

Additional Lewisham Council Statement on Conservation

“The Council recognises the value of the historic environment and the contribution it makes to the local character of the borough, and considers it to be important to preserve and enhance its heritage assets for the future. The Council also supports the principles of heritage-led regeneration. This view is supported by our own policies as well as National policies.

Heritage assets are the valued elements of the historic environment and make an important contribution to the quality of the borough’s architectural, historic and townscape character. A heritage asset is a building, monument, or landscape identified as having significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its valued heritage interest.

Heritage assets can be identified through statutory designation as heritage assets of national significance such as, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens. They can also be identified through designation by the Local Planning Authority, which includes Locally Listed Buildings and Areas of Special Local Character. Finally heritage assets can be identified through areas assessments, master planning or during the planning process itself.

Lewisham has a number of statutory designated heritage asset entries, each benefitting from the same level of protection despite their listing grade. There are a total of 364 nationally listed entries, which include buildings, structures and monuments:

- 330 are Grade II listed buildings (or groups of buildings).
- 28 are Grade II* listed buildings (or groups of buildings).
- Two Grade I listed buildings (Boone’s Chapel in Lee High Road and St

Paul's Church in Deptford).

- Three registered parks and gardens (all Grade II).
- One scheduled ancient monument

The above numbers refer to list entries, rather than individual buildings and is by no means comprehensive. An entry might comprise a single house but can also relate to a whole terrace or groups of houses and their outbuildings. Therefore, the total number of buildings that enjoy statutory protection in Lewisham is much higher and can be estimated close to 600.

In addition to statutory (nationally) listed buildings, Lewisham has a great number of buildings of local architectural and townscape merit. Whilst they do not meet the national criteria for statutory listing, they add to the local distinctiveness of the borough, and so are protected under a Local List. The borough currently contains 301 locally listed buildings (including structures and items).

The borough has 28 Conservation Areas. Conservation area status protects individual buildings as well as the spatial qualities of an area. The Conservation Team has an ongoing programme of reviewing existing Conservation Areas and identifying new ones. Public consultation is to follow soon for the review of two areas and the designation of one new area.

The borough contains 21 areas of archaeological priority and one area of special local character. However there are no registered wrecks or registered battlefields in the borough.

Part of the borough is in the Buffer Zone of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site. “