7.4 Eastern Area

Description

The Green Infrastructure Strategy east area combines the Dagenham East, Becontree Heath and Rush Green ‘Borough Places’. This area marks the transition from the planned extensive urban development of the Becontree Estate to the sequence of public open spaces, Green Belt and SINCs that characterise the eastern boundary of the borough. The southern section of this corridor is determined by the valley of the Beam River. To the north, green infrastructure connectivity into the northern section is intermittent and becomes more closely associated with Green Belt land connecting to Hainault Forest and rural Essex. The Thames Chase Community Forest is a key linkage in this area of the borough.

Key issues

Strategic green infrastructure grid route A3 connects a sequence of large-scale green infrastructure assets along the eastern edge of the borough – Central Park, Eastbrookend Country Park, The Chase Nature Reserve and Beam Valley Country Park – connecting to the Thames at its confluence with the Beam River. Many of the spaces extend into greenspaces in Havering and green infrastructure grid route A3 connects the borough to a wider hinterland of assets including Rainham Marshes and Green Belt northwards towards Upminster.

To the north of Central Park, greenspace connectivity is most pronounced within the less built-up areas at the western edge of Havering (Crowlands Heath Golf Club, Westlands Playing Fields and the Moby Adventure Golf Centre – most of which have limited public access). Within Barking and Dagenham, a connection can be effected via Wood Lane and Rainham Road North between green grid route A3 at Central Park and the north-south route A1 defined by Whelbone Lane South. Extensive verges and pocket green spaces offer ample opportunity for supplementary tree planting and a range of biodiversity and SuDS focused interventions to enhance green infrastructure connectivity.

The western edge of this area is defined by the A1 strategic green infrastructure grid route linking SINC and Green Belt in the north of the borough with the Leys, Goresbrook Park and eastern approaches to Parsloes Park. This route follows Whalebone Lane South/The Heathway corridor and cycle routes. These a broad avenues with considerable scope for implementing further street planting programmes, diversification of verge and pocket greenspace management and localised SuDS interventions.

As already rehearsed in the context of the green grid central area, connectivity across the centre of the borough to Parsloes Park and Mayesbrook Park is intermittent to the east of green grid route A1. Connectivity from Pondfield Park to the green infrastructure assets along the eastern fringe of the borough are impeded by railway infrastructure and narrow residential streets, many of which have been set out for road-edge parking.

A strong east-west link could be created further north, connecting The Chase Nature Reserve with Valence Lane via Dagenham Road, Oxlow Lane, Beverley Road and Wood Lane. Street tree planting is intermittent along this corridor, with a section of good quality mature street trees in the western section of Oxlow Lane. A generous road corridor at both eastern and western ends of this corridor offers opportunities for further enhancement.

The western portion of the eastern green grid area are risk areas for surface water flooding and opportunities for small scale SuDS interventions along the key green grid routes could provide attenuation and enhance green infrastructure connectivity.

Green infrastructure linkages and opportunities:

- Green infrastructure grid route A3 - Wood Lane/Rainham Road North: street tree planting, road verge management enhancements; swales and SuDS initiatives.
- Reed Road, Rainham Road and Foxlands Crescent: intermittent reduction in on-street parking to allow for green infrastructure interventions.
- Dagenham Lane-Wood Lane: street tree planting, road verge management enhancements; swales and SuDS initiatives.
- Linkages to Thames Chase Community Forest
- Signage upgrades for cyclists in Eastbrookend Country Park
Figure 7.9 Eastern Character Area

1. Wood Lane

2. Crow Lane to Rush Green Road

3. Central Park/Eastbrookend Country Park

4. Dagenham Lane

5. Dagenham Lane - West

6. Reede Road
Figure 7.9 Eastern Character Area

Rainham Road South - The Chase Nature Reserve

The Chase Nature Reserve to Harrow Lodge Park

Rainham Road - South

New Road