7.3 Central Area

The Green Infrastructure Strategy central area is coterminous with the Becontree estate and is an area of extensive low-rise inter-war housing laid out in a combination of geometric grids, circuses and long crescents. The street grain is generously proportioned with frequent small community green spaces at road junctions. The area has a number of larger green infrastructure assets of which Parsloes Park is the most significant. This park occupies a key central position in the borough, linking the Roding Valley, Barking Park and Goodmayes in the west with the Beam Valley in the east. Parsloes also links Valence Park in the north with Castle Green, Goresbrook Park and Barking Riverside in the south. North-south connectivity is interrupted by Barking to Dagenham East railway line and the A13 road corridor.

Key issues

A key east–west linkage can be created between Goodmayes Park, Parsloes Park via Porters Avenue (a designated cycle route). Parsloes Avenue and Reed Road (also cycle routes) can provide a further link to Pondfield Park. These are wide streets with mature street tree planting and intermittent pocket green spaces (often at road junctions) offering opportunities for enhanced green infrastructure linkages.

To the south of Pondfield Park, a footbridge over the railway offers a connection to the Beam Valley via the Exeter Road allotments, Dewy Road and Manor Road, both of which could benefit from street tree planting. To the north, east west connectivity from Pondfield Park to Eastbrookend Country Park could be reinforced with a local route following Reed Road, Rainham Road and Foxlands Crescent. Green infrastructure enhancements in this area are limited somewhat by on-street parking at the highway edge.

Parsloes Park is also a point of north-south connectivity, linking St Chad’s Park and Valence Park with Castle Green and Goresbrook Park. Valence Avenue and Porters Avenue (both existing cycle routes) are broad tree-lined roads offering opportunities for further street tree planting and variations to road verge maintenance. To the south of Parsloes Park, Gale Street and Amesbury Road/Vincent Road provide connection to Castle Green and Goresbrook Park respectively. Gale Street presents a range of opportunities for developing pocket green spaces and enhancing street tree provision. Opportunities on Amesbury Road/Vincent Road are compromised by street-edge parking provision.

The development of Castle Green, including the proposed tunnelling of the A13, would support a range of green infrastructure enhancement opportunities including SuDS, public realm green infrastructure, green roofs and green walls.

Green infrastructure linkages and opportunities:

- East-west grid route (Porters Avenue/Parsloes Avenue: street tree planting, road verge management enhancements; swales and SuDS initiatives).
- Dewy Road – Manor Road: street tree planting.
- Reed Road/Rainham Road/Foxlands Crescent: intermittent reduction in on-street parking to allow for green infrastructure interventions.
- Valence Avenue – Porters Avenue: street tree planting, road verge management enhancements; swales and SuDS initiatives.
- Gale Street/Amesbury Road/Vincent Road: street tree planting, road verge management enhancements; intermittent reduction in on-street parking to allow for green infrastructure interventions.
- Castle Green: SuDS; public realm green infrastructure; green roofs/green walls.
Figure 7.7 Central Character Area

1. Wood Lane
2. The Heathway
3. Wood Lane
4. Valence Road - South
5. Valence Road - North
6. Porters Avenue
Figure 7.7 Central Character Area