

Key characteristics

- Series of low, rounded hills rising up from the River Lea floodplain to the west, underlain by London Clay
- A managed agricultural landscape with a strong rural character providing an undeveloped skyline and backdrop to the floodplain
- Mixture of small to medium scale arable fields, irregular in pattern, with a strong network of hedgerows and occasional field trees in the north, including mature and veteran oaks
- Blocks of deciduous woodland on hill slopes, such as Coleman's Shaw, providing important landscape features and a wooded backdrop to parts of the valley floor
- Isolated farmsteads on the western slopes, including Hayes Farm housing Lee Valley Park Farm
- Occasional cottages, including Grade II listed Chestnut Cottage
- Some noise from nearby transport corridors to the west, but generally high levels of tranquility
- Strong rural and undeveloped character, although glasshouse developments in the north and a line of pylons cutting across the slopes in the south reduce this locally
- Wide, far reaching views available from the ridgeline between Coleman's Shaw and Clayton Hill across open bodies of water and wetlands within the Lee Valley floor, to the urban edge of Cheshunt

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.166 The area has a rural character with an absence of large scale built development and a strong landscape structure of hedgerows and woodland which contributes to the rural setting of the valley floor. Although subject to intensification, the area retains an irregular field pattern and some mature field trees, and in some areas strips of wild-flower meadows have been sown around field margin to increase biodiversity interest.
- 4.167 Overall this area serves an important role providing a rural wooded backdrop and enclosure to the valley floor and with the exception of the pylon lines crossing the south, an uninterrupted skyline. Open, cross valley views are available from the elevated ridges, providing orientation, with these viewpoints served by well maintained public rights of way.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Strong rural character providing a distinctive setting to the valley floor, including the undeveloped skyline provided by the wooded hillside at Coleman's Shaw
- Mature field oaks, strong structure of hedgerows and pockets of woodland provide important wildlife corridors between the valley floor and the wider landscape
- Locally distinctive and topographic features in the valley, both within and outside the LVRP which contribute to the area's setting
- Vantage points along the ridgetops, allowing for extensive cross-valley views
- Small to medium scale, largely intact field pattern giving the impression of a lightly settled landscape character
- Sense of tranquility and dark night skies, contrasting with the urbanised western setting to the LVRP at Cheshunt

Landscape Strategy

- 4.168 The area should continue to provide a prominent wooded and rural backdrop to this part of the LVRP, providing undeveloped skylines in views from the valley floor and framed and panoramic views out over the floodplain. Its intact field pattern and veteran trees should be conserved and opportunities for the further enhancement of its nature conservation interest sought.

Guidelines

- Conserve the openness of the more elevated locations on the valley sides and retain the wooded skyline
- Conserve and enhance the distinctive wooded character created by the blocks of woodland and intact field boundaries, planting where appropriate and considering opportunities to reinstate the historic parkland character
- Conserve, enhance and perpetuate veteran trees and seek to promote growth of new generations of mature trees
- Conserve the predominantly rural character and role as landscape setting to the valley
- Maintain vantage points where views across farmland into the Lee Valley are available, through appropriate management of woodland where it screens views from these points
- Conserve and enhance the existing hedgerow pattern and strengthen through planting using local species
- Maintain and seek further opportunities to introduce species rich field margins within arable fields as habitat and prevent the further loss of hedgerows
- Conserve the sense of tranquility and absence of development in this area which contrasts with the more industrial western side of the valley
- Conserve the rural undeveloped skyline ensuring any development is below the tree canopy and avoiding development of tall/vertical structures in this location
- Conserve opportunities for recreational access and enhance connections with the valley

LCT H: Terraces With Industrial Legacy Parkland



LCT H: Terraces With Industrial Legacy Parkland



Characteristic skyline of the Olympic Park –temporary planting in the foreground, adjacent to a plot awaiting development

Overview

4.169 This Landscape Character Type occurs in two areas of the Park: the Gunpowder Park (LCA H1) at Waltham Abbey and the Olympic Park (LCA H2). These are large scale areas regenerated from heavily industrialised sites, although in contrast to the smaller scale LCT E Valley Floor With Post Industrial Parks, there are few original built or landscape features remaining from former industrial activities. These are landscapes that have been transformed by large scale remediation work required to decontaminate them, and in the case of the Olympic Park, are still undergoing significant change through ongoing regeneration working within and around them.

Physical Influences

4.170 The character type occurs within different geographic contexts although both extend across the valley floor and its terraces. The main determinant of this landscape type is the transformation and regeneration these areas have undergone following intensive industrial use, to become large areas of publically accessible open parkland. Consistent physical features that occur across the areas despite differing geographical contexts include large scale man-made earthworks and landforms and extensive areas of re-created habitats, including

grasslands and flowering meadows, reed beds, wet woodland and woodland.

Natural Character

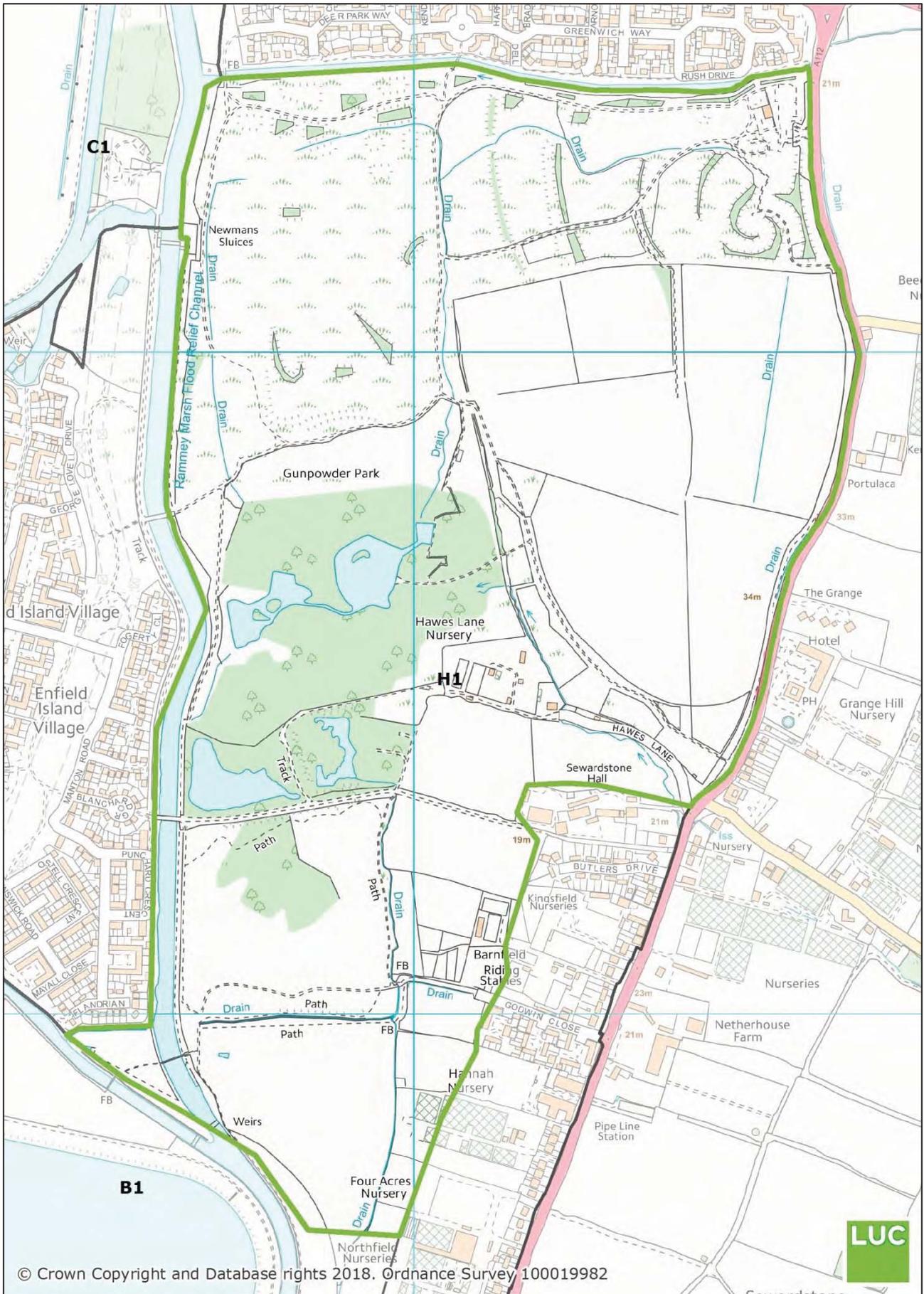
4.171 The mixture of woodland, meadow, plots of land temporarily planted with mixtures of herbaceous plants, and wetland habitats present in these areas are particularly important where they occur within a heavily urbanised context. Within the central valley, parts of the type are designated as a SINC and Country Wildlife Sites (LCA H1).

Cultural Influences

4.172 Although there are very few heritage assets and few standing features remaining from the former industrial uses, these landscapes provide indirect narratives of how the Lee Valley has undergone several phases of transformation. Through a complex period of industrialisation to regeneration for public enjoyment and recreation alongside the re-instatement of semi-natural habitats that were once common throughout the valley.

4.173 Most areas are now publically accessible (although privately owned in the case of the Olympic Park) and are managed as parks with management plans in place to maintain and enhance their habitat value. Paths and trails have been created which provide important links through the valley for visitors to enjoy the landscape.

LCA H1: Gunpowder Park





The Field Station located at the main entrance in the northeast, with a series of sculptural mounds planted with Guelder rose in the foreground



Framed view from the meadows on the elevated slopes over the valley floor



The urban edge is visible to the north, with an incongruous mixture of recent housing development and large scale warehouses



Hides within the enclosed wet woodland carr created on Ossier Marsh

Location and Boundaries

- 4.174 Gunpowder Park is an area of open amenity parkland located towards the centre of the LVRP, almost immediately south of the M25 and Waltham Abbey. The area is broadly defined by the extent of the Gunpowder Park Country Park that lies east of the Rammey Marsh Flood Relief Channel. To the north, the Meridian Village housing development is separated from the Park by the 'Black Ditch' and to the east Sewardstone Road and the edge of Sewardstone Village form the boundary. To the south the area is defined by a channel of the River Lea as it meets the edge of Sewardstone, just north of King George's Reservoir.



Key characteristics

- Parkland comprising 115 hectares of regenerated green space on the site formerly used for large scale munitions production, with parts of the former agricultural landscape still evident in the field pattern in the south
- Occupying a gently sloping valley side, extending from the flat valley floor east and rising to approximately 30m AOD
- Mixture of open meadows and agricultural fields interwoven with coppice blocks and scrub on valley sides and smaller scale, more enclosed mosaic of water-filler gravel pits, reed swamp, wet grasslands and wet woodland within the valley floor
- Few features or remnants of the Royal Ordinance munitions works evident – a landscape shaped by the remediation works rather than the original Ordinance Site established in the 1885 as an extension to the Royal Gunpowder Mills (LCA E1 Royal Gunpowder Mills)
- Crossed by several ditches, including the 'Black ditch' along the north boundary, formally used to transport goods to the ordinance factory from the Lea and one of the few features remaining of the works apart from three pill boxes which also remain in-situ
- Evidence of remedial and decontamination works including distinctive earthwork features (created above capped contaminated areas to allow tree planting) and pools and wetlands created in Ossier Marsh from the removal of contaminated land
- Wide views available from more elevated and open valley sides to the east of the park, extending along the valley to the cityscape of east London in the far distance
- Open rolling farmland forms a rural setting to the east, with low wooded ridgelines in the distance at Epping Forest forming an important skyline in the distance – in contrast with the urban areas visible to the north and west
- Encompassing a wide range of habitats, reflecting a transition from wooded valley sides and grassland to the wetlands and riparian habitats of the valley floor - providing important biodiversity and nature conservation interest
- Designated as a SINC and as part of the Sewardstone and Ossier County Wildlife Site – the wet woodland on Ossier Marsh of particular note as one of the few remaining areas in the Lee Valley
- Constant noise from the M25 audible throughout the area
- Limited visual connection with the waterways of the Rammey Marsh Flood Relief Channel which follows the western boundary due to presence of trees and scrub, although weirs and bridge crossings providing visual interest locally
- Network of paths, cycle paths, trails, and boardwalks within the Park allow access to and exploration of the different areas, with wider links established west to Enfield Island Village, south to Sewardstone and north to Meridian Village



View to the southeast towards the wet woodland of Ossier Marsh and Epping Forest on the skyline beyond

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.175 Gunpowder Park is a diverse landscape, comprising several different areas with different qualities and characteristics, from the elevated, open meadows with distinctive landforms to the intimate and atmospheric wet woodland and small marshes to the south. The area is well maintained and the quality of the landscape is consistent, although the presence of a densely developed housing estate backed by a vast warehouse to the north presents a harsh and incongruous northern edge, close to the main entrance.
- 4.176 There is very little evidence left of the Royal Ordinance munitions works to provide a tangible record of the heritage, with all above ground buildings and infrastructure having been removed when the area was cleared and decontaminated in the 1990s. The decontamination works have however left a number of distinctive features that imply the area's past as an explosives testing site, including the earthworks and pools within Ossier Marsh.
- 4.177 The area is oddly disconnected from the main water channels running through the valley, with the Rammey Marsh Flood Relief Channel being screened in views from within the park by vegetation along the western boundary, despite abutting the park. Whilst there are some connections to the wider landscape and communities immediately adjacent to the Country Park, the area is poorly linked to the larger settlement of Waltham Abbey to the north and the valley landscapes beyond.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Intricate mosaic of wetlands, woodland and grasslands which provide a sense of naturalness, provide visual diversity (a variety of colours and textures and changing seasonal interest), and a setting for recreation and enjoyment of the landscape
- The man-made sculpted landforms, the series of ditches and water features which provide links to the industrial heritage of the landscape and a sense of place
- Contrast of wider, open views from elevated points at the edge of the Park over the valley floor and beyond and the shorter, unfolding views within the lower valley floor framed by small clearings in trees and shrubs
- Mosaic of important habitats that give the valley its distinctive character
- Localised areas of relative wildness with a sense of tranquility, removed from roads and the visual influence of settlement, which provide an environment for flora and fauna as well as an escape from the urbanised parts of the valley to the north and west
- Network of well-maintained footpaths and trails, which provide an important recreational resource for the local and wider communities and connectivity to the wider valley landscapes

- The belts of woodland and mature trees which help to filter views to the adjacent developed areas

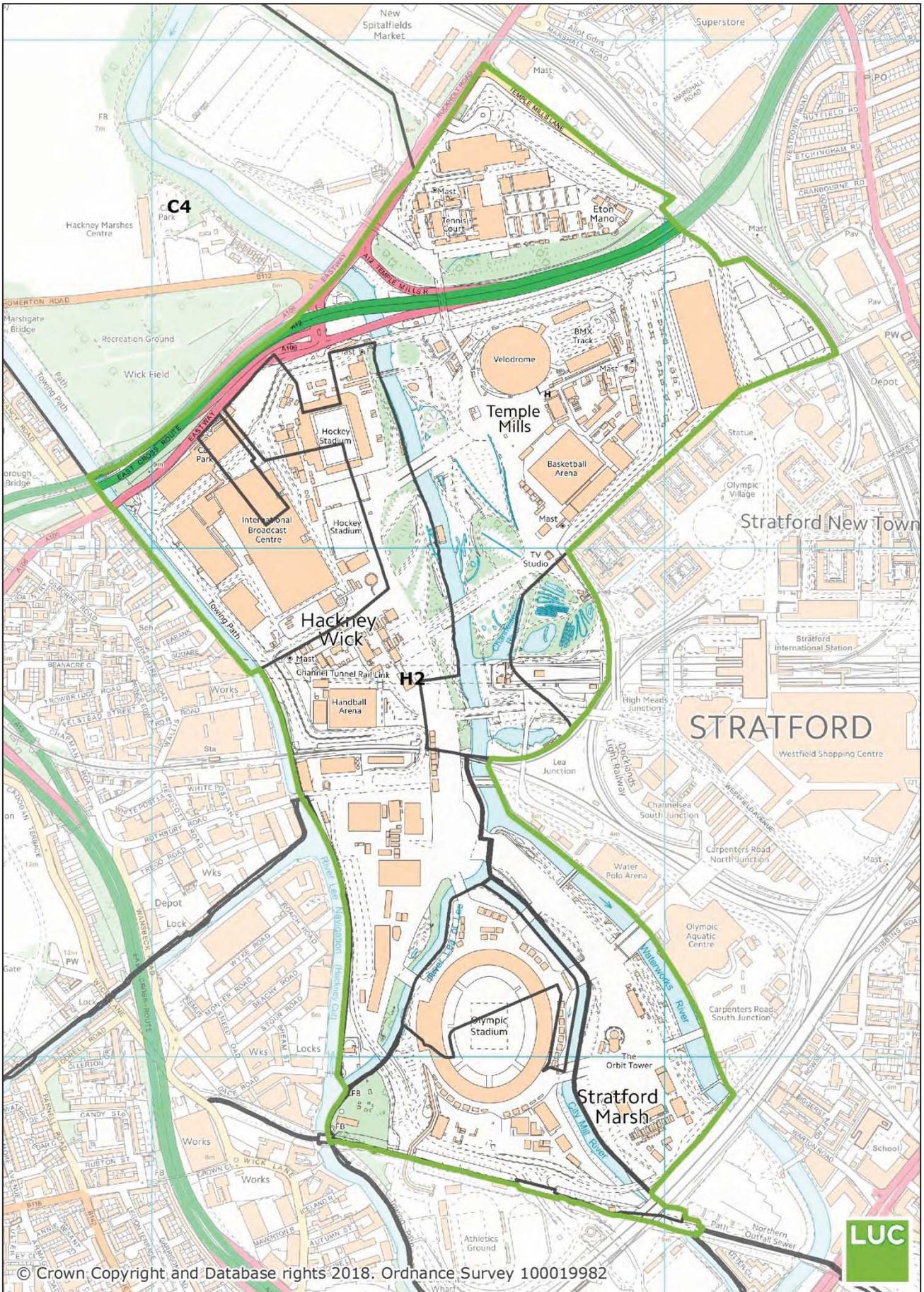
Landscape Strategy

4.178 This character area provides an important landscape resource in terms of its nature conservation value and the opportunities it provides for informal recreation. It is an area with a largely cohesive landscape character, linked to an industrial past, with semi-natural and rural qualities. The focus should be on conserving and enhancing these valued qualities in the long term and ensuring it continues to support a diverse range of flora and fauna as well as opportunities for people to enjoy the valley landscape.

Guidelines

- Continue the positive management of important wetland, woodland and grassland habitats and other features of ecological value, maintaining a balance with the need to provide provision for recreation and enjoyment of the landscape
- Maintain the diversity of high quality spaces and encourage greater integration with the wider landscape, particularly to the west and north, to provide a consistent visitor experience for users of the LVRP
- Look to enhance the interpretation of the area's industrial heritage, such as giving greater prominence to remaining features in the landscape or re-instating lost features and structures if opportunities arise
- Take opportunities to plan for the improved integration of existing urban edges to the north, through screening the built development with typical native species
- Take opportunities to plan for the improvement of connections with Waltham Abbey and the wider LVRP beyond, via the Lee Valley Navigation
- Ensure the integration of any further future development into the landscape to maintain the impression of a largely rural setting to the floodplain landscape, through careful siting and consideration of scale and materials
- Protect the rural setting and open skylines to the east that characterises the area
- Take opportunities to re-integrate the major water channels visually with the park, particularly within the north, through selective clearance of boundary vegetation and the improvement of boundary features such as fences

LCA H2: Olympic Park





The restored River Lea with a wetland basin and surrounding artificial terraced landforms.



Stronger structure of vegetation within the north of the park, with smaller and more intimate spaces.



Plots of land awaiting development have been sown with rich, experimental mixtures of herbaceous plants to provide temporary visual interest and habitats



Large roads and a complex of railway lines cross the area. The former Olympic stadium and the Orbit Tower provide focal points.

Location and Boundaries

4.179 This character area is located within Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the lower Lee Valley, extending between Stratford and Hackney Wick. It includes areas both within the LVRP boundary and areas outside it that clearly form part of the parkland, gardens and green spaces of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The northern boundary is strongly defined by A12 and the Eastway whilst the River Lee Navigation provides the distinction between the Olympic Park and Hackney to the west. The eastern edge is loosely defined by development at the edge of Stratford. The London Greenway forms the southern boundary.



Key characteristics

- A large scale parkland landscape associated with Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park comprising a mixture of formal parkland with extensive hard landscape and ornamental planting, wetlands, permanent and temporary flowering meadows, wildlife gardens and playgrounds
- Pronounced artificial landform stepping down to the River Lea, which forms the focus and central feature of the park, created as part of the large scale remediation and landscaping works for the 2012 Olympic Games
- Range of interlinked recreational areas of differing scales and complexity: a larger scale southern area dominated by hard landscaping intended for events; smaller and more complex parkland in the northern area with a stronger structure of trees, wetlands and planting
- Rich habitat for birds and invertebrates provided by large areas of herbaceous planting, flowering meadows and wetland features created within the re-formed water channels, including wet woodland, ponds and reed beds
- Crossed by a large complex of roads, railway lines which fragment the area, although the railway lines also provide a link to the historic industrial uses of the area
- A landscape shaped by the remediation works and design for the Olympic Park, with very limited time-depth and little sense of the landscape's historic uses, with the exception of a small number of features retained (including a historic iron bridge)
- Strong presence of contemporary architecture and prominent landmarks in and around the park such as at the Arcelor Mittal Orbit Tower and London Stadium in the south
- Prominent Olympic legacy in the form of former event buildings and interactive signage
- Wide views available from bridge crossings and more elevated valley sides, extending along the valley framed by a complex cityscape on either side

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.180 The Olympic Park is a large scale, heavily modified and 'designed' landscape which is continuing to evolve with ongoing large scale development in adjacent areas exerting a strong influence on its character. The distinctive landform and the integration of more semi-natural wetland features provide a sense of place, with the water courses, the series of crossings over the water courses and railway lines, and the London Stadium and ArcelorMittal Orbit tower providing distinctive focal features throughout the park.
- 4.181 The Park has a mixed landscape character, from very large scale, open spaces dominated by hard-landscaping around the London Stadium, to smaller, more intimate and naturalistic spaces in the north, such as around the Tumbling Bay playground. Generally the area comprises high quality spaces, mostly well-integrated with adjacent built development.
- 4.182 Parts of the area are dominated by large roads and a complex of railway lines that crisscross the valley, but most of the parkland is accessible and relatively well connected by footpaths. The southern area of parkland, when not being used for events, can seem empty and bleak, the large areas of hard landscape over-sized, and dominated by the surrounding buildings.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Range of high quality open spaces, planted gardens, meadows and wetland habitats which are particularly important for wildlife within a heavily urbanised context and which also provide diversity and visual interest for visitors
- Facilities and the network of paths through the area, providing opportunities for sports and informal recreation, including natural play areas which provide opportunities for climbing, water and sand play
- Unfolding views of focal features, such as the River Lea, the London Stadium and ArcelorMittal Orbit tower, framed by landforms and avenues of trees contributing to the strong sense of place

Landscape Strategy

- 4.183 This is an area which will continue to evolve and be shaped by the large scale development planned in and around the Park. The sense of openness and sometimes emptiness that characterise the parkland at the moment is likely to change as the parkland becomes more enclosed by large buildings and as increasing numbers of people come to live and work in the area.
- 4.184 The landscape within the Olympic Park should continue to manage the implementation of the Olympic legacy whilst maintaining the high quality parkland character and community engagement. The balance between providing public recreational spaces and enhancing biodiversity should be conserved as a key feature to the parkland. In addition, careful design of new built development at its peripheries and a strong landscape structure of trees and vegetation should be maintained to ensure the spaces within the park do not become secondary to the built development and just spaces in between the buildings.

Guidelines

- Manage wetland habitats and other areas of ecological value and seek to maintain balance between biodiversity and amenity
- Maintain the range of high quality spaces and encourage greater integration with the wider landscape to provide a consistent visitor experience for users of the Regional Park
- Seek to maintain and strengthen the structure of trees, vegetation and wetland features
- Maintain open cross valley views and the sequential views along the valley floor
- Ensure any new development as part of the Olympic Park legacy responds positively to the wider Regional Park

LCT I: Terraces with Woodland and Pasture



LCT I: Terraces with Woodland and Pasture



View along a main path through the former arboretum

Overview

- 4.185 This Landscape Character Type occurs in a single area: the Arboretum, which is located adjacent to Cornmill Meadows to the northeast of Waltham Abbey.
- 4.186 This area, also known as the Tree Park and formerly as 'the Wake Estate', comprises a mixture of parkland dotted with specimen and groups of trees, dense woodland & coppice areas, a visitor car park and open meadows.

Physical Influences

- 4.187 The character type occurs within low-lying terraces of the valley sides and the topography is flat to gently sloping. The area contains large blocks and smaller groups of mixed broadleaf trees separated by glades and areas of more open meadow grassland with some small amenity grassland areas surrounding the parkland.

Natural Character

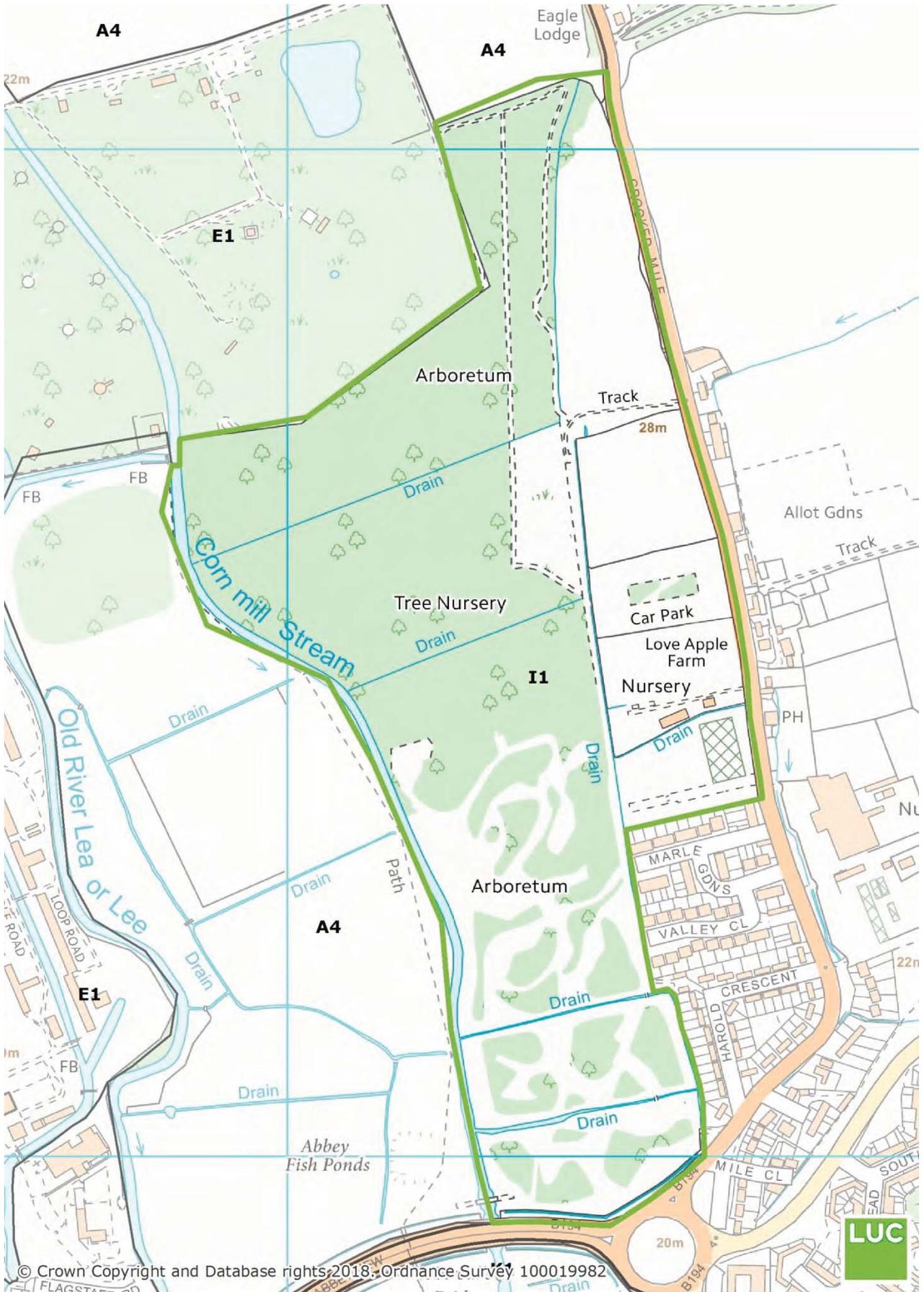
- 4.188 The Arboretum character area lies immediately adjacent to the Cornmill

Stream and Old River Lea SSSI and the mature trees, scrub, small clearing and meadows provides a transition of habitats from wetland to woodland as well as important biodiversity interest in their own right.

Cultural Influences

- 4.189 The area was originally planted in the C20th with specimen trees to be used by the Greater London Council for street and ornamental planting. The area was then further planted by the LVRPA, establishing the blocks of woodland currently on site.
- 4.190 The Greenwich Meridian (Meridian Line) runs through the Arboretum, the line marked out through a wide mown strip created in the open hay meadow. A monolith sculpture by Paula Haughney entitled 'Travel and Discovery' carved from granite recovered from London Bridge was installed at each end of the line within the site in 1994. The Greenwich Meridian Trail (long distance footpath) runs through the site along this line and is clearly waymarked.

LCA I1: Arboretum





Framed view along long linear paths which occur in a number of areas throughout



Views remain short and largely contained with the site – here the view extends along the north western boundary



Cornmill Stream marks the western boundary into the area from the southwest



Small clearings surrounded by semi-mature trees are a characteristic feature

Location and Boundaries

4.191 The Arboretum, otherwise known as the Tree Park, is located on the low-lying eastern valley terraces north of Waltham Abbey, towards the centre of the LVRP. The western boundary is defined by the Cornmill Stream, which separates the area from the site of the Royal Gunpowder Mills (LCA E1). The eastern boundary is defined by the LVRP boundary, which follows the Crooked Mile and the built edge of Waltham Abbey. To the north the extents of the Royal Gunpowder Mill and the open fields within LCA A4 defines the boundary.



Key characteristics

- Very gently sloping, extending from the valley floor with an underlying glacial-fluvial geology and damp alluvial soils gently rising from the north east up to approximately 30m AOD
- A predominantly wooded landscape comprising a wide mixture of species, planted and managed throughout the 20th Century to supply the local authority with tree stock
- Rich habitat for wildlife provided by the complex pattern of woodland and small glades and clearings, which together with the adjacent Cornmill Stream contributes to a rich mosaic of habitats across this part of the valley floor
- Small scale, intimate landscape with views contained by woodland
- Predominantly tranquil landscape, although there is some intrusion from the Crooked Mile along the eastern boundary

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.192 There is a simple but consistent character across the area, with strong rural and semi-natural qualities predominating. Interest and diversity is provided by the mixture of tree and shrub species and the complex pattern of enclosed wooded areas and small glades, with framed views along long linear 'avenues' created through the trees.
- 4.193 The area forms part of the Lee Valley Country Park and there is a good network of paths and trails linking across it to Waltham Abbey to the south and the wider Country Park to the north. There is however no access to the Royal Gunpowder Mills, which restricts connectivity east-west across the valley, although there may be scope in future to connect across this site.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Complex pattern of deciduous and mixed woodland and small grassy glades and clearings which are important for biodiversity, and provide habitat and visual links to woodland to the west (within LCT E1 Royal Gunpowder Mills)
- Access gateway and connectivity between the Waltham Abbey and the Lee Valley Country Park and wider valley
- Tranquility and sense of naturalness and seclusion
- Publicly accessible footpaths linked to Waltham Abbey, particularly through a sequence of woodland and clearings which enable local communities to enjoy the landscape

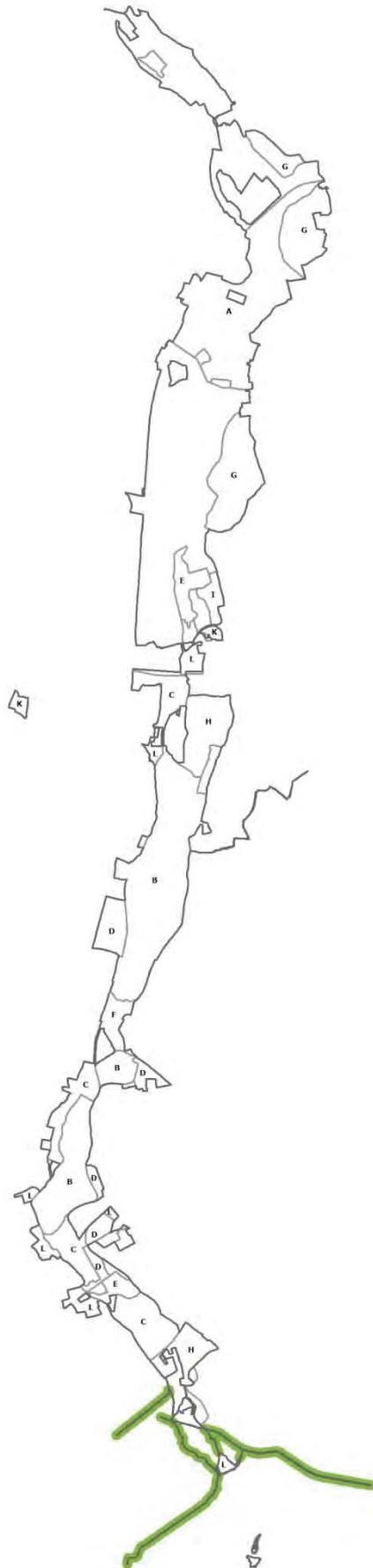
Landscape Strategy

- 4.194 The strategy for the Arboretum should be maintaining the valued qualities of the area, including protecting and enhancing the quality and diversity of the tree stock in the long term, and enhancing connections to the wider Lee Valley, with opportunities for improving recreational links to the west and biodiversity interest to enhance its character.
- 4.195 The area is included within Lee Valley Country Park Management Plan 2014 – 2019, prepared by the LVRPA.

Guidelines

- Conserve the balance of woodland and opening and clearings, to maintain the diversity of habitats as well as the visual and experiential interest it provides
- Conserve the rural character of the area, including features that contribute to this character such as the small glades, ditches, hedgerows and diverse mixture of deciduous trees
- Ensure robust boundary treatment established as part of any future development to the southeast of the area
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity interests and connectivity with the wider Lee Valley
- Continue to promote the area as a gateway to the LVRP and improve connectivity with the communities within Waltham Abbey
- Proposed development within and adjacent to the Parklands should build on and enhance the existing landscape framework and be designed to sensitively integrate with and reflect the intricate pattern and character of the woodland and meadows
- The siting of development within or close to the Parklands should respond to and not undermine the open character and small to medium scale of the landscape - adequate provision for planting should be made to screen or soften views of the development from within the Park

LCT J: Lower River Backwaters



LCT J: Lower River Backwaters



The London Greenway

Overview

- 4.196 This Landscape Character Type is located in the south of the LVRP within the London Boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets. It is characterised by linear routes including canals, footpaths and cycleways running through heavily developed areas and converging at the Olympic Park.

Physical Influences

- 4.197 The linear routes are set within a heavily urbanised and often industrialised context, with their character varying according to the scale and urban grain of adjacent areas. Typically they are flat, although canal lock gates represent localised changes and sudden rises in height. Sequential views to high-rise buildings also contribute to the urban setting of the landscape.

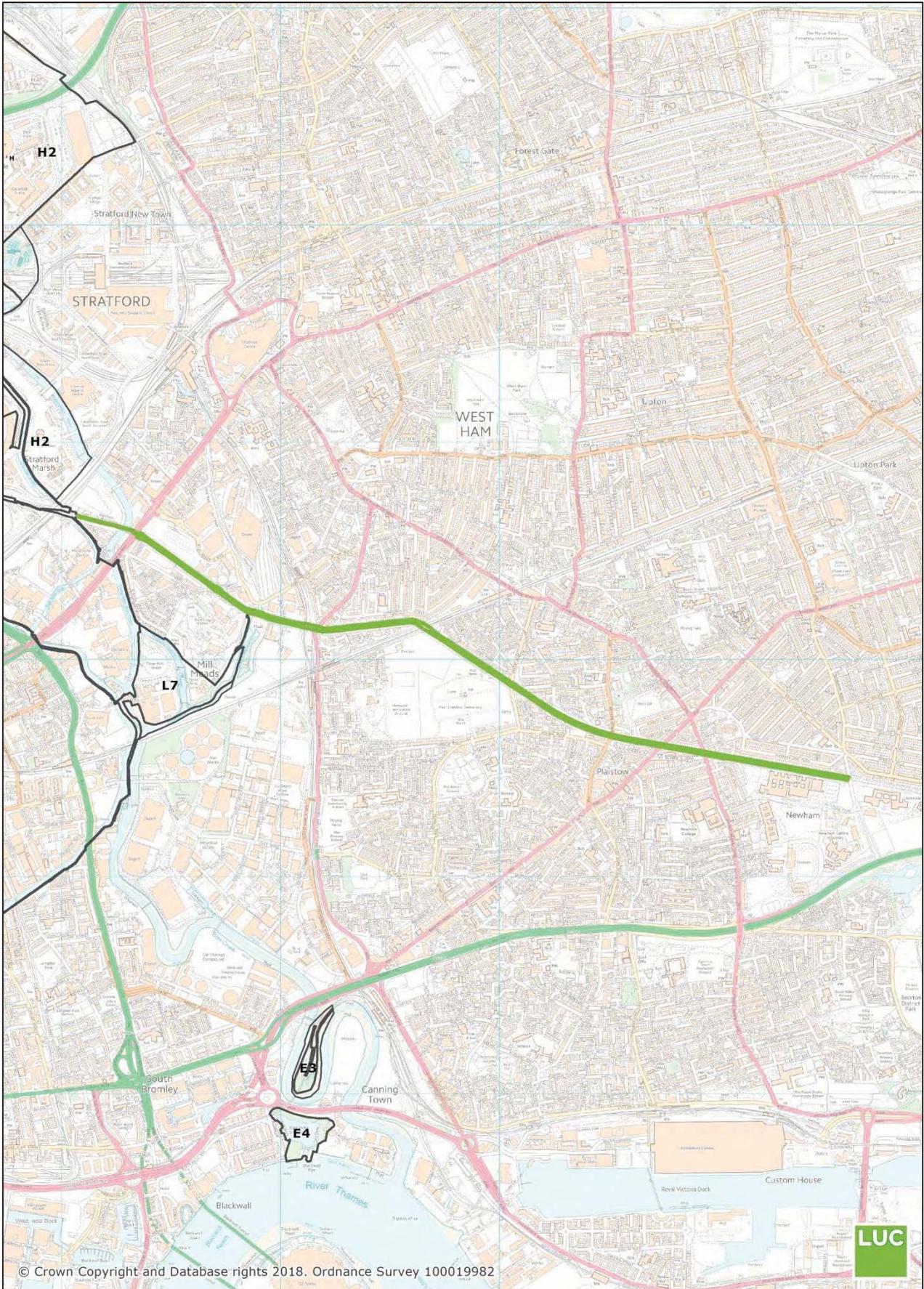
Natural Character

- 4.198 Trees and scrub survive along the fringes of the character type and provide some valuable habitat space in a predominantly urban landscape. The water of the rivers and canals form unifying features and provide connections with the wider landscape including the River Thames. No nature designations are present in the lower river backwaters.

Cultural Influences

- 4.199 A number of historic bridges and lock gates are found regularly along the Hertford Union Canal, River Lee Navigation and the Limehouse Cut. These include Three Colts Bridge and Parnell Road Bridge which are both Grade II* listed and Scheduled Monuments. The Grade II listed Top Lock is also located along the Hertford Union Canal.
- 4.200 Limehouse Cut is also designated as a Conservation Area and includes several buildings beyond the LVRP boundary.

LCA J1: London Greenway





Distinct signage and street furniture around the Olympic Park provide clear gateways into the London Greenway.



Wide, industrial bridges lack visual interest and distinctiveness.



Wide footpaths fringed by short grass with scrubby tree planting buffering residential properties adjacent.



The elevated position predominantly overlooks residential properties and allows long distance views to city skyline.

Location and Boundaries

4.201 The London Greenway comprises a permitted footpath and cycleway built on embankment over the Northern Outfall Sewer; it connects Stratford to Beckton. It forms part of the Jubilee Greenway Network, completed in 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Games. This section lies within the London Borough of Newham and extends from the Olympic Park eastwards to Beckton.

LCA J1: London Greenway



Key characteristics

- A wide, flat pedestrian and cycle path with short grass margins running along a raised embankment through a heavily developed urban setting
- Character determined by influences from adjacent areas, including industrial areas, residential gardens and scrubby vegetation as well as concrete bridges fitted with green metal railings
- Gateway signage and street furniture made from old sewage pipes and timber salvaged from riverbanks form clear locating features and focal points along the Greenway
- Views mostly limited to back gardens of adjoining residential properties although scrubby vegetation often opens up to views of local landmarks such as Abbey Mills pumping station
- Glimpsed views to the city skyline and Olympic Park in the west contrast with the indistinct skyline to the east to give a sense of location
- A reoccurring smell of sewerage emitting from breather vents in the surface of the path provide a constant reminder to the sewer below

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.202 The London Greenway forms a continuous linear route, strongly influenced by the urban setting and often with a lack of visual variety and ecological diversity. The gateway signage provides unifying features where the path is severed by a number of roads, but the route otherwise has few features or focal points to provide orientation. The smell of sewerage and presence of graffiti also detracts from the overall quality.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Gateway features providing focal points from along the linear pathway
- Popular pedestrian and cycle link providing connections to the Olympic Park from densely populated residential areas forming an important urban greenway
- Trees and scrub occupying the embankment sides provide valuable local habitat

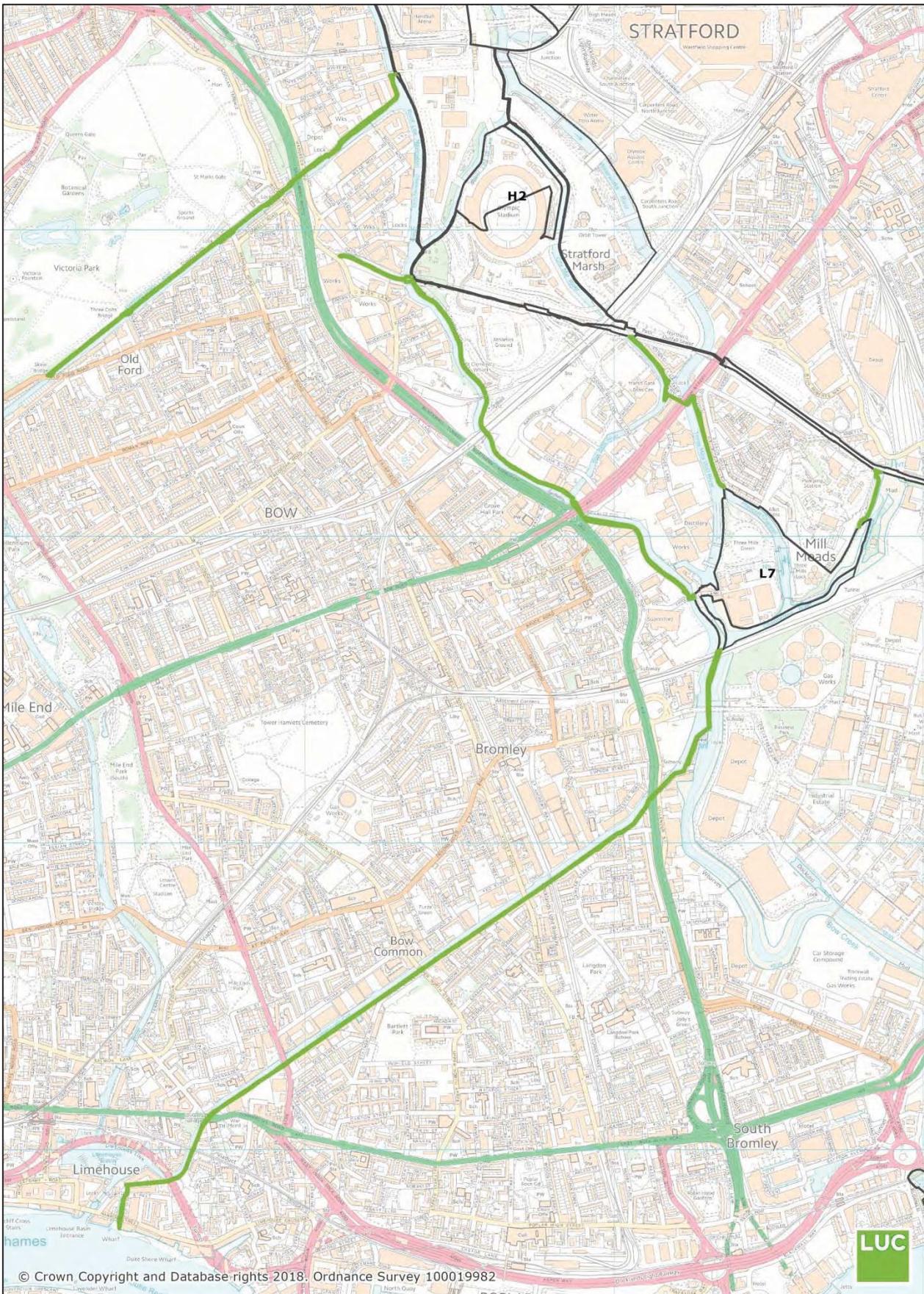
Landscape Strategy

- 4.203 The London Greenway has potential to provide a high value green infrastructure asset. The linear route should be managed and enhanced to create a more appealing experience for users and encourage greater diversity of flora and fauna.

Guidelines

- Manage existing habitats to improve biodiversity and consider further habitat creation along the whole route
- Maintain gateway features and consider using a more coordinated street furniture with lighting, potentially linking with the Olympic Park
- Conserve and enhance existing connectivity to local destinations including Three Mills and consider visual amenity improvements to encourage greater use of the landscape

LCA J2: Lee Navigation, Limehouse Cut and Hertford Union Canal



LCA J2: Lee Navigation, Limehouse Cut and Hertford Union Canal



Varying river frontages including residential gardens and industrial facades.



Overhead road bridges introduce noise and movement into the relative calmness and stillness of the canal.



Moored boats and strong presence of graffiti street art provide colour and activity to the industrial setting.

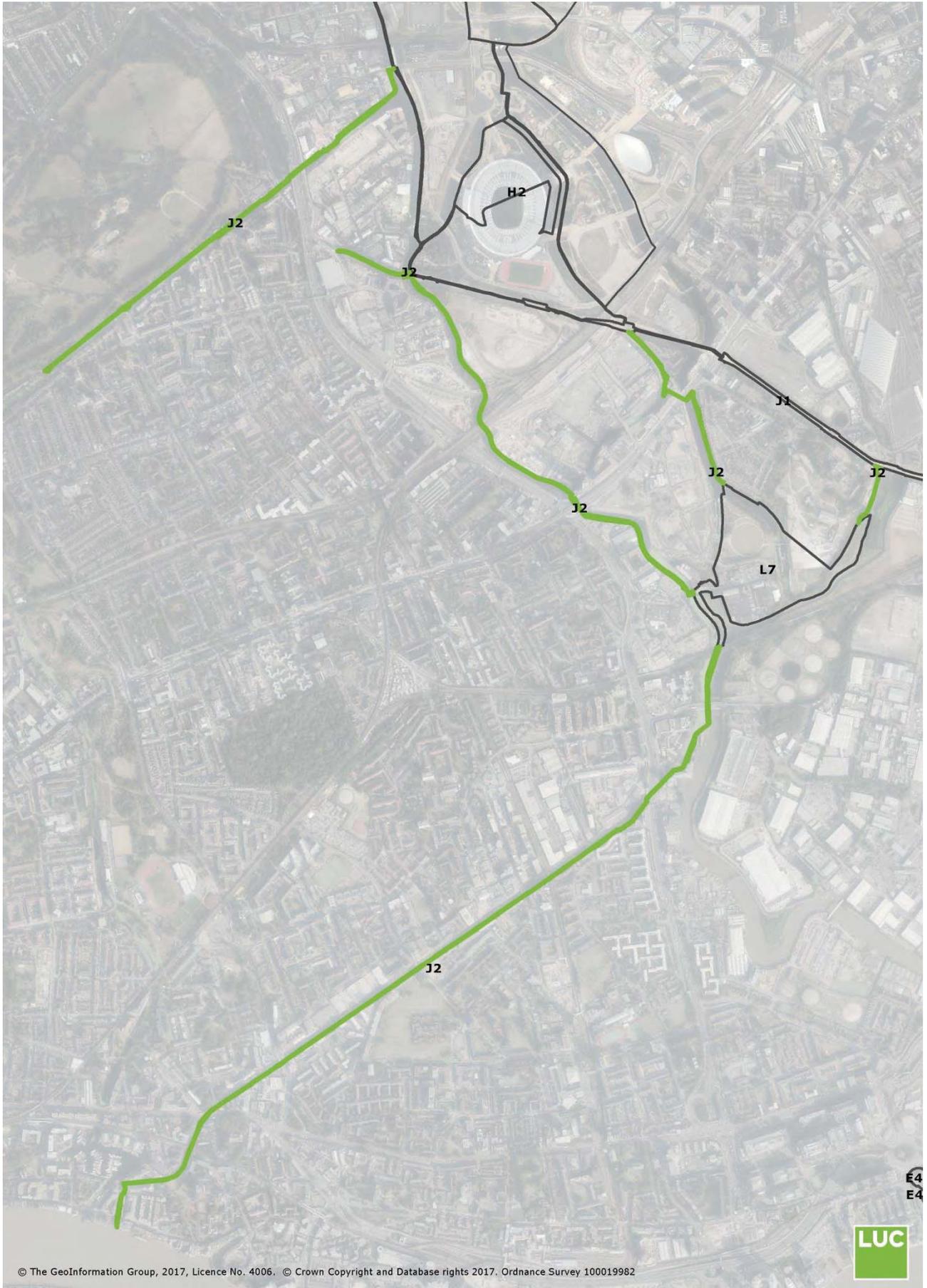


Low bridges over the Hertford Union Canal create confined spaces along the tow path.

Location and Boundaries

4.204 This character area follows the network of waterways that form part of the LVRP in the lower Lee Valley. They include two main 'arms': the section of the Hertford Union Canal that runs south of Victoria Park from the Lee Navigation in Hackney Wick; and the three waterways that converge on Three Mills Island (LCA L6 Three Mills) and join with Limehouse Cut, connecting with Limehouse Basin. It is largely within the LB of Tower Hamlets.

LCA J2: Lee Navigation, Limehouse Cut and Hertford Union Canal



LCA J2: Lee Navigation, Limehouse Cut and Hertford Union Canal

Key characteristics

- The Hertford Union Canal, the Lee Navigation and the Limehouse Cut form a continuous corridor linking the Olympic Park to the Thames at the Limehouse Basin and to Victoria Park
- Historic system of canals, constructed during the late 18th and early 19th Century to provide connections between the Lee Navigation and the Thames avoiding the difficult Bow Back Rivers
- Varying canal widths and waterside frontages with intact locks marking distinct transitions in character from along the towpath
- An abundance of historic features including intricate brick detailing, iron railings and historic cranes and Grade II* listed bridges, falling within Limehouse Cut Conservation Area
- Strongly influenced by overhead roads introducing noise and movement in a relatively calm and tranquil urban landscape
- The proximity of Victoria Park, also a Conservation Area, creates a more open and green setting to the canal
- Popular and busy access route for pedestrians and cyclists with physical and visual connections with the Olympic Park including the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 1 at Hackney Wick.
- Channeled views along the canal to historic bridges and locks

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

4.205 The Lee Navigation includes a great number of intact canal features which portray the industrial heritage of the landscape. The use of stone lining the canalside with intricate brick detailing in bridges and around lock gates form unifying features from along the towpath. Views of the watercourses and the sound of water passing through the lock gates contribute to the strong sense of place.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Intact lock gates providing focal points from along the tow path contribute to the sense of place of the landscape
- Historic associations reflected in the presence of well-preserved canal features such as listed bridges and dockside cranes
- The different types of water frontages providing a variety of visual experiences to users of the canal and towpath
- The towpath provides a popular route for cyclists and pedestrians, allowing easy access and connections to a key parks and open spaces within Tower Hamlets

Landscape Strategy

- 4.206 The Lee Navigation character area should be conserved and enhanced to preserve its heritage importance and historic associations. The present day use of the tow paths serve local communities as recreational corridors, linking to the Olympic Park, Victoria Park and Three Mills. Opportunities should continue to be sought to enhance the experience to the users of the paths.
- 4.207 Between the Olympic Park and the Three Mills, sections of the Lee Navigation form part of the Leaway, a linear park under long term development as part of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park legacy. A *Lea River Park Design Manual* (2017) has been prepared for the Leaway on behalf of the London Legacy Development Corporation and this should form the reference point for any future changes in the area and for adjacent developments.

Guidelines

- Seek opportunities to overcome severances along the waterways and between the waterways and surrounding communities
- Conserve historic features and seek to ensure that any necessary repairs or development are sensitive to their heritage importance
- Improve the safety of access along canal towpaths through better gateway features and signage
- Seek opportunities to improve and enhance the quality of the towpaths and adjacent walkways and strips of greenspace, particularly in respect of materials and additional planting

LCT K: Historic Gardens



LCT K: Historic Gardens



Myddleton House gardens of the Enfield Market Cross

Overview

- 4.208 This Landscape Character Type occurs within two areas: Waltham Abbey Gardens in the north of the Park; and the outlying Myddleton House, which is located just outside the valley.
- 4.209 These are two areas comprising historically important gardens with strong associations with the development of the Lee Valley and the LVRPA.

Physical Influences

- 4.210 The character type occurs within different geographic contexts both within the valley floodplain and within the wider urban peripheries of the valley sides. The main determinant of this landscape type is its historic land use as a garden. There are therefore some consistent but small scale physical features across the character areas despite these differing geological and topographical contexts. Key landscape features include managed lawns and herbaceous borders, mature ornamental trees and water features.

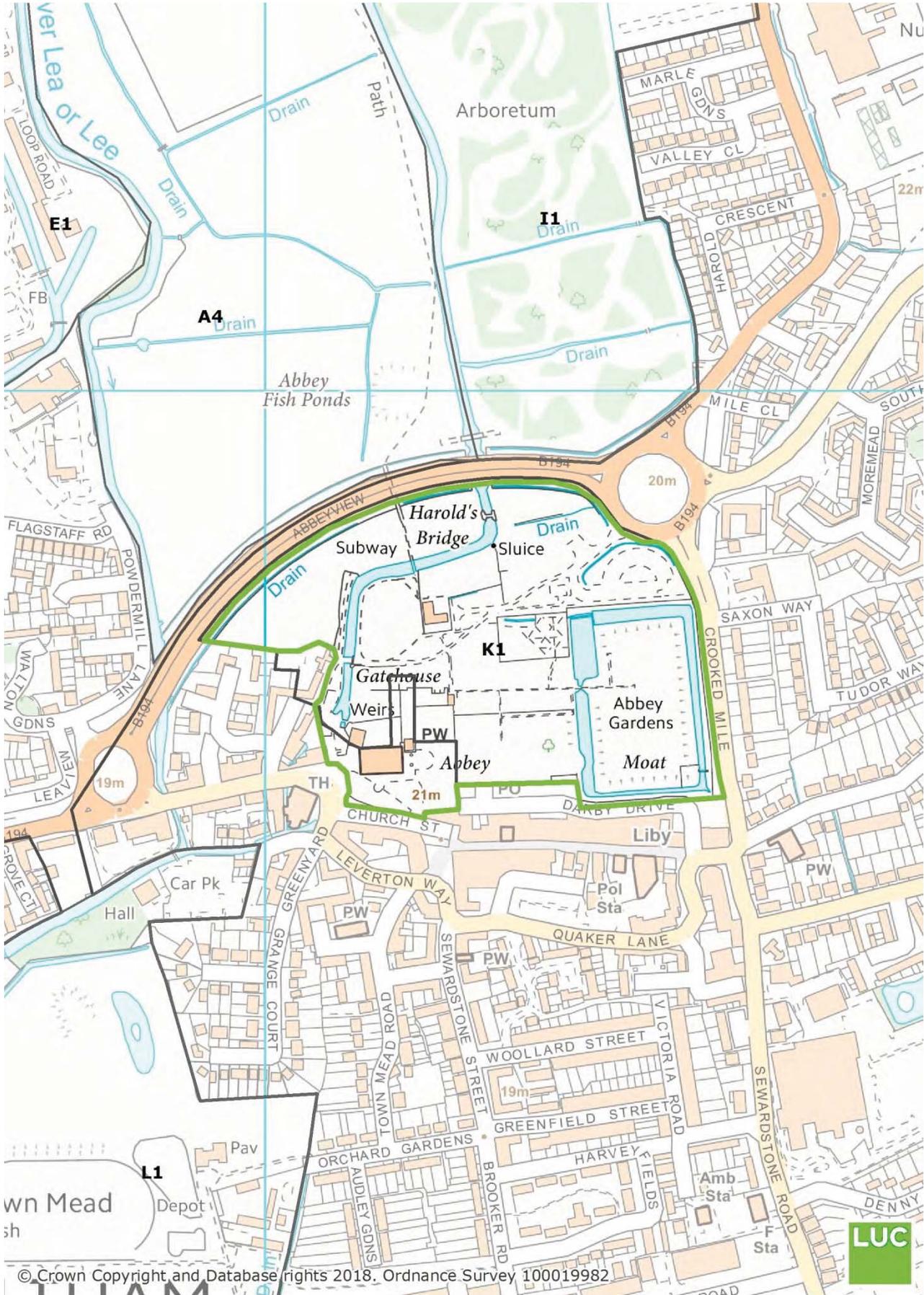
Natural Character

- 4.211 The mature trees and variety of herbaceous plants provide local biodiversity interest with the Abbey Gardens creating an important link between the wider valley floor landscapes through the urban area of Waltham Abbey.

Cultural Influences

- 4.212 The gardens have origins ranging from medieval monastic gardens to a garden designed for an early 19th Century villa.
- 4.213 They contain and provide the landscape setting to heritage assets of national significance as well as being significant in their own right. This is reflected in the designation of Waltham Abbey Gardens as a Scheduled Monument and Myddleton House Gardens as a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

LCA K1: Waltham Abbey Gardens





Waltham Abbey from the western boundary, with Cornmill Stream in the foreground.



View across the moat into the orchard.



Grade II listed 14th Century arched gateway.



View south across the gardens towards the Abbey.

Location and Boundaries

4.214 Waltham Abbey Gardens is located within the upper Lee Valley, to the north of the M25, London Orbital, immediately adjacent to the Abbey Church of Waltham Holy Cross and St Lawrence. The B194 bounds the area to the north, the Crooked Mile road to the east and development within the town of Waltham Abbey to the south. The area comprises the gardens to the north of the Abbey Church which are designated as part of the Waltham Abbey, including gatehouse and Stoney Bridge Scheduled Monument (which also includes an area in between the Cornmill Stream and River Lea north of the B194).

LCA K1: Waltham Abbey Gardens



Key characteristics

- A small area comprising open amenity grass and gardens, a moated orchard, a visitor centre and car park set at the edge of the town of Waltham Abbey, within the valley floor
- Important habitats provided by the historic walls and water features which include the Cornmill Stream which flows through the northwest, and the moat, believed to be of medieval origin, which is seasonally inundated by ground water
- Habitat interest also provided by mature trees and the more diverse areas of grassland that are managed as meadow, such as within the orchard
- Complex and richly layered history associated with the medieval Abbey and subsequent uses as legible in the landscape
- Views mostly contained within the gardens by the framework of trees, hedges and boundary walls, although the B194 is audible across the area

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.215 The landscape forms part of the historic Augustinian Abbey complex and forms an important landscape setting to the built and buried remains of Waltham Abbey. The importance of the historic aspects of the site is reflected in its designation as a Scheduled Monument and it contains several significant heritage assets including the Grade II listed Gatehouse and several Grade II listed walls.
- 4.216 The area generally has a consistent character, and a strong sense of place. It also offers facilities for access and recreation which are valued by the local and wider communities. The quality and condition of the area as a park and garden is however mixed, with some herbaceous borders and infrastructure such as paths, benches and entrances in poor repair, which detract from the overall character of the area.
- 4.217 The area is also strongly influenced by the presence of the B194 which severs it from the wider valley landscape to the north. The framework of trees and boundary walls do however serve to screen surrounding detracting features from view, including roads and development to the west.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Time-depth and long history of the site as part of the Waltham Abbey Scheduled Monument
- Wildlife and biodiversity interest provided by the mature trees, water features, historic walls and areas of meadow
- Access gateway and connectivity between the urban environment and the wider valley to the north of the B194

Landscape Strategy

- 4.218 Waltham Abbey Gardens is an important place of historic interest and gateway to the Lee Valley. The complex of standing features and remnants from the different periods in the Abbey's history provides a strong sense of place. The focus should be on maintaining the valued qualities of the area, including the historic interest and sense of openness, and enhancing the quality of the space

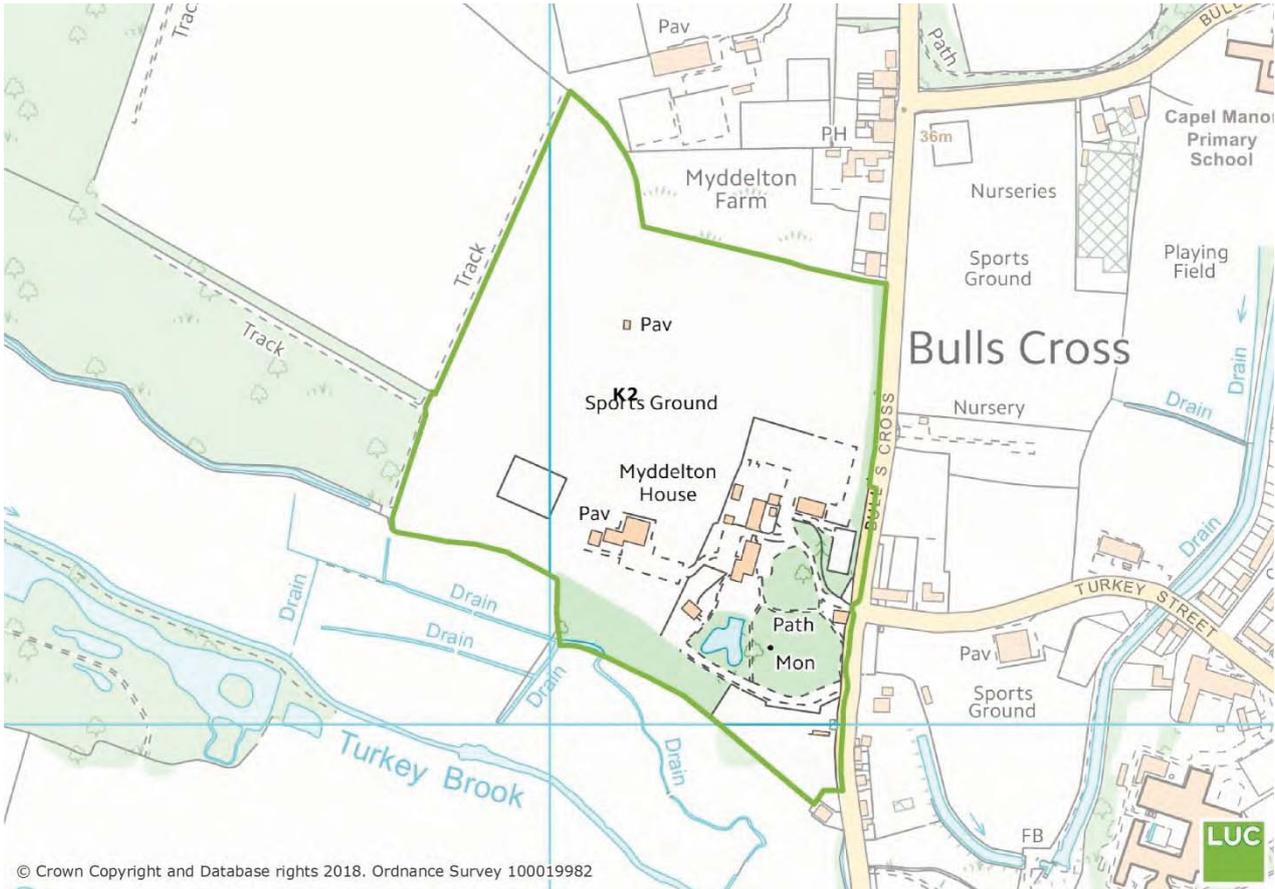
as a public garden. The area could also benefit from increasing the habitat interest across the site, which would also contribute to character.

- 4.219 A management strategy for the gardens is set out in the Waltham Abbey Gardens Management Plan 2012 – 2017 (Updated 2016), prepared by the LVRPA.

Guidelines

- Protect and conserve the considerable heritage assets and archaeological interest of the site which also contribute to the area's distinctive character and sense of place
- Continue positive management of the gardens as set out in the Waltham Abbey Gardens Management Plan
- Conserve and enhance valued recreational facilities and functions, including the fabric and infrastructure of the gardens
- Protect the role of the area as a green space linked to the wider Lee Valley to the north, ensuring new tall/unsympathetic development does not intrude on undeveloped skylines in views north
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and nature conservation interests and connectivity with the Lee Valley
- Continue to promote the area as a gateway to the LVRP and connection with the wider surrounding urban communities

LCA K2: Myddelton House



Location and Boundaries

4.220 Myddelton House Gardens is an isolated character area located approximately 3km west of the LVRP, to the north-east of Enfield Town in Bull's Cross, in the London Borough of Enfield. The area is bounded by the Forty Hall estate to the west and south, Bull's Cross (the A105 road) to the east, and Myddelton Farm to the north. The site comprises the listed Myddelton House and gardens and a series of playing fields to the west, now occupied as the Tottenham Hotspur training academy.



View from main approach towards the Grade II listed Myddleton House



The visitor centre, converted from a Grade II listed stable block



View west across the lake from the ornamental garden



The Enfield Market Cross, located towards the centre of the gardens within the rose garden

Key characteristics

- A small area centred on the Grade II listed Myddleton House (built in 1818 and today used as the LVRPA headquarters) comprising a series of ornamental gardens, lawns, a Grade II listed brick stable block converted into a visitor centre and museum, a car park as well as fields and sports pitches to the west and northwest
- Very gently sloping ground, falling from north to south, with steeper slope in the meadows in the south
- History associated with E A Bowles, the Victorian gardener and plantsman responsible for the detailed design of the planting within the gardens - Surviving layout of paths and structural planting from the mid- 19th Century gardens (pre-dating Bowles' involvement)
- The gardens provide an area of tranquility within an urban context
- Important habitats provided by the 19th Century walls, pond, mature trees and the diverse range of flowering plants and shrubs within the garden area
- Views mostly contained within the gardens by the framework of mature trees, although views are available from the higher ground within the north, extending southwards towards the Forty Hall estate



Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.221 The garden areas were restored as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project in 2011 and are maintained to a high standard. They are contained and secluded, due to the long-standing framework of mature trees and shrubs, and provide many points of historical and horticultural interest.
- 4.222 The area as a whole is however mixed in character, with the fields to the west, north-west and north of the gardens used as sports pitches (forming part of the Tottenham Hotspur training ground) since the late 20th Century. They contain a few remaining mature trees and boundary tree belts to the north and east, but overall the pitch areas are much more open in character with limited vegetation cover. The sports pitches in particular contrast with the scale and intimacy of the area of historic gardens.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- History associated with gardening and E A Bowles in particular, as well as its association with the establishment of the LVRP
- The diversity of plants which provide a range of seasonal interest and links to E A Bowles' legacy
- Wildlife and biodiversity interest provided by the mature trees, water features, historic walls and areas of meadow
- Amenity and recreational value of the sports pitches

Landscape Strategy

- 4.223 The focus should be on maintaining the valued qualities of the area, including the quality and integrity of the historic features and the garden's horticultural interest, as well as enhancing the area's biodiversity, particularly around the margins of the playing fields to the north.

Guidelines

- Continue positive management of the gardens to maintain their historic and horticultural interest
- Conserve and promote the valued visitor facilities and recreation/educational interest of the gardens
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and connectivity to the wider network of green spaces in the local area
- Maintain the character and sense of tranquility of the gardens, and ensure any future modifications or development within the area of sports facilities to the north does not adversely affect these

LCT L: Urban Parks



LCT L: Urban Parks



View across Springfield Park towards the river valley

Overview

- 4.224 The Urban Parks Landscape Character Type is concentrated towards the lower reaches of the Lee Valley, within the London Boroughs of Haringey, Waltham Forest and Hackney, with the exception of Town Mead in Epping Forest District. It is formed by a series of individual urban parks, each managed by the relevant local authority. They are mostly on the edges of the valley and closely related to their surrounding urban communities.
- 4.225 The parks are an important resource and a significant break within the densely populated urban areas adjacent to the valley, and provide a focus and gateway for people to access the wider LVRP.

Physical Influences

- 4.226 The main determinant of this landscape type is its land use as an urban park. As such there are few consistent physical features with individual character areas occurring on the low lying floodplain, the adjacent river terraces and hills overlooking the valley. Key landscape features are the expanses of open

grassland and framework of mature trees that create a strong sense of openness and separation from the surrounding dense urban areas.

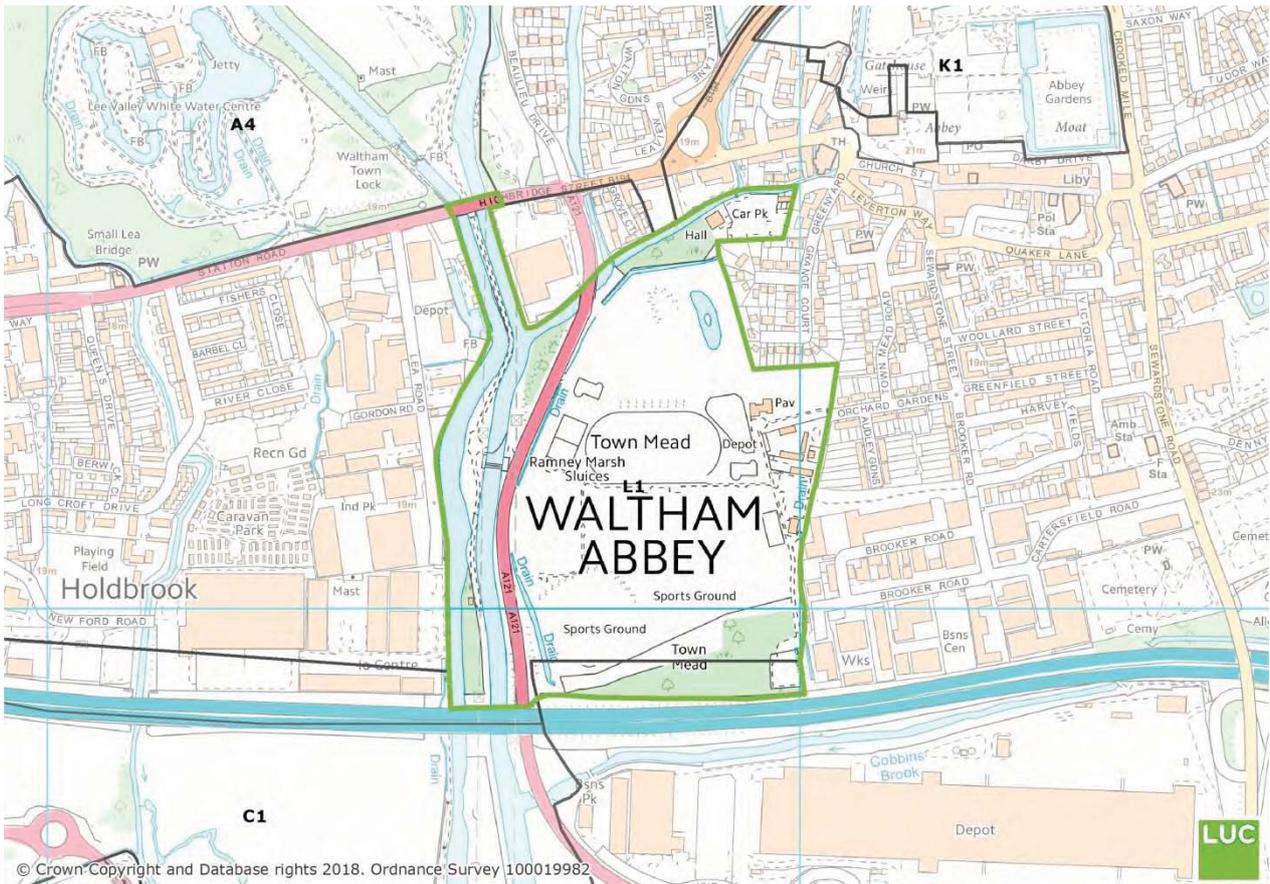
Natural Character

- 4.227 The parks frequently provide local biodiversity interest creating a link between the urban areas and the biodiversity of the LVRP.

Cultural Influences

- 4.228 The parks were created (London County Council) in the late 19th and early 20th century to provide recreation facilities for the rapidly expanding urban population – a function that they continue to perform. Historic origins as Lammas land or gardens of Victorian villas are evident in the character of a number of the parks today, despite modern overlays of facilities.

LCA L1: Town Mead



Location and Boundaries

4.229 Town Mead lies immediately south of the historic core of Waltham Abbey and extends southwards towards the M25. It is defined by the River Lea to the north, the Lee Navigation to the west and the M25 to the south. To the east residential streets and industrial units back onto the park.



View of the entrance from Orchard Gardens.



View north towards the pond and prominent security cameras.



View south towards fenced courts, playground and Town Mead Bar – the M25 is visible on a raised embankment along the length of the southern boundary and large warehouses beyond.



Waltham Abbey forms a landmark in views north.

Key characteristics

- A managed urban parkland landscape, offering recreational opportunities including football pitches, athletics track, a tennis courts, a play area, and a skate park
- Some habitat interest including specimen trees, small areas of trees and scrub along the northern boundary, meadow grassland and a pond
- Physically and visually disconnected from the wider LVRP by large roads (the A121 and M25 London Orbital) and the urban edge of Waltham Abbey, with very limited sense of being within a valley
- The Lee Navigation, fringed with trees, falls within the area but is separated from the park by the A121 – it forms an important corridor for access and wildlife through Waltham Abbey
- Set within a busy and complex urban context – with adjacent residential areas backing onto the park and views south characterised by moving traffic on the M25, elevated on an embankment
- Abbey Church of Waltham Holy Cross and St Lawrence is visible above adjacent housing to the north, forming a distinctive landmark



Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

4.230 Town Mead is severed from the wider valley by major roads which also affect the setting and the perceptual aspects of the park. The A121 is screened by a belt of trees and shrubs along the western boundary, which helps to reduce the road's influence, but the M25 is highly visible and audible along the length of the southern boundary, raised on an embankment and flanked by an insubstantial line of trees. Whilst the area does contain features that provide opportunities for a range of recreational activities, the quality of the fabric of the park and the presentation of the area overall is generally poor. Tall palisade fencing, entrances poorly integrated with the surrounding residential streets and several sets of security cameras mounted on prominent towers all detract from the character of the area.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- The openness and sense of space within an urban context
- Wildlife interest provided by the pond, grassland and trees
- Role as a green space providing a degree of continuity of the LVRP through Waltham Abbey
- Provision of outdoor sports and recreational facilities for the local community

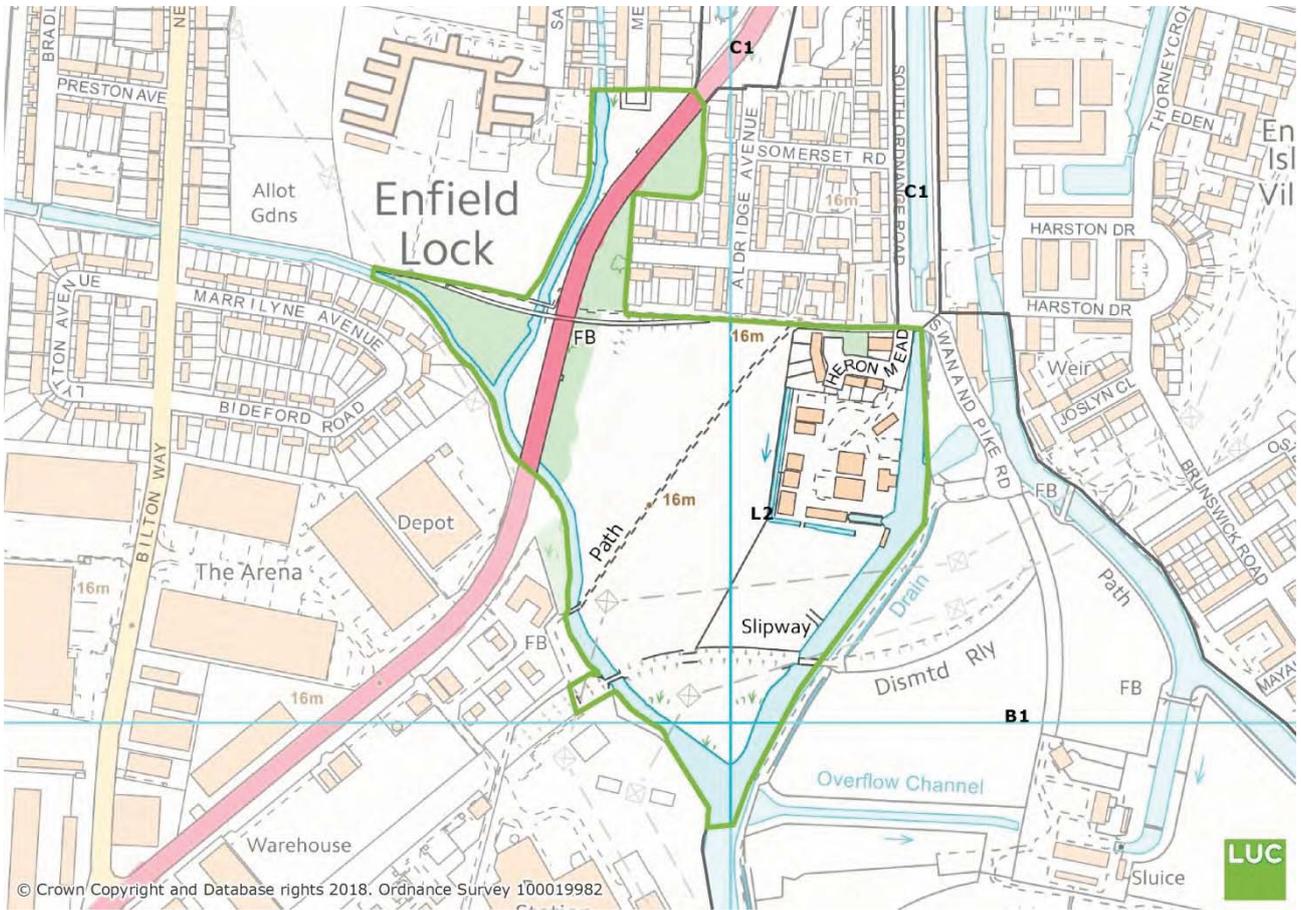
Landscape Strategy

- 4.231 The focus should be on maintaining the valued qualities of the area, including the openness and recreational function of the area whilst enhancing the setting of the park, the quality of its fabric and features and the area's biodiversity interest. The area has the potential to link to the wider Lee Valley to both the north and south, via the River Lee Navigation, if connectivity to the Navigation could be established.

Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance valued recreational and sports facilities and functions
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and connectivity to the wider network of green spaces
- Protect the role of the area as a green open space within Waltham Abbey, ensuring new development does not affect its integrity or further impact on its setting
- Seek opportunities to reduce the influence of the M25 across the area through planting of an adequate tree belt and understory planting along the southern boundary, which would enhance the quality of the area as a space for recreation
- Seek opportunities to enhance the biodiversity interests and habitat connectivity with the wider Lee Valley
- Seek opportunities to provide connectivity to the wider LVRP, creating a gateway to the LVRP via the River Lee Navigation from within Waltham Abbey, that will improve access for the urban community to both the wetland landscapes to the north (LCA A4) and Rammey Marsh (LCA C1) and Gunpowder Park (LCA H1) to the south

LCA L2: Prince of Wales Open Space



LCA L2: Prince of Wales Open Space



View south across a public playground with Enfield Power Station and electricity pylons forming prominent features.



View north towards the residential properties showing pedestrian connections into the area.



View east showing the well-treed boundaries along the Lee Navigation.



View west demonstrating the wooded bunding screening the A1055 beyond.

Location and Boundaries

- 4.232 The Prince of Wales Open Space is located at Enfield Lock and forms much of the extent between King George's Reservoir and Rammey Marsh. The boundaries are defined mostly by the urban edge with residential properties and Prince of Wales Primary School at Enfield to the north and an industrial estate of Brimsdown to the south. The Lee Navigation also provides a well-defined eastern boundary.
- 4.233 The A1055 severs the open space in the west as it runs between the adjacent urban areas.

LCA L2: Prince of Wales Open Space



Key characteristics

- Area of poor cohesion including the fenced areas of open reclaimed marshland.
- Soft landscape of trees and meadows provides the setting for the structures associated with the river and its navigation branch.
- The Turkey Brook and Mollison Avenue are largely concealed by trees and undergrowth.
- Gateway to the marsh and meadows which border the north west edge of King George's Reservoir.
- Collection of buildings of historical interest at Enfield Dock making an important contribution to the conservation area.
- Popular towpath offering views back to the lock framed by mature trees with dockside business and abundance of narrow-boats creating a hive of activity.
- Variety of visual experiences with linear riverside views close to smaller more intimate wooded prospects within the open spaces.
- The pumping station to the north of the King George's Reservoir and pylons interrupt fine views along the Lea Navigation's tree and bush-lined banks to Swan and Pike Wood and towards open fields and trees.
- Geometric blocks of deciduous woodland priority habitat are mostly concentrated around the built edge and along the watercourses.
- Enfield Lock Conservation Area recognises the lively combination of the infrastructure associated with the lock and Lee Navigation as well as the semi-rural views across fields and waterways.

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.235 This area has small pockets of rich heritage associated with Enfield Lock and the Lee Navigation but is greatly influenced by adjoining tall buildings and structures as well as the A1055 which bisects the landscape. The Enfield Power Station is a prominent detractor in views from the playing fields. The influences of modern building styles and materials within the adjoining settlement edge in combination with the unremarkable playground at the centre of the playing fields also impart a poor landscape quality.
- 4.236 The Navigation Tow Path as well as the London Loop traverse the Prince of Wales Open Space and provide recreational connections between the nearby properties and the wider Lee Valley. Linear swathes of trees provide a strong definition to the LCA and a clear separation between the playing fields and the tow path, where intact dock buildings contribute to a rich water frontage.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- A lively combination of infrastructure associated with the lock and Lea Navigation and attractive semi-rural views across fields and waterways and into Swan and Pike Road
- The Canals & Rivers Trust depot site contains a number of 19th century industrial buildings of robust character, which have been retained and successfully combined with newer buildings of sympathetic design as well as the former Lea Conservancy office which provides an important focus on entry to the area
- The west bank of the Lea Navigation contains some surviving riverside industry which acts as a link with the industrial history of the area

- Swan & Pike Pool, the lock approach along the towpath and Swan & Pike Road combine to form an area of attractive contrasts with small enclosed spaces having views out across the meadows
- There are good vantage points for viewing the two waterways at the lock and from the disused railway bridge
- The Conservation area provides an important focus on the Lea Valley Walk and the London Loop, which intersect at this location. The area around the lock and pool is managed as a leisure site and provides opportunities to enjoy the history and wildlife of the area for visitors and residents.

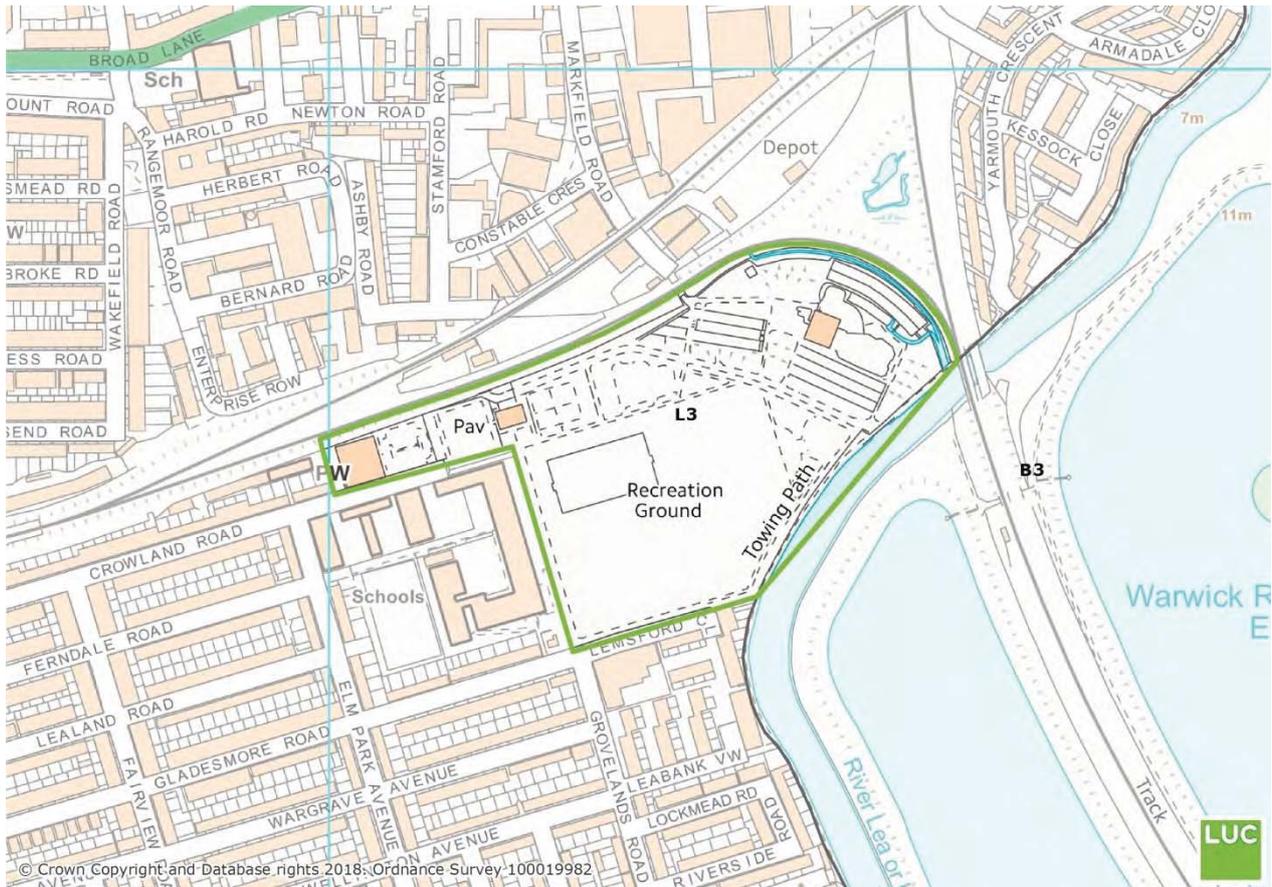
Landscape Strategy

- 4.237 The Prince of Wales Open Space provides a sense of openness in a heavily urbanised setting and opportunities for access and recreation which are locally valued by the surrounding communities. The presence of dockside buildings serves as an important link to the Lee Navigation and an extension of the heritage associated with Enfield Lock.
- 4.238 The focus should be on maintaining the valued qualities of the area, notably the harmony of modern and historic industrial buildings and structures, the buzz of activity along the canal and the wider recreational and ecological connections to the rest of the Lee Valley.

Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the canal infrastructure that contributes to the historic setting to Enfield.
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and connectivity to the wider network of green spaces and Navigation.
- Seek opportunities to diversify the habitats within the park, including diversifying the types of grassland through management and introducing understory shrubs and plants.
- Seek opportunities to enhance recreational facilities and functions.

LCA L3: Markfield Park



Location and Boundaries

4.239 Markfield Park is a small area of urban parkland adjoining the Walthamstow Reservoirs in the southern part of the LVRP within and managed by the London Borough of Haringey. It is a gateway to the main corridor of the lower Lee Valley and forms an element within the surrounding townscape. It is located to the west of the Lee Navigation, which forms its eastern boundary. The Gospel Oak to Barking railway line, raised on an embankment, borders the area to the north and northeast. The boundaries to the south and west are formed by roads and fronted by residential areas.



The entrance to the park towards the Old Pump Station which houses the Beam Engine Museum and the Markfield Project Community Centre



Framed view towards the Lee Navigation



The graffiti walls in the north of the park - the walls and structures of the Victorian Sewage Works still evident



Open playing fields within the south of the park, with surrounding residential streets screened from view by trees

Key characteristics

- Small urban park set with the site of the decommissioned Tottenham Sewage Works, that operated from the mid-18th Century to the 1960s – with facilities in the north, including a children’s play area and café
- Open, flat floodplain, formerly Lammas Land, today comprising a single large open area of grassland framed by mature trees in the south
- Historic use of the area as a Victorian Sewage Works evident in the fabric of the park in the north – area structured by remnants of the former concrete settlement tanks and filter beds, today reused as a series of walled community gardens, graffiti walls and a BMX track
- Major features of the former works also include the original pump houses, one containing the recently restored Beam Pumping Engine (both Grade II listed)
- Habitats provided by the 19th Century walls, pond, mature trees and the range of flowering plants and shrubs within the walled gardens
- Views mostly contained within the park by the framework of mature trees and hedges at the perimeter, with framed views directed along the network of paths, including east towards the Lee Navigation
- Residential edges are generally well integrated by mature tree cover
- River Lee Navigation borders the park to the east and links it to Springfield Park and Walthamstow Marshes to the south and Tottenham Hale and Walthamstow Wetlands to the north



Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.240 Although relatively small in scale, this area has an urban parkland character providing an important sense of space and openness in the context of a densely urbanised townscape. It has a number of features that have been retained in-situ from the Victorian sewage works providing a link to local history and heritage as well as the industrial history of the River Lea to which the park is strongly related. The reuse of the filter beds and settling tanks also provide a varied topography and sense of enclosure within the north.
- 4.241 Overall, it has a varied but coherent character of open grassland framed by mature trees alongside a more enclosed and complex area of gardens and facilities in the north. Views from within the park are generally framed and filtered by the framework of mature trees, with surrounding residential development mostly screened from view. Whilst there is limited natural surveillance, particularly in parts of the northern area, the presence of the café, museum and other facilities in the north means that as a whole it feels safe.
- 4.242 The park offers a range of recreational and play facilities which are well used as well as opportunities for involvement in the community gardens.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- Features linked to the history of the area as a Victorian Sewage Works, including the original pump houses and Beam Engine (Grade II listed) and remains of the filter beds and settling tanks, providing important links to the heritage of the area and a sense of time-depth
- Wildlife and biodiversity interest provided by the mature trees, community gardens, historic walls and areas of meadow
- The openness and sense of space provided by the expanses of open grassland framed by trees that contrast with the adjacent urban environment
- Role as parkland setting and gateway/access to the Lower Lea, including connections to, and experience of, the river and navigation
- Strong landscape structure with avenues of mature London plane trees.
- Range of recreational facilities valued by the local community and which have a role in contributing to community cohesiveness

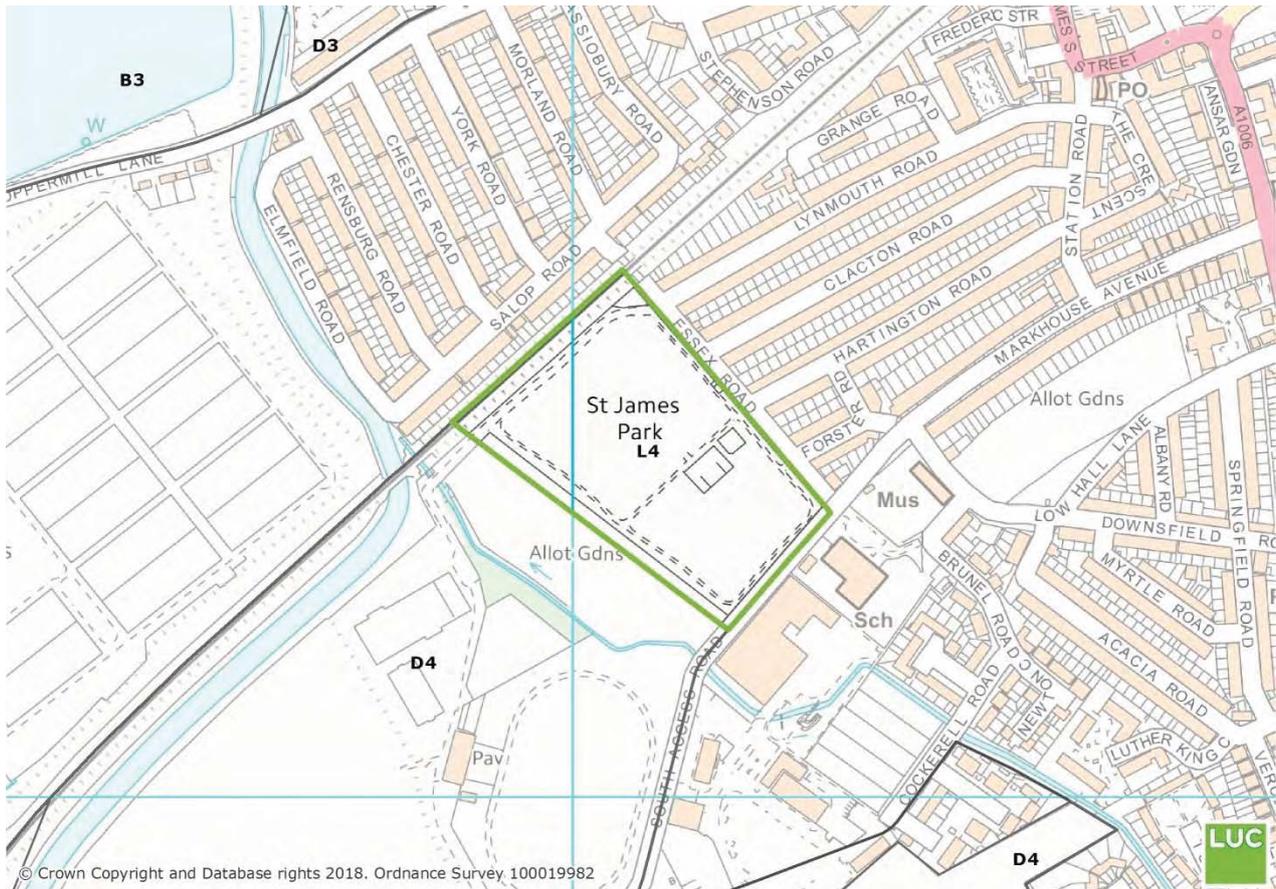
Landscape Strategy

- 4.243 Markfield Park provides a sense of openness in the townscape, and offers facilities for access and recreation which are valued by the local community as well as people accessing the tow path along the River Lee Navigation. The presence of the Engine Room Museum provides an important link to the heritage of the local area and the lower Lea.
- 4.244 The focus should be on maintaining the valued qualities of the area, notably the sense of time-depth and openness, and connections to the Lee Valley, in terms of access and biodiversity.
- 4.245 A strategy for the park is set out in the *Markfield Park Management Plan 2013–2016*, prepared by the London Borough of Haringey.

Guidelines

- Continue positive management of the park to maintain its historic and nature conservation
- Conserve valued visitor facilities
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and connectivity to the wider network of green spaces
- Continue to promote the area as a gateway to the LVRP and connections with the surrounding communities in Tottenham
- Maintain the sense of openness experienced within the park - ensure the framework of mature trees which provide separation from adjacent urban environment are maintained in the long term

LCA L4: St James Park



Location and Boundaries

4.246 St James Park is a small park on the outskirts of Walthamstow, within the southern part of the LVRP, managed by the London Borough of Waltham Forest. It is located to the east of Dagenham Brook, a small tributary of the River Lea which formerly marked the eastern extent of Leyton Marshes. The Chingford to Liverpool Street railway line, raised on an embankment, borders the area to the north. The boundaries to the northeast and west are formed by roads and fronted by residential areas, a school and the E17 Walthamstow Pumphouse Museum, the latter a direct link to the Lee Valley's industrial heritage..



The entrance to the park on Essex Road – the lines of mature lime trees create a prominent boundary feature



View along lane leading to the allotments and Low Hall Sports Ground – the railway embankment in view to the right



View from the northwest towards the residential area facing the park along Essex Road



View across the northern area of open grassland, framed by mature lime trees, towards the children's play area

Key characteristics

- Small urban park set within a flat floodplain with a simple landscape pattern of two large open spaces of grassland framed by lines of mature lime trees, planted in the early 20th Century, and a play area at the centre
- Former farmland associated with Low Hall Manor, a medieval manor which occupied land south of Forest Road and west of Blackhorse and Markhouse Road, enclosed as a public park in 1910 by unemployed workers as part of a local distress relief scheme
- Views mostly filtered by the framework of mature trees and hedges at the perimeter
- Some nature conservation value provided by the mature lime trees and small areas of scrub at the northern peripheries
- Residential edges are generally well integrated by the lines of mature trees
- Detached visually and physically from the wider valley, with allotments and Low Hall Sports Ground to the west containing views and the network of railway lines and flood relief channels severing the area from the wider valley and River Lea



Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.247 Small in scale and simple in pattern, this area has a sense of space and an open parkland character providing an important resource within the adjacent townscape. It is valued as an open green space that has some continuity with the wider Lee Valley through the Low Hall Sports Ground to the west.
- 4.248 It has a coherent and consistent character of open grassland framed by mature trees, although it has limited nature conservation interest because of a lack of diversity of vegetation. There is also very limited connectivity, visually and physically with the wider Lee Valley. A small track provides access to Low Hall Sports Ground to the west, but a series of railway lines and a flood relief channel severs the area from Walthamstow Marshes, severely limiting access to it. There is therefore a sense of the whole area being cut off from the main valley, although there remains the potential for habitat links.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- The openness and sense of space provided by the expanses of open grassland framed by trees that contrast with the adjacent urban environment
- Strong landscape structure with lines of mature lime trees forming a particularly distinctive feature
- Links to the formal rural character of the historic farmland, retained in the landscape structure
- Strong landscape structure with avenues of mature London plane trees
- Informal recreational and play facilities valued by the local community

Landscape Strategy

- 4.249 St James Park provides a sense of openness in the townscape, and offers a resource for informal recreation which is valued by the local community. The long term strategy should be to maintain the valued qualities of the area, notably the sense of openness, and to seek opportunities to re-connect it to the Lee Valley bringing with this improvements to recreational links east-west across the valley and enhanced biodiversity interest.

Guidelines

- Continue positive management of the park to maintain its mature framework of trees and open character experienced within the park
- Conserve valued visitor facilities
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity to the wider network of green spaces to the west
- Seek opportunities to re-connect the area to Walthamstow and Leyton Marshes, to promote the area as a gateway to the LVRP for surrounding communities in Walthamstow
- Seek opportunities to diversify the habitats within the park, including diversifying the types of grassland through management and introducing understory shrubs and plants



View from high point within the park looking east over the river valley and the wooded ridge west of Woodford visible on the skyline



View eastwards from within the park characterised by mature trees

Location and Boundaries

- 4.250 Springfield Park is listed as a Grade II Park on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of historic interest. It is within, and managed by, the London Borough of Hackney. Located on one of the few hills in the borough, the park commands extensive views east over the Walthamstow Marshes and the Lee Valley to the east creating a strong link between the urban environment and the valley. It offers a range of recreational facilities set within the framework of the historic park and is well used by the local community, as well as providing visual and physical connectivity with the wider LVRP.
- 4.251 The park was created from the gardens of three Victorian villas by the London County Council in 1904. Two villas were demolished with Springfield Mansion House and a former lodge remaining as important built features and facilities in the park. It was London's first regionally important Geological Site (RIGS) and designated as a Local Nature Reserve for its unusual geology which tells the story of the erosion and deposition of the River Lea. The sand and gravel river terraces in the upper park are highly permeable creating a distinctive seasonal springline on the slopes, where they meet the impermeable London Clay. It is also an important wildlife haven, designated as Site of Nature Conservation Importance providing a diversity of habitats including woodland, acid grassland and a pond.



Key characteristics

- Distinctive hill forming a striking green backdrop when viewed from the flat valley floor and commanding extensive views over the adjacent valley and marshes to the wooded ridge west of Woodford;
- Geological interest of permeable sand and gravel terraces over London clay giving rise to springs at the junction;
- A managed urban parkland landscape, well used by the local community and offering a variety of valued recreational opportunities including a bowling green, cricket square, tennis courts, trim trail, play areas, band stand etc;
- Grade II Registered Park and Garden Listed - created from the gardens of three Victorian villas by London County Council in 1904.
- Some habitat interest including secondary woodland, acid grassland and a pond;
- Physical and visual connectivity to the LVRP including links along the tow path which is immediately to the east of the Park;
- Urban context – with adjacent residential areas largely screened by trees and views out across the marshlands creating a tangible ‘rural’ context and the hill itself forming a green backdrop and setting in views from the marshes.

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.252 Springfield Park is described in the Management Plan⁷ (2012 – 2017) as “one of Hackney’s finest Green spaces and is listed as Grade II on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest. The park is well loved by the local community and is one of Hackney’s true hidden gems.” The area has a strong historic parkland character and associated mature landscape structure. It is generally in good condition and there are few detractors, with enhancement and restoration currently being taken forward through a Heritage Lottery Funded project.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- The openness, sense of space and extensive uninterrupted views over the marshes of the LVRP;
- The heritage and historic character – Grade II Registered Park and including associated Listed Buildings;
- Geological interest demonstrating geological history of erosion and deposition of the River Lea;
- Wildlife interest providing a diversity of habitats and designated as a Site of Nature Conservation importance;
- Role as green backdrop and setting to the River Lea and adjacent marshlands;
- Access gateway and connectivity between the urban environment and the LVRP;
- Diverse recreational facilities well used and valued by the local community.

Landscape Strategy

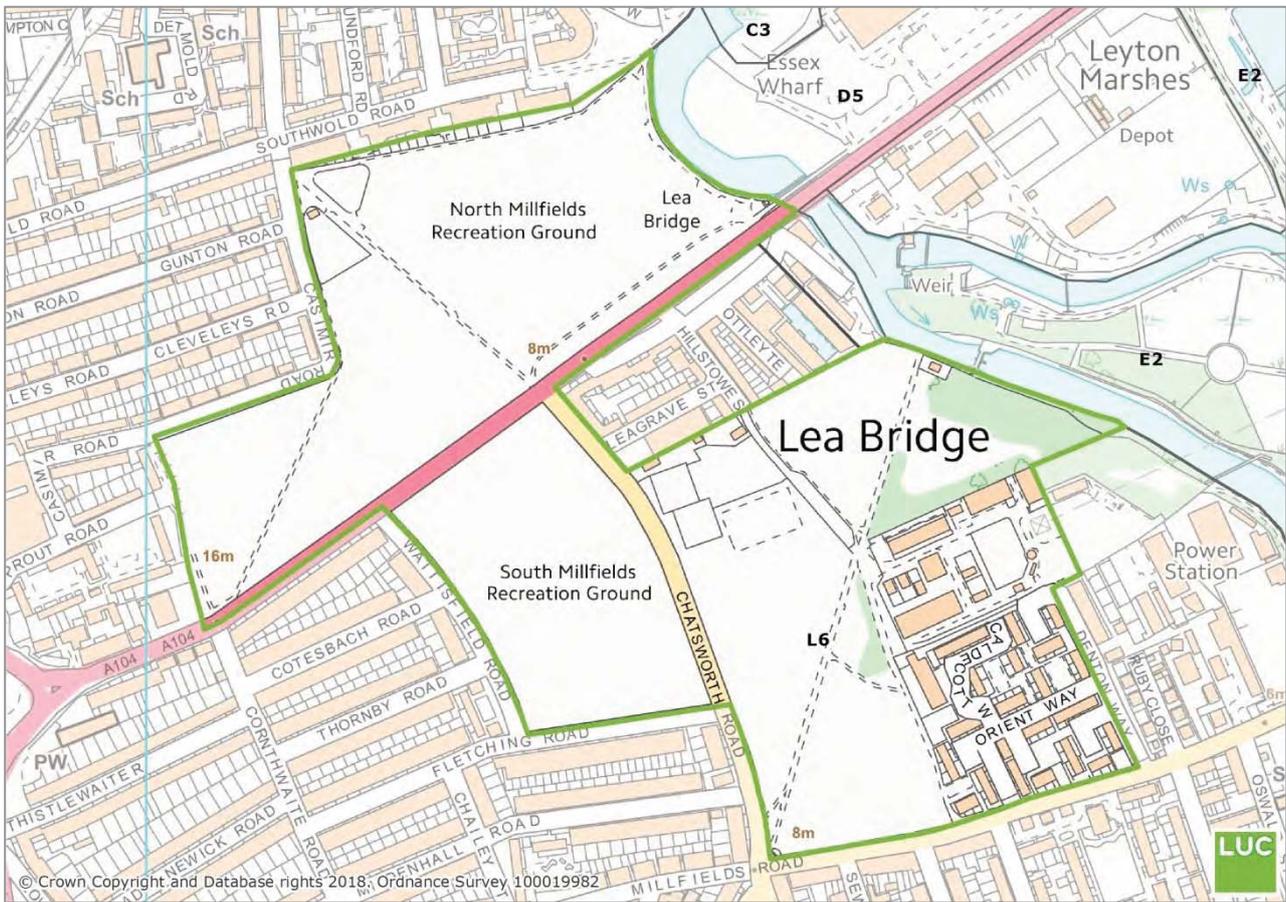
- 4.253 Springfield Park is an important focus and gateway to the Lee Valley for the surrounding urban population of Hackney. The mature parkland provides a sense of space and openness in the townscape, commanding extensive views over the marshes and a distinctive green backdrop in views from the valley. It offers a range of facilities for access, recreation which are valued by the local community.
- 4.254 The focus should be on maintaining the valued qualities of the area, including the sense of openness and historic interest, and enhancing connections to the Lee Valley, with opportunities for improving recreational links and biodiversity interest to enhance its character as an integral part of the LVRP. A strategy for the park is set out in the *Springfield Park Management Plan 2012 – 2017 (Updated 2017)*, prepared by the London Borough of Hackney.

Guidelines

- Continue positive management of the park as set out in the *Management Plan*.
- Conserve and enhance valued recreational facilities and functions.
- Protect the role of the area as a green backdrop and skyline to the Lee Valley, ensuring new tall/unsympathetic development does not punctuate the distinctive skyline in views from the LVRP.
- Maintain the extensive views out over the marshes from the park including the largely undeveloped skylines to the wooded ridge west of Woodford.
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological interests and connectivity with the Lee Valley.
- Continue to promote the area as a gateway to the LVRP providing access to and connection with the wider surrounding urban communities.

⁷ Springfield Park Management Plan, 2012 – 2017, updated January 2017

LCA L6: Millfields Park





View from northwest corner of the park looking east towards Lea Bridge



Mature avenues of trees are a distinctive feature of the park



View of Lee Navigation with sculpture in the foreground



View of the Lee Navigation and new development on the eastern side

Location and Boundaries

- 4.255 Millfields Park is a distinct area of urban parkland in the southern part of the LVRP within and managed by the London Borough of Hackney. It is a formal parkland setting and gateway to the main corridor of the Lower Lee Valley and provides an important feature of the surrounding townscape offering open space and a range of recreation opportunities. It is located at one of the major crossing points of the Lee Navigation (Lea Bridge Road). The park is made up of three large open spaces dissected by the Lea Bridge and Chatsworth Roads framed by avenues of mature London plane trees. The Lee Navigation borders the park to the east and links it to Springfield Park to the north and Hackney Marshes to the south. Other boundaries are formed by roads and fronted by residential areas (Victorian and early Edwardian).
- 4.256 Previously Lammas land (entitling commoners to pasture following harvest), the area has a historic rural character and connection to the Lee valley. It became known as Mill Fields after a corn mill on the river. Today, the extensive flat grassland areas bordered by trees create a strong sense of openness within the urban fabric. The park includes a variety of features including small areas of woodland, a community orchard, sports and play areas providing an important recreational resource for the adjacent urban population.



Key characteristics

- Broad, flat expanse of floodplain, providing a formal urban parkland setting and gateway to the main corridor of the Lower Lee Valley.
- Formerly Lammas land, now with a simple landscape pattern of three large open spaces of grassland framed by avenues of mature London plane trees.
- Lee Navigation borders the park to the east and links it to Springfield Park to the north and Hackney Marshes to the south and the wider LVRP.
- Physically fragmented into three separate areas by the Lea Bridge and Chatsworth Roads.
- Includes small areas of woodland, a community orchard, sports and play areas providing an important recreational resource for the adjacent urban population.
- Residential edges are generally well integrated by mature tree cover with the only detracting intrusion being the Electricity substation in the southern part of the park.

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.257 This area has an urban parkland character providing an important sense of space and openness in the dense residential townscape. It has retained the character of the original field system providing a link to local history and heritage. This is especially strong on the north eastern boundary of the site adjoining the River Lea and Navigation providing views across and experience of the watercourses and their industrial history. Overall, despite being fragmented by roads, it has a coherent and consistent character of expansive areas of grassland framed by mature trees. Traffic and noise on the Lea Bridge Road is the main detractor being invasive in the northern part of the park and severs the area into two areas North Millfields and South Millfields which are physically and visually disconnected.
- 4.258 Generally, views from within the area are framed and filtered by the avenues of mature trees, with the only detracting intrusion being the Electricity substation in the southern part of the park. Good sightlines, surrounding residential development which fronts onto the park create natural surveillance over much of the area and as a whole it feels safe. It offers a range of recreational facilities which are well used, although offering opportunities to improve quality and conditions in some instances. There are also opportunities to fine tune management regimes to support biodiversity objectives.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- The openness and sense of space provided by the expanses of open grassland framed by trees that contrast strongly with the dense and busy urban environments adjacent.
- The rural historic character of Lammas fields which has been retained in the landscape structure.
- Role as parkland setting and gateway/access to the Lower Lea, including connections to, and experience of, the river and navigation.
- Strong landscape structure with avenues of mature London plane trees.
- Local nature conservation interest, as a SINCP and as a habitat corridor linked to the river valley.
- Range of recreational facilities valued by the local community and role in contributing to community cohesiveness

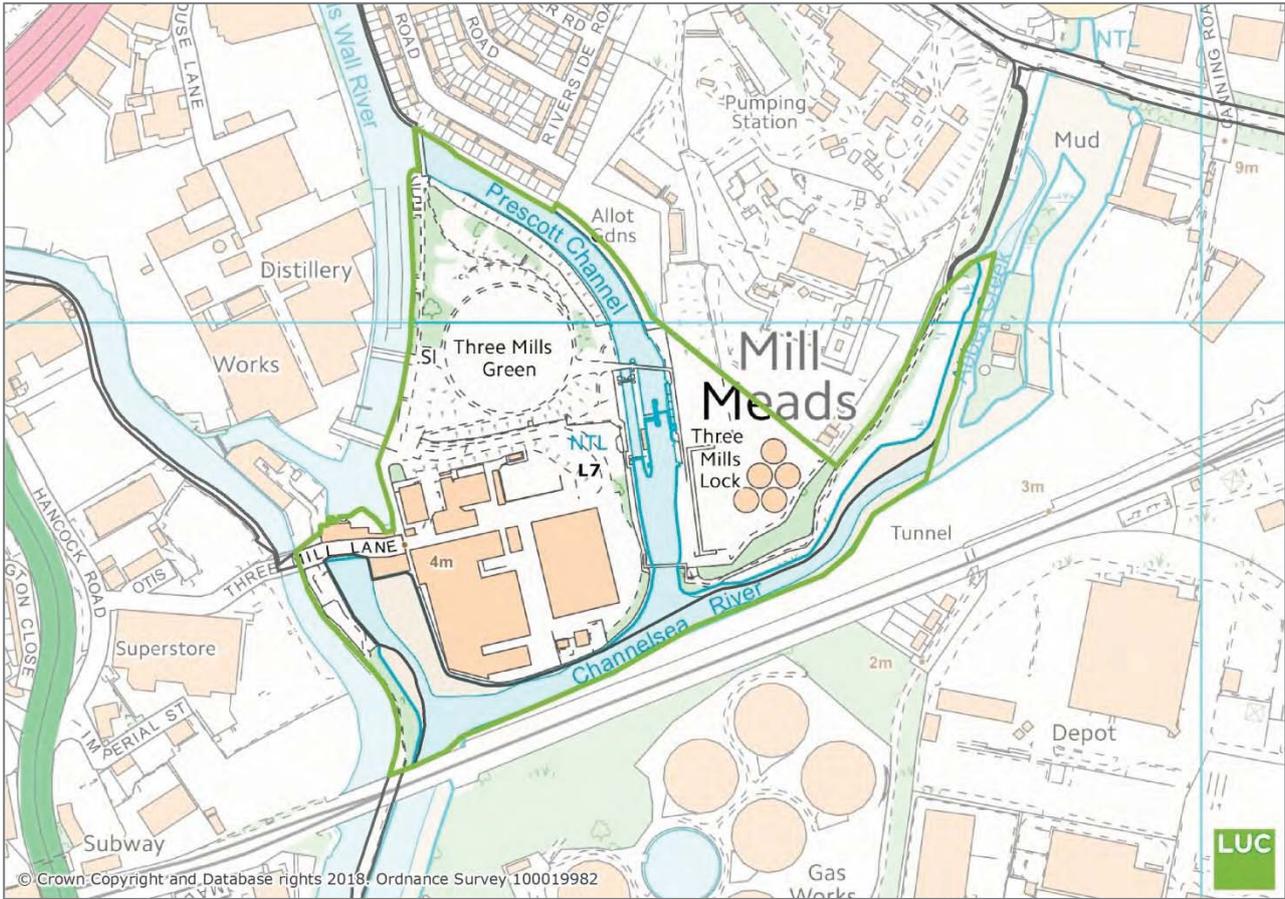
Landscape Strategy

- 4.259 Millfields Park is an important gateway to the Lee Valley for the surrounding urban population of Hackney. It provides a sense of space and openness in the townscape, and offers facilities for access, recreation which are valued by the local community.
- 4.260 The focus should be on maintaining the valued qualities of the area, notably the sense of openness, and enhancing connections to the Lee Valley, with opportunities for improving recreational links and biodiversity interest to enhance its character as a floodplain landscape forming an integral part of the LVRP.
- 4.261 A strategy for the park is set out in the *Millfields Park Management Plan 20-15 – 2020 (Updated 2017)*, prepared by the London Borough of Hackney in partnership with the Millfields User Group.

Guidelines

- Continue positive management of the park as set out in the Management Plan.
- Conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity interest and historic interest as Lammas land and connectivity with the wider Lee Valley floodplain and Navigation.
- Conserve and enhance valued recreational facilities and functions.
- Continue to promote the area as a gateway to the LVRP and connections with the surrounding communities in Hackney.
- Conserve the avenues of mature London plane which frame the areas of open grassland and reinforce a sense of separation from the urban area.
- Maintain the sense of openness experienced within the park - ensure that the mature trees which provide separation from adjacent urban areas are not overtopped by tall development.

LCA L7: Three Mills





The Grade I listed House Mill imparts a strong influence at a key gateway into site.



The clock tower and drying kilns (Grade II listed) form distinct local landmarks from the river.



Recreational ground in the north - with a circular path and sculpted landform.



Abbey Mills Pumping Station with its distinctive domed roof, within an industrial context.

Location and Boundaries

4.255 Three Mills Island is located to the south of Stratford and west of West Ham within the London Borough of Newham. It is defined by the River Lea to the north and west, as well as the eastern branch of the Lea to the south. The Prescott Channel severs the area from north to south. The character area falls within the Three Mills Conservation Area and also includes a tidal reed bed and wetland to the south of Abbey Mills Pumping Station.



Key characteristics

- A public open space centered on a collection of historic buildings on the Three Mills 'island', the site of three former working tidal mills surrounded on all sides by river channels
- A concentration of heritage assets associated with former milling activities, designated as a Conservation Area and including the Grade I listed House Mill and Grade II listed Clock Mill
- The House Mill comprising the earliest surviving mill dating back to the late 18th – early 19th century with the richly textured granite cobbled causeway
- The Clock Mill exhibits special architectural features including a clock tower and distinctive drying kilns which form focal points from the river
- A large circular grassed recreation ground with sculpted landform allowing for panoramic views across the city skyline
- A strong physical and visual relationship with Abbey Mills Pumping Station
- A distinct contrast to the surrounding area, defined by an intimate and historic scale of development at the Green
- Some habitat interest provided by scrub, dominated by Hazel and Buddleia, encloses a riverside path wrapping around the Pumping Station beyond 3 Mills Lock
- Key site forming part of the Lea River Park and Leaway linking the Park south to the River Thames
- Gas holders of Bromley Gas Works form a prominent feature on the skyline above a distinctive row of Sycamore trees
- Narrow boats moored along the Three Mills Wall River contribute to a busy and active corridor alongside the area
- Views to the north are channeled along the river and are punctuated by landmark buildings and structures within the Olympic Park

Evaluation

Landscape Quality & Condition

- 4.256 The landscape has two distinct public areas, divided by the row of sycamore trees along the access road to 3 Mills Studios: the sculpted landform which provides an enclosed recreational area with clear and attractive gateways; and the collection of historic buildings within the south. The spaces in Three Mills Green are well-managed and provide a number of opportunities for informal recreation. The historic mills and their associated architectural features are well-preserved and result in a high quality landscape.

Valued Features and Characteristics

- A compact landscape, with an intimate and contained spatial character strongly influenced by the historic buildings on the site recognized as a Conservation Area
- Intact historic mill buildings and cobbled street listed as a conservation area provides a strong sense of place
- A memorial along the riverside commemorating the former mill workers killed in 1901 provides a symbol of the past and focal point from the tow path
- A well-defined and popular community park with opportunities for informal recreation
- Variety of visual experiences with open views from the riverside and more contained and filtered views within the parkland

Landscape Strategy

- 4.257 The Three Mills should be managed and celebrated for its historic importance with the Clock Mill and House Mill providing a strong focal point at a key gateway into the area. The historic character should play a key role in providing interest and encouraging greater community engagement with the landscape.

Guidelines

- Preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area
- Ensure that all listed buildings and historic streetscape features are protected and positively integrated
- Seek to ensure that any development within or beyond the area respects the important views in and out of the character area
- Manage and preserve key historic features which contribute to the strong character and provide an attractive setting to the public open space

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Amenity	A feature that increases attractiveness or value
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Ancient woodland	Woods that are believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD.
Alluvium	Loose soil or sediments, which has been eroded, reshaped by water in some form, and redeposited in a non-marine setting.
Arable	The growing of crops
BC	Before Christ, used to indicate a date before the Christian era
Biodiversity	The measure of the variety of organisms present in different ecosystems.
Clayey	Clay soils
Condition	A judgement on the intactness and condition of the elements of the landscape.
Coniferous woodland	Woodland comprised of coniferous trees often having needle like leaves. They are usually evergreen.
Coppice	A traditional form of woodland management where trees (commonly hazel) are cut regularly on a cycle to promote growth from their bases.
Copse	A small group of trees
Deciduous woodland	Woodland where the majority of tree lose their leaves at the end of the growing season
Drift	The name for all material of glacial origin found anywhere on land or at sea, including sediment and large rocks.
Enclosure	The placing in private hands of land to which there was previously common rights; the merging of strip fields to form a block surrounded by hedges.
Floodplain	The area that would naturally be affected by flooding if a river rises above its banks, or high tides and stormy seas cause flooding in coastal areas.
Flood alleviation	The act of reducing flooding by various means
Forces for change	These are both positive and negative factors that are known to or have potential to act on the landscape, including agricultural management issues, policy and development pressures.

GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
Green Belt	An area of open land around a city, on which building is restricted.
Ha	Hectares
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism
Hydrology	The science dealing with the occurrence, circulation, distribution, and properties of the waters of the earth and its atmosphere
Intactness	Not changed or diminished
Lammas land	Historically land that was common between Lammas Day in August and Lady Day in March
Land cover	The physical material at the surface of the earth.
Landscape character	The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.
Landscape character areas (LCAs)	Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type.
Landscape character types (LCTs)	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern.
Landscape Strategy	Principles to manage and direct landscape change for a particular landscape type or character area including identification of any particular management needs for specific elements.
Loamy	Soil composed mostly of sand and silt, and a smaller amount of clay
Local Plan	A development plan prepared by local planning authorities
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
Medieval	Relating to the Middle Ages
MOL	Metropolitan Open Land – a designation protecting areas of open land within London. These areas are afforded the equivalent level of protection as Green Belt
NCA	National Character Area – defined within the <i>National Character Area Study, Natural England (2013)</i> - NCAs divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity.
OS	Ordnance Survey

Parish	A small administrative district typically having its own church and a priest or pastor.
Perceptual	The ability to interpret or become aware of something through the senses.
Permeable	Allowing liquids or gases to pass through it.
Plateau	An area of fairly level high ground
Prehistoric	The period before written records
Protect	Strategy where the emphasis is conservation of existing character and of particular features that contribute to this character.
RAMSAR site	A wetland site designated as being of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
Rarity	The state or quality of being rare
Remnant	A part or quantity left after the greater part has been used, removed, or destroyed.
Rural	Relating to or characteristic of the countryside
Scheduled Monument	Nationally important archaeological sites or historic buildings, given protection against unauthorised change
Sensitive	The response to change or influence
Settlement pattern	The shape of a settlement
Silty	Fine earth matter carried by moving or running water and deposited as a sediment.
Skyline	The outline of a range of hills, ridge or group of buildings seen against the sky.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Subsoils	Soil lying immediately under the surface soil
Superficial deposits	Geological deposit from the Quaternary age, may include stream channel and floodplain deposits. All pre quaternary deposits are known as bedrock.
Topography	The arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area, often relating to topography
Veteran Trees	Exceptional due to the trees age, rarity, ecological, aesthetic or cultural interest.
SINC and SMINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation - designations used by local authorities for sites of local nature conservation value. In the

	Park this includes SMINC – Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, the most important category
Strength of character	A judgement on how distinctive and recognisable the pattern is that defines the character of the landscape. This includes the combination of physical and cultural attributes and the sense of place that they evoke.
Time-depth	The extent to which something reflects or reveals different periods of time.
Valued attributes	Positive features and characteristics that are important to landscape character.

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NB Also refer to Table 2.1 for GIS Data sources used

Appendix 3 **Example Survey Form**

LCA.....

Location and boundaries

Key Characteristics

Valued features

Detractors

Landscape condition/quality

Strategy

Guidance



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