pm-3pm - The market on Catford Broadway, SE6 4SN
- Saturday 26 July, 10am-2:30pm - Ravensbourne Community Centre, Brangbourne Road, BR1 4LW

Here you'll be able to meet the project team, view and comment on our plans and ask any questions you may have. Alternatively, if you can't attend on these days but would like more information about the project, you can contact Richard Peddie on 01252 729541 or at pso.selondon&nkent@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Timescales

Activity	Date
Public consultation	Summer 2014
Complete business case	Winter 2014/2015
Decide whether to progress scheme to detailed design	Spring 2015
If business case is accepted works could start on site from	Autumn 2016

Lewisham and Catford flood alleviation scheme: Proposed sites of works



-  Approximate locations of proposed re-landscaping works within the park to provide flood water storage
-  Proposed location of works to river walls
-  Watercourse
-  Existing piped watercourse
-  Proposed floodwater pumping site

