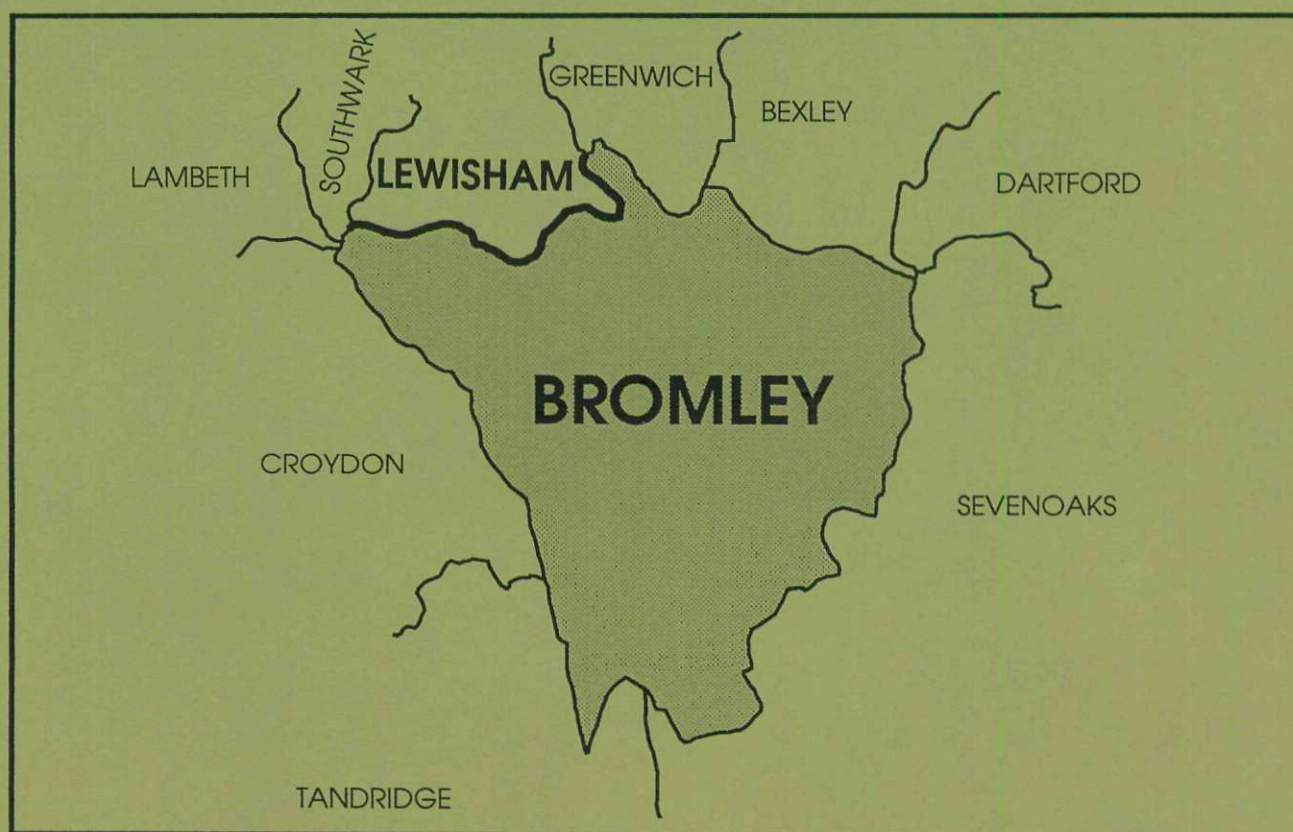


LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF GREATER LONDON, THE LONDON BOROUGHS AND THE CITY OF LONDON

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Boundary with : LEWISHAM LB



REPORT NO. 641

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CHAIRMAN **MR K F J ENNALS CB**

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RT HON MICHAEL HOWARD MP QC
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF GREATER LONDON, THE LONDON BOROUGHS AND THE CITY OF
LONDON

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY AND ITS BOUNDARY WITH THE LONDON
BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. This report contains our final proposals for the London Borough of Bromley's boundary with the London Borough of Lewisham. In the main, we have proposed limited changes to remove anomalies, for example, where properties are divided by the boundary. However, we have also sought to unite areas of continuous development where this has appeared to be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. Our report explains how we arrived at our proposals.

2. On 1 April 1987 we announced the start of a review of Greater London, the London boroughs and the City of London, as part of the programme of reviews we are required to undertake by virtue of section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. We wrote to each of the local authorities concerned.

3. Copies of our letter were sent to the adjoining London boroughs; the appropriate county, district and parish councils bordering Greater London; the local authority associations; Members of Parliament with constituency interests; and the headquarters of the main political parties. In addition, copies were sent to the Metropolitan Police and to those government departments, regional health authorities, electricity, gas and water undertakings which might have an interest, as well as to local television and radio stations serving the Greater London

area and to a number of other interested persons and organisations.

4. The London boroughs and the City of London were requested to assist us in publicising the start of the review by inserting a notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers so as to give a wide coverage in the areas concerned.

5. A period of seven months from the date of our letter was allowed for all local authorities and any body or person interested in the review to send us their views on whether changes to the boundaries of Greater London authorities were desirable and, if so, what those changes should be and how they would serve the interests of effective and convenient local government, the criterion laid down in the 1972 Act.

OUR APPROACH TO THE REVIEW OF GREATER LONDON

6. We took the opportunity in our Report No 550, "People and Places", to explain in some detail the approach we take to our work and the factors which we take into consideration when conducting reviews, including the guidelines given to us by the Secretary of State (set out in Department of the Environment Circular 20/86 in the case of the reviews of London).

7. Subsequently, in July 1988, we issued a press notice, copies of which were sent to London boroughs, explaining the manner in which we proposed to conduct the review of London boundaries. In the notice we said that, from the evidence seen so far, this was unlikely to be the right time to advocate comprehensive change in the pattern of London government - although the notice listed a number of submissions for major changes to particular boundaries which had been made to the Commission, some of which the Commission had itself foreseen in "People and Places". These and other major changes to particular boundaries are being considered by the Commission as it makes proposals for changes to the boundaries of London boroughs.

8. More recently, we have felt it appropriate to explain our approach to this, the first major review of London since London government reorganisation in 1965 and to offer our thoughts on the issues which have been raised by the representations made to us, and by our consideration of them. We have therefore published a general report, entitled "The Boundaries of Greater London and the London boroughs" (Report No 627), which discusses a number of the wider London issues which have arisen during the course of this review. Paragraphs 65-69 and 82-87 of that report, which relate to communities in London and their sense of identity, are relevant to the issues raised by the boundary between Bromley and Lewisham and our proposals for change.

THE BOUNDARIES COVERED BY THIS REPORT

9. This report concerns Bromley's boundary with Lewisham. Our proposals for Bromley's boundary with Bexley, with Tandridge in Surrey and with Sevenoaks in Kent have already been submitted to you (Report No 620), as have our final proposals for Bromley's boundary with Greenwich (Report No 642), Bromley's boundary with Croydon (Report No 615), and Bromley's boundaries with Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham in the Crystal Palace area (Report No 632).

THE INITIAL SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

10. In response to our letter of 1 April 1987, we received submissions from the London Boroughs of Bromley and Lewisham, the Metropolitan Police and one local organisation. We also received 97 letters and two petitions bearing 68 and 75 signatures respectively. In submitting its suggestions for major change to the Greenwich/Bromley boundary in the Mottingham area, the London Borough of Greenwich also suggested a number of consequential changes to Bromley's boundary with Lewisham. In response to those suggestions, we received 45 letters and two petitions of 155 and 120 signatures respectively.

OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS AND THE RESPONSES RECEIVED TO THEM

11. In addition to our letter of 1 April 1987, we published a further consultation letter, announcing our draft proposals and interim decision. This was published on 21 August 1991, and copies were sent to all the local authorities concerned and to all those who had made representations to us. We arranged for a notice to be published announcing our draft proposals and interim decision. In addition, Bromley and Lewisham were asked to post copies of the notice at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 16 October 1991.

12. In response to our draft proposals letter, we received comments from Bromley, Lewisham, six organisations, a local councillor and 92 members of the public. We also received three petitions and 121 pro-forma letters. The Metropolitan Police and Bromley Magistrates Court both stated that they had no comments on our draft proposals.

13. We also received a joint representation from the Lewisham West Conservative Association, the Lewisham East Conservative Association, the Borough of Lewisham Conservative Local Government Committee and the Lewisham Council Conservative Group. In the interests of brevity, we have referred to this joint representation as being from the Lewisham Conservatives.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE AND OUR CONCLUSIONS

BROMLEY'S BOUNDARY WITH LEWISHAM

(a) Venner Road to Tannsfield Road

Map 1

Draft Proposal

14. Bromley suggested a number of minor realignments to unite split properties in Venner Road, Byne Road, Wiverton Road and Newlands Park, and proposed a centre-of-road alignment in Tannsfield Road. Lewisham submitted a similar suggestion for the split properties, and a realignment to the southern curtilage of No 93 Tannsfield Road.

15. We agreed that both Councils' suggestions would rectify the more obvious anomalies in the current boundary. However, we considered that there was merit in seeking to unite Byne Road and Wiverton Road in one authority. This would not only provide a clearer boundary in the area but also facilitate local authority service provision. We therefore decided to adopt as our draft proposal a realignment to the north of No 90 Venner Road, as suggested by Bromley; and then centre-of-road alignments north along Venner Road, east along Tredown Road, and south along Newlands Park; then east along Tannsfield Road as suggested by Bromley; and to the southern curtilage of No 93 Tannsfield Road as suggested by Lewisham.

Final Proposal

16. Our draft proposal was supported by the Lewisham Conservatives. However, it was opposed by Bromley, Lewisham, the Lewisham West Labour Party and by one local resident. Both Councils resubmitted their suggestions for minor change, following the general line of the existing boundary. They commented that the existing boundary works well, and that residents on either side of it do not want change. Lewisham West

Labour Party commented that a number of residents in the area had indicated a preference to remain in Lewisham.

17. While both Councils sought to maintain the general line of the existing boundary, we could see little to commend such an approach when, by relatively minor change, a clear, well-defined boundary could be found in the area. It had been suggested that residents in the area strongly opposed being transferred to Bromley. However, having received only one representation from a resident, we found it difficult to accept this assertion. We recognised that our draft proposal would divide Tredown Road between the two authorities, albeit by a centre-of-road alignment. Nevertheless, we considered this to be outweighed by the benefits to be derived, in terms of facilitating local authority service provision, by uniting Byne Road and Wiverton Road in one authority. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(b) Tannsfild Road to Kent House Road

Map 1

Draft Proposal

18. Bromley suggested realigning the boundary to unite properties in Trewsbury Road, Knighton Park Road and Broseley Grove in Lewisham. It also suggested uniting Albemarle Lodge in that authority. Lewisham submitted an identical suggestion, with the exception that it also proposed the transfer of Orchard Court and Nos 76 and 78 Kent House Road to its area. Four residents of Knighton Park Road, and one resident of Broseley Grove, opposed both suggestions. The Broseley Grove resident suggested that the Broseley Grove properties should be united in Bromley.

19. The existing boundary splits properties and roads. While recognising the feelings expressed by residents who were opposed to their properties being transferred to or united in Lewisham, we took the view that, as the only points of access to Knighton Park Road and Broseley Grove are from Lewisham, it would be in

the interests of effective and convenient local government for them to be united in that Borough.

20. We considered Lewisham's suggestion that Orchard Court and two properties in Kent House Road should also be transferred to its area. However, as the properties concerned are located wholly within Bromley, and the boundary is not defaced, we could see little justification for the suggestion. Accordingly, we decided to adopt Bromley's suggestion as our draft proposal for this area.

Final Proposal

21. The Lewisham Conservatives supported our draft proposal. Neither Bromley nor Lewisham commented. Our draft proposal was opposed by a resident of Broseley Grove, on the grounds that transfer into Lewisham would increase his costs, and by a resident of Albemarle Lodge, who commented that she did not approve of Lewisham's policies.

22. We took the view that the residents' opposition was not based on considerations of effective and convenient local government. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(c) Bell Green Lane/Westerley Crescent/Meadowview Road

Map 2a

Draft Proposal

23. The existing boundary cuts through a number of properties in this area, including industrial units, tennis courts, and Lower Sydenham Station. Bromley suggested a realignment of the boundary along the centre of Bell Green Lane, the northern edge of the industrial area, south along the centre of Kangley Bridge Road to follow Westerley Crescent to rejoin the existing boundary. It suggested that the boundary should then be

realigned along the eastern side of the railway, along the centre of Station Approach, and then north along Worsley Bridge Road to follow the centre of Meadowview Road. Lewisham suggested uniting the industrial units in its area and that the boundary should then be realigned along the centre of Kangley Bridge Road, Westerley Crescent, Station Approach, Worsley Bridge Road and Meadowview Road.

24. We considered that Bromley's suggestion to realign the boundary to the west of Lower Sydenham Station would unite the industrial units with the works to the south, in Bromley. We took the view that a boundary which split the station site was unavoidable, but considered that Lewisham's suggestion would provide a clearer boundary, and would be less disruptive, in that it would not affect the station buildings.

25. We therefore decided to adopt as our draft proposal Bromley's suggestion to unite the industrial units to the west of the station in Bromley, and Lewisham's suggestion for a realignment from the station to Meadowview Road, subject to a minor modification to the east of the station.

Final Proposal

26. Our draft proposal was supported by the Lewisham Conservatives. Neither Bromley nor Lewisham commented and we have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(d) Meadowview Road to Beckenham Hill Road

Map 2b

Draft Proposal

27. Bromley suggested realigning the boundary to unite properties divided by the existing boundary, and to unite Highland Croft in Bromley. Lewisham submitted an identical suggestion. Two residents of Beckenham Hill Road supported the suggested realignment, which would have the effect of uniting

their properties in Bromley.

28. We also received a petition signed by 75 residents of Braeside and Greycot Road, opposing the transfer of these roads to Lewisham. However, we had not received suggestions for such a change.

29. We considered that service provision would be facilitated if Highland Croft were to be united with similar residential development to the south, in Bromley. We therefore decided to adopt the identical suggestions submitted by Bromley and Lewisham as our draft proposal.

Final Proposal

30. Neither Bromley nor Lewisham commented on our draft proposal. However, the Lewisham Conservatives suggested that it should be modified to unite Highland Croft in Lewisham, on the grounds that the majority of the properties are currently situated in that borough, and that this would unite the cul-de-sac with the minimum of disruption. They pointed out that their suggestion would also leave Beckenham Hill Road wholly in Lewisham and unite Southend Road in Bromley.

31. We accepted that this suggestion by the Lewisham Conservatives would move fewer properties in Highland Croft. However, our draft proposal had been based on identical suggestions from Bromley and Lewisham and, in the absence of any objections from residents of the cul-de-sac, appeared to be acceptable to them. We also felt that our draft proposal had the benefit of uniting Highland Croft with properties of similar character to the south. We have therefore decided to confirm it as final.

Draft Proposal

32. Lewisham suggested uniting the whole of Beckenham Place Park in its area. However, a local resident opposed Lewisham's suggestion insofar as it related to Westgate Lodge, on the southern perimeter of the park.

33. We noted that the existing boundary divides Beckenham Place Park between Bromley and Lewisham, but that the park is owned and maintained by Lewisham. We therefore took the view that uniting the park in Lewisham would facilitate its maintenance and administration.

34. However, as Westgate Lodge is isolated from Lewisham by the park, we considered that it had more affinity with Bromley, from which Borough local authority service provision to the Lodge could best be maintained. We therefore decided to adopt Lewisham's suggestion to unite Beckenham Place Park in its area as our draft proposal, subject to the resident's suggestion that Westgate Lodge should remain in Bromley.

Final Proposal

35. Lewisham and the Lewisham Conservatives supported our draft proposal. Bromley supported it in principle, but suggested that the access road to, and curtilage of, Foxgrove Social Club should remain in its authority. The Council commented that it provides services to the club, which is primarily accessed from Bromley.

36. We received a petition containing 83 signatures from local residents, opposing our draft proposal on the grounds that the south eastern part of the park is used for leisure and recreation by Bromley residents and that Bromley should, therefore, retain control of this area to safeguard the interests of residents. They suggested a realignment which would retain the wooded and

elevated areas of the park in Bromley. The Foxgrove Club and the Copers Cope Area Residents' Association also opposed the transfer of the club site to Lewisham, on the grounds that all access to the club is via Westgate Road, in Bromley, and that the club's community links are with Bromley. The Foxgrove Club supported the residents' suggestion that the wooded and elevated areas of the park should remain in Bromley. The Beckenham Place Park Society also opposed uniting the park in Lewisham, on the grounds that it is beneficial to all the surrounding residents for development proposals to be considered by two local authorities rather than one. It took the view that the existing boundary should be retained.

37. We recognised residents' strong attachment to "their" part of Beckenham Place Park, and their concern that it should remain in Bromley. However, while the alternative realignment which had been suggested made some use of ground features, such as the brow of hills, it would not have been clearly identifiable on the ground.

38. We also acknowledged that the Foxgrove Club's links were with Bromley rather than with Lewisham. However, we considered Bromley's suggestion that the boundary be realigned round the curtilage of the club and its access road would create an unsatisfactory boundary realignment, and saw no alternative to transferring the property to Lewisham if a clear, well-defined boundary were to be found in this area. We are satisfied that, given the club's location, Bromley and Lewisham should be able to reach a sensible agreement over the future provision of local authority services to the property. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

Draft Proposal

39. The existing boundary splits a number of properties and roads in this area. Bromley suggested uniting Riverpark Gardens in its authority by realigning the boundary along the centre of Crab Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue, the western side of a sports field and then eastwards along the path between the sports field and playing field. Lewisham submitted a similar suggestion, which differed only in that it suggested a realignment along property curtilages, to the east of Ravensbourne Avenue. Bromley's suggestion was supported by two members of the public.

40. Two residents of Ravensbourne Avenue supported the suggestions that Ravenspark Gardens be united in Bromley, but suggested a north side-of-road alignment in Crab Hill, and a west side-of-road alignment in Ravensbourne Avenue. This would, in their view, facilitate the maintenance of these roads.

41. We agreed with Lewisham that Riverpark Gardens had more natural physical links with Bromley, and that it would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government for the area to be united with the residential development to the south. We also agreed with the two residents of the area that road maintenance would be facilitated if Crab Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue were to be wholly within Bromley. We therefore decided to adopt as our draft proposal Bromley's suggestion to unite Riverpark Gardens in Bromley, subject to the residents' suggestion for a north side-of-road alignment in Crab Hill and a west side-of-road alignment in Ravensbourne Avenue.

Final Proposal

42. Our draft proposal was supported by the Lewisham Conservatives. Bromley and Lewisham did not comment and we have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

Draft Proposal

43. The existing boundary splits a number of properties and roads in this area. Bromley suggested a realignment along the northern edge of the footpath from Riverpark Gardens to Calmont Road, south along the centre of Calmont Road, and then the centre of the road at the western end of Elstree Hill. It suggested that the boundary should then follow rear curtilages in Erin Close and Hillbrow Road, and the south eastern side of No 76 Coniston Road. From that point, Bromley suggested that the boundary should follow a centre-of-road alignment along Coniston Road, Avondale Road and Swiftsden Way, the south side of No 61 Swiftsden Way and the rear of Nos 116-118 Avondale Road.

44. Lewisham suggested minor modifications to the existing boundary, by following property curtilages and centre-of-road alignments along Coniston Road, Bromley Hill and Avondale Road.

45. We received representations from 23 members of the public, expressing support for Bromley's suggestion that their properties be transferred to its area. We received a further 28 letters from residents unaffected by either Council's suggestions but who wished to be transferred to Bromley. Of these, five residents suggested realigning the boundary along Hillbrow Road and Bromley Hill, and three residents of Calmont Road suggested the transfer of Nos 77-87 Calmont Road to Bromley. The Ravensbourne Valley Preservation Society suggested that the whole of Ravensbourne Valley should be united in Bromley.

46. We noted the area's proximity to Bromley Town Centre, and the strong affinities with Bromley expressed by those residents seeking a transfer to that Borough. We took the view that Bromley had, to some extent, sought to recognise these affinities, but that its suggestion would have the effect of dividing residential properties of similar character. We

considered that the suggestion submitted by a number of residents to realign the boundary along Hillbrow Road and Bromley Hill would better reflect their affinities and also provide a clear, identifiable boundary.

47. In the area of Avondale Road, we considered that Lewisham's suggestion would rectify the existing anomalies and provide a clear boundary.

48. We therefore decided to adopt as our draft proposal a suggestion from residents to realign the boundary along Hillbrow Road and Bromley Hill, and Lewisham's suggestion for Avondale Road.

Final Proposal

49. Lewisham did not comment on our draft proposal. Bromley, while supporting our draft proposal in principle, suggested that Bromley Hill Cemetery, which it owns, should also be transferred to its area. Lewisham opposed this suggestion.

50. The Lewisham Conservatives suggested realigning the boundary along the centres of Elstree Hill, Bromley Hill and Avondale Road and along the north east curtilage of No 116 Avondale Road to rejoin our draft proposal. They said that such a realignment would provide a clear boundary with the minimum of disruption, and that residents of the area use facilities in Downham, in Lewisham, as they are closer than those provided by Bromley.

51. Eight residents of the area supported our draft proposal. A further six residents suggested amending it, in order to transfer the whole of Coniston Road to Bromley. They said that our draft proposal would split Coniston Road and that their affinities lie with Bromley. One of the six suggested realigning the boundary along the centres of Calmont Road, Ashgrove Road and Bromley Hill; another suggested realigning the boundary along the west of Calmont Road, the rear of properties in Ashgrove Road

and the centre of Bromley Hill; while a third suggested realigning the boundary to the rear of properties on the west side of Coniston Road and the centres of Ashgrove Road and Bromley Hill.

52. Another resident opposed that part of our draft proposal relating to Avondale Road, and suggested uniting the road in Bromley. He commented that residents use Bromley's facilities, and transport to that Borough is more accessible.

53. In respect of Avondale Road, we considered that, despite the alternative suggestions from the Lewisham Conservatives and from a local resident to unite properties in Avondale Road in Bromley, our draft proposal would provide the better boundary, entailing the minimum change necessary. While the Lewisham Conservatives had suggested that residents to the south of the area covered by our draft proposal used facilities in Lewisham, we concluded that this suggestion had not been supported by the representations received from that area.

54. As Bromley is a main shopping centre, and therefore a focus of attraction for the surrounding community, it is understandable that a number of residents should seek to extend the draft proposal for the Hillbrow Road/Coniston Road/Bromley Hill area, in order that their properties should also be transferred to Bromley. With increased mobility, we recognise that many of the residents in question travel to Bromley, and use Bromley facilities. However, in our view, a similar case could be made by many other Lewisham residents who live even further north of the existing boundary, and that practically any boundary realignment in this area could be opposed on the grounds that it did not go far enough.

55. We have therefore had to take a balanced view of where the new boundary should best be placed, and we feel that, on the information available to us, our draft proposal is a reasonable reflection of the affinities of those residents most directly

affected and influenced by the proximity of Bromley Town Centre.

56. We have said in previous reports on London borough boundaries that the ownership of land by a local authority is not in itself conclusive justification for its transfer to the authority which owns it. Accordingly, as Bromley provided no evidence to indicate that any difficulties have arisen in its management of Bromley Hill Cemetery, we concluded that no significant advantage in terms of effective and convenient local government would be likely to accrue from the transfer of the cemetery to Bromley. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(h) Alexandra Crescent to Launcelot Road

Map 5 and 6a

Draft Proposal

57. The existing boundary splits a number of properties and roads. Bromley suggested rectifying the anomalies by following property boundaries and centre-of-road alignments. Lewisham suggested following the centres of Valeswood Road, Boyland Road and Pontefract Road, and the rear of properties in Downham Way and Southover. Three residents of Pontefract Road opposed both suggestions, which would have the effect of transferring their properties to Lewisham.

58. We noted that there were a number of local authority and other facilities located in the Downham Fields area, in Lewisham, which were likely to be used by the residents of Downham Way. We therefore concluded that it would not be in the interests of effective and convenient local government to adopt Bromley's suggestion to unite in its authority that part of Downham Way which is split by the existing boundary.

59. Conversely, we considered that Lewisham's suggestion, to follow, for the most part, a centre-of-road alignment and to unite Downham Way in its area, would provide a good, clear

boundary which recognised the affinities of Downham Way residents. We therefore decided to adopt Lewisham's suggestion as our draft proposal, together with Bromley's suggestion for two minor realignments to the rear of properties in Alexandra Crescent and Launcelot Road.

Final Proposal

60. Neither Bromley nor Lewisham commented on our draft proposal. The Lewisham Conservatives submitted a new suggestion to realign the boundary along the centres of Farmfield Road, Alexandra Crescent, Valeswood Road and Downham Way and between Nos 284 Southover and 378 Downham Way to rejoin the existing boundary. They commented that their suggestion would reunite roads which are split by our draft proposal. However, they conceded that the layout of the Estate inevitably meant that many Lewisham residents will use Bromley facilities and vice versa.

61. We also received seven representations from residents opposing our draft proposal, and two petitions containing a total of 54 signatures. These residents commented that they were content with the services provided by Bromley. One respondent suggested amending our draft proposal by realigning the boundary to the rear of Nos 131 and 133 Southover, along the centre of Southover and then between No 284 Southover and No 378 Downham Way, thereby uniting Southover in Bromley and Downham Way in Lewisham. One of the petitions suggested that our draft proposal be modified to follow the centres of Valeswood Road and Downham Way.

62. We took the view that to realign the boundary along Downham Way, as suggested by the Lewisham Conservatives and local residents, would isolate residents from the facilities to the north in Downham Fields, a situation which our draft proposal had intentionally sought to avoid. Additionally, the three properties in Valeswood Road, which Lewisham Conservatives had suggested should be united with the rest of the west side of

Valeswood Road in Lewisham, are split from the rest of Valeswood Road by playing fields and appeared to us to have affinity with properties to the south, in Alexandra Crescent in Bromley.

63. We considered the suggestion from a local resident and the Lewisham Conservatives to realign the boundary between No 284 Southover and No 378 Downham Way, thereby uniting Southover in Bromley and Downham Way in Lewisham. However, we took the view that, as there is no recognisable break between the east side of Downham Way and Southover, such a modification would be unlikely to give rise to any benefits in terms of effective and convenient local government.

64. We recognised that, as the existing boundary indiscriminately splits roads and properties in this continuously built up area, it would be difficult to formulate any realignment which would satisfy all the residents affected. We have therefore had to take a balanced view of where the boundary should best be placed, having regard to service provision in the area. As we received no adverse comments from the two local authorities in respect of service provision, we have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(i) Welbeck Avenue to Grove Park Cemetery

Maps 6a and 6b

Draft Proposal

65. The existing boundary is undefined in parts, and splits Grove Park Cemetery. Bromley suggested a series of minor realignments to the rear of properties in Welbeck Avenue and Ridgeway Drive. It suggested that the boundary should then be realigned across the Grove Park-Elmstead Woods railway line, south along the north eastern side of the railway and then around the perimeter of Grove Park Cemetery to rejoin the existing boundary. This would unite the cemetery in Lewisham.

66. Lewisham also suggested minor realignments of the boundary to the rear of properties in Welbeck Avenue and Ridgeway Drive. It suggested that the boundary should then be realigned south along the rear of properties in Ridgeway Drive and Portland Road to the existing boundary where it crosses the railway. From that point, Lewisham's suggestion followed the same alignment as that proposed by Bromley.

67. The Metropolitan Police suggested realigning the boundary along Marvels Lane, so uniting Grove Park Cemetery in Bromley.

68. We took the view that Lewisham's suggested realignment to the north of Ridgeway Drive and Oakbrook Close was more firmly tied to ground detail. However, in the vicinity of the railway, we considered that Bromley's suggestion appeared to provide the better alignment, as it followed the same side of the railway throughout its length and eliminated a Lewisham salient between the railway and the residential area to the west. We also took the view that Grove Park Cemetery should be united in Lewisham.

69. We therefore decided to adopt as our draft proposal Lewisham's suggested realignment to the north of Ridgeway Drive and Oakbrook Close, Bromley's suggestion for the north eastern side of the railway, and both Councils' suggestion to unite Grove Park Cemetery in Lewisham.

Final Proposal

70. Our draft proposal was supported by the Lewisham Conservatives. Neither Bromley nor Lewisham commented and we have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

Draft Proposal

71. The existing boundary in this area is defaced, splits properties and, to the south of Grove Park Road, splits the Chinbrook housing estate. Bromley suggested a realignment along Bilsbury Grove, to the rear of properties in Castleton Road and Clayhill Crescent as far as the existing boundary, and then along the western side of a playing field, the centre of Lambscroft Avenue and property curtilages in Bentfield Gardens. Bromley's suggestion in respect of Bentfield Gardens was supported by a local resident. Lewisham proposed a similar realignment, but which would also unite the whole of a block of flats to the west of Bentfield Gardens in its authority.

72. The Metropolitan Police said that the existing boundary splits natural communities in the area, and suggested a realignment along Marvels Lane, to follow the present postal boundary. This, it commented, would result in a more logical division of communities.

73. As mentioned in paragraph 10 above, we had received a radical suggestion from Greenwich in respect of its boundary with Bromley in the Mottingham area. As part of this suggestion, it proposed consequential changes to the Bromley/Lewisham boundary, to unite the Chinbrook Estate in Lewisham. In response to this suggestion, we received a petition bearing 155 signatures from residents of the estate opposing its transfer to Lewisham.

74. We considered that the suggestions from both Bromley and Lewisham, while addressing the anomalies of split properties, did not address the division of what appeared to be a single housing estate. The Chinbrook Estate forms part of a single continuous area of residential development with similar characteristics, but is split by the existing boundary and separated from Mottingham to the east by sports grounds and playing fields. In addition,

access to the estate is exclusively from Lewisham, and its community facilities are located in that Borough.

75. We were aware from the response to Greenwich's suggestion for the Chinbrook Estate that there was strong opposition from some residents. The wishes of the people are a significant factor in any review we undertake, and we do not lightly disregard them. However, in the case of the Chinbrook Estate, we felt bound to conclude that, given its isolation from Bromley, it looked more to Lewisham, and that local authority service provision could be more effectively and conveniently provided from that Borough.

76. We observed that the Metropolitan Police's suggestion, to follow Marvels Lane, would both provide a clear boundary and unite the Chinbrook Estate in Lewisham. However, we felt that such a realignment would create an undesirable, narrow Lewisham salient between Marvels Lane and Chinbrook Meadows.

77. We therefore decided to adopt as our draft proposal Bromley's suggestion for minor realignments to unite split properties in Charminster Road, Castleton Road, Dunnington Close, Grace Close and Lambscroft Avenue, together with a realignment to the rear of properties in Aldersgrove Avenue, to unite the Chinbrook Estate in Lewisham.

Final Proposal

78. Our draft proposal was supported by the Lewisham Conservatives. However, it was opposed by both Bromley and Lewisham, both of which resubmitted their original suggestions for minor change. Bromley said that it had no problems in providing services to the Chinbrook Estate. It also suggested that the two authorities were in a better position than the Commission to determine which boundary realignment would result in effective and convenient local government.

79. The Chinbrook Estate Residents' Association submitted 121 pro-forma letters, containing 191 signatures, opposing our draft proposal. The residents commented that they would lose the use of Bromley facilities and would no longer receive services from that Borough. They also said that their natural loyalties are with Bromley, and supported Bromley's and Lewisham's suggestions for a minor realignment to unite split properties.

80. We also received nine individual letters from residents opposing our draft proposal. One suggested a minor realignment to unite split properties, commenting that residents use Bromley's Mottingham Library and that many belong to Senior Citizens' Clubs in Bromley.

81. Orpington Constituency Labour Party submitted a new suggestion to unite the whole of the Chinbrook Estate in Bromley. It suggested realigning the boundary along the eastern side of Marvels Lane from Mayeswood Road to Grove Park Road, expressing the view that the majority of residents on the Chinbrook Estate would welcome such a transfer.

82. We accepted that the Labour Party's suggestion to realign the boundary along Marvels Lane would provide a clear boundary. However, as with the suggestion from the Metropolitan Police, referred to in paragraph 72 above, we took the view that it would create a narrow Lewisham salient between Marvels Lane and Chinbrook Meadows, and would involve the transfer of many more residents than would our draft proposal.

83. In taking account of the representations we received from Chinbrook Estate residents, we were mindful that, under our guidelines from the Secretary of State, we must consider not only the wishes of the people but also the pattern of community life and the effective operation of local government services in making proposals for boundary changes. The responses from residents suggested that their links and affinities were with Mottingham, in Bromley. We recognise that they may travel to

that area, or further afield, for shopping and other amenities. However, we felt unable to ignore the fact that the estate is isolated from that borough by a large area of open space, and the fact that all vehicular access to the estate is through Lewisham. We also observed that Lewisham provides a number of estate facilities, such as a youth club, community centre and adult education centre, which are not available on the Bromley side of the boundary, and that there are a number of shops on Chinbrook Road, in Lewisham.

84. We know that most local authorities are resourceful in overcoming problems created by boundary anomalies, and do not dispute that Bromley is unlikely to be experiencing actual difficulties in providing services to the Chinbrook Estate. However, the estate's location argues strongly that local authority services could over time be more effectively and conveniently provided by Lewisham.

85. Accordingly, while we recognise the expressed affinities of local residents, and their comments that they are content with the services provided by Bromley, we maintain our view that it would be in the long term interests of effective and convenient local government for the estate to be united in Lewisham. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(k) Grove Park Road to Winn Road

Maps 8a and 8b

Draft Proposal

86. The existing boundary in this area splits properties and a number of sports grounds. Between Grove Park Road and Sydenham Cottages, Bromley suggested a realignment along the centre of Grove Park Road, to the west of No 114 Grove Park Road and the rear of properties in Marvels Lane, with minor variations to unite the accesses to the sports grounds to the east of Marvels Lane with the grounds themselves. It suggested that the boundary then be realigned along the centre of Marvels Lane, along the

western perimeter of the City of London School Sports Ground to Jevington Way, at which point it would rejoin the existing boundary. Bromley's suggested realignment then followed the boundary between Nos 36 and 38 Senlac Road, and along the rear of properties in Ashdale Road, the northern side of No 6 Ashdale Road, and the centre of Ashdale Road to the existing Greenwich/Lewisham boundary.

87. Lewisham suggested realigning the boundary from Grove Park Road between Nos 94 and 96 Grove Park Road, along the rear of properties in Grove Park Road and Marvels Lane, uniting the access to a sports ground, to the rear of the Chinbrook Public House, with the ground itself. It suggested the boundary should then be realigned around the east and north sides of Grove Park Hospital, uniting it in Lewisham, and should follow the western perimeter of the City of London School Sports Ground to Jevington Way. It then suggested realigning the boundary south and west of Nos 32 and 34 Senlac Road, and along Exford Road to meet the existing Greenwich/Lewisham boundary.

88. The Metropolitan Police suggested realigning the boundary along Grove Park Road, the rear of properties in Marvels Lane and along Quaggy River to the Greenwich/Lewisham boundary. This would unite Grove Park Hospital and the City of London School Sports Ground in Lewisham, and transfer Jevington Way and Westdean Avenue to that Borough.

89. We received a considerable number of representations from local residents in respect of the suggestions for boundary changes in this area. Six members of the public wrote in support of Bromley's suggestion for Ashdale Road. We also received 16 letters and a 68 signature petition opposing a Bromley suggestion, which was subsequently withdrawn by the Council, to unite Jevington Way, Westdean Avenue, Ashdale Road and Senlac Road in Lewisham. A further 45 letters and a petition containing 120 signatures were received opposing Greenwich's similar suggestion, which it had submitted as a consequential to its

radical proposals for the Greenwich/Bromley boundary in the Mottingham area.

90. We considered that Bromley's suggestion for Grove Park Road would satisfactorily unite all the properties in that road within its borough. We also took the view that, as Lewisham provides the services to Grove Park Hospital and the hospital serves Lewisham residents, it should be united in that authority.

91. Although there had been strong opposition from local residents to the suggestions that Westdean Avenue, Jevington Way, Ashdale Road and Senlac Road should be united in Lewisham, we considered that the area formed part of an homogeneous residential community, the major part of which is located in Lewisham. Additionally, it is separated from Bromley to the east and south by significant areas of open space, and is primarily accessed from Lewisham.

92. We therefore decided to adopt as our draft proposal Bromley's suggestion to unite Grove Park Road in Bromley, and Lewisham's suggestion to unite the City of London School Sports Ground and the sports fields to the east of Marvels Lane in Bromley, and Grove Park Hospital in Lewisham. We decided to issue a draft proposal to realign the boundary from the City of London School Sports Ground to the south of properties on Westdean Avenue, adopting part of the Metropolitan Police's suggestion to follow the mid course of the Quaggy River. From the Quaggy River, the boundary would then be realigned along the east side of the curtilage of No 106 Winn Road, to meet our draft proposal for the Greenwich/Bromley boundary.

Final Proposal

93. Our draft proposal was opposed by both Bromley and Lewisham. The Councils resubmitted their suggestions for minor change in the Jevington Way and Westdean Avenue area.

94. Bromley stated that it had no problems with providing services to this area and that residents were opposed to our draft proposal. Lewisham said that residents of the area look to Mottingham to the east, in Bromley, for community and shopping services. It commented that Mottingham can be reached easily by public transport, whereas there are no public transport links to Grove Park in Lewisham.

95. Our draft proposal was supported by two residents, who commented that Bromley services for elderly people are inadequate, and that there are no Bromley leisure facilities in the area. However it was opposed by 55 residents, who expressed their satisfaction with the services provided by Bromley, especially refuse collection and tree and road maintenance. They commented that they use Bromley amenities, such as shopping, library and leisure facilities, as access to Bromley is easier than to Lewisham or Catford. It was also suggested that the community charge level in Lewisham might in future be higher than that in Bromley.

96. The Mottingham Residents' Association opposed our draft proposal on the grounds that residents did not seek change, and that there was no evidence to suggest that the present arrangements have failed to provide effective and convenient local government. It was also opposed by a local councillor, who commented that residents' community of interest lies with Bromley, and that the two councils did not support such a change.

97. The Lewisham Conservatives suggested modifying our draft proposal to follow the line of the Quaggy River from Grove Park Hospital to Winn Road. In support of the suggestion, they said that the sports grounds to the west of the existing boundary are only accessible from Lewisham and that, should they be developed, local authority services would be facilitated if the grounds were united in Lewisham.

98. The possible development of the sports grounds to the west of the existing boundary is purely speculative at this time. No evidence had been brought to our attention that any planning permissions had either been sought or granted for this area. We therefore felt that there was little justification for the Lewisham Conservatives' suggested modification.

99. We considered the residents' comments that they use Bromley's facilities, and recognise that they are likely to use the shops and other amenities in Mottingham. However, we are doubtful whether the patterns of community life in this area are radically different from those of the neighbouring areas in Lewisham, especially as there is no evident difference in the character of the properties on either side of the current boundary. Grove Park Library in Lewisham is closer to Jevington Way than is Mottingham Library, and there is a small parade of shops on Jevington Way. Also, while Mottingham (in Bromley), Lee and Grove Park (in Lewisham) Stations are all equidistant from the Jevington Way area, and provide direct rail links with Lewisham Town Centre, only Grove Park provides a link to Bromley Town Centre.

100. As with the Chinbrook Estate, we do not dispute Bromley's assertion that it has no difficulty in providing services to this area. Nevertheless, Jevington Way and its immediate environs are isolated from the rest of the borough by large areas of open space, and forms part of a continuous residential area, by far the major part of which is in Lewisham. Accordingly, notwithstanding Bromley's comments, we concluded that Lewisham is better placed to provide and deliver local authority services to the Jevington Way area.

101. In considering the Jevington Way area, and the responses to our draft proposals, we have been mindful of the advice in our guidelines from the Secretary of State, that we should examine "the need for adjustment of local authority boundaries to overcome specific problems arising from historical anomalies or

from subsequent changes in the pattern of development."

102. We have taken full account of the strongly held views of those residents in the Jevington Way area who submitted representations to us, and we are grateful for their comments. However, as previously indicated in this report, the wishes of the people are only one of the factors we must take into consideration in reviewing local authority boundaries.

103. Minor changes to the existing boundary, as suggested by Bromley and Lewisham, would rectify the more obvious anomalies along its length, such as split properties. Nevertheless, the location of the Jevington Way area, its isolation from the remainder of Bromley, and the fact that it is an extension of a larger residential community in Lewisham, argue strongly that effective and convenient local government would be better served by its inclusion in Lewisham. We would not accept that, in the case of Jevington Way, it is an efficient and effective use of local authority resources to have two authorities providing services to what is essentially a single community. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES

104. Our final proposals will have electoral consequences for the local authorities affected by this review. The details of our proposals for changes in electoral arrangements are described in Annex B to this report.

CONCLUSIONS

105. We believe that our final proposals, which are summarised in Annex C to this report, are in the interests of effective and convenient local government and we commend them to you accordingly.

PUBLICATION

106. A separate letter is being sent to the London Boroughs of Bromley and Lewisham asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection for a period of six months. They are also being asked to put notices to that effect on public notice boards. Arrangements have been made for similar notices to be inserted in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in this matter and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the date our final proposals are submitted to you. Copies of this report, with the maps attached at Annex A illustrating the proposed changes, are being sent to all those who received our draft proposals letter of 21 August 1991, and to those who made written representations to us.

Signed

K F J ENNALS (Chairman)

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

K YOUNG

R D COMPTON
Secretary
23 April 1992

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEWS OF GREATER LONDON, THE LONDON BOROUGHS
AND THE CITY OF LONDON

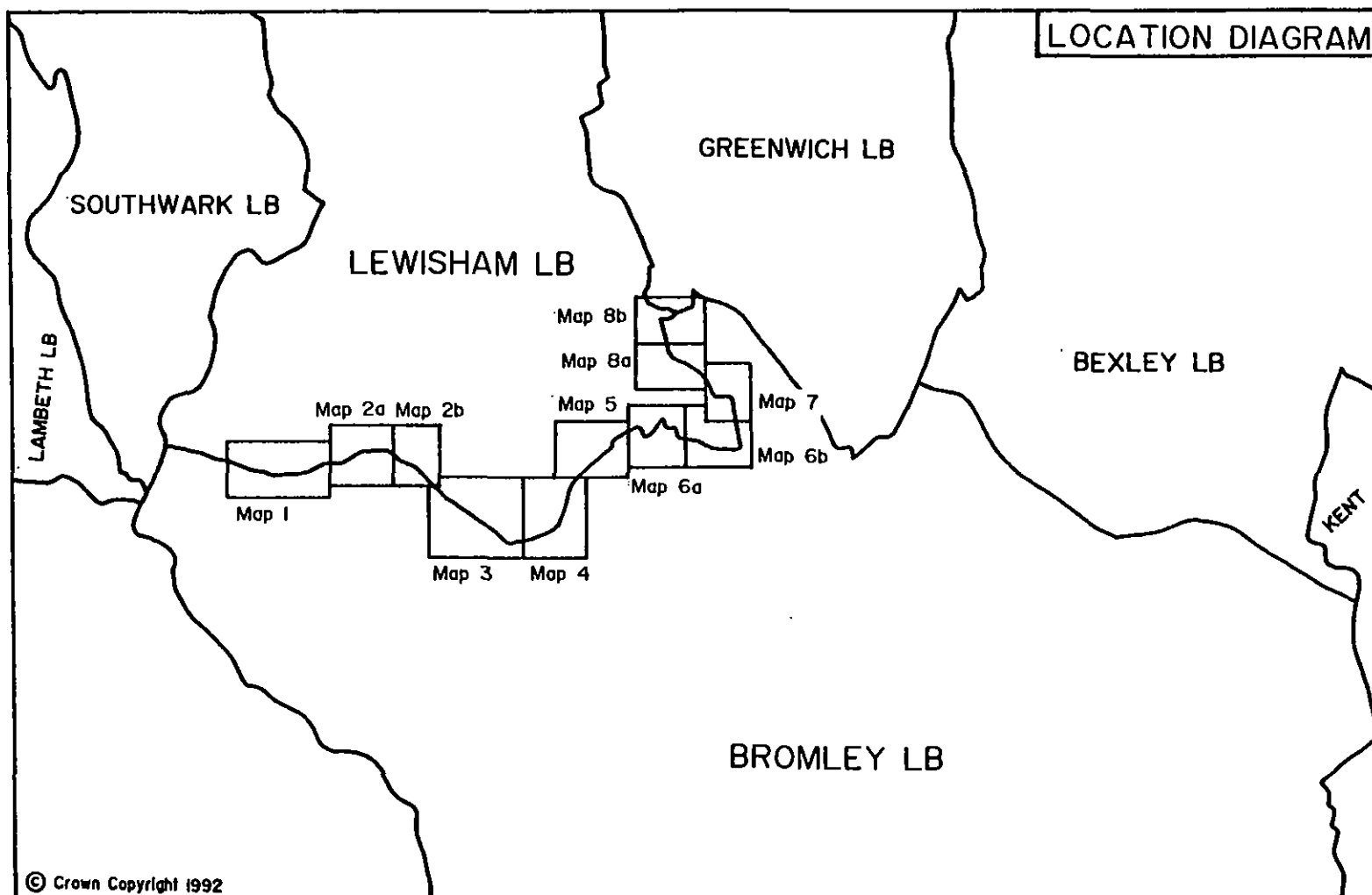
BROMLEY LB

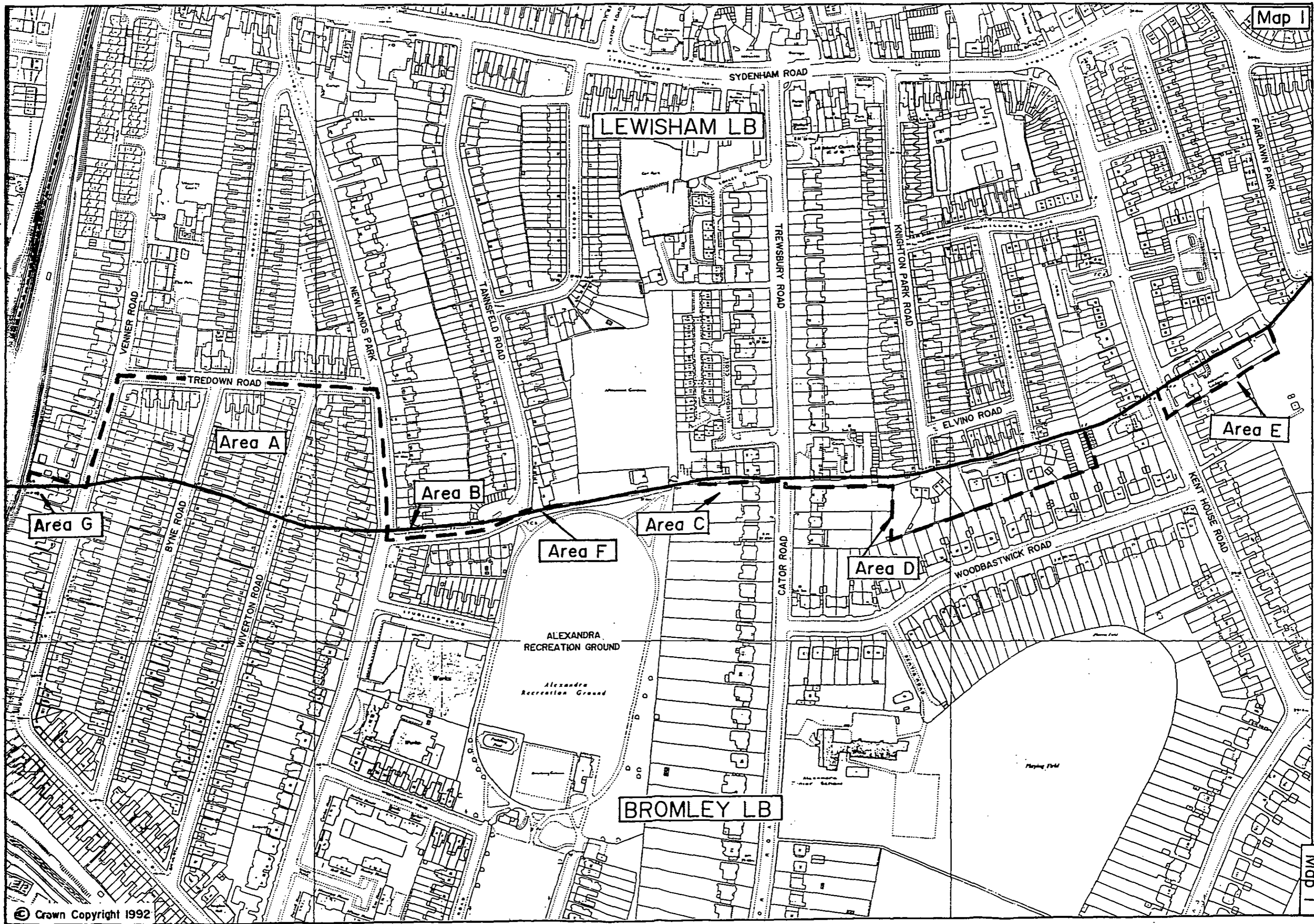
AFFECTING LEWISHAM LB

FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing Boundary	—————
Proposed Boundary	- - - - -
Other boundary divisions	-----
Proposed Ward Boundary

Produced by Ordnance Survey for the
Local Government Boundary Commission for England





Map 1

LEWISHAM LB

Area E

Area A

Area B

Area C

Area F

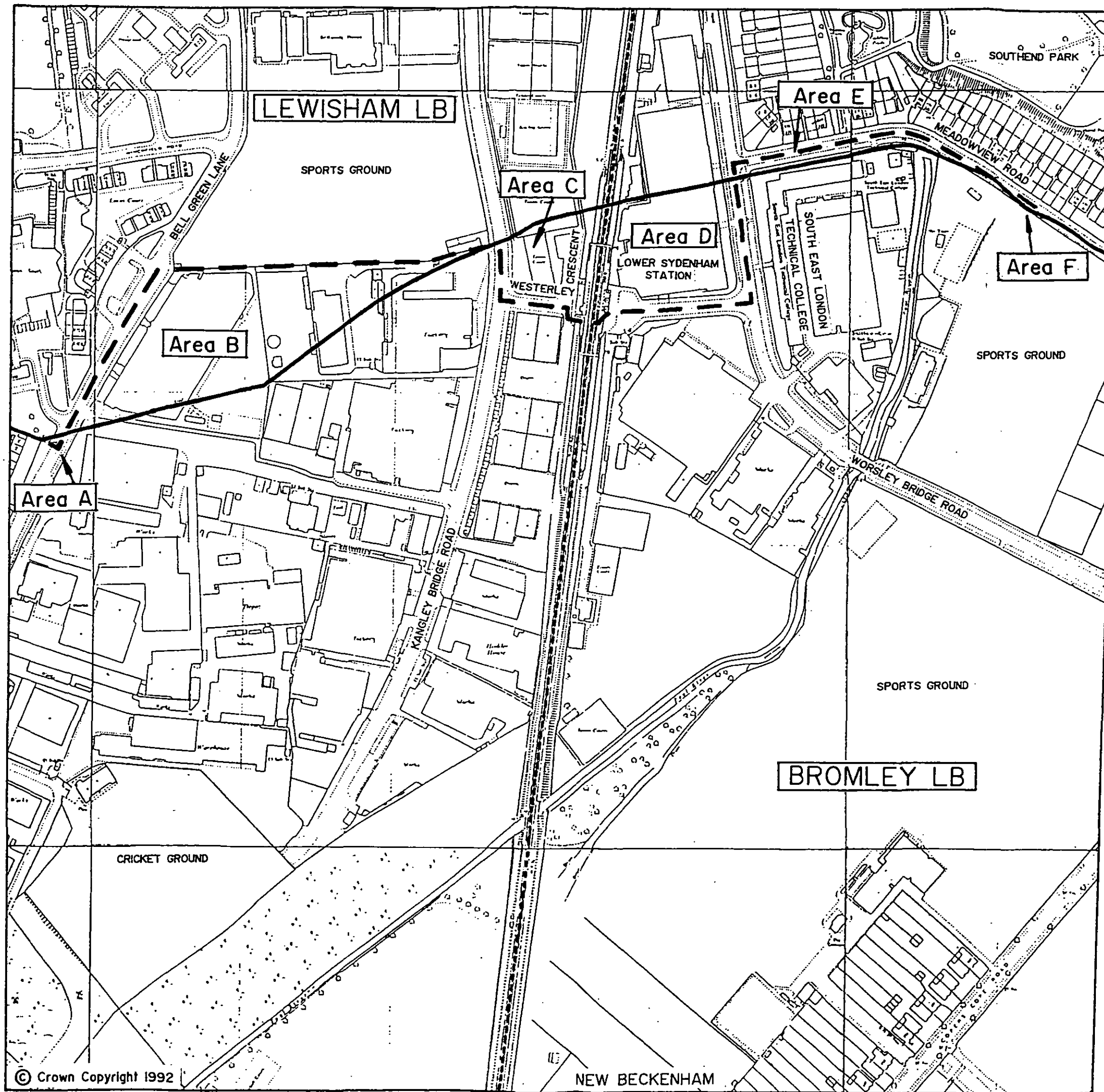
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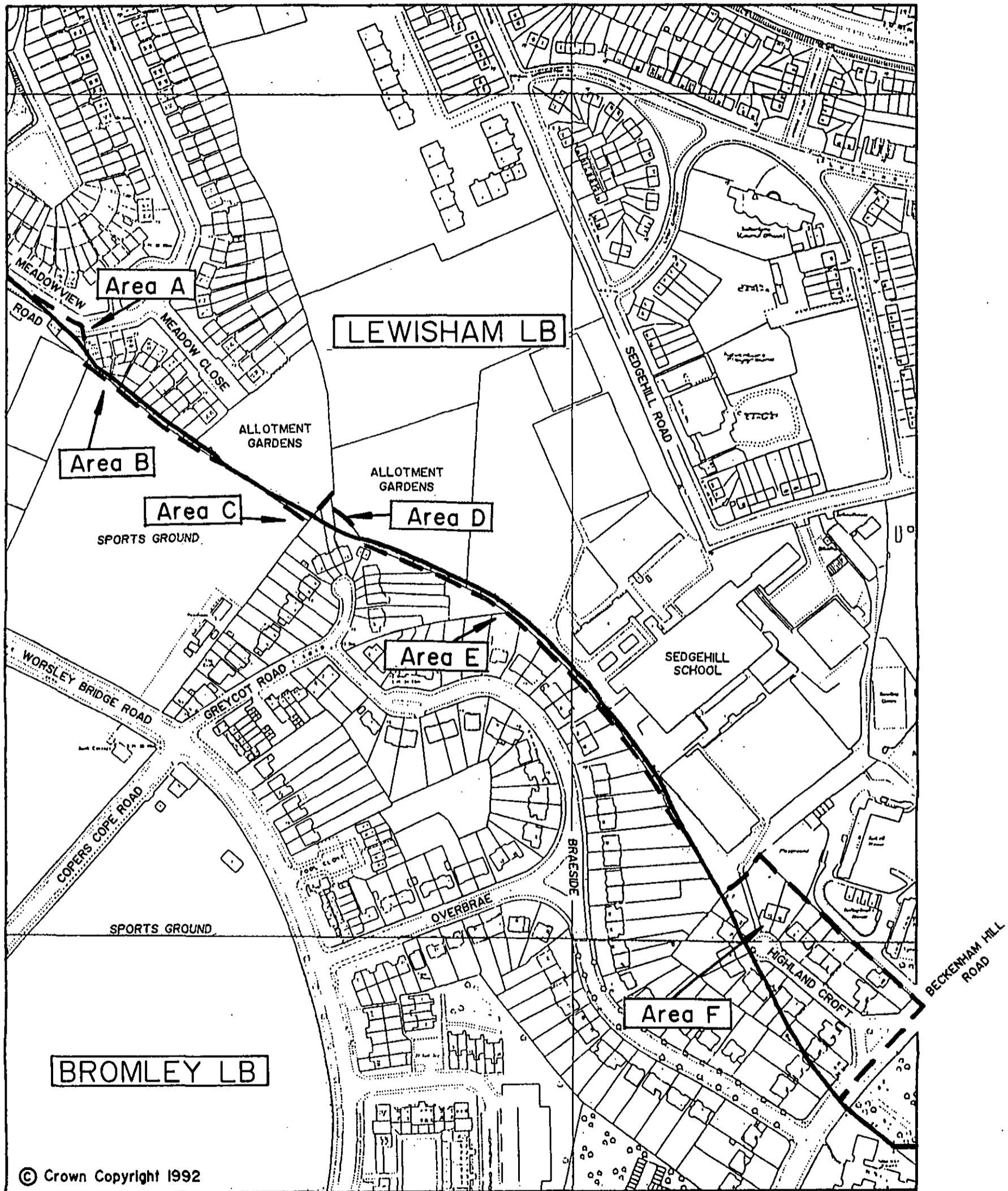
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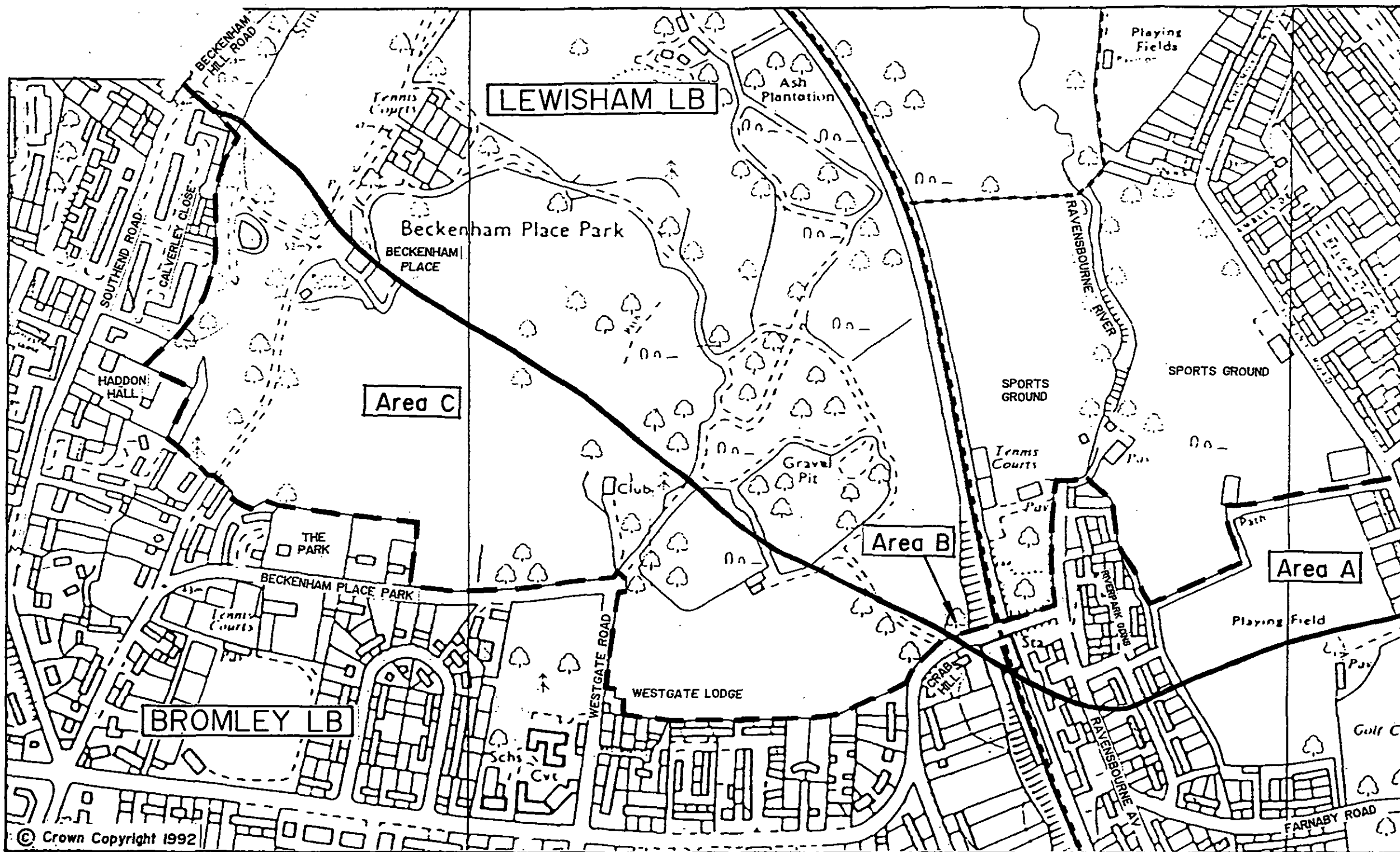
ALEXANDRA
RECREATION GROUND
*Alexandra
Recreation Ground*

BROMLEY LB

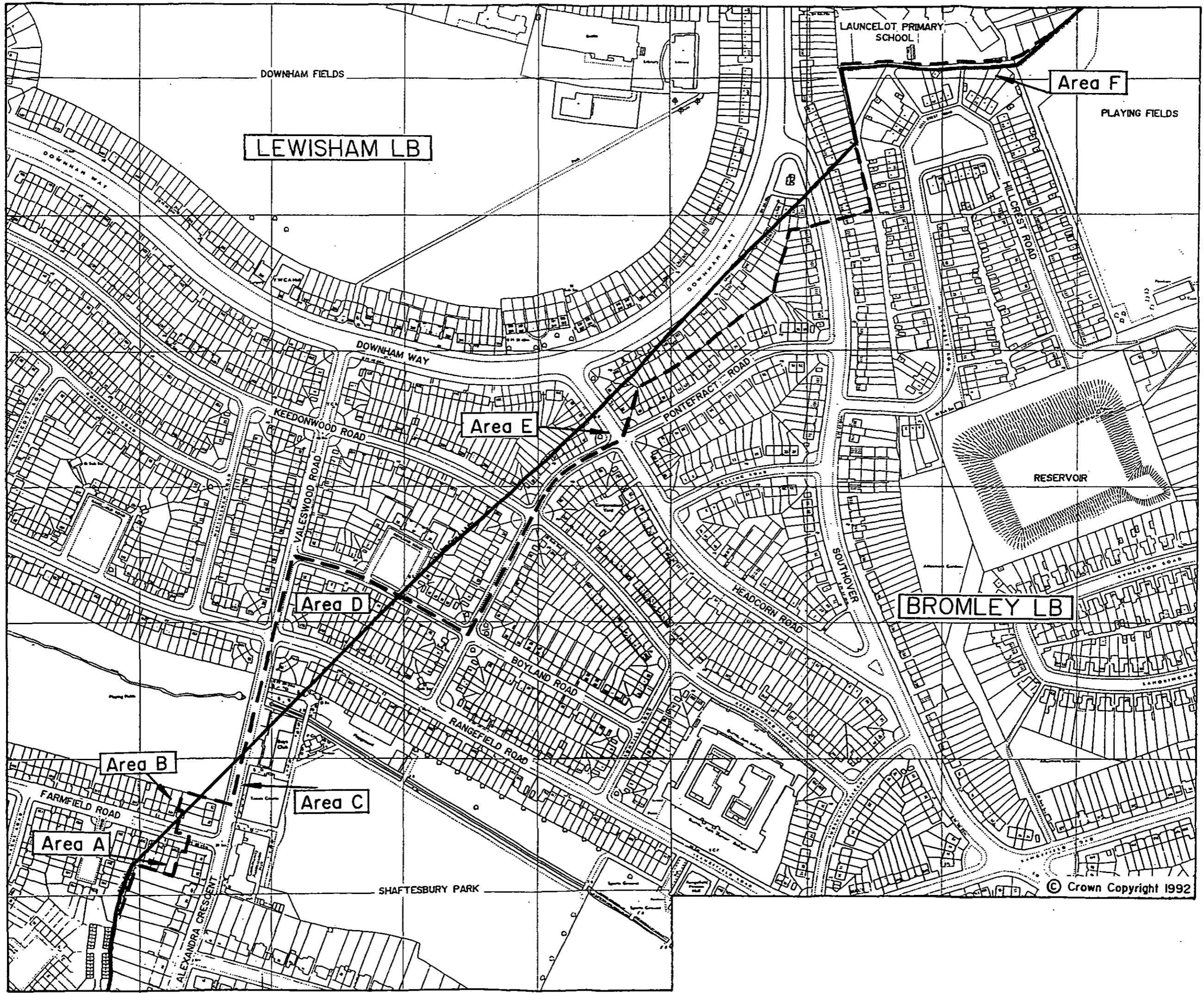
Map 1

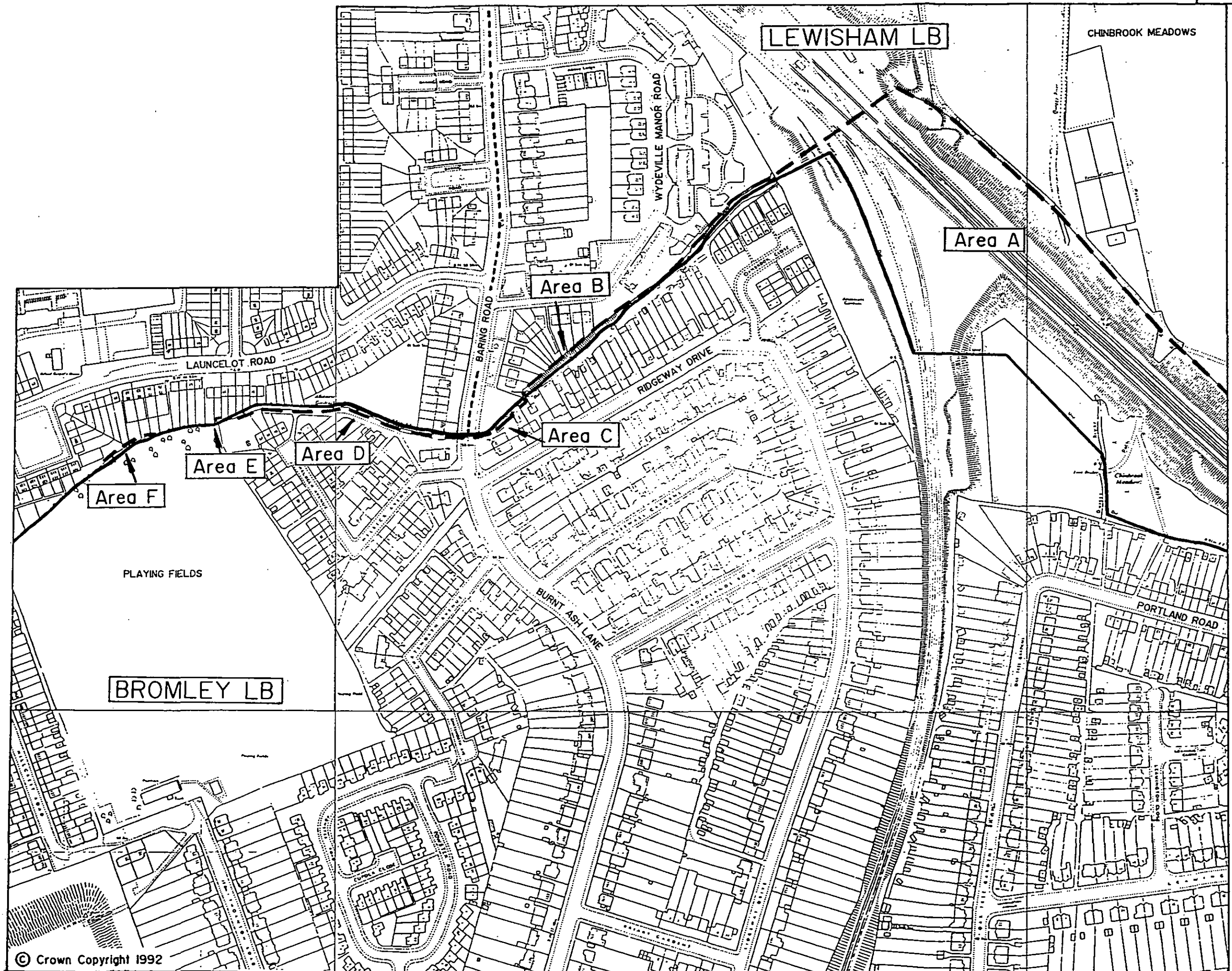


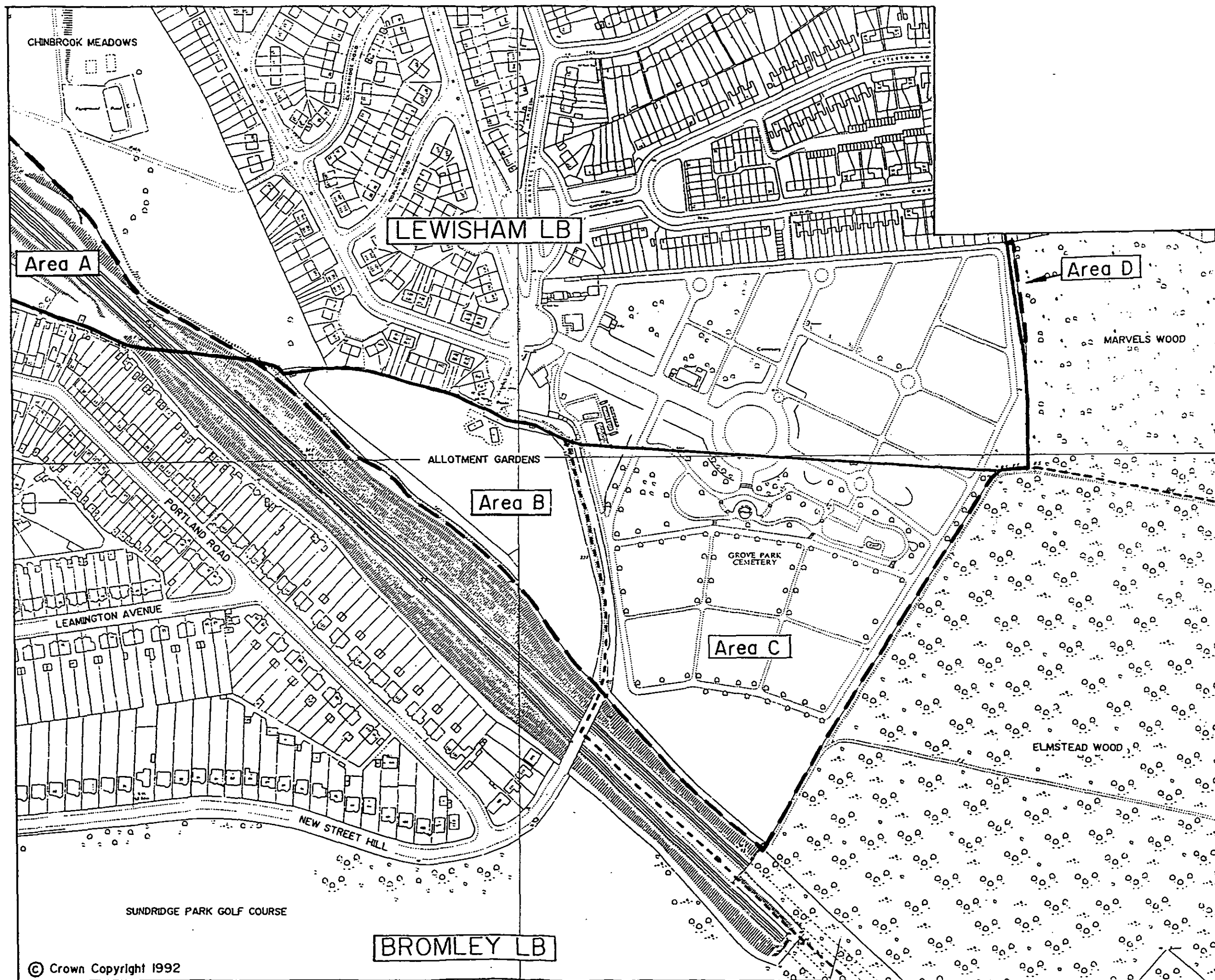


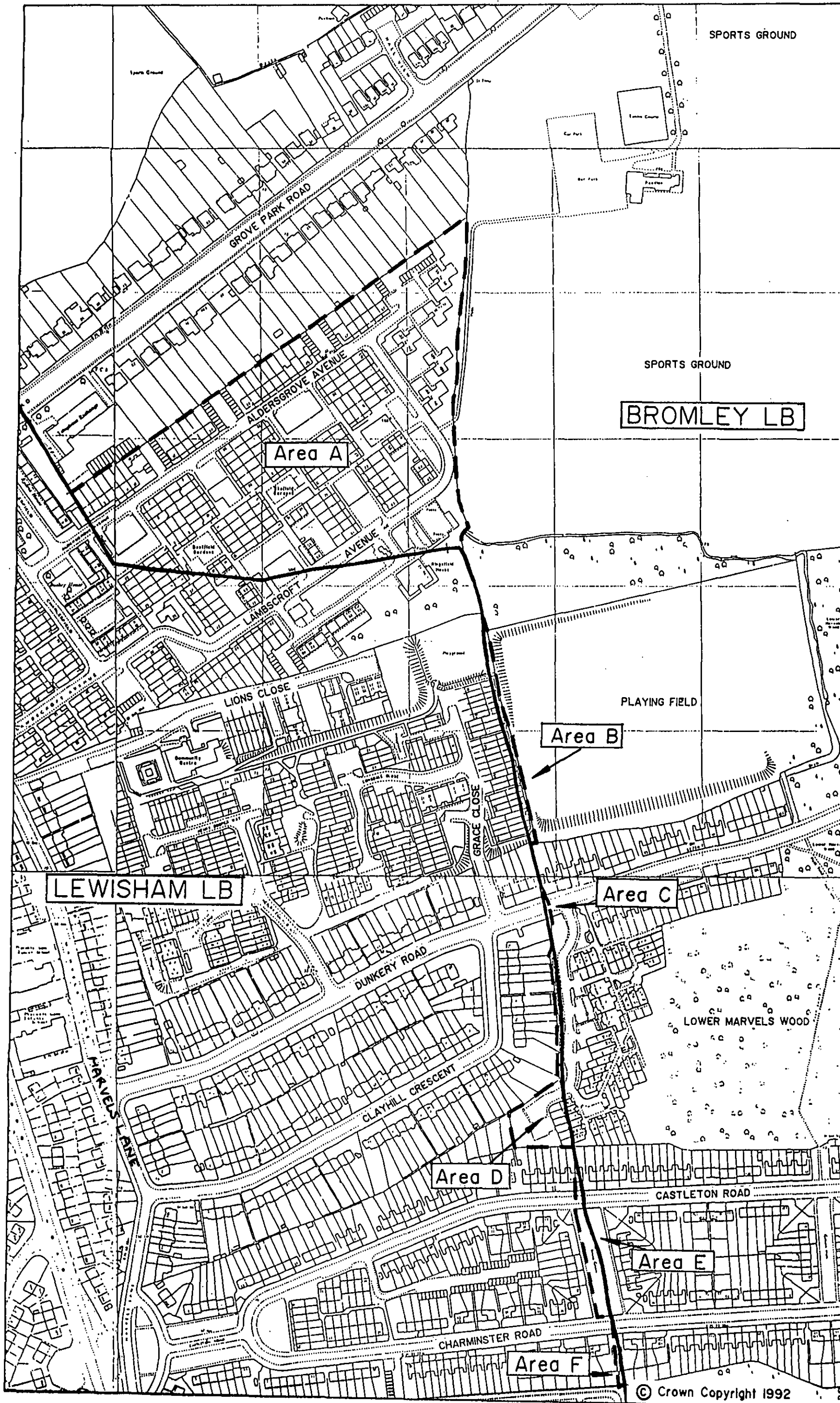




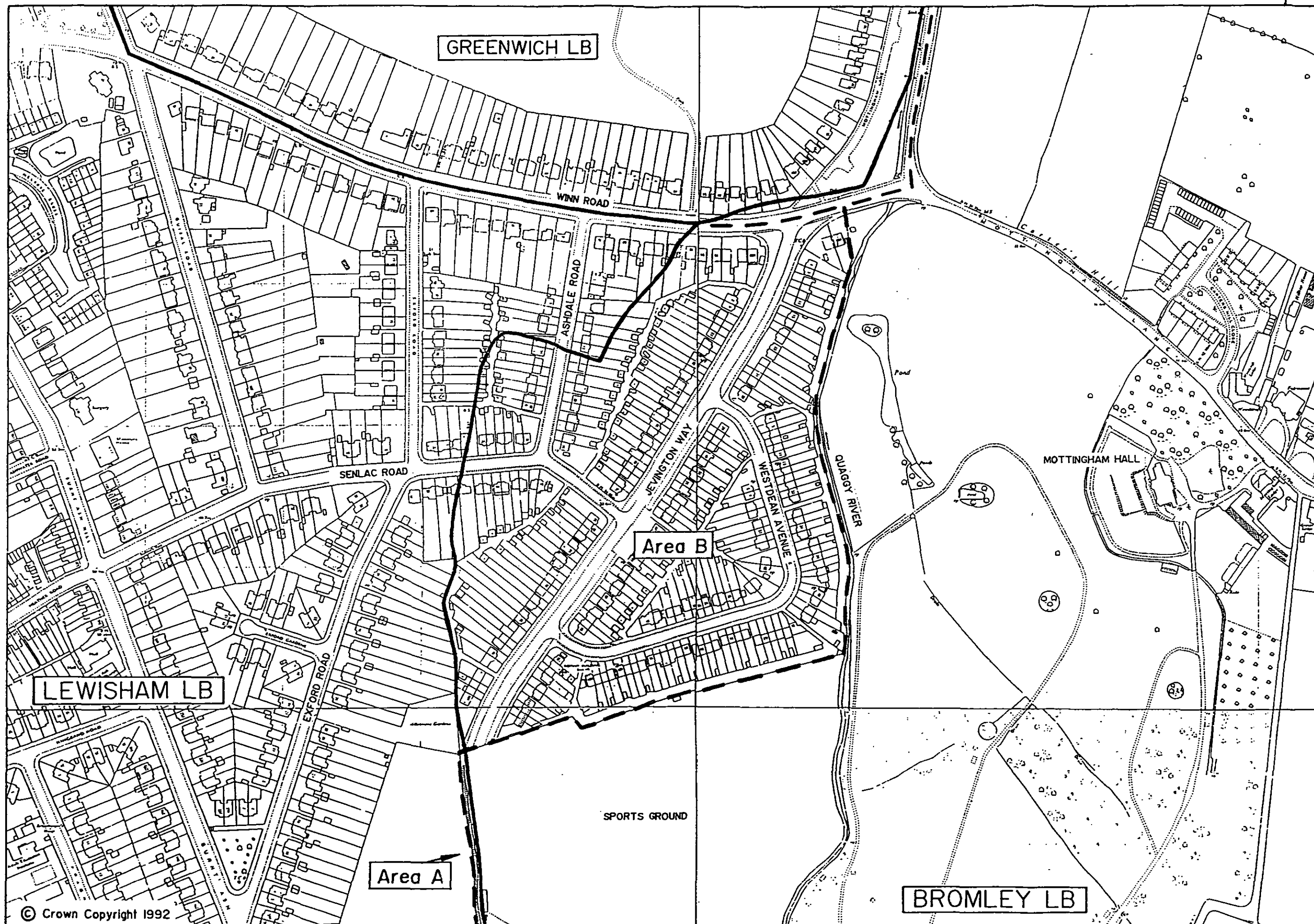












CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES							
MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO	MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO
1	A F G	Lewisham LB Sydenham East Ward	Bromley LB Lawrie Park and Kent House Ward	3	A	Lewisham LB Downham Ward	Bromley LB Martins Hill and Town Ward
	B C D E	Bromley LB Lawrie Park and Kent House Ward	Lewisham LB Sydenham East Ward		B	Lewisham LB Bellingham Ward	Bromley LB Copers Cope Ward
2a	A C	Bromley LB Lawrie Park and Kent House Ward	Lewisham LB Sydenham East Ward		C	Bromley LB Copers Cope Ward	Lewisham LB Bellingham Ward
	B	Lewisham LB Sydenham East Ward	Bromley LB Lawrie Park and Kent House Ward	4	A	Lewisham LB Downham Ward	Bromley LB Martins Hill and Town Ward
	D	Bromley LB Copers Cope Ward	Lewisham LB Bellingham Ward		B D	Lewisham LB Downham Ward	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward
	E F	Lewisham LB Bellingham Ward	Bromley LB Copers Cope Ward		C E	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward	Lewisham LB Downham Ward
2b	A D F	Lewisham LB Bellingham Ward	Bromley LB Copers Cope Ward	5	A C E	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward	Lewisham LB Downham Ward
	B C E	Bromley LB Copers Cope Ward	Lewisham LB Bellingham Ward		B D F	Lewisham LB Downham Ward	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES							
MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO	MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO
6a	A B	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward	8a	A	Lewisham LB St Mildred Ward	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward
	C	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward		B E	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward
	E F	Lewisham LB Downham Ward	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward		C D	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward
	D	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward	Lewisham LB Downham Ward	8b	A	Lewisham LB St Mildred Ward	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward
6b	A	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward		B	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward	Lewisham LB St Mildred Ward
	B	Bromley LB Plaistow and Sundridge Ward	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward				
	C	Bromley LB Chislehurst Ward	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward				
	D	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward				
7	A B C	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward				
	D E F	Lewisham LB Grove Park Ward	Bromley LB Mottingham Ward				

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

Boundary between Bromley and Lewisham

Venner Road to Tannsfield Road	Realignment along the centres of Venner Road Tredown Road, Newlands Park and Tannsfield Road.	Paragraphs 16-17 Map 1
Tannsfield Road to Kent House Road	Realignment to unite Knighton Park Road, Broseley Grove and Albemarle Lodge in Lewisham.	Paragraphs 21-22 Map 1
Bell Green Lane/ Westerley Crescent/ Meadowview Road	Realignment to unite industrial units in Bromley, Lower Sydenham Station in Lewisham and a centre of road alignment in Worsley Bridge Road and Meadowview Road.	Paragraph 26 Map 2a
Meadowview Road to Beckenham Hill Road	Realignment to tie the boundary to firm ground detail and to unite Highland Croft in Bromley.	Paragraphs 30-31 Map 2b
Beckenham Place Park	Realignment to unite the park in Lewisham, but to retain Westgate Lodge in Bromley.	Paragraphs 35-38 Map 3
Riverpark Gardens	Realignment to unite Riverpark Gardens in Bromley.	Paragraph 42 Map 3
Elstree Hill/ Avondale Road	Realignment along the centres of Calmont Road, Hillbrow Road, Bromley Hill and Avondale Road.	Paragraphs 49-56 Map 4
Alexandra Road to Launcelot Road	Realignment along the centres of Valeswood Road, Boyland Road and Pontefract Road and to the rear of properties in Pontefract Road, Southover and Launcelot Road.	Paragraphs 61-65 Maps 5 and 6a

Welbeck Avenue to
Grove Park Cemetery

Realignment to tie the
boundary to firm ground
detail, along the north
east side of the railway
and to unite Grove Park
Cemetery in Lewisham.

Paragraph 70
Maps 6a and 6b

Charminster Road to
Grove Park Road

Realignment to tie the
boundary to firm ground
detail and to unite the
Chinbrook Estate in
Lewisham.

Paragraphs
78-85
Map 7

Grove Park Road to
Winn Road

Realignment to unite
properties in Grove
Park Road in Bromley,
Grove Park Hospital
in Lewisham, to unite
Senlac Road, Ashdale
Road and Winn Road in
Lewisham and to transfer
Jevington Way and
Westdean Avenue to
Lewisham.

Paragraphs
93-103
Maps 8a and 8b