



**LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**REGENERATION AND PLANNING**  
**COMMITTEE**

**22 MARCH 2018 AT 12:30**

**Agenda Item No:**

**5**

**Report No:**

**RP/17/18**

**PARK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND  
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY**

Presented by the Head of Planning and Strategic Partnerships

**SUMMARY**

As part of the Park Development Framework process the Authority has commissioned work to review and update the Regional Park's existing landscape strategy and bring it in line with revised guidance produced by Natural England in 2014.

A draft of the Landscape Assessment and Strategy was considered by Members of the Park Development Framework Panel in November 2017 and January 2018. As a result of the Panel discussions a number of revisions have been made and a Consultation Draft version of the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy has now been produced. This work will inform the strategic policies of the Park Development Framework, the responses to planning schemes and guide development and land management within the Park.

Members of this committee are asked to agree the draft strategy as summarised in this report. The full assessment and strategy report is very detailed consisting of 250 pages and copies will be available during the meeting.

Following this committee the Consultation Draft will be issued for consultation as part of a suite of Park Development Framework documents.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members Approve: (1) the draft Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy for public consultation.

**BACKGROUND**

1 Landscape defines the character of the Regional Park and differentiates it from the surrounding urban form. The Lee Valley landscape has evolved over time in response to physical and cultural influences and is now made up of a diverse

range of landscapes; from semi natural lowland river landscapes, flood meadows and mosaic wetland habitats, which are the rich legacy of mineral extraction, to post-industrial and inner London landscapes valued for their biodiversity interest and green infrastructure importance. The Park's landscape continues to face varying degrees of change; resulting from significant development pressure, an increasing use of the Park as a recreational resource, and issues arising from climate change, flood alleviation and water supply.

- 2 The previous full landscape assessment and strategy for the Regional Park was undertaken in 1996 and followed the standard methodology of the time (1993 Countryside Commission Landscape Character Assessment guidance). It identified eight broad landscape character areas running north south within the Park and set out a strategy for each. Park Plan (2000) Proposals were then formulated based on whether land within the Park was identified as a landscape conservation area, landscape enhancement area or a landscape investment area.
- 3 In 2013 the Authority commissioned a Landscape Sensitivity Study which used the information from 1996 and involved a targeted field survey to capture additional information to inform the sensitivity analysis of specific types of development and their potential impact on the Regional Park. This has been used to inform the development of the existing draft strategy.
- 4 Given the central importance of landscape to the Regional Park and the context which it provides officers commissioned a Landscape Strategy as part of the Park Development Framework (PDF). This will be informed by revised guidance issued by Natural England in 2014. The aim is to produce a robust landscape evidence base that will support the PDF, the Area Proposals and future reviews, and inform work on the strategic policies. The Landscape Strategy will provide guidance for development and land management within the Park and assist the Authority in its responses to strategic policy work, master planning and major applications.

## METHODOLOGY

- 5 Work on the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Landscape Strategy has followed the good practice guidance produced by Natural England – Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014). This has involved a desk study to map and verify the characteristics of the Park's landscape followed by a field survey to verify and fine tune the proposed landscape types and areas identified.
- 6 The areas identified from the draft characterisation have been mapped as character types and areas following a hierarchical approach as described below:
  - Landscape Types – these are generic and share broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, vegetation and human influences e.g. Rural Valley Floor with Open Water. They are not identical but have a common pattern of elements.
  - Character Areas – each landscape type is subdivided into a number of geographically specific character areas. Although they share generic characteristics with other areas of the same type they have their own identity or 'sense of place' although geographically dispersed throughout the Regional Park e.g. Amwell Floodplain.

Twelve landscape types and 37 landscape character areas have been identified as listed in Table 4.1 and associated Figures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 at Appendix A to this report.

- 7 Each proposed Landscape Character Area has been designated with reference to its quality and condition i.e. the physical state of the landscape and its intactness. This also identified valued features and characteristics which determine its specific character. It takes into account external factors, such as development pressures, increasing use of the Park and changes to the environment, including climate change impacts. Based on this work a landscape strategy has been drawn up for each landscape character area together with guidelines to protect and manage the landscape and plan for change.

### **PDF PANEL AND NEXT STEPS**

- 8 At the PDF Panel meetings, Members considered and approved the methodology for the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy (Paper PDF/22/17 Minute 290) and looked in detail at a selection of key sites. Amendments were identified to:
  - ensure that guidelines cover the integration of future built structures into the wider landscape of the Park, for example provision of new leisure structures at Pickett's Lock and expansion of facilities and venues in the Olympic Park;
  - revise guidance on potential development whether within or adjacent to the Park, and how its impact might be minimised through design, and siting, reducing severance and leaving adequate space for planting (Ice Centre, Rammey Marsh west);
  - ensure development responds positively to the Park and the integrity of the landscape as appropriate to each area;
  - ensure a consistent approach to boundary treatments in order for example to mitigate harsh boundaries; and
  - Remove unnecessary jargon – a Glossary has been added to assist with 'landscape based' terms.
- 9 Following this committee the draft Landscape Assessment and Landscape Strategy will be issued for public consultation for a period of six weeks alongside a suite of other PDF documents, which are the subject of other reports to this committee. The outcome of the consultation and any amendments proposed will be reported back to PDF Panel and then this Committee. It is anticipated that consultation will commence after Easter and will be web based with hard copies of the draft Area Proposals (and other consultation documents) available to view at the following Park Authority venues:
  - Myddelton House Visitors centre
  - Lee Valley Park Farm
  - Lee Valley White Water Centre
  - Pickett's Lock at the Lee Valley Athletic Centre
  - Lee Valley Ice Centre
  - Lee Valley VeloPark

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10 Environmental implications have been addressed in the draft landscape evaluation process included in the assessment work.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 12 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 13 Section 14(1) of the Park Act requires the Authority to prepare a plan setting out proposals for the future management and development of the Regional Park. Area 1 is the next section of the Park for which proposals need to be developed. Once adopted they will replace the Park Plan's (Part 2) proposals for this part of the Park.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 14 There are no risk management implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 15 There are no equality implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

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## **BACKGROUND REPORTS**

Draft Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy

March 2018

<http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk/en/content/cms/corporate/about-us/meeting-documents/regeneration-planning-committee/>

## **APPENDICES ATTACHED**

Appendix A Draft Landscape Classification Table and Figures – extract from draft Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy report.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

PDF Park Development Framework  
LCA Landscape Character Assessment

## Appendix A to Paper RP/17/18

### Table 4.1 Landscape Classification

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA	
Valley Floor/Floodplain		
<b>A: Rural valley floor mosaic with wetlands and marshes</b>	A1	Amwell floodplain
	A2	Rye Meads
	A3	Glen Faba & Nazeing Meads
	A4	Kings Weir to Waltham Town Lock
<b>B: Urban valley floor with reservoirs and wetlands</b>	B1	King Georges & William Girling Reservoirs
	B2	Banbury Reservoir
	B3	Walthamstow Wetlands
<b>C: Urban valley floor with marshland</b>	C1	Ramney Marsh
	C2	Tottenham Marshes
	C3	Walthamstow & Leyton Marshes
	C4	Hackney Marsh
<b>D: Urban valley floor with leisure facilities</b>	D1	Lee Valley Athletic Centre & Ponders End Lake
	D2	Folly Lane playing fields
	D3	Douglas Eyre Playing Fields
	D4	Low Hall Sports Ground
	D5	Lee Valley Ice Centre & Riding Centre
<b>E: Valley floor with post-industrial parks</b>	E1	Royal Gunpowder Mill
	E2	Essex Filter Beds & Middlesex Filter Beds
	E3	Bow Creek Ecological Park
	E4	East India Dock Basin

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE	CHARACTER AREA	
River Terraces		
<b>G: Terraces with farmland</b>	G1	Ryegate Farm /Terbets Hill
	G2	Roydon Park
	G3	Clayton Hill - Holyfield Hall
<b>H: Terraces with industrial legacy parkland</b>	H1	Gunpowder Park
	H2	Olympic Park
<b>I: Terraces with woodland and pasture</b>	I1	Arboretum
Lower River backwaters		
<b>J: Lower river backwaters</b>	J1	London Greenway
	J2	Lower River Backwaters
Urban Parks and Gardens		
<b>K: Historic Gardens</b>	K1	J1: Waltham Abbey Gardens
	K2	J2: Myddelton House
<b>L: Urban parks</b>	L1	K1: Town Mead
	L2	K2: Markfield Park
	L3	K3: St James's Park
	L4	K4: Springfield Park
	L5	K5: Millfields Park
	L6	K6: Three Mills

Figure 4.1 Landscape Classification – Lee Valley North

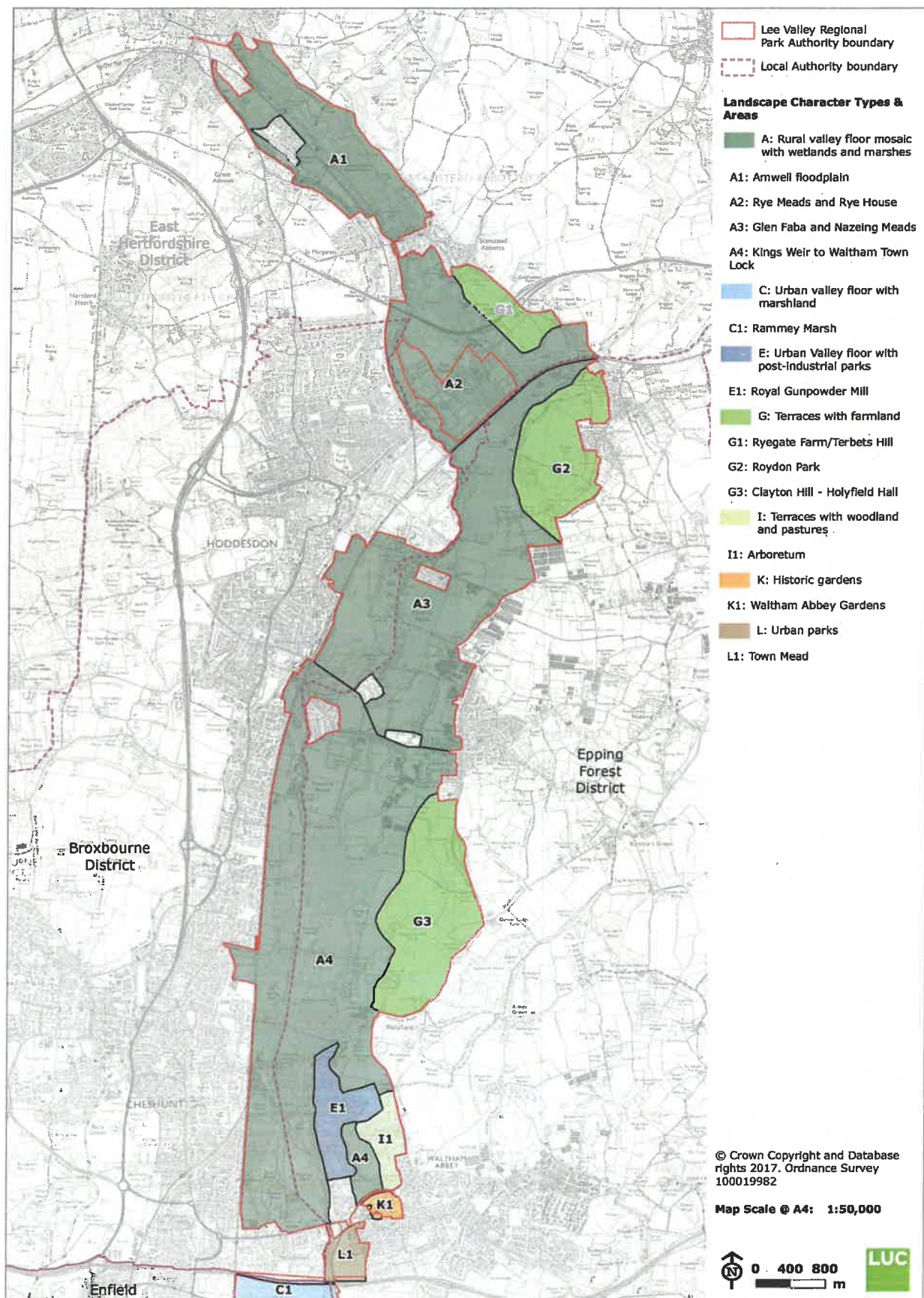


Figure 4.2 Landscape Classification – Lee Valley South

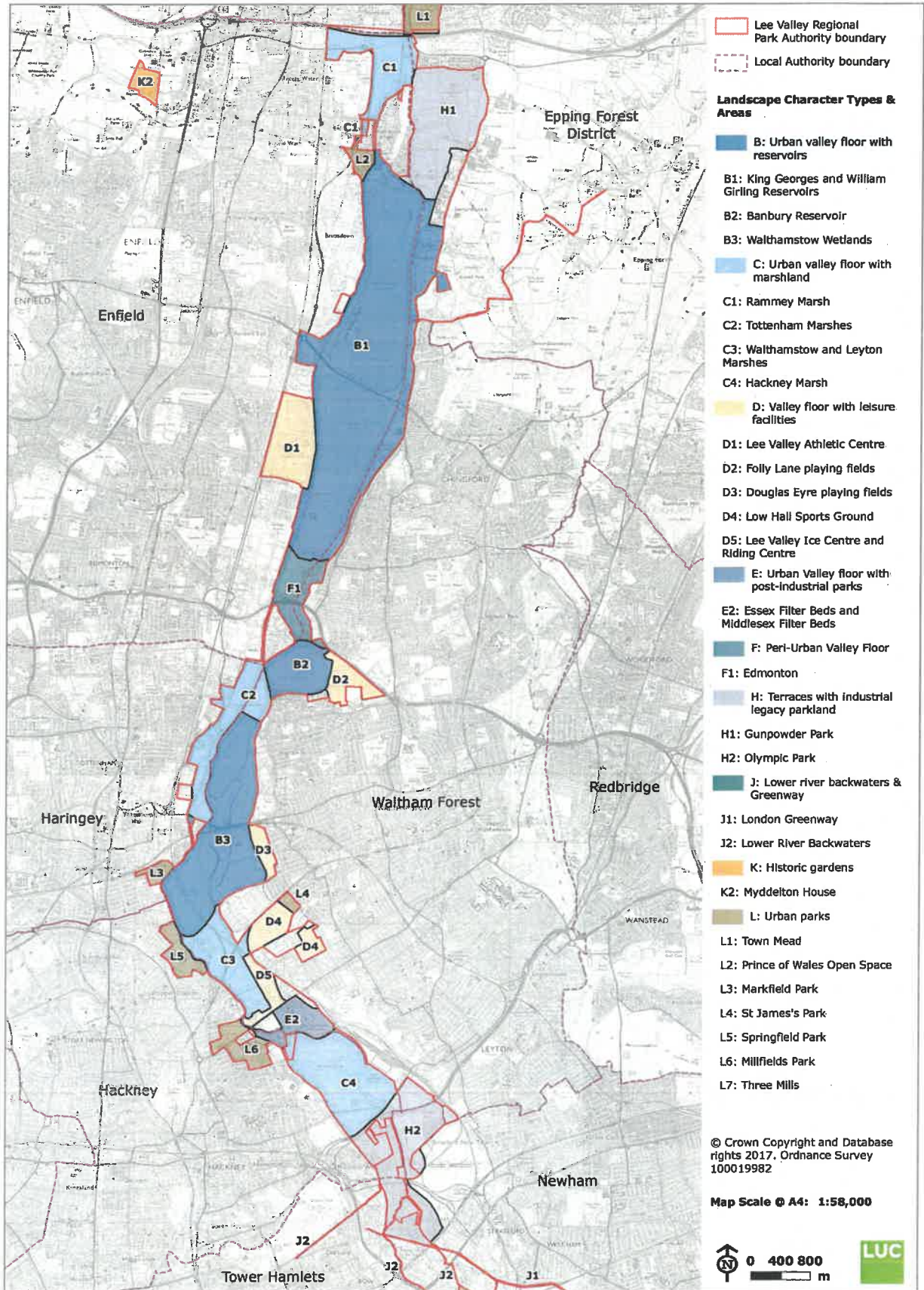




Figure 4.3 Landscape Classification – Lee Valley Southern Backwaters

