7.2 Western Area

Description:
The Green Infrastructure Strategy western area amalgamates the Barking Town Centre and the Faircross, Lefley and Upney 'Borough Places'. This is the most urbanised portion of the borough but one that includes a number of key green infrastructure assets including Castle Green and Barking Park. The western area is an important gateway to the Roding Valley that forms the western boundary of the borough and Wanstead Flats and Epping Forest to the north west and the western end of a series of strategic and local green infrastructure routes connecting Barking Park, Mayesbrook Park, Parsloes Park to the Beam Valley and its suite of SINCs and Green Belt land on the eastern fringes of the borough.

Key issues:
Although the Roding Valley (from its confluence with the Thames) is a key green infrastructure corridor connecting the borough with Wanstead Flats and Epping Forest, north-south connectivity across this area is affected by its densely urban nature and the preponderantly industrial uses of the river frontage between the Thames and Castle Green (with intermittent green connectivity in some sections). North-south connectivity is thus via Gascoigne Road and Abbey Road, where new street tree planting and community greenspace development opportunities could be developed.

The A2 strategic green infrastructure grid route follows the A13/NCR 13 corridor at the southern edge of this section. To the west of Gascoigne Road, the A13 is in an elevated section presenting no opportunities for green infrastructure intervention. To the west, opportunities exist to further develop recent initiatives with green infrastructure initiatives (e.g. A13/River Road junction) and to green the corridor (e.g. A13/Lodge Avenue junction). To the north, a connection could be established from the Roding to Barking Park via Harts Lane and the Barking storm relief channel, although the later has an industrial character at its western extreme.

To the east, a number of local green infrastructure grid connections could be established between Barking Park and Mayesbrook Park. In the main these follow existing designated cycle routes (e.g. the route linking The Drive with Upney Lane via Manor Road and Sandringham Road). These are densely-packed streets with limited opportunities for verge greening but the well-developed street tree stock could be reinforced (e.g. along Manor Road). A local route running north east on Longbridge Road could connect Barking Park with the Mayes Brook at the northern end of Mayesbrook Park and Goodmayes Recreation Ground and Goodmayes Park to the north. Longbridge Avenue has wide verges and a number of community green spaces adjoining housing sites on its southern fringe. This area of the borough has been identified as a surface water flood risk area and surface water swales providing flood risk attenuation could be considered within community green spaces.

Green infrastructure linkages and opportunities:
- Greening of Longbridge Road and its verges: Improve pedestrian and cyclist access across the ‘Fishtail’ roundabout at the junction of Longbridge Road with the A124.
- Roding Valley/Abbey Road: street tree planting and community greenspace development.
- A13/NCR13: adapted management regimes and street tree planting at key junctions.
- Mayesbrook Park to Barking Park: reinforced street tree planting and roadside verge management changes.
- Barking Park to Mayesbrook Park and Goodmayes Recreation Ground: new street tree planting; road verge adaptation; community greenspace development; swales and other SuDS initiatives.
- De-culvert the Gores Brook in Parsloes Park

Figure 7.4 Western Area
Figure 7.5 Western Character Area
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