



LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**REGENERATION AND PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

17 JANUARY 2019 AT 12:00

Agenda Item No:

6

Report No:

RP/26/19

**PARK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO DRAFT LANDSCAPE
CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY**

Presented by the Head of Planning and Strategic Partnerships

SUMMARY

The Regeneration and Planning Committee agreed a range of draft documents for consultation on the Park Development Framework (PDF) in March 2018 (RP/17-19/18). These documents included Strategic Policies and background papers, Area Proposals and a draft Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy. Reports on each of these draft Papers are included on the Agenda to this meeting.

The Authority consulted a total of 340 key stakeholders, organisations and individuals on these draft documents for 6 weeks between 18 April and 30 May 2018.

The outcome of the public consultation was considered by PDF Panel in November 2018 (PDF/24/18) and is detailed in this report. The Authority received nine responses to the Landscape Document and only minor amendments are proposed as a result. Once adopted this work will inform the strategic policies of the PDF, responses to planning schemes and guide development and land management within the Park.

Members are asked to consider the comments received and the officer responses which are included in the attached spreadsheet at Appendix A to this report. Appendix B to this report is an extract from the Landscape Assessment and Strategy for information. The full draft amended Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy is available via the committee web link: <http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk/en/content/cms/corporate/about-us/meeting-documents/regeneration-planning-committee/>.

Pending the outcome of this meeting and any further changes it is proposed to present the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy to the Authority Meeting on 25 April 2019 for adoption.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Members Approve:
- (1) the revised draft Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy and its referral to Authority for adoption; and
 - (2) delegation to the Head of Planning and Strategic Partnerships to make any further amendments to the draft Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy to take account of comments which may be made by Members.

BACKGROUND

- 1 A diverse range of landscapes make up the extent of the 4,000ha (10,000acres) Regional Park. These range 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 Lee Valley landscape has evolved over time in response to physical and cultural influences. It 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 In its adopted Thematic Proposals (2011) the Authority committed to undertake the preparation of a Landscape Assessment and the development of a Landscape Vision incorporating an historic Environmental Character study. This would have been used to identify landscape elements to build a unified Park landscape, identify existing landscape qualities to be protected and areas of weakness to be mitigated and explore the landscape's experiential qualities from within and beyond its boundaries. The draft strategy is less ambitious in scope but addresses these matters in line with best practice taken from Natural England and the Landscape Institute.
- 3 The Authority commissioned work in 2017 to review the Authority's existing landscape strategy with the aim of producing a robust landscape evidence base that will support the Park Development Framework, 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 Regional Park and assist the Authority in its responses to strategic policy work, master planning and major planning applications.
- 4 This work will replace the current landscape assessment and strategy for the Regional Park which was undertaken in 1996 in accordance with the Countryside Commission Landscape Character Assessment guidance and methodology of that time (1993). It will also take account of the Authority's Landscape Sensitivity Study (2013) which captured additional information about the sensitivity of the Park's landscape in relation to specific types of development, and identified sensitive features, important views into the Park and highlighted locations where there are visually detracting edges to the Park. This work was used to inform area based landscape proposals.
- 5 During this period landscape character assessment work has also taken place at a national, regional and local level, some of which is relevant to the Regional Park, for example the southern part of the Park falls within Natural England's

London's Natural Signatures (2014) *Lee River Valley Natural Landscape Area*. Two county-level landscape character assessments occurring within the north of the study area have also been carried out: Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2003) and East Hertfordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2003 -5). In recent years the majority of the riparian boroughs have undertaken their own townscape/ urban characterisation studies which include elements within the Lee Valley.

- 6 The Lee Valley Regional Park Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Landscape Strategy has been produced in accordance with Natural England's good practice guidance - 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.
- 7 The areas identified from the draft characterisation have been mapped as draft 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' e.g. Amwell Floodplain.

Figures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 at Appendix B present the landscape classification.

- 8 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. In total there are 12 Landscape Character Types and 38 Landscape Character Areas.
- 9 The draft Landscape Assessment and Strategy was considered by Members at the Regeneration and Planning committee on 22nd March 2018 (RP/17/18) and a number of amendments were made. This document was then issued for public consultation during April and May 2018, together with the PDF work on draft Strategic Policies (Report RP/25/19 to this Committee).

SCOPE OF CONSULTATION

- 10 Public consultation on the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy took place over a six week period between the 18th April and 30th May 2018. This ran alongside consultation on draft Strategic Policies and supporting documentation and a second round of consultation on the PDF Area Proposals for the northern half of the Park (Areas 6, 7 and 8). Key stakeholders, riparian authorities, organisations and individuals, most of which had been previously

been involved in PDF consultations were contacted. The consultation was publicised on the Authority's corporate web site and the Regional Park's Visit Lee Valley website and letters were again hand delivered to individual addresses at Wharf Road.

- 11 All the documents were placed on a dedicated web page and paper copies of all documentation was lodged at the Authority's key venues: Myddelton House Visitors Centre, Lee Valley Park Farms, Lee Valley White Water Centre, Pickett's Lock at the Lee Valley Athletic Centre, Lee Valley Ice Centre and Lee Valley VeloPark. This resulted in over 340 people being invited to comment in stakeholder organisations including individuals known to have an interest in the Regional Park. Of these nine responded to the landscape document.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

- 12 A relatively small number of responses were received in relation to the Landscape Strategy, nine consultees generating 52 comments, please refer to Appendix A to this report. This includes Heritage England who stated they did not have the capacity to respond and Essex County Council who acknowledged the document but has not made any comments.
- 13 Hertfordshire County Council fully support the approach to the Landscape Character Assessment and the London Borough of Enfield have welcomed the "robust and detailed work undertaken". Both the London Boroughs of Enfield and Tower Hamlets have sought minor changes to the character assessment of certain sites within their boroughs; amendments have been included where appropriate, please refer to L. LA6.1, L. LA8.0 and 8.1.
- 14 The Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Company (WARGM) have made a number of helpful comments although in some cases the matters raised are too detailed for consideration as part of the Landscape Strategy but could form the basis of future collaborative working with a range of agencies; for example see L. SR26.7 regarding future mixed use development on site and the need to holistically manage heritage, nature and visitor activities. A minor change is proposed to the draft Area Proposals under 6.A.2 Visitors to address the issue of improving access within the WARGM site.
- 15 A detailed response was received from one individual who identifies a number of 'shortcomings' in relation to the landscape of the Park, particularly in the south. A point is raised about a lack of progress or ambition on the Authority's behalf to invest and bring about change and in particular join together contiguous area of open space to create a coherent 'country park' area of parkland; (please see L. GI 35.6 to 35.7 for example).
- 16 In its response the Authority has stated that investment and management within the south of the Park has been ongoing, although with an obvious focus on the major Olympic Legacy facilities and surrounding parklands. This investment has resulted in considerable change to the benefit of the whole of the Lower Lee Valley. It is also explained that the extent of land in the Regional Park north of the M25 motorway reflects the configuration of the statutory boundary which in turn reflects the opportunities for the Authority to purchase land. Furthermore, the proximity of several million people makes access and control critical when the delicate balance between nature and access to nature can be extremely difficult to manage, for reference the example of Walthamstow Wetlands where it is understood Natural England have concerns about disturbance to wetland

birds due to the impact of visitors.

- 17 Save Lea Marshes have identified a number of editing issues and minor changes that will be actioned. They are also concerned about how the Landscape Strategy will be delivered. They see the content of the strategy as largely aspirational.
- 18 Officers consider that within the overarching context of the Landscape strategy and the strategic policies, schemes will be delivered but not on a 'programmed' basis. Landscape projects and the delivery of proposals are increasingly reliant on capital moneys gained through both planning obligations or through the release of capital through land sales.
- 19 Following discussion at the PDF Panel on 15 November (PDF/24/18), Officers have made further minor edits to the proposed changes under L. LA6.1 and L. GI 36.5 and the proposed text at L. LA8.0 has been revised as the proposed description is considered too detailed. These additional revisions are shown in red font underlined in the spreadsheet included as Appendix A to this report.
- 20 Members are asked to consider the draft amendments to the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy as set out in the spreadsheet attached as Appendix A to this report. These have now been incorporated into a revised Landscape document, which due to its size is available via the following committee web link:
<http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk/en/content/cms/corporate/about-us/meeting-documents/regeneration-planning-committee/> and which, pending the outcome of this meeting will be presented to the Authority Meeting on 25 April 2019 for adoption.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 24 Section 14(1) of the Lee Valley Regional Park Act requires the Authority to prepare a plan setting out proposals for the future management and development of the Regional Park. The landscape strategy forms part of the Area Proposals and the PDF and once adopted will replace the Park Plan's (Part 2) proposals for landscape.
- 25 The Authority has a legal requirement under Section 14(1) of the Lee Valley Park Act to consult with the local planning authorities and any appropriate

statutory bodies. The Authority during the process of revising the Section 14(1) plan proposals agreed to extend this to include as many Stakeholders as possible. This has enabled it to consider a wider range of views and responses received before making any decisions on revisions to its draft proposals.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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BACKGROUND REPORTS

Draft Lee Valley Regional Park Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy – available via the following committee web link: <http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk/en/content/cms/corporate/about-us/meeting-documents/regeneration-planning-committee/> December 2018

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|---------------|
| Regeneration and Planning | RP/17/18 | Park Development Framework Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy | 22 March 2018 |
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APPENDICES ATTACHED

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| Appendix A | Spreadsheet of Consultee Consultation Responses and the Proposed Amendments |
| Appendix B | Introduction and Approach to Draft Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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| LCA | Landscape Character Assessment |
| EH | English Heritage |
| PDF | Park Development Framework |
| NE | Natural England |
| LCT | Landscape Character Types |
| LCA | Landscape Character Areas |
| EHDC | East Herts District Council |
| HCC | Hertfordshire County Council |
| ECC | Essex County Council |
| WARGM | Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Company |
| LA | Local Authority |

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| OA | Organisations and agencies |
| LB | Landowners and businesses |
| SR | Sport and Recreation interests |
| GI | Groups Individuals |
| Rep | representation |

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| ID No. | Organisation name or individual | LCA Ref | Para no. | Consultee Comments | LVRPA Response | Proposed amendments |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|---|---|--|
| L LA4.0 | Essex CC Spatial Planning | | | Draft Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy. ECC makes no comment on this document | Comment noted | No change |
| L LA5.0 | Herts CC Environment & Infrastructure | | | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above. This letter relates to the services of the Environment & Infrastructure Department, which also incorporates other services provided by the county council where relevant. Draft Landscape Character Assessment approach to the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is fully supported. | Comment and Support welcomed | No change |
| L LA6.0 | Enfield | | | <u>Draft Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy</u> Enfield welcome the robust and detailed work undertaken on Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy which reflects our understanding of the diverse and rich landscape characters to be found in the LVRP. | Comments noted and welcomed | No change |
| L LA6.1 | Enfield | LCT B | 4.4 | <u>LCT B Urban valley floor with reservoirs and wetlands</u> It should be perhaps be noted that the reservoirs are hidden by the steep embankment and therefore limit public accessibility and enjoyment. | Comments noted. Amendments will be made to the text under paragraph 4.41 to cover the point raised. | Add the following text to paragraph 4.41 as follows: "The steep embankments are a key feature in the landscape and create a physical and visual barrier to the reservoirs but they hide the reservoirs from view. They also create a barrier to public accessibility despite the fact that although operational, parts of the reservoirs are open accessible to the public and are popular for informal recreation, particularly fishing and bird watching due to the populations of breeding and wintering birds supported by the water bodies equest. The complex known as Walthamstow Reservoirs has recently opened in Autumn 2017 up as Walthamstow Wetlands nature reserve. |
| L LA6.2 | Enfield | LCA C1 | | <u>LCA C1: Rammey Marsh</u> It would be useful to recognise the urban context which surrounds the site and in particular the local road network as well as the M25. | Comment noted. Both para 4.67 and 4.68 refer to the road network adjacent to Rammey Marsh including the M25 and the proximity of the business park and further industrial and commercial development beyond | No change |

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| L LA6.3 | Enfield | LCA D1 | LCA D1 <u>Lake</u> The assessment is supported and reflects our understanding of landscape character. The strategy should seek further enhancements where opportunities arise to soften hard landscape features which currently exist on the site. | Comments and proposed change noted. However there are sufficient suggestions included in the general text and guidelines which relate to this matter. | No change |
| L LA8.0 | Tower Hamlets | LCA E4 | 4.11 East India Dock Basin The character assessment does not make any reference to the changing character of the area. Paragraph 4.11 notes that there are 'medium to large scale warehouses and sheds' to the east of the site, but it is not noted that work is currently underway to redevelop some of these sites into a high-density residential led mixed-use development (Leamouth Peninsula South, now referred to as Goodluck Hope). Another, more advanced, high-density residential led mixed-use development is emerging to the north (Leamouth Peninsula South, now referred to as City Island). These developments represent a general shift in the character of the area to a more residential-led mixed use one, albeit with some areas of industrial character remaining, such as the safeguarded Orchard Wharf. | Comments noted. LCA represents a snapshot in time so things will inevitably change following the publication of the study. Para 4.11 (now corrected as 4.137) already mentions an 'extensively urbanised area of residential and industrial development'. The proposed additional text on individual plots seems to place too much emphasis on the surrounding area of the LCA. Bullet 7 of key characteristics will be reworded instead: - Dominated by Canary Wharf which forms a backdrop to the west and other modern high-rise development emerging to the north and east. (Note numbering repeats so this is 4.11 on page 149, now renumbered as 4.137) | Amend Key Characteristics so that 7th bullet reads as follows: " Dominated by Canary Wharf which forms a backdrop to the west and other modern high-rise development emerging to the north and east, though well-treed boundaries soften influence of adjacent, smaller scale development... Work is underway to redevelop some of these sites into a high-density residential-led mixed-use development (Leamouth Peninsula South, now referred to as Goodluck Hope). Another, more advanced, high-density residential led mixed-use development is emerging to the north (Leamouth Peninsula South, now referred to as City Island). These developments represent a general shift in the character of the area to a more residential-led mixed-use one, albeit with some areas of industrial character remaining, such as the safeguarded Orchard Wharf. Check the numbering of sections and amend. |
| L LA8.1 | Tower Hamlets | LCA J2 | 4.77 Lee Navigation, Limehouse Cut and Hertford Union Canal Whilst the character assessment refers to the Limehouse Cut Conservation Area, it does not mention the Victoria Park and the Regents Canal conservation areas which are situated in the northern part of the borough. Furthermore, Victoria Park is a listed park on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens for its special historic interest. All heritage assets should be acknowledged within the Park Development Plan as they mention the significance of the canals and towpaths. Other heritage assets such as grade II listed Lock Cottages and Canal Lock are missing from the assessment. | Comments noted (these refer to page 205 and para 4.204 onwards). These areas, Victoria Park and wider Regents Canal Conservation Areas are not part of the Regional Park, although they form an important context. Reference to the Victoria Park conservation area can be added under Key Characteristics. | Amend text under LCA J2 Key Characteristics 6th bullet point as follows: The proximity of Victoria Park, also a Conservation Area, creates a more open and green setting to the canal. |
| L OA11.0 | Historic England Debbie Mack | | | Noted | No change |

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| L SR25.0 | E17 Walthamstow Pumphouse Museum Mr Lindsay Collier Head Curator and Founder | L4 | 4.115 | <p>Although the above museum is not within the Park boundaries it is a significant attraction that is close to St James Park, the Black Path, and the Park. The museum is also very much part of the plans to celebrate the regions industrial heritage through the Lea Valley Heritage Alliance. The museum is also working with the London Borough of Waltham Forest to enhance the site, thus becoming an important heritage attraction within the Lea Valley. The museum would, therefore, like to see it added to any future plans and literature produced by the Lee Valley Park Authority. It would also like to see more signage pointing the way to the museum</p> | <p>Comments noted, text has been added under L4 St James's Park to reference the Museum. Para renumbered as 4.246.</p> | <p>Note editing amendment to change heading to L4. Add additional text at the end of para 4.246 as follows: "The boundaries to the northeast and west are formed by roads and fronted by residential areas, and a school, and the E17 Walthamstow Pumphouse Museum, the latter a direct link to the Lea Valley's industrial heritage."</p> |
| L SR25.0 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | | | <p>For clarity, there are two charities with responsibilities towards the site. The Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Charitable Foundation Ltd manages the endowment and is the freeholder. We are the Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Company Limited, and we hold a long lease and manage the site and its visitor attraction and activities. We welcome the direction of the LVRPA strategy, and note its new emphasis on conserving and enhancing the Park's historic environment.</p> | <p>Comments noted and welcomed</p> | <p>No change</p> |
| L SR26.1 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | | | <p>We note that the Draft Landscape is the subject of a 2nd round of consultation. The Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Company is not aware of any submission by either the 'Foundation' or ourselves, the 'Company', to the 1st consultation of 2015.</p> | <p>Comment noted, this is the first round of consultation on the Landscape Strategy - but it has been combined with a second round of consultation on the Area proposals for the northern part of the Park.</p> | <p>No change</p> |
| L SR26.2 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCT E | 4.115-4.120 | <p>LCT E: Valley Floor with Post-Industrial Parks The Royal Gunpowder Mills is identified in the Landscape Strategy as belonging to the landscape character type of Post-Industrial Park. We agree with the case made for this category of landscape from former industrial sites as being unique and distinctive for their intricate 'mosaic' habitats and connection to the past (4.115-4.119). We agree with your observation of a 'legible narrative' of the influence and story of the Park (4.120). We suggest there is a narrative of the origins of landscape itself in the Lea Valley through geology and history of land use which could be a permanent exhibition or talks and tours.</p> | <p>Comments noted and welcomed.</p> | <p>No change</p> |

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| L SR26.3 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCA E1 | 4.122 | Location and boundaries (4.122): We have mentioned in our attached document the amendment required to the maps to reflect the correct boundaries of the Royal Gunpowder Mills. | The boundaries for the Landscape Character Areas are based on mapping a range of information, field surveys and landscape characteristics so site boundaries in the draft Landscape Assessment and Strategy will not always match existing mapped boundaries. In this case LCA E1 Royal Gunpowder Mills does not include the southern most part of the site which is a residential area. However the mapping of the southern boundary does require a slight amendment to include land and buildings near the entrance to the site which are also shown as within the RGMs ownership. This will be amended in the Landscape document. Note new numbering for para reference is 4.121. | Amend LCA E1 to show additional land and buildings in the south of the site. |
| L SR26.4 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCA E1 | 4.122 | Key Characteristics (4.122): We agree with the key characteristics identified for the Royal Gunpowder Mills. The site is correctly noted as nationally and internationally important. | Comments noted and welcomed | No change |
| L SR26.5 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCA E1 | | <i>Tranquil landscape with limited intrusion from roads and other sources of noise</i> (4.122). It is noted in several places in the consultation documents that a conflict arises throughout the Park between increased public access and tranquility and wildlife. The Royal Gunpowder Mills requires sustainable income to conserve the historic fabric and this aim is envisaged by ourselves and many stakeholders as best achieved by leasing of parts of the site for commercial income, and extension of visitor activities. The level to which tranquility is at risk depends upon the type of activity and its intensity. However, we firmly believe proactive management by ourselves will maintain the 'sense of seclusion and relative tranquility' noted in your Landscape strategy guidelines. We would be interested in understanding more about your own approach to managing the conflict, the opportunity to participate in any workshops, or assist research. | Comments noted and welcomed. The Authority is seeking to agree a suite of strategic policies that will help ensure a balanced approach to encouraging more people to visit and use the Park whilst still retaining areas where people can enjoy a more tranquil setting and protected areas where wildlife will not be overly disturbed by visitor activities. | No change |

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| L SR26.6 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCA E1 | 4.125 | <p>Evaluation: Landscape quality and condition (4.125): contamination causes a large area of the site to be out-of-bounds to the public. This could be eased by installation of boardwalks and over the long term, phased remediation to enlarge the current very restricted 'free to roam' area the public can access freely.</p> | <p>Comments noted - the Landscape Strategy para 4.127 - now para 4.126 identifies the importance of developing opportunities to enable public enjoyment of the heritage and wildlife within the site in a safe and sensitive way. More site specific detail is provided in the draft Area proposals under 6.A.2. These highlight the need to explore opportunities to create new pedestrian and cycle links into the site and provide pedestrian access into the northern part of the site. A minor amendment is proposed to 6.A.4 Visitors to help address the point about internal access improvements.</p> | <p>Amend Area Proposal 6.A.2 Visitors to address this point as follows: "Explore options to create new pedestrian and cycle links into Royal Gunpowder Mills to improve access into and within the site for the general Park visitor and help integrate the site with the surrounding River Lee Country Park and nearby Lee Valley White Water Centre".</p> |
| L SR26.7 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCA E1 | 4.127 | <p><u>Landscape strategy guidelines:</u> Manage change (4.127): We believe that carrying out the guidelines that are designed to protect the unique characteristics of the Royal Gunpowder Mills rests upon the ability of ourselves, our partners and stakeholders to manage change. Control is a necessary part of establishing long-term protection. We, the Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Company Limited, favour a scheme of mixed-use development of businesses, bespoke retail, leisure and education, structured by subleases of our own long leasehold of the site. This would allow holistic management of heritage, nature and visitor activities, and tailoring of the development over the course of time to dovetail and achieve symbiosis with the evolving conservation of the site. This is best achieved working in conjunction with our partners and stakeholders.</p> | <p>Comments regarding the mixed-use scheme noted, however at this stage these proposals are speculative and lack detail and the guideline for managing change does not require amendment. Please note revised numbering para 4.127 now 4.126.</p> | <p>No change</p> |
| L SR26.8 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCA E1 | 4.127 | <p>Guidelines: Bridges and access points (4.127): In our view, successful development of the site would incorporate the ambitions for bridges and access points westwards and eastwards. This 'greater connectivity' will enable local and tourist connection. It will provide green routes to Network Rail and TFL stations. However success would also depend upon keeping the public away from the hazards of the site. Therefore we see such access as needing an 'engineering solution' allowing safe crossing by pedestrians and cyclists, controlling access into 'safe' areas only, and disallowing access beyond. In the North, currently in the 'out of bounds' area we hope a future visitor interpretation centre and facilities would come about in the long term.</p> | <p>Comments noted. These details will need to be discussed as and when comprehensive proposals for the site are brought forward. The Landscape guidelines identify the need for pedestrian bridge connections, sensitively located. Please note revised numbering para 4.127 now 4.126.</p> | <p>No change</p> |

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| L SR26.9 | Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey Ltd | LCA E1 | 4,127 | <p>Landscape integration at the urban edges to the southwest (4.127): We welcome this guideline. The Royal Gunpowder Mills has no 'street presence' at Highbridge Street, our single access point. This impacts detrimentally on the profile of this nationally and internationally important site. The boundary edges of the housing estate have various owners including the original developer and Epping Forest Council. We will be pleased to assist achievement of this guideline by working with yourselves, the landowners, residents and other stakeholders to create an inviting and pleasant access point from the street.</p> | <p>Comments noted and welcomed. Please note revised numbering para 4.127 now 4.126.</p> | <p>No change</p> |
| L SR28.0 | Markfield Beam Engine & Museum | LCA L2 | | <p>LCA L2 Markfield Park denotes the significance of the Park as a gateway to the Lower Lee Valley. The proximity of MBEAM in this situation is highly significant for potential public access. Key characteristics set out about the Park, highlight: "Small urban park set with the site of the decommissioned Tottenham Sewage Works, that operated from the mid-18th Century to the 1960s - 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)". As previously noted, the features of the former Sewage Works site are equally important as a heritage asset, & their continued neglect, is detrimental to the potential value to the public.</p> | <p>Comments noted. The London Borough of Haringey's Markfield Park Management Plan which is referred to in the Landscape Strategy, would set the framework for co-operative working with other stakeholders such as the Authority.</p> | <p>No change in response to comments but note minor edit to change LCA L2 Markfield Park to L3 Markfield Park</p> |

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| L SR28.1 | Markfield Beam Engine & Museum | 4.109 4.110 | <p>Paras 4.109 and 4.110 state: "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 Lee.</p> <p>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."</p> <p>Whilst it is gratifying to have recognition in this form, the Trust would hope that practical and resource support will be provided to do more than just 'maintain' facilities, which really need significant support for enhancement and development.</p> <p>The Museum Trust remains available to liaise with the LVPA, and explore how support for MBEAM in line with the declared policy intentions can be made a reality.</p> | <p>Comments noted and welcomed. Note revised paragraph numbering - this refers to 4.243 - 4.245.</p> | No change |
| L GI35.0 | Individual | | <p>I understand from the Authority that the Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy is proposed as the final strategic Landscape blueprint and that no further specific landscape proposals are to be put forward by the Authority as part of its Park Plan. As expressed in the e-mail to me of 22nd May:</p> <p><i>"The Landscape strategy and guidelines, as part of the PDF Proposals, along with other sources including the Biodiversity Action Plan and emerging proposals for venue development would be the starting point for project identification."</i></p> <p>The LUC document serves well as a "starting point...for project identification" but falls far short of the strategy required as part of a "plan showing proposals for the future use and development of the park" (S14(1) Park Act) over the next 15-20 years.</p> | <p>Comments noted</p> | No change |

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| LGI35.1 | Individual | | <p>This Strategy follows the wrong Model The Authority has explained (e-mail of 3rd May) that: "The draft Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy follows the methodology set out in the guidance produced by Natural England in 2014. It aims to show consistency with surrounding authorities' Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs)."</p> <p>I submit that the Natural England guidance is simply the wrong model for the purposes of the Park Plan. Para 1.3 of the Natural England guidance makes it perfectly clear what purpose LCAs are intended to serve: Landscape Character Assessment can be used to inform policy development; local, neighbourhood, community or parish plans, and place-making; green infrastructure plans and strategies ... [they provide] baseline evidence .. to inform a range of decisions. The Authority's role is clearly wholly different from the riparian authorities who have to form development management policies and practices serving a wide variety of objectives including housing & economic development.</p> | <p>Comments noted. The Authority has followed professional advice in terms of the methodology and scope of the Landscape Strategy.</p> | No change |
| L GI35.2 | Individual | | <p>An LCA helps to inform a planning authority's plans and policies in balancing different objectives. The Authority by contrast has as its principal objective the transformational change – over time – of the park, "from wasteland to playground" and management and improvement of landscape is an essential part of its responsibilities. An LCA following the Natural England guidelines, provides a necessary baseline for a planning authority. The LUC document is also a perfectly acceptable intermediate document for the Authority to inform a range of decisions. But given its particular responsibilities the Authority needs to go much further and set out in its formal Plan what it intends to do, or at least hopes to do, over the Park Plan period.</p> | <p>The strategy should be read in conjunction with adopted and drafted Area Proposals. Landscape embraces a broad definition and many aspects are already being addressed. Adopted proposals included in Areas 1-5 include schemes drawn from the ALGG, ULV landscape strategy and the Walthamstow Marshes landscape proposals. These provide an adequate basis for identifying new schemes. More detailed work on their design reflecting e.g. the exigencies of ground conditions would follow if resources permit.</p> | No change |

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| L GI35.3 | Individual | | | <p>The Historical and Legal Context: It is a part of the Authority's principal duty to "improve the park as a place for the occupation of leisure" (Park Act S12.) The park is defined to mean the entirety of the Lee Valley Park shown on the statutory plan (Section 1(2)) and the Authority therefore has a duty to seek to improve the Park as a whole and to publish plans setting out how it intends to do so. The Park is intended to serve as a "green lung" and the Authority has on countless occasions expressed its desire to create such a green lung over time.</p> | <p>Comments noted. The development and improvement of the parklands runs as a parallel strand to the development of the venues. These policies and proposals maintain this approach.</p> | No Change |
| L GI35.4 | Individual | | | <p>There is a striking quote in Professor Travers book from Jim Sherry (the planner who led the 1986 Park Plan). <i>By the year 2001, Abercrombie's green wedge will finally have come to pass.</i> Mr Sherry issued this forecast at a time when the Park Authority was pursuing extensive plans to improve the open spaces of the Park. Over the period of the 1986 Park Plan the Authority embarked on the ambitious plan to forge most of the space between Waltham Abbey and Broxbourne into a Country Park. There were also extensive new acquisitions at Stanstead Abbots, and to the north of Nazeing. This programme has continued with reduced momentum in the period of the 2000 Park Plan when there have also been landscape initiatives to the south of the M25 including Gunpowder Park and Bow Creek and completion of work at the Essex Beds nature reserve.</p> | <p>Comments noted</p> | No Change |
| L GI35.5 | Individual | | | <p>As things stand, the Authority has done a good job of improving the open spaces to the north of Waltham Abbey. The Country Park, the water spaces to the north of Dobbs Weir, and the Amwell reserve in particular are all very satisfying open spaces. There remain some pockets of unsatisfactory landscape (particularly around Broxbourne) but the Park Authority is generally to be congratulated on what it has achieved in the open spaces in the northern part of the Park.</p> | <p>Comments welcomed</p> | No Change |

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| L GI35.6 | Individual | | | <p>South of the M25 the position is much less satisfactory. I would classify the shortcomings into three main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the open spaces owned and managed by the Authority, including Gunpowder Park, Rammey Marsh and Tottenham Marsh are managed very cheaply and without any real ambition to create an attractive "playground" for Londoners. I appreciate that these spaces have their supporters and there have been some positive biodiversity outcomes such as the flourishing of orchids in Rammey Marsh. But none of these spaces feels particularly cherished (in the way that the Country Park clearly does) and the Authority should have ambitions to make these spaces more cherished, more visited and more attractive. <i>continued below</i> | <p>Comments noted. Investment and management within the south of the Park has been ongoing, with an obvious focus on the major Olympic Legacy facilities and surrounding parklands. These changes have resulted in considerable change to the benefit of the whole of the Lower Lee Valley. The extent of land in the Regional Park north of the M25 motorway reflects the configuration of the statutory boundary which in turn reflects the opportunities for the Authority to purchase land. Furthermore, the proximity of several million people makes access and control critical when the delicate balance between nature and access to nature can be extremely difficult to manage, for reference the example of Walthamstow Wetlands where it is understood Natural England have concerns about disturbance to wetland birds due to the impact of visitors.</p> | No change |
| L GI35.7 | Individual | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the landscape remains scrappy and unresolved and in places simply squalid. The eastern margins are particularly unattractive in many places including areas adjacent to Banbury Reservoir and the Lea Bridge Riding stables. The Authority's ambitions to create a signature for the Park should include plans, which need not be ambitious or expensive, to improve these deficient landscapes. • Perhaps most importantly, contiguous open spaces have not been joined to create a place to wander as they have been in the Country Park. The park at its southern end remains a patchwork of largely separated open spaces with no legibility as a playground for Londoners. | <p>Comments noted, please refer to the response at L GI35.6.</p> | No change |

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| L GI35.8 | Individual | | | <p>Given that that present Park Plan is likely to run until around 2040, it should spell out ambitions to improve the landscape of the southern part of the park. The Draft strategy wholly fails to do this – it contains innumerable “guidelines” but contains no commitment to carry any of them into effect: no programme, no priorities, and no desired projects. It is simply a starting point for project identification which may or may not take place over the ensuing 20 years. Many of the guidelines replicate guidelines expressed in previous landscape strategy documents in the past, in the 1986 and 2000 Park Plans, and in the Area Proposals in the present emerging Park Plan. Simply to repeat guidelines at regular intervals over the decades, without any programme to identify priorities or put them into effect, devalues the Park Authority’s aspirations.</p> | Please refer to the response at L GI35.6. | No change |
| L GI35.9 | Individual | | | <p>A Project-Led Approach Section 14 requires the Authority to have a current plan showing proposals for future use and development of the park. The “park”, as I have already mentioned, means the entirety of the Lee Valley Park and a plan, according to its dictionary definition, means “a detailed proposal for doing or achieving something, an intention or decision about what one is going to do”. Clearly, the Park Authority does not have the resources or the practical ability either to bring every acre of the park into “park compliant” use or to transform the landscape of every parcel of land. In the context of a 15-20 year plan what it can – and should – do is identify landscape projects which it desires to achieve, either by its own agency or by giving practical support to other landowners and planning authorities. Because there is so much to be done, I submit that most projects selected should be in the southern half of the Park.</p> | Please refer to the response at L GI35.6. | No change |

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| L GI35.10 | Individual | | <p>The Upper Lee Valley Landscape Strategy (ULVLS) & Walthamstow Marshes Landscape Design Framework (WMF) represent a perfect template for this project-led approach. Both identify numerous clearly delineated projects for improving landscape & connectivity. Both documents have been effectively abandoned by the Authority. The ULVLS was commissioned by Ms Jajjee under the auspices of the North London Strategic Alliance & it is hugely to Ms Jajjee's credit that she brought about a 'coalition of the willing', including all the riparian authorities & statutory undertakers, who signed up to the ULVLS as an agenda for improvement of the "Upper Lee Valley" (Hackney Marsh to the M25). Aside from the Walthamstow Wetlands (which I will return to in a moment) the Authority to my knowledge has taken no steps to advance any projects identified in the ULVLS; made no reference to the ULVLS in its Area 3-5 proposals, nor adopted any ULVLS projects as part of its current Park Plan proposals. In the case of the WMF, the Authority launched a consultation (led by Mr Cairns) only to abandon the consultation without taking any steps to achieve any of the WMF projects.</p> | <p>Comments noted. A number of the projects outlined in the ULVLS informed the detail of or were incorporated as part of the Area Proposals in the southern half of the Park. Please also refer to the response at L GI35.6.</p> | No change |
| L GI35.11 | Individual | | <p>In eschewing any project identification, the Authority leaves itself with no specific declared ambitions for landscape at all. It is all very well to say that the strategy will provide a basis for project identification in the future but the Plan should disclose the Authority's ambitions and priorities, even when these cannot be expressed as firm commitments. That is what a Plan is for! Moreover, by identifying desired projects within the draft Park Plan; and putting that plan out for wide consultation, the Authority gives those projects added weight and authority – and it should not be overlooked that the Park Plan still has some weight in the development management policies and decisions of the riparian boroughs.</p> | <p>The adopted and draft area proposals provide sufficient detail on the Authority's intention. Priorities are identified through the business planning process</p> | No change |

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| L GI35.12 | Individual | <p>The Importance of the <u>Walthamstow Wetlands – and a proposal</u></p> <p>The Wetlands are an excellent project albeit one which was taken up personally from the ULVLS by Ms Jajjee and ultimately carried forward due principally to the support of Waltham Forest Council, Thames Water and the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <p>The Wetlands project has achieved something that I and others have called for over the years. The Coppermill Gate links the Wetlands to Walthamstow Marshes to the south and beyond; the Lockwood Gate links to Tottenham Marshes (and beyond) to the north. These two gates have created a continuum of open space. As a resident in Hackney I can inform the Authority that it has transformed many residents' perception of the Lee Valley – and generated animation and movement of people into previously undiscovered spaces.</p> | <p>Comments noted. The Authority initiated and has supported the Partnership with funds. It commissioned the original options study in 2008 that looked at the reservoirs and their potential as a visitor destination. The Authority has fully supported the Wetlands Project and the adopted PDF proposals within Area 3 have promoted improved pedestrian and cycle access to ensure the wetlands area is connected into the rest of the Regional Park, its linear routes and the green infrastructure in the surrounding area. It is an exemplar of the Authority's enabling role.</p> | No change |
| L GI35.13 | Individual | <p>The Authority's ambition for the next 15-20 years should be to build upon this remarkable start by identifying further projects which could help weld this part of the Lee Valley into one connected space. These projects might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A link between Low Hall Sports Ground and Walthamstow Marsh • A link from Markfield Park to the Wetlands • A link from the Wetlands towards Stonebridge Lock • A link from the Wetlands to Douglas Eyre playing fields and beyond to Blackhorse Road • A link from the former pitch and putt course to Hackney Marsh • A project to use parts of the flood relief channel to improve connectivity <p>With vision and ambition it would be possible over time to create a southern Country Park to go with the excellent park that now exists further to the north. Alongside these connectivity projects, the Park Authority could support plans to improve landscape in areas where it is currently deficient, such as Folly Lane and Low Hall.</p> | <p>Comments noted - these are access projects a number of which have been pursued but with little success at this stage due to land ownership issues and the cost of implementation. Most are however included as part of the PDF Area Proposals. Landscape work on part of Folly Lane Triangle is being actioned by LB of Waltham Forest at Cheney Row funded by developer contributions. The Authority has supported these proposals but does not own land in this area to support the creation of a southern Country Park.</p> | No change |

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| L Gi35.14 | Individual | <p>A 15-20 year plan, building on the momentum created by the Wetlands, is the correct place to articulate these proposals. The Park Authority clearly cannot commit to achieving every desired outcome but it can set out a direction of travel, expressing how the Authority intends to continue the journey from Wasteland to Playground. Furthermore, adopting such plans provides leadership to others, which is what the Authority should be offering. Riparian authorities can be brought onside, funding opportunities (as at Walthamstow Wetlands) can be pursued. Conversely, a policy of remaining silent will be construed as a vacuum of intention encouraging developers and riparian authorities to come forward with development projects encroaching on the valley.</p> | <p>Comments noted. The Authority's Area Proposals identify key projects for the next 10 - 15 years</p> | No Change |
| L Gi35.15 | Individual | <p>Where to go from here? The consultation on the Landscape Strategy Document provides no effective scope for consultees to have a say on what should be the Authority's landscape programme and priorities over the next 15-20 years. It offers an opportunity to comment on landscape character but not to comment on landscape plans. Indeed it is wholly unclear how, or whether, the Authority would consult upon or validate any landscape plans over the next 15-20 years. The consultation around this document will simply provide no basis for identifying priorities at all. I strongly question whether this consultation meets the Authority's duties to consult under S14 (1) of the Park Act. As an individual consultee, I obviously can have no expectation that the Authority will necessarily agree with my views about specific projects. However, I and other consultees surely have a right to understand what the Authority is actually planning to do.</p> | <p>These matters have been addressed in earlier comments above.</p> | No change |

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| L GI35.16 | Individual | | | <p>I submit that the Authority need to rethink how it is going to formulate and consult upon its landscape priorities over the next 15-20 years. It should engage in meaningful consultation with riparian councils, statutory undertakers, interested national bodies such as Natural England, and with individuals and groups who have expressed an interest in this subject.</p> <p>It should articulate its landscape vision, encourage creative debate, and seek to recreate the coalition of the willing which came together to form the ULVLS. Emerging from this debate there should be specific projects for further consultation.</p> <p>In that way, there will be genuine consultation and debate about how the Park intends to improve the park as a place for the occupation of leisure.</p> | Please refer to the response above | No change |
| L GI35.17 | Individual | | <p>I am not making any comments on the LUC document. I agree with a majority of its contents both as to character, and as to guidelines. I feel that commenting on points where I take a slightly different view would be a sterile exercise as I cannot practically see how the cycle of comment and response on this document will practically take forward the discussion of what the Authority actually intends to do over the next 15-20 years.</p> | Noted | No Change | |
| L GI35.18 | Individual | | <p><u>A vacuum of intention is not acceptable</u></p> <p>This document does not commit the Authority actually to do anything to improve landscape over the next 15-20 years. If this is the final landscape document and the Authority in fact identifies no or negligible landscape projects over the period then the Authority will have committed no act or omission which puts it in breach of the Park Plan. This is not acceptable. The Authority has a duty (I apologise for the repetition) to improve the park as a place for the occupation of leisure – emphasis added. It has a duty to come forward with plans and proposals and it has an urgent necessity to do so. To improve the landscape, to make it known, peopled, cherished and animated, offers the Park the best protection against development pressures. I believe the priority should be in the south because of the deficiencies I have identified; in particular the lack of legibility and connectivity, and because of the rich opportunities available to make the park into a better place.</p> | The Authority is cogniscent of its 'duties' and is currently delivering an extensive programme of change across the Regional Park in line with business priorities | No change | |

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| L GI35.19 | Individual | | <p>Appendix: A Note on the Strategic Landscape Vision ("SLV") and Landscape Assessment ("LA") published by the Authority in 1995 preceding the 2000 Park Plan</p> <p>I submit that the SLV and the LA, which appear to be the corresponding documents in the 2000 Plan Review process express a clear appreciation that Landscape Character Assessment should be based on documents and not the final document. The SLV expresses the view (Page 19) that Landscape should be placed at the heart of the Park Plan. I would particularly draw attention to the following from the SLV: "The Lee Valley Regional Park is currently undertaking a Park plan Review and the Strategic Landscape Vision detailed here will feed into Part 1 and 2 of this Review. In addition the park Authority is also developing a number of initiatives..." (page38)</p> | <p>Both these old documents reflected the professional guidance available at that time. The draft Landscape Strategy reflects current good practice and guidance recommended by Natural England and was prepared by 2 chartered members of the Institute of Landscape Design.</p> | <p>No-change. Additional text added to the section on Methodology para 2.3 as follows: The landscape Strategy was prepared by Chartered members of the Landscape Institute.</p> |
| L GI35.20 | Individual | | <p>The Strategic Landscape Vision needs to be underpinned by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adequate budgets for landscape development and maintenance - new funding opportunities for landscape e.g. Lottery and European funds - a strong and early role for landscape architects to develop and influence master plans. - the development of specific high profile Action Sites - an action programme for incidental sites to upgrade landscape quality - the implementation of initiatives to bring landowners on board with the regeneration of the Park's landscape - "ensure your landscape contributes to the Park". Page 39 <p>For the Vision to have practical effect, the principles and ideas embedded within it must be followed, step by step, down the implementation chain - from land use planning decisions through development briefs and design guidelines to detailed design, implementation and management. Experience shows that unless there is <u>single-minded commitment</u> to the essence of the Vision, and attention to detail at every stage, hopes and aspirations will remain unrealised. The Vision, therefore is <u>just the beginning</u> of a process which can deliver exciting and innovative development in the quality of the Park's landscape for years to come (Conclusion page 41)</p> | <p>Please refer to the above response</p> | <p>No change</p> |
| L GI35.21 | Individual | | | <p>Please Refer to comments included at L. G3519</p> | <p>No change</p> |

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| L GI35.22 | Individual | | | | By contrast there is no expression in the current strategy document of any follow on programme needed to turn analysis into practical action to improve the quality of the Park Landscape. | Please refer to the comments above | No change |
| L GI35.0 | Save Lea Marshes | | | | For your Consultation on the Park Development Framework you have invited comments on the Draft Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy. The following comments are made on behalf of Save Lea Marshes (www.saveleamarshes.org.uk). | Comments noted | No change |
| L GI36.1 | Save Lea Marshes | | | | The main concern of Save Lea Marshes is over what the LVRPA is intending to do in the areas under its control over the next several years. The Landscape Strategy would appear to be a set of aspirations, that provide, in the sections headed "Guidelines", the only clues as to what these intentions might be. There are a total of 225 bullet points in these sections. For the most part, these are either instructions: "Continue positive management of...", "Maintain and enhance the diversity of" etc.; or normative statements: "Any proposed future development should", "Any future road improvement work should...", etc. But a large number of the instructions are prefaced with words like "Seek to..." or "Take opportunities to", which have the effect of weakening their force considerably. Seek occurs 65 times, opportunities 44 times, & consider occurs 15 times (but of course some of these occur together, as in "Seek opportunities to" However, even instructions that are not watered down in this way are themselves pretty un-focussed: "Encourage greater opportunities for recreation...", "Maintain and enhance the quality", "Conserve the openness". There's nothing specific about how any of this might be achieved. | Landscape projects and the delivery of proposals are increasingly reliant on sn 106 or the release of capital through land sales. Within the overarching context of the Landscape strategy and the strategic policies, schemes will be delivered but not a on a 'programmed' basis. | No change |
| L GI36.2 | Save Lea Marshes | | | | The word development occurs 75 times, often in conjunction with such phrases as "within or adjacent to the Park". Such a high number of occurrences is presumably a reflection of how prevalent the threat of development is. In most cases the concern about development is merely for its visual consequences: "Open skylines ... are sensitive to development...", "development which may alter the skyline...", "Screen and soften views of development...", "Ensure ... development ... respects the important views...". There is little suggestion that development per se is undesirable. | Comments noted. The word 'development' is used in its generic sense in most instances. Guidelines are issued in relation to the Park and the impact or opportunities provided by development. Within the context of a growth corridor some development around the Regional Park is inevitable. | No change |

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| L GI36.3 | Save Lea Marshes | | | <p>The next most commonly occurring words are landscape (64), habitat (37) and trees (28), all worthy subjects of concern.</p> <p>And then come connections (27), connectivity (23) and access (22). The authors seem to have an obsession with this subject. It really covers two different things: connections from outside the Park, and connections within the Park. The former is particularly associated with the phrase "surrounding communities" (communities occurs 20 times, and surrounding 18 times). There is no clear explanation of why it is desirable to make the Park more accessible from outside. Surely the more people there are in the Park, the greater the harm to the ecology, and the less attractive the Park becomes to those people who are already in the Park. And if the intention is to make the Park more accessible to motorists, that is even worse.</p> <p>Regarding the other type of connection – within the Park – there seems no objection. For example, the proposal to connect Low Hall to Walthamstow Marshes and the Waterworks Centre to Leyton Marsh both seem sensible.</p> | <p>Comments noted</p> | No change |
| L GI36.4 | Save Lea Marshes | | | <p>Improving access to the Park, both physically and visually is important as there are a number of barriers to pedestrian and cycle access into the Park and movement through and within the parklands. Wider access and the opening up of new areas would provide new parkland and open space to explore and reduce the burden on existing 'hot spots' or honey pots where there is concern that visitor pressure can impact on the landscape, ecology and general amenity of the Park. A number of these new connections will only be achieved through partnership working and agreement from a range of other landowners and authorities. Hence the terminology 'to seek' or 'encourage'. There is no intention to make the Park more accessible to motorists.</p> | <p>Comments noted</p> | No change |
| L GI36.5 | Save Lea Marshes | | <p>As mentioned above, there is a serious lack of specifics in the document. I wonder if this may be partly due to inadequate inspection of the locations, as illustrated by the following two examples.</p> <p>a. One guideline mentions connectivity between Douglas Eyre Playing Fields and Blackhorse Road. The authors seem to be unaware that there already is a short path between the NE corner of the Playing Field and Hawarden Road, at the end of which there is (or was until very recently) a gate which has been kept padlocked for about the last ten years.</p> <p>b. A guideline for the area of the Lee Navigation and Hertford Union Canal is to "Encourage greater use of canal towpaths". One wonders when if ever the authors visited this area. At weekends, especially in summer, the towpaths are already full to capacity with pedestrians and cyclists. This guideline cannot be taken seriously. The document does not mention that National Cycle Route 1 passes along this section of the Lee Navigation towpath.</p> | <p>Comments noted. In respect of point a) - this gate was locked 30 years ago and there was only controlled access via the Warner Estate. In respect of point b) the text will be amended to take account of the route of the NCN Route 1 and the considerable movement along this route.</p> | <p>Amend the 'Key Characteristics text under J2 'Lee Navigation, Limehouse Cut and Hertford Union Canal' as follows: 7th bullet point - Popular and busy access route for pedestrians and cyclists with physical and visual connections with the Olympic Park <u>Including the National Cycle Network Route 1 at Hackney Wick.. The National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 1 joins into the Park via the Hertford Union Canal towpath at Hackney Wick.</u> Amend Guidelines third bullet point as follows: <u>Encourage greater use of improve the safety of access along</u> canal towpaths through better gateway features and signage.</p> | |

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| L GI36.6 | Save Lea Marshes | | | <p>The document needs the attention of a subeditor. It may be claimed that this version is only a "draft", but that would be an inadequate excuse: the document has been released to the public for consultation, so at the very least it should have undergone a spell check. There are many spelling errors; the paragraph numbering goes awry at the page numbered 138; some of the internal references are invalid; some of the Character Areas on the page numbered 12 are incorrectly labelled; there are some absurdities in the Glossary (who needs a glossary to understand the meanings of words like rarity and remnant, and what is the relevance of Bracknell Forest Borough?); there are duplications in the Bibliography; and Appendix 3 is missing.</p> | <p>Appendix 3 is a sample survey sheet. Comments noted - numbering and other minor editing will be undertaken before the final version is issued. The Glossary provides information about a range of terms not all will be familiar to everyone and some meanings are particular to landscape assessment processes and methodologies.</p> | <p>Numbering and minor edits will be undertaken throughout and a survey sample sheet added to Appendix 3.</p> |
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Lee Valley Regional Park

Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy

Prepared by LUC
December 2018



Project Title: Lee Valley Regional Park Landscape Character Assessment

Client: Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

| Version | Date | Version Details | Prepared by | Checked by | Approved by |
|---------|------------|--|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| V1 | 06.10.2017 | Draft Report | M Jansson B Gurney K Ahern | K Ahern | K Ahern |
| V2 | 15.02.2018 | Draft Report including response to client comments | M Jansson B Gurney | M Jansson | K Ahern |
| V3 | 15.02.2018 | Draft Report for consultation | M Jansson B Gurney | M Jansson | K Ahern |
| V4 | 01.03.18 | Draft for consultation with minor amendments | M Jansson | M Jansson | K Ahern |
| V5 | 13.12.18 | Minor amendments following consultation | B Gurney | K Ahern | K Ahern |



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Lee Valley Regional Park

Landscape Character Assessment and

Landscape Strategy

Prepared by LUC
December 2018

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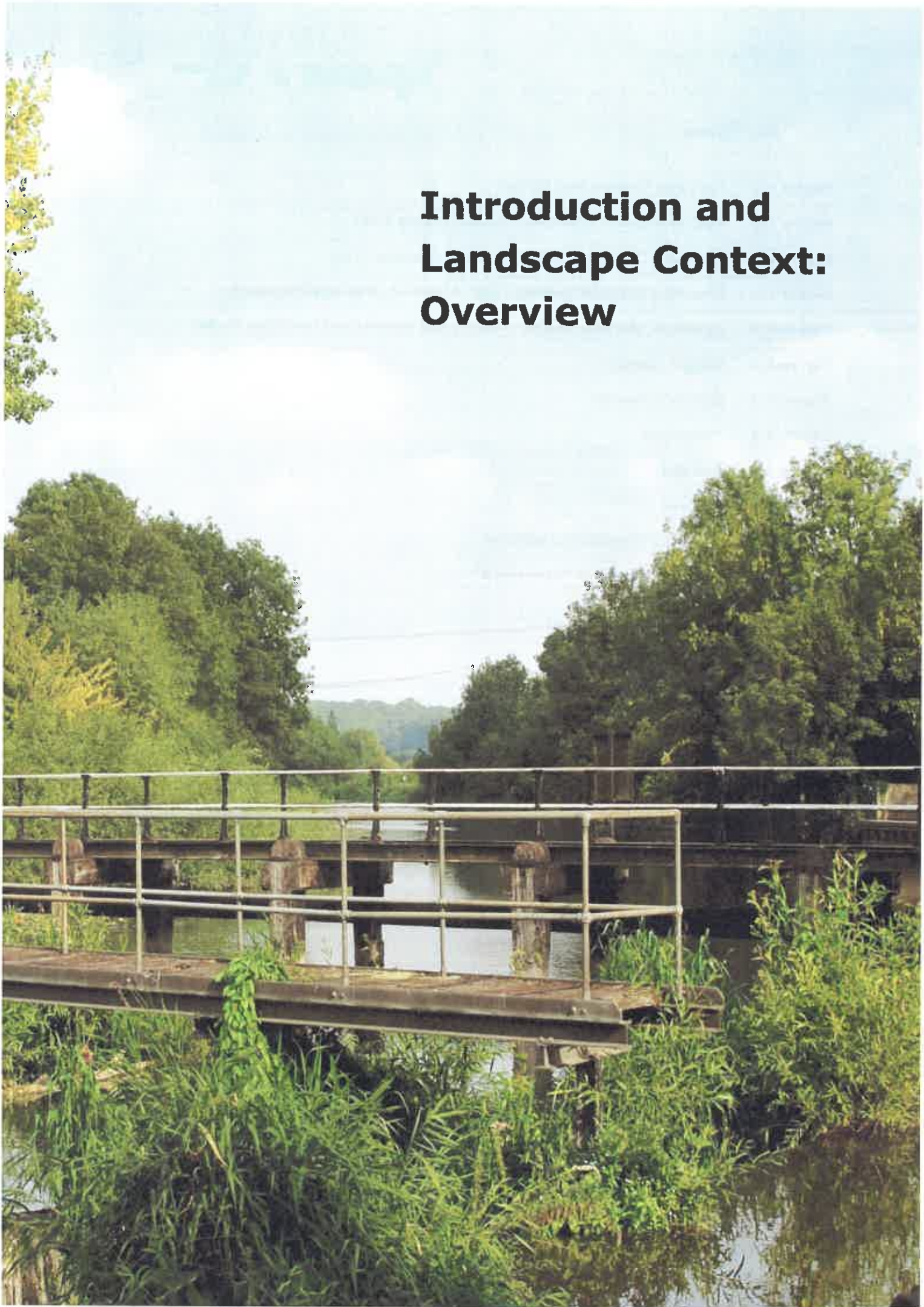
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Introduction and Landscape Context: Overview

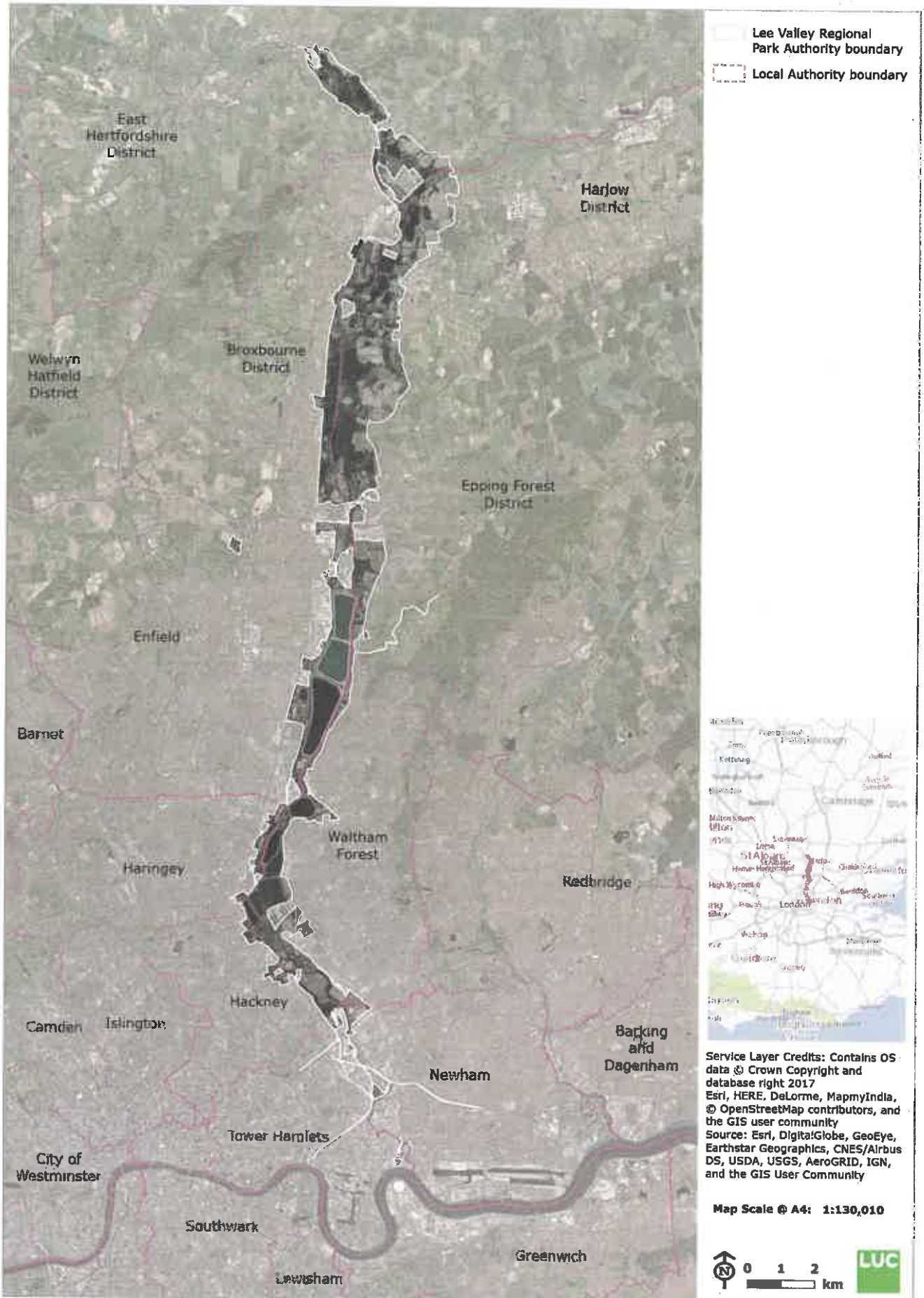


1. Introduction and Landscape Context

Background & Purpose of the Landscape Character Assessment

- 1.1 LUC has prepared this study on behalf of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA). It provides a comprehensive and up to date Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Landscape Strategy for the Park following good practice as recommended by Natural England's recently published Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014).
- 1.2 The study draws together existing information on character from the LVRPA Landscape Character Assessment (LDA, 1995), the A Strategic Landscape Vision (LDA, 1995) and the Landscape Sensitivity Study (LUC, 2014). It builds on this and updates it with new information and field survey to create a consistent and robust landscape evidence base that will support the emerging Park Development Framework and future work in preparing strategic planning evidence.
- 1.3 It will provide sound evidence to inform work on policy development and development management, guiding development and land management that is sympathetic to local character and qualities of the Park.
- 1.4 This report is set out in two parts. **Part 1** provides an overview, comprising two sections:
 - Introduction and landscape context; and
 - Method and approach to the landscape character assessment.
- 1.5 **Part 2** presents the landscape character and landscape strategy for the Lee Valley comprising:
 - The landscape classification; and
 - Profiles for the 12 landscape character types and 37 character areas.
- 1.6 The report is supported by the following appendices:
 - **Appendix 1** provides a Glossary of Terms.
 - **Appendix 2** presents the Bibliography and Reference list.
 - **Appendix 3** provides the field survey sheet

Figure 1.1 Lee Valley Regional Park Context



Context

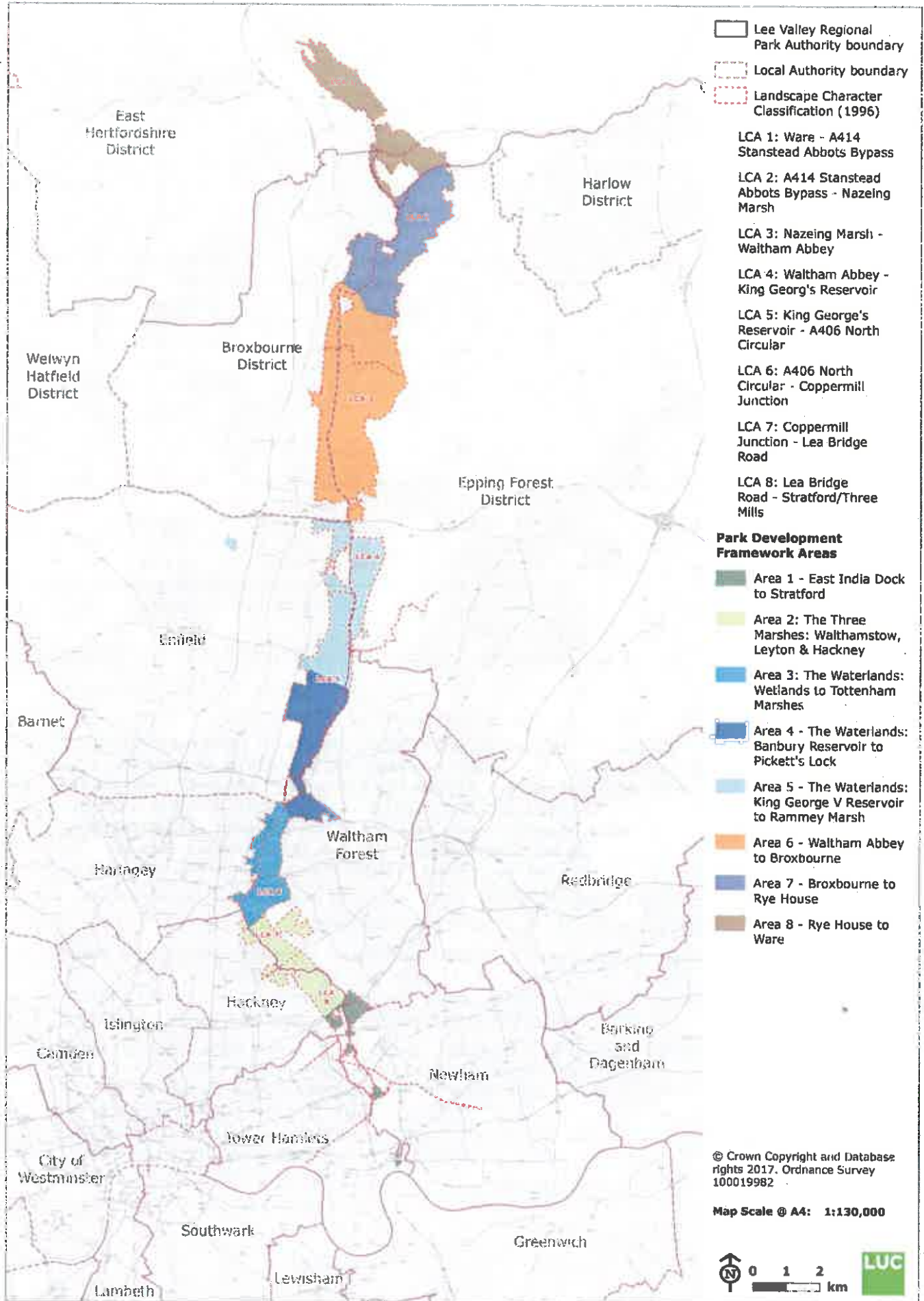
- 1.7 The Lee Valley Regional Park was created by statute in the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966. The Act places a duty on the Authority to develop, improve, preserve and manage the Park as a place for recreation, sport and the provision of nature reserves. The Regional Park extends for 26 miles from the Thames through east London and up to Ware in Hertfordshire (a location map is provided in **Figure 1.1**). It consists of 4,000 hectares or 10,000 acres, around 40% of which are owned and managed by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, which was set up to maintain the Park as set out in the Act.
- 1.8 The Lee Valley Regional Park includes a diverse series and contrasting range of landscapes. These include semi natural lowland river landscapes and flood meadows and mosaic wetland landscapes which are the rich legacy of mineral extraction, to post-industrial and inner London landscapes much valued for their biodiversity interest and green infrastructure importance. The Park's intrinsic value is that it lies in such close proximity to often densely developed riparian boroughs. It is a landscape which is in a constant state of evolution, resulting from its location in a 'growth area' where there is significant development pressure that has the potential to change the intrinsic character of the Park.

The Lee Valley Regional Park Landscape Evidence Base

- 1.9 The previous landscape baseline for the LVRP comprises two studies: LVRP Landscape Character Assessment (LDA, 1996) and LVRP Landscape Sensitivity Study (LUC, 2013). The present study will provide an updated baseline that replaces the 1996 LCA, with a revised classification. The 2013 Sensitivity Study, although not aligned with the new classification, still forms a valuable augmentation to the present study, providing an evaluation of the sensitivity of the landscape of the Park to a series of specific development scenarios.
- 1.10 Further details of these studies are provided below.
- LVRP Landscape Character Assessment (LDA, 1996) and LVRPA Strategic Landscape Vision (LDA, 1996)**
- 1.11 The current landscape character assessment was undertaken in 1996 and followed the standard methodology set out in the 1993 Countryside Commission Landscape Character assessment Guidance. It identifies eight broad landscape character areas running north south within the Park. Since 1996 the LCA guidance has been updated in 2002 and again in 2014. There have also been substantial changes over many areas of the Park over the past twenty years, and this update will provide an opportunity to update the evidence base to reflect these changes as well as be prepared in accordance with the guidance prepared by Natural England in 2014 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment'.
- LVRP Landscape Sensitivity Study (LUC, 2013) Unpublished**
- 1.12 This assessment used the information in the 1996 and involved a targeted field survey to capture additional information specifically to inform the sensitivity analysis of specific types of development. The study identified locations where there are important views into the Park and also highlighted a number of locations where there are visually detracting edges to the Park.
- 1.13 The study provided a partial update to the landscape baseline characterisation, providing revised key landscape characteristics, updated photos and identifying sensitive features and characteristics. The study also used the spatial areas established for the Regional Park Development Framework¹ in the interests of ensuring consistency across the different spatial planning evidence bases used in Regional Park decision making. These areas are closely aligned with the 1996 LCA areas, albeit with some rationalisation. The relationship between the Park Development Framework spatial planning areas and the landscape character areas derived for the 1996 Landscape Assessment is shown on **Figure 1.2**.

¹ Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, 2012, Lee Valley Regional Park Development Framework

Figure 1.2 Park Development Framework Spatial Planning Areas



Relationship to Published Landscape Studies

- 1.14 Landscape does not stop at administrative boundaries but continues seamlessly into surrounding Boroughs. An aim of this LCA update was to show consistency with surrounding authorities' LCAs, and to nest within existing regional and national landscape classifications. Existing assessments are as follows:

National Level

- 1.15 **National Character Area Study, Natural England (2013)** – 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. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries.
- 1.16 Two occur partly within the present study area, these are the *NCA 111 Northern Thames Basin* and *NCA 112 Inner London*. These broad areas form the highest level of LCA across the study area and are illustrated in **Figure 1.3**.

Regional Level

- 1.17 The **East of England Framework** covers the north of the present study area (see **Figure 1.4**) and includes a *Landscape Typology (2009)*, an *Urban Landscape Typology (2009)*, *Integrated Landscape Character Objectives (2011)* and *Guidance On Assessing The Sensitivity Of The Landscape of the East of England (2011)*. It was undertaken at a scale of 1:50K to provide a context for more detailed county and district-level assessments. It included an evaluation at the type level including judgements on strength of character, condition, key issues, strategy and guidelines.
- 1.18 The southern part of the Park falls within Natural England's **London's Natural Signatures (2014) Lee River Valley Natural Landscape Area**. This framework, intended to 're-establish the relationship between the built and the natural aspects of London', provides a high-level, broad overview of the character and evolution of the natural landscapes within London, including geological, topographical and ecological information.

District Level

- 1.19 Two county-level landscape character assessments occurring within the north of the study area have been carried out: *Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2003)* and *East Hertfordshire Landscape Character Assessment (See Figure 1.5)*. The Essex LCA was carried out on behalf of Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council to form part of the Replacement Structure Plan for the county. The Hertfordshire Landscape Character Assessment was undertaken between 2000 and 2005 on behalf of district and borough councils following a standard methodology, of which those covering relevant Riparian Authorities are listed in **Table 1.1** below.

Local Studies

Riparian Boroughs Landscape Studies

- 1.20 In recent years the majority of the riparian boroughs have undertaken their own townscape/urban characterisation studies which include elements within the Lee Valley. These assessments will have been subject to consultation, may be embedded as SPG and will inform policy and decision-making. These studies are listed in **Table 1.1** below, together with a list of the areas they have classified that occur within the Lee Valley.

Table 1.1 Local Landscape Character Assessments within the Lee Valley

| Authority | Date of Study/Status | Character Areas within the Lee Valley |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Broxbourne | October 2008 | D1 Mid Lee Valley D2 Turnford and Thistly Marshes |
| Enfield | February 2011 | 4A The Lee Valley Rivers and Reservoirs <i>Urban Areas:</i> Enfield Wash; Ponders End; Edmonton; Angel; Edmonton; Brimsdown; Picketts Lock; Central Leaside |
| Epping Forest | January 2010 | A3 Lee Valley Marshes A4 Rammey Marsh |
| Hackney | Currently being completed | |
| Haringey | February 2015 | Tottenham Hale |
| Newham | September 2011 | Lower Lee Valley, north of the District Line including parts of Stratford and West Ham Lower Lee Valley, south of the District Line towards the Thames including parts of Canning Town |
| Tower Hamlets | September 2009 (Addendum 2016) | Poplar Riverside Bromley by Bow |
| Waltham Forest | Currently revoked | |

Figure 1.3 Landscape Character Context – National Character Areas

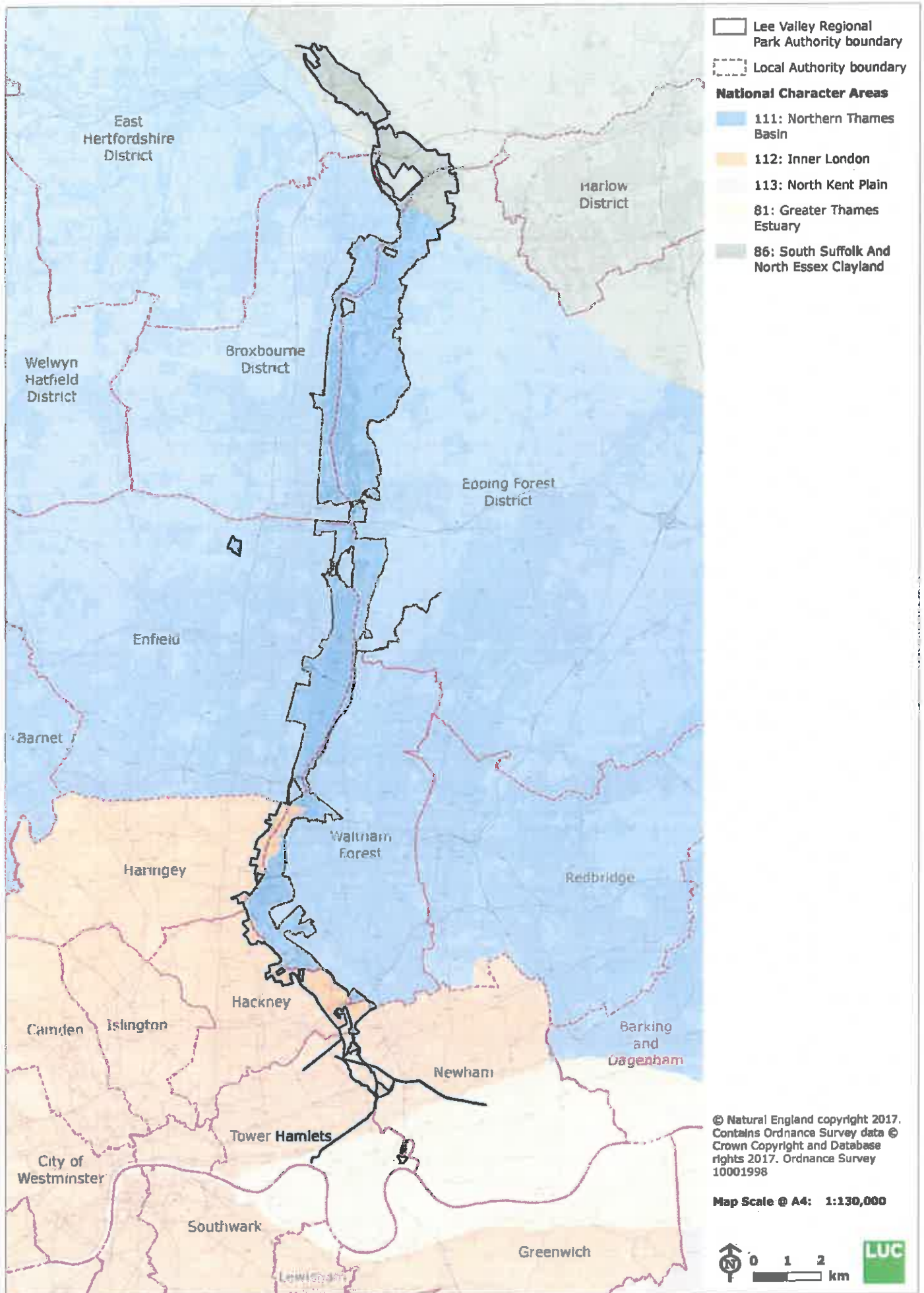


Figure 1.4 Landscape Character Context – East of England Landscape Framework

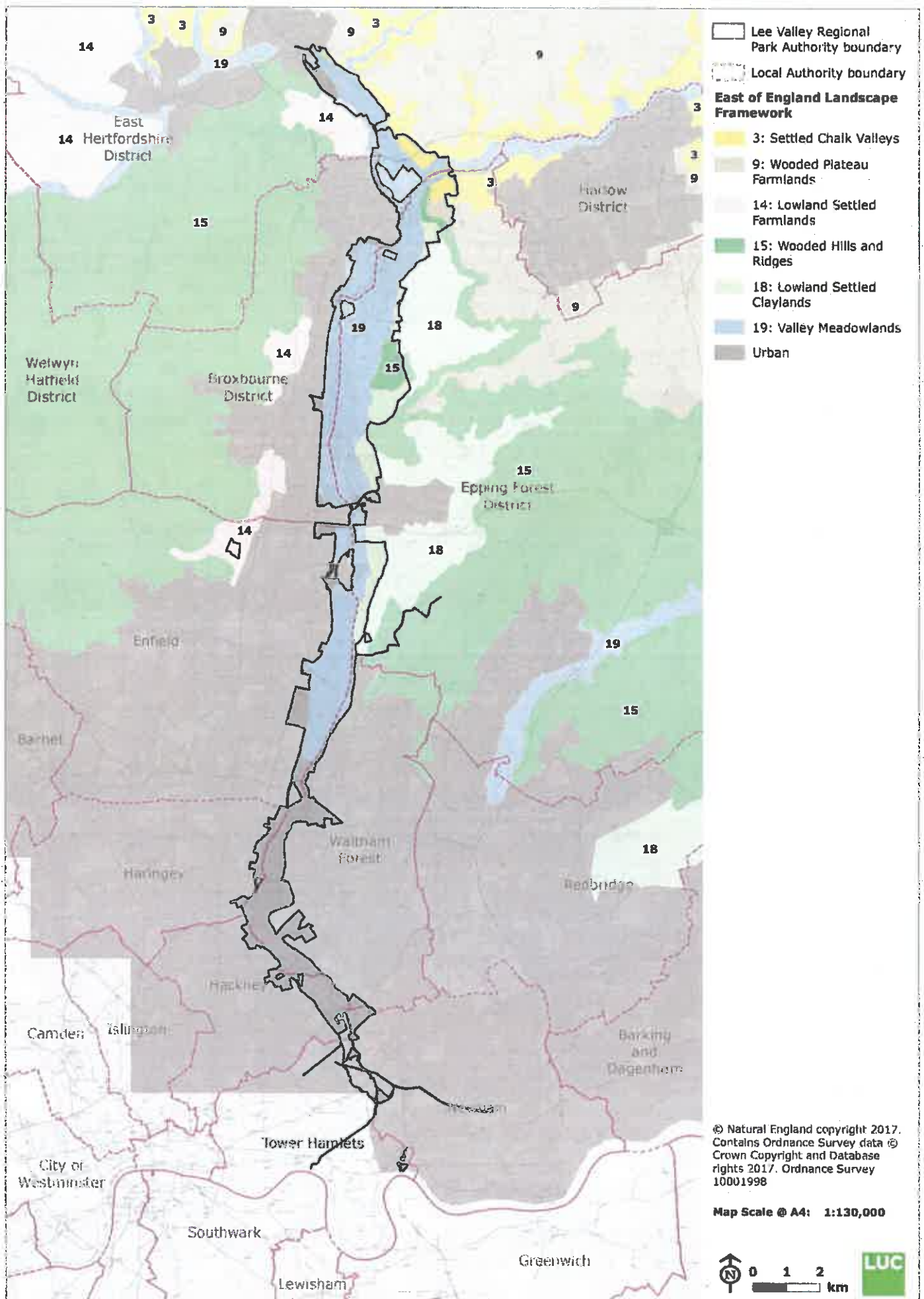
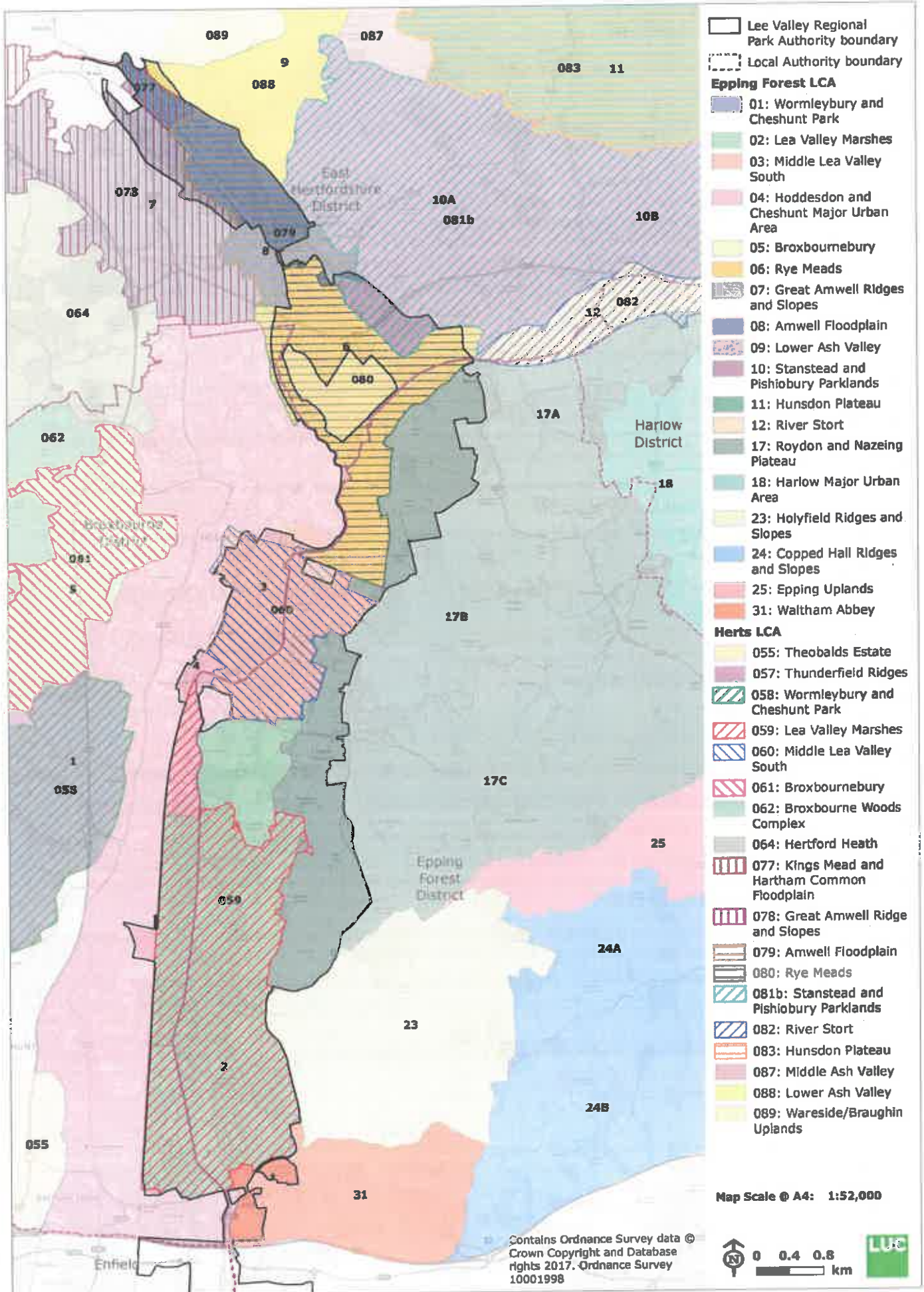


Figure 1.5 Landscape Character Context – County and District Level Landscape Studies



2. Methodology

Approach

- 2.1 The method for undertaking this consolidated LCA follows the method promoted by Natural England through 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014)², which embeds the principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) within it. It updates the previous 'Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland', published by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2002, though the methodology is broadly the same as the previous guidance. The 2014 guidance lists the five key principles for landscape character assessment as follows:
- Landscape is everywhere and all landscape and seascape has character;
 - Landscape occurs at all scales and the process of Landscape Character Assessment can be undertaken at any scale;
 - The process of Landscape Character Assessment should involve an understanding of how the landscape is perceived and experienced by people;
 - A Landscape Character Assessment can provide a landscape evidence base to inform a range of decisions and applications;
 - A Landscape Character Assessment can provide an integrating spatial framework- a multitude of variables come together to give us our distinctive landscapes.
- 2.2 The process for undertaking the study involved five main stages, described below, namely:
- Desk Study;
 - Field survey;
 - Classification and Description;
 - Evaluation; and
 - Reporting and Consultation.
- 2.3 The Landscape Strategy was prepared by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute.
- 2.4 GIS was used throughout the study as the tool for collating, manipulating and presenting data.
- #### Desk Study
- 2.5 The first stage involved the collation and mapping of a wide range of existing information on the characteristics of the Lee Valley in GIS and analysing information to generate a draft classification for verification in the field.
- 2.6 The areas identified from the draft characterisation were mapped into draft landscape character types and areas following a hierarchical approach as follows:
- **Landscape Types** - which are generic and share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation and human influences, e.g. Rural Valley Floor with Open Water and Marshes.
 - **Character Areas** - which are single and unique, discrete geographical areas of the landscape type, e.g. Amwell Floodplain.

² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396192/landscape-character-assessment.pdf [accessed August 2017]

- 2.7 A draft set of key characteristics, based on available information, was formulated at this stage to be checked in the field.

Data and references used in this study

- 2.8 Data used within the report, including data collated in the GIS database, is shown in **Table 2.1 GIS Data**. Details of the references used within the text are provided in the Bibliography in **Appendix 2**.

Table 2.1 GIS Data

| Name | Date | Source |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Base OS mapping at 1:25K and 1:10K | August 2018 | Ordnance Survey |
| Lee Valley Regional Park boundary, Riparian Authorities area boundary | January 2017 | LVRPA |
| Aerial imagery | 2016 | LVRPA |
| Land ownership | August 2018 | LVRPA |
| Terrain 50 Contours and terrain surface | July 2017 | Ordnance Survey |
| Recreation data: Cycle routes, walks, strategic walks network, pathways, mixed use routes, published walks, NCN routes, Rights of Way. | January 2017 | LVRPA |
| Bedrock and superficial geology | October 2017 | BGS |
| Agricultural Landscape Classification | July 2017 | Natural England |
| Infrastructure related data: Bus garages, routes & stops; TFL routes, and super highways. | January 2017 | LVRPA |
| Night skies and intrusion | Night skies - 2016, Tranquillity - 2007 | CPRE |
| National Character Areas | January 2017 | Natural England |
| Historic Landscape Character Types (HLC) | July 2006 | Archaeology Data Service |
| Landscape Character Areas and Types (for LVRP and neighbouring authorities) | July 2017 | LVRPA |
| London Landscape Character Types (Natural Signatures) | July 2017 | Natural England |
| Rivers and flood zones | July 2017 | Environment |

| Name | Date | Source |
|---|--------------|--|
| | | Agency, Ordnance Survey |
| Agricultural Land Classification | | Natural England |
| Heritage designations: Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, and Registered Parks & Gardens. | July 2017 | Historic England, LVRPA |
| Nature conservation designations: Important Bird Areas, Ancient Woodland, SAC, SPA, SSSI, Ramsar, SINCR, County Wildlife Sites, NNR, LNR, country parks, and priority habitats. | July 2017 | Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Natural England, LVRPA |
| Green Belt | 2016-2017 | DCLG |
| Social stats data: population statistics, schools and places of worship | January 2017 | Office for National Statistics (ONS) |
| Strategic Growth Corridors and Areas | January 2017 | LVRPA |
| Open spaces including metropolitan parks, green regions, recreation and leisure areas | January 2017 | LVRPA |

Field Survey

- 2.9 A field survey was undertaken to appraise the draft characterisation. This specifically focussed on:
- verifying and fine-tuning the classification of the landscape types and areas identified;
 - recording information on landscape character and characteristics (including information on aesthetic/ perceptual factors that cannot be gained through desk study);
 - identifying key positive attributes and the services they provide;
 - landscape quality i.e. the physical state of the landscape and the condition of key elements within it; and
 - recording visible forces for change acting on the landscape.
- 2.10 In addition, information was gathered on landscape value (condition, rarity, scenic quality/beauty, enjoyment (recreation), cultural associations and naturalness/ tranquillity) within each area.
- 2.11 A systematic and rigorous approach was adopted for the survey, with information recorded on Field Record Sheets (see **Appendix 3** for an example) and through a comprehensive photo record.

Classification and Description

- 2.12 Information collected in the field was incorporated into a revised classification and the landscape character types/ areas described to provide comprehensive information on character including a list of succinct key characteristics and a description of character.

Landscape Types and Character Areas

- 2.13 Landscape types have been identified that have broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern in each area in which they occur. This does not mean that they will be identical, but that they have a common pattern of elements.
- 2.14 Each landscape type is subdivided into a number of geographically specific character areas. They share generic characteristics with other areas of the same type, but have their own particular identity or 'sense of place'.
- 2.15 For the Lee Valley, land use was considered to be the main determinant of local character.
- 2.16 This is a local scale assessment and the focus has been on individual landscape character areas, with a greater level of detail provided on each of these and only with a brief overview developed for the generic landscape type.

Evaluation

- 2.17 The report presents a clear division between the characterisation and evaluation parts of the assessment.
- 2.18 The evaluation covers:
- landscape quality/ condition i.e. the physical state of the landscape and its intactness;
 - valued features and characteristics (i.e. the landscape attributes that are of value³, covering what is important about the landscape and why);
 - forces for change acting on the landscape;
 - a landscape strategy and guidelines to protect and manage the landscape, and plan for change.

Reporting and Consultation

- 2.19 Once finalised the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy will support the Park Development Framework (PDF), and in particular, form part of the Area Proposals for the Regional Park. The Character Assessment and Strategy has undergone a process of consultation and refinement initially through discussion with both officers and Members of the Park Authority, followed by a formal six week period of public consultation during April and May 2018.
- 2.20 Key stakeholders with an interest in the Park were contacted, including statutory bodies, riparian authorities, leisure, recreation, sporting and nature conservation organisations and individuals (approx. 340 people) and copies of the documents were made available via the Authority's website and at the major venues located throughout the Park. The comments received have been reported to and considered by the Authority and a number of amendments are incorporated within the final version.
- 2.21 The PDF Area Proposals include reference to the appropriate Character Area and the need to protect, enhance and manage the landscape as set out in the landscape strategy guidelines for that Area. New proposals will be 'framed' around these guidelines.

³ Valued landscapes as referred to in the National Planning Policy Framework, 2018, DCLG, paragraph 170

3. The Landscape of the Lee Valley

- 3.1 This section presents a revised and updated version of Section 2 *Development of the Lee Valley Landscape* of the 1996 LCA by LDA. It provides a summary of the natural and cultural factors that have shaped the character of the Lee Valley landscape and has informed the classification set out in Section 4 of the report.
- 3.2 The sources of information and data used to inform this section are provided in **Table 2.1 GIS Data** and in the Bibliography (**Appendix 2**) at the end of this report.

Geological and Physical Evolution

Geology and soils

- 3.3 Geology is an important factor in determining landscape as it influences landform, soil type, vegetation patterns, land use and settlement patterns. The solid geology of the Lee Valley is shown in **Figure 3.1** and the superficial geology in **Figure 3.2** (data from the British Geological Survey).
- 3.4 The Lee Valley is part of the London Basin and most of the area is underlain with London Clay. Outcrops of London Clay form prominent low hills on the eastern valley side, and in the lower valley the clay is reflected in a shallower valley profile. The transition to chalk in the upper valley to the north of Hoddesdon and Nazeing is marked by a gradual change of land form on the valley sides and higher land outside the valley where broad plateaus extend out into Hertfordshire and Essex. The valley sides become steeper, corresponding to outcropping of the chalk north of St Margaret's and Stanstead Abbots which gives rise to a more defined, smaller scale, semi-enclosed valley form. In the upper valley, the surrounding landscape is generally more rolling and open, reflecting the influence of the chalk. The topography of the Lee Valley is shown in **Figure 3.3**.
- 3.5 The valley superficial geology comprises mostly alluvial deposits of gravel, clay, silt and sand, the result of erosion and deposition of earlier formations and associated with the complex series of river terraces throughout the Thames Valley.
- 3.6 These drift deposits have had a significant effect on the development of the Lee Valley landscape, with extensive sand and gravel extraction in the upper valley having created new lakes and wetland features, many of which are today used for recreation and wildlife conservation.

Hydrology

- 3.7 The significant water features within the valley are the unifying elements of the valley landscape. These include major water channels (the River Lee Navigation, Hugh Myddleton's New River and what remains of the natural course of the River Lea) as well as extensive water bodies in the form of flooded gravel pits in the upper valley and large elevated reservoirs which occupy the valley throughout the midsection. The water courses in the lower reaches of the valley form a complex series of interconnecting channels constrained by engineered banks and linking with the waters of the Thames, south of Three Mills. The primary water courses and water bodies, together with flooding maps are shown in **Figure 3.4**.
- 3.8 The Lee Valley is drained by a complex of watercourses which form part of the extensive Lower Lee Catchment. The predominantly clay catchment gives a 'flashy' response with water levels rising quickly after rainfall. Historically the valley has been subject to extensive flooding. Approximately 63% of the Park is still classified as being prone to flooding (Flood Zone 2 or above – see **Figure 3.4**). There is a long history of water flows being controlled through complex systems including weirs, sluices, ditches and channels for the purposes of navigation and to supply water to London. The River Lee Navigation is canalised throughout its length with locks and weirs regulating water levels and flow. Various flood defence works are evident in the mid

- 3.9 and lower reaches of the valley in the concrete Flood Relief Channels that are present throughout the mid-section of the valley.
- 3.10 These features perform important flood-relief functions both within the valley and across wider adjacent areas, with floodwater retained as surface water in the waterbodies and artificial channels and the system of weirs and sluices serving to reduce flows downstream. These systems also maintain river flows in drier periods with water released more slowly from wetland habitats. In addition, the natural elements of the Park, such as the natural river channels, soils and marshes retain floodwater by soaking up and storing excess water during periods of heavy rainfall.

Vegetation and ecology

- 3.11 The topography, underlying geology and soils, together with past and present human activity, have influenced the distribution of habitats through the valley. Important habitats include rivers and streams, grasslands and wetlands as well as woodland and trees, and a number of post-industrial sites.
- 3.12 **Figure 3.5** shows the distribution of basic habitat types. **Figure 3.6** shows the extent of nature conservation designations.

Rivers and Streams

- 3.13 The River Lea, its associated channels and its tributaries are vital to the ecology of the valley, providing hydrological and ecological links between the wetlands of the floodplain. A lowland clay river, The River Lea is associated with low gradient, base-rich water and fine/rich substrates. Typical plants include Arrowhead and Yellow Water-lily.
- 3.14 The greatest ecological diversity is found in the more natural channels, such as the Cornmill Stream and the Old River Lea, although the highly modified channels also offer some value for biodiversity, particularly with artificial habitat enhancements. Kingfishers and Sand Martins can be found in the eroding banks of the more natural courses and within quiet backwaters fish and a wide range of other wildlife including Otters can thrive.
- 3.15 The importance of the river habitats within the valley are reflected in their inclusion in statutory designations (see **Figure 3.6**) including the Lee Valley SPA, Amwell Quarry SSSI, Rye Meads SSSI, the Turnford and Cheshunt Pits SSSI, Cornmill Stream and Old River Lea SSSI, Chingford Reservoirs SSSI, Walthamstow Reservoirs SSSI, and Walthamstow Marshes SSSI. Rare and threatened species are present in the upper valley, such as Shining Ramshorn snail, White-legged Damselfly, Otter and Water Vole. As the River flows into Inner London human influences increasingly dominate the river and its importance as a wildlife corridor is heightened.

Woodland and trees

- 3.16 Wet or carr woodland is the most common woodland type in the Park, mostly established on old gravel workings and through natural succession from reed swamp and fen. Willow and poplar thrive on the nutrient rich soils of the valley floor and where gravel workings have been abandoned, willow scrub with alder and birch have relatively quickly formed dense, wet woodland.
- 3.17 Wet woodland habitats are a key feature noted in the Turnford and Cheshunt Pits and Waltham Abbey Woods SSSI's and the wet woodland cover has increased in the Park as willow and alder colonise the edges of the disused gravel pits. There are extensive areas within the River Lee Country Park, Rye Meads, Waltham Abbey and Sewardstone. Many nationally scarce and notable invertebrates are associated with wet woodland habitats in these areas and communities of mosses and liverworts have become established on the trunks of living and fallen trees.
- 3.18 The heavier clay soils on the eastern valley sides and surrounding higher land support dense woodland. The ridge top woods along the eastern horizon mark the edge of the formerly more extensive Epping Forest. These woods are an important feature influencing the character of the Lee Valley. The better drained, drier soils of the valley sides in the northern part of the park support oak, ash and maple. Hazel and holly are notable amongst understorey and hedgerow species.

Wetland Habitats

- 3.19 Wetland habitats are focused mostly around the many former mineral extraction sites in the upper valley, but also at Walthamstow Marshes and the complex of Victorian and Edwardian reservoirs now known as Walthamstow Wetlands.
- 3.20 Historic gravel extraction has created a series of large lakes with varying conditions for biodiversity. A series of restored gravel pit lakes at Amwell, Rye Meads, Glen Faba and within the Lee Valley Country Park provide an important habitat, particularly for birds and are designated as SSSI.

Grassland and Fen

- 3.21 Seasonally flooded grasslands and fen once dominated the Lee Valley but, following national trends, areas of this habitat have been dramatically reduced. In the Lee Valley the loss has primarily been the result of mineral extraction, with large areas also lost to landfill and subsequent use for sports fields, particularly within the urbanised lower valley.
- 3.22 Extensive long-standing areas of fen are now scarce in the Park but important areas have survived at Rye Meads, Silvermeade, Cornmill Meadows and Walthamstow Marshes. These are sustained through traditional management, such as grazing animals in summer months. The remaining sites are often fragmented and their condition affected by low water levels.
- 3.23 Modified over centuries of human activity, these artificial landscapes are of high wildlife value. For example, the ditches excavated on many wet grassland sites such as Cornmill Meadows and Silvermeade to water livestock, and facilitate irrigation can be used by species such as Water Vole as part of a wider network of water channels. These complexes of wetland habitats also support impressive invertebrate assemblages, with sites such as Cornmill Meadows and Amwell Nature Reserve supporting over half of the total number of British dragonfly species.
- 3.24 Substantial funding has been made available to increase the areas of reedbed in the Lee Valley in recent years. Sites that have benefited include Amwell, Rye Meads and Seventy Acres Lake in River Lee Country Park and the creation of 1.6ha of reedbed was established as part of the transformation of the lower valley into the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park for the 2012 Olympic Games.
- 3.25 The fen and meadow habitats remaining at Rye Meads, Cornmill Meadows and Walthamstow Marshes are all recognised as of national importance, designated as SSSIs. Other sites such as Silvermeade and Amwell meadows are regionally significant and designated as Local Wildlife Sites.

Post-industrial/Urban habitats

- 3.26 Post-industrial urban habitats form a significant feature in the Park, consisting of open mosaic habitats on previously disturbed land and those of the built environment. The ecological value of these habitats, such as pulverised fuel ash dumps, redundant water treatment works and temporary 'brownfield' sites within the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park support a diverse range of flora and fauna, often in a stressed environment. The new associations of species that are occurring are interesting in their own right and have considerable ecological, educational and research value. The fact that many provide the only wildlife habitat available in urban areas increases their importance.

Cultural\Human Influences

- 3.27 The Lee Valley has been a strategic corridor of activity and provider of resources for London since the earliest times. The river has been used to transport produce from the surrounding rural areas into London up until comparatively recently and water has been supplied to the city since around 1613 when the New River aqueduct was constructed. Canalisation of the River Lee Navigation began in Elizabethan times with the development of mills also occurring from this time onward.
- 3.28 Early industrialisation was a result of the availability of water power for numerous mills. These include the Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills (originally a fulling mill but already producing gunpowder by 1665), the 19th century Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield and Wright's Flour Mill

(Greater London's last surviving working mill) at Ponders End. Further south at Bow is the Three Mills tidal complex, with the grade I listed House Mill open to the public.

- 3.29 In the 18th century the Bow porcelain factory was developed. In the 19th century the lower Lee became an important area for the manufacture of chemicals, in part based on the supply of by-products such as sulphur and ammonia from the Gas Light and Coke Company's works at Bow Common. Other industries included Bryant and May, Berger Paints, Stratford Railway Works and confectionery manufacturer Clarrico (later Trebor). The Orchard House Yard and Thames Ironworks shipyards were important industries where the river meets the Thames.
- 3.30 From as early as the 18th century, by virtue of its rich soils, the Lee Valley was also renowned for its market gardens, producing plants, fruits and vegetables which were sold at London markets and beyond. This continues today, with extensive nurseries and glasshouse areas in and around the northern part of the Park.
- 3.31 In the 20th century the combination of transport, wide expanses of flat land and electricity from riverside and canal-side plants such as Brimsdown, Hackney, Bow and West Ham led to expansion of industries. Some of these industrial areas continue to thrive, while others have declined; some have been converted to retail or leisure uses.
- 3.32 Gravel extraction in the Lee Valley started in the 1920s. Some of the pits were back-filled with waste from the local coal-fired power stations; the remainder gradually flooded and have been reclaimed by nature, making a haven for wildlife, in particular certain plants and wetland birds.
- 3.33 Significant changes took place in the Lee Valley due to the expansion of London during the 19th century. Urban and residential development extended along the high ground west of the valley and the level of industrial activity increased considerably. This included the development of various public utilities with the construction of the massive reservoirs to provide water for London's increasing population. Power stations and gasworks were also sited in the valley and extensive areas of marshland were filled with refuse. Sewage works are a further feature. Many of the historic buildings and structures relating to the water industry still remain and red brick pumping stations and water towers form landmarks in certain locations. These processes resulted in the degradation and loss of extensive areas of natural and semi-natural wetlands on the valley floor.
- 3.34 Sand and gravel extraction commencing in the early 1900s has been a major influence in the changing landscape of the valley. The legacy of former workings persists as numerous flooded pits. These have formed lakes of varying character, with the earlier, less efficient extraction methods giving rise to rich wildlife habitats as at Fishers Green. The resulting abandoned workings have developed reed beds, carr woodland and extensive willow, alder and birch scrub, as well as expanses of open water dotted with islands and promontories. This enclosed wooded character is suggestive of the early valley landscape prior to clearance for pasture.
- 3.35 The valley became increasingly accessible as a place for recreation with the development of the railways and roads. Urban expansion in the surrounding areas has seen the valley being used more and more for recreational purposes with this function being positively identified in Abercrombie's plan for Greater London in the 1940s and later reiterated by the Civic Trust in 1967.
- 3.36 Extensive areas, often related to land filling of former marshes, were developed as playing fields and in some cases the landfill artificially raised the valley floor leaving unnatural landforms and materials which frequently contained contaminants. The decline of some industries and decommissioning of former power stations and water-related processing plants has provided opportunities to restore derelict sites.
- 3.37 Since it was conceived, the LVRP has provided a regional destination for formal and informal recreation, sport and leisure. The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games introduced a national and international dimension to the Park's profile. It receives millions of visitors each year, some taking part in the numerous formal activities available, but most visiting to enjoy the semi-natural landscape with its wildlife interest and a break from the surrounding urban environment.

The Future

- 3.38 The Lee Valley landscape has evolved over time in response to physical and cultural influences. Landscapes are not static and will continue to evolve in the future and this has never been truer than of the Lee Valley – although it is difficult to be precise about the effect of change. An understanding and recognition of intrinsic landscape character and qualities, articulated through this assessment, should help ensure that local distinctiveness is conserved and enhanced/restored and, where appropriate, encourage creation of new valued landscapes, in association with any future change.
- 3.39 Key current driving forces for change are:
- increasing use of the Park as a recreational resource;
 - climate change;
 - flood alleviation and water supply;
 - development adjacent to and within the Park; and
 - agriculture and industrialisation.
- 3.40 The maps of Night Skies (**Figure 3.8**) and Tranquillity (**Figure 3.9**) show the effects of recent intrusions. **Figure 3.10** illustrates the Strategic Growth Corridor and predicted growth areas within the study area.

Climate change

- 3.41 The effects and our responses to climate change are fast becoming the most important driver for change in the 21st century. The impacts of these changes in the UK have been comprehensively researched by the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP)⁴. Hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, an increase in the frequency of some extreme weather events and rising sea levels could have significant impacts upon the landscapes of the Lee Valley.
- 3.42 Inland habitats and species will have to cope with new and changing seasonal temperatures and rainfall patterns. New pests and diseases are likely to take on a new prevalence, as well as exotic, non-native plant and animal species – combining to change the distribution and composition of semi-natural habitats across the landscape.
- 3.43 In response we are likely to see projects to strengthen the resilience of habitats to the effects of future climate change, as well as changes in flood alleviation management. The challenge will be to respond to climate change while ensuring the retention of valued landscape features and attributes, as identified by this assessment.

Flood alleviation and water supply

- 3.44 In recent years, changes in rainfall patterns as a result of climate change and significant increases in run-off as a result of development of open land within the catchment has increased flood risk by an estimated 3.3% in parts of the Park. This trend is likely to continue as climate change intensifies and development pressures increases the amount of impermeable surfaces in and around the Park.
- 3.45 As well as performing important functions in relation to flood management, the waterbodies within the Park are important for water abstraction, water supply and effluent discharge. There are a number of risks associated with this: the potential for effluent discharge from sewage treatment works to reduce the water quality of surrounding waterways; and for over-abstraction of water to reduce water levels in river channels and adversely affecting both water quality and biodiversity. As populations in London, Hertfordshire and Essex's increase these risks are only likely to increase.

⁴ <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/>

Development

- 3.46 Considerable development is anticipated within most riparian authorities, with significant numbers of homes already planned adjacent to the Park, particularly in the mid-section within Waltham Forest, Haringey and Enfield. Other sites identified for major residential development within draft Local Plans include Ware in East Herts and Cheshunt in Broxbourne.
- 3.47 The increase in residential development is likely to result in further pressures for development or land use change within the Park, for example infrastructure and facilities such as schools and community buildings that is required to support an increased population and expanding businesses. There may also be a need for new transport infrastructure and road upgrading to accommodate increased traffic and more formal types of local recreation and play space.
- 3.48 Several major infrastructure projects are also planned which may impact both directly and indirectly on the Park. This includes upgrades to waste treatment works and energy sub stations and plans for Crossrail 2.
- 3.49 These forms of development have the potential to have a major impact on the Park, particularly on perceptions of openness, remoteness and tranquillity and reduce its semi-natural character. Poorly sited and designed development that does not respond to the Park's local context could result in a more fragmented and weaker landscape character.
- 3.50 Recognising differences in landscape character is essential to ensure that land management changes and decisions about new development proposals take every practical opportunity to respect and enhance the sense of place of different areas.

Recreation

- 3.51 The large levels of growth in population expected to take place around the Park is likely to increase the numbers of visitors to it. The Park provides a wide range of different opportunities for formal and informal recreation which can contribute to improving health and wellbeing of people within local communities, and increasing number and duration of visits is encouraged. There is however the potential for an increase in numbers to have a negative impact on the condition and quality of sensitive habitats found throughout the valley. Careful management is needed to prevent disturbance to the valuable habitats and the wildlife they support.

Agriculture and industrialisation

- 3.52 Large-scale agriculture within the rural-urban fringe is increasing with a considerable demand for glasshouses and smaller-scale sustainable food production, including allotments and community growing initiatives. The growth of glasshouses and smaller-scale producers may bring local economic benefits. However, glass houses have the potential to detract from landscape qualities such as openness and natural character and result in the fragmentation of the landscape and management issues.

Figure 3.1 Bedrock Geology

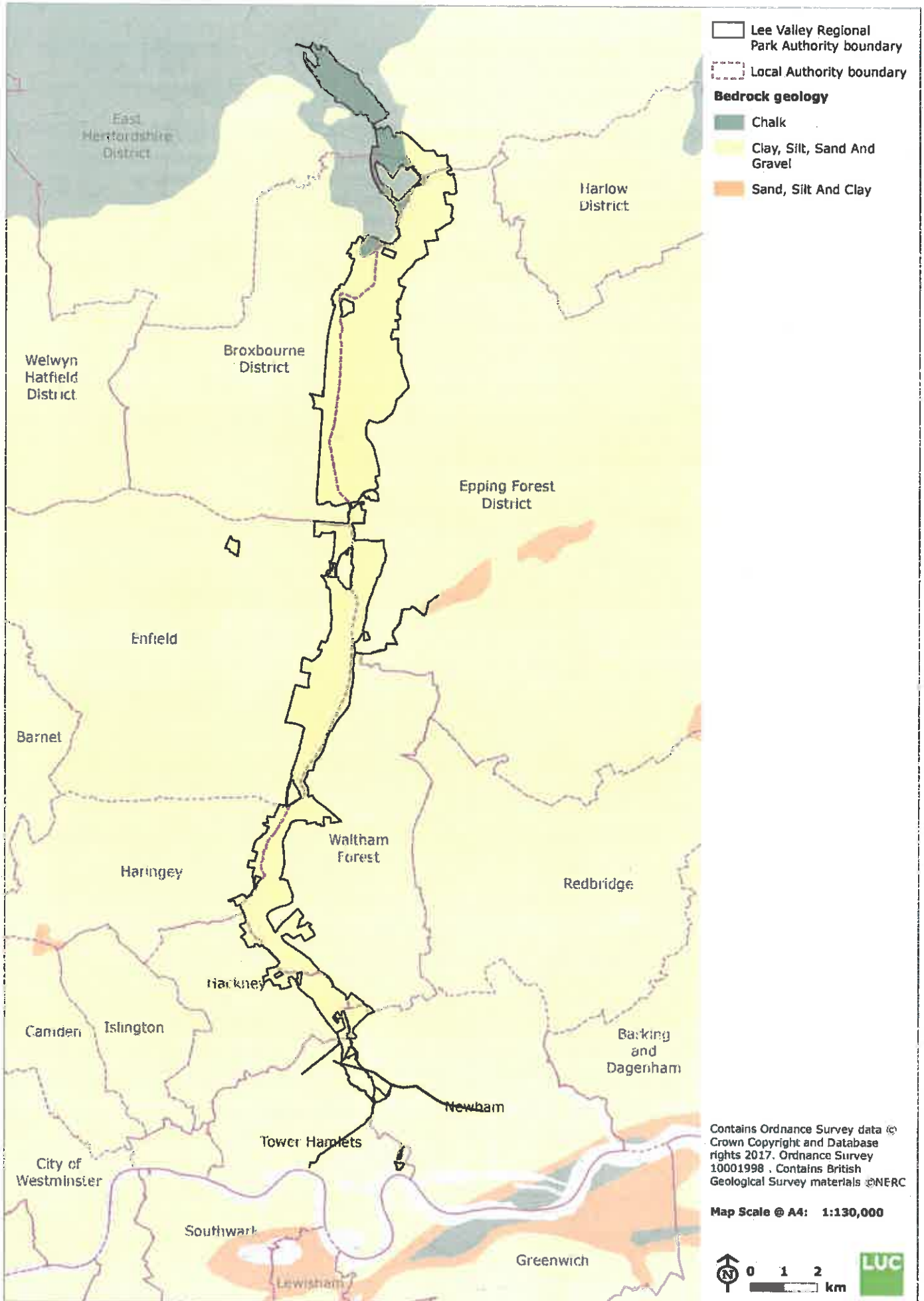


Figure 3.2 Superficial Geology

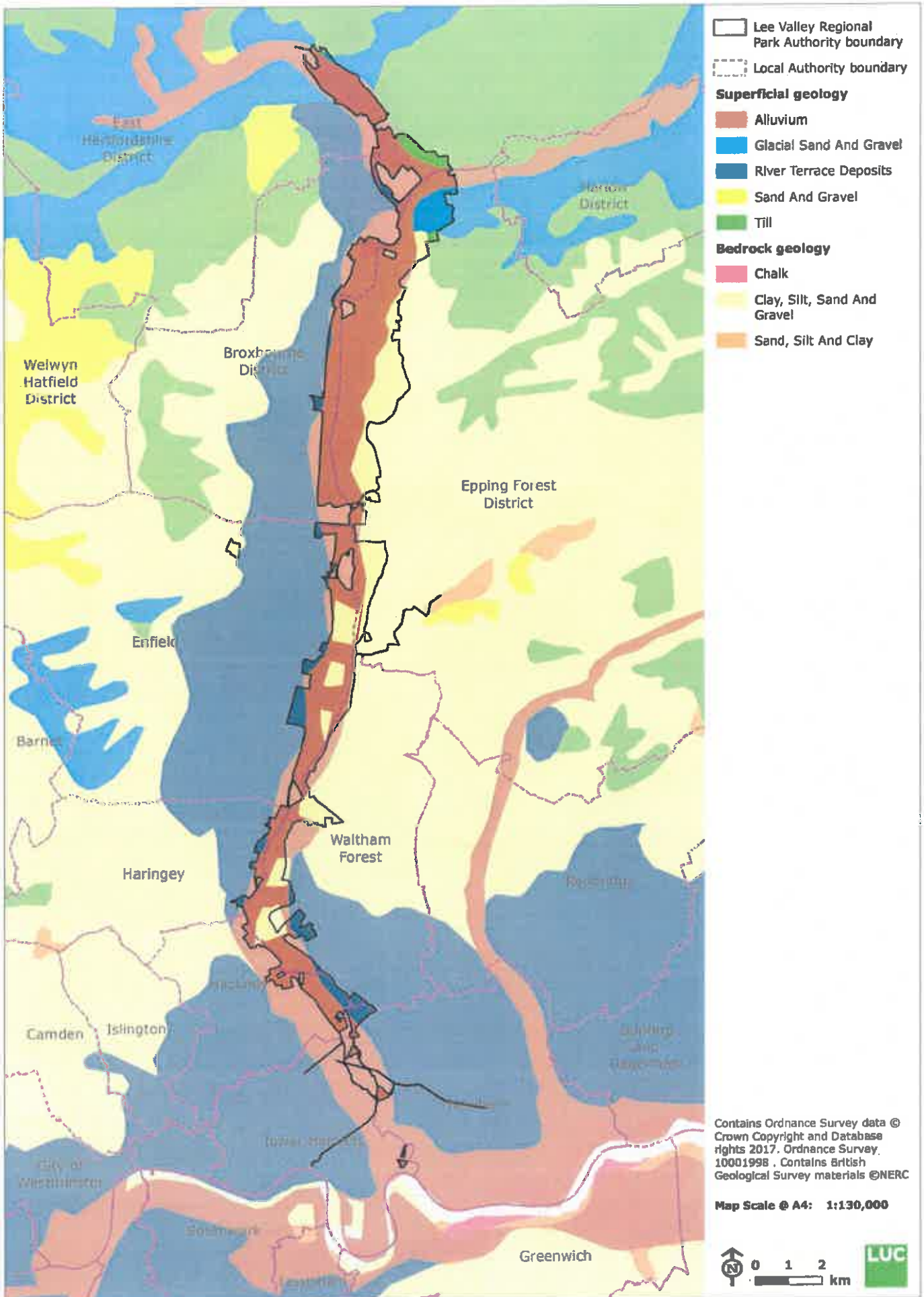


Figure 3.3 Topography

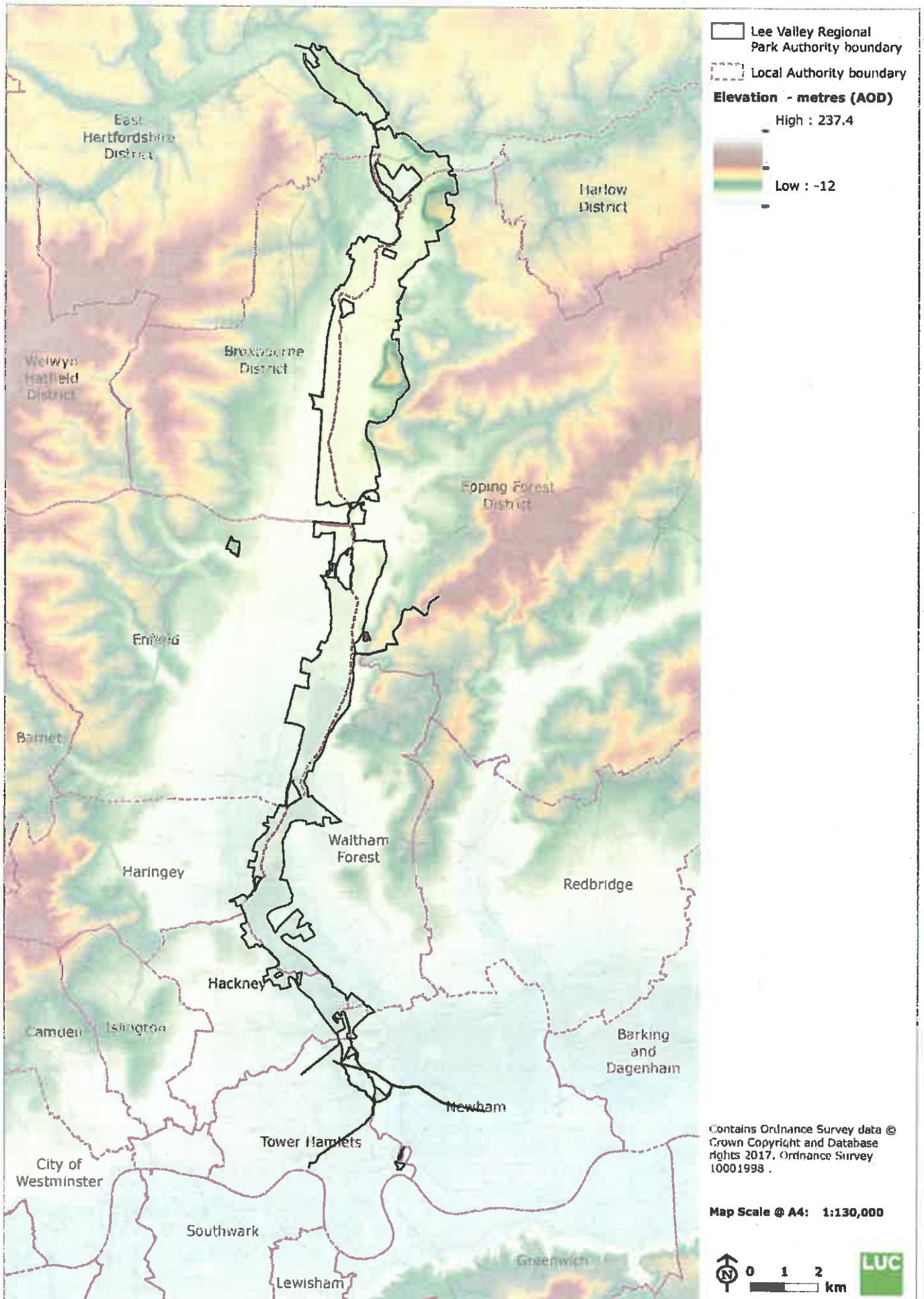


Figure 3.4 Hydrology

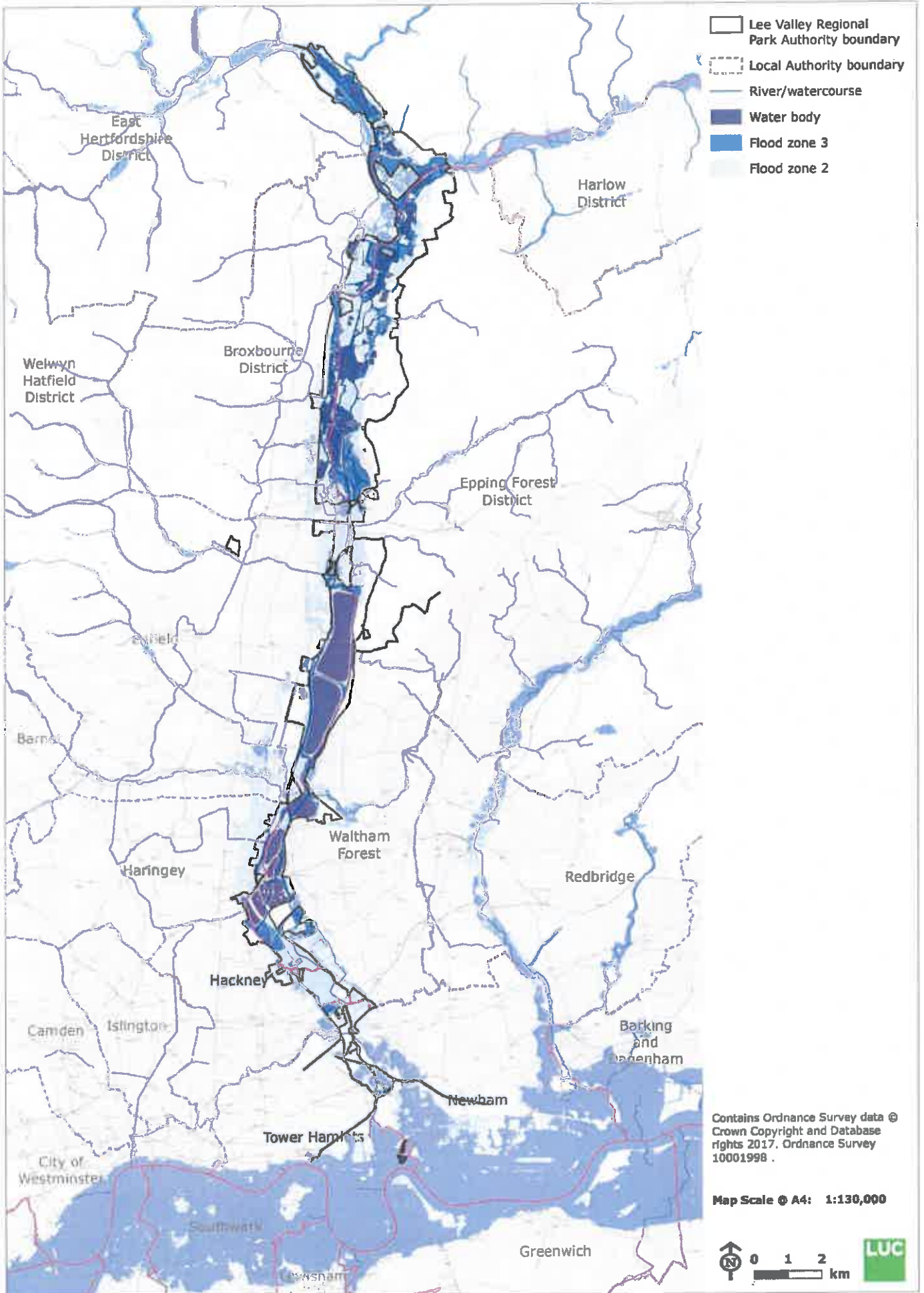


Figure 3.5 Habitats

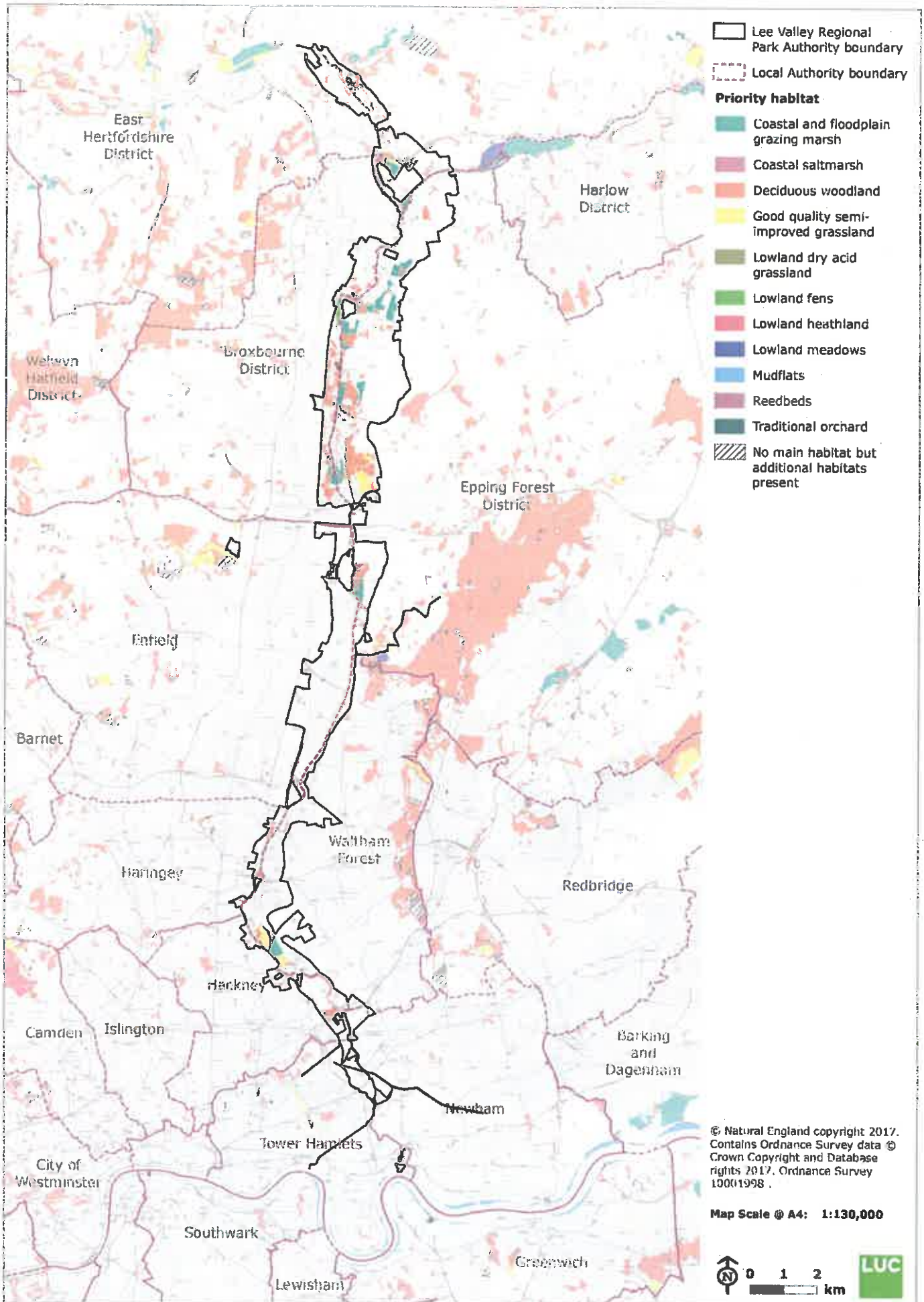


Figure 3.6 Nature Conservation Designations

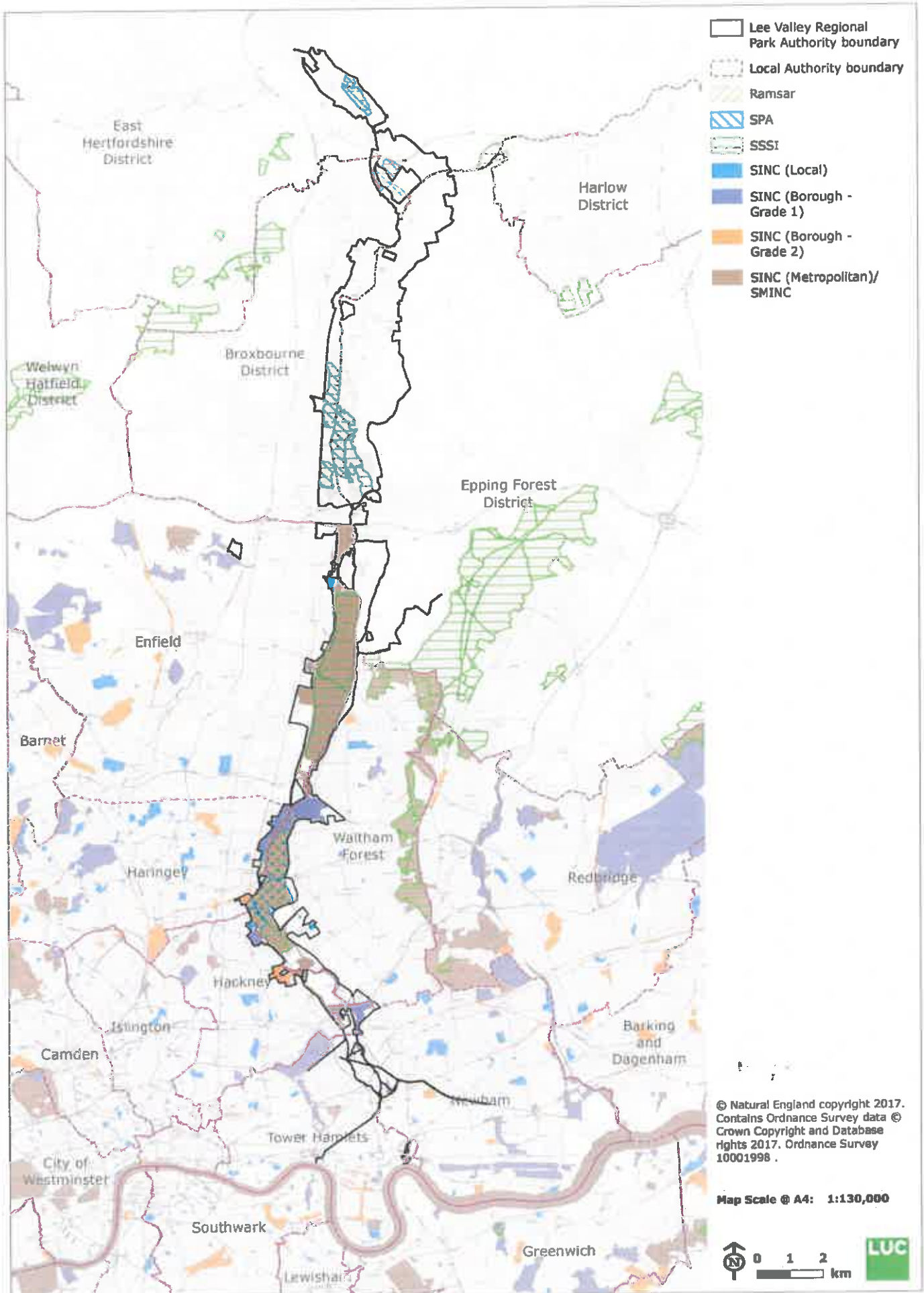


Figure 3.7 Historic Environment Designations

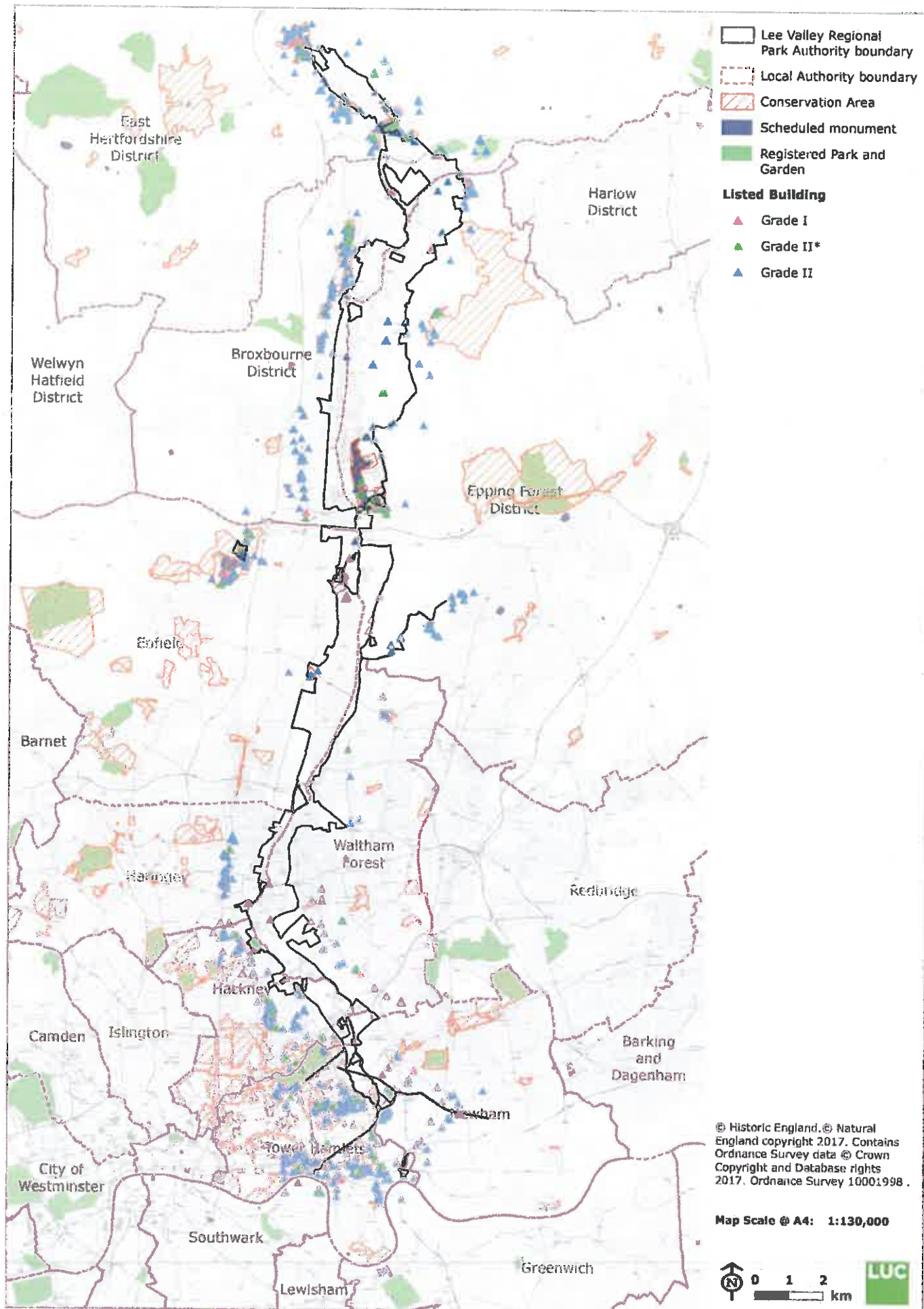


Figure 3.8 CPRE Night Skies

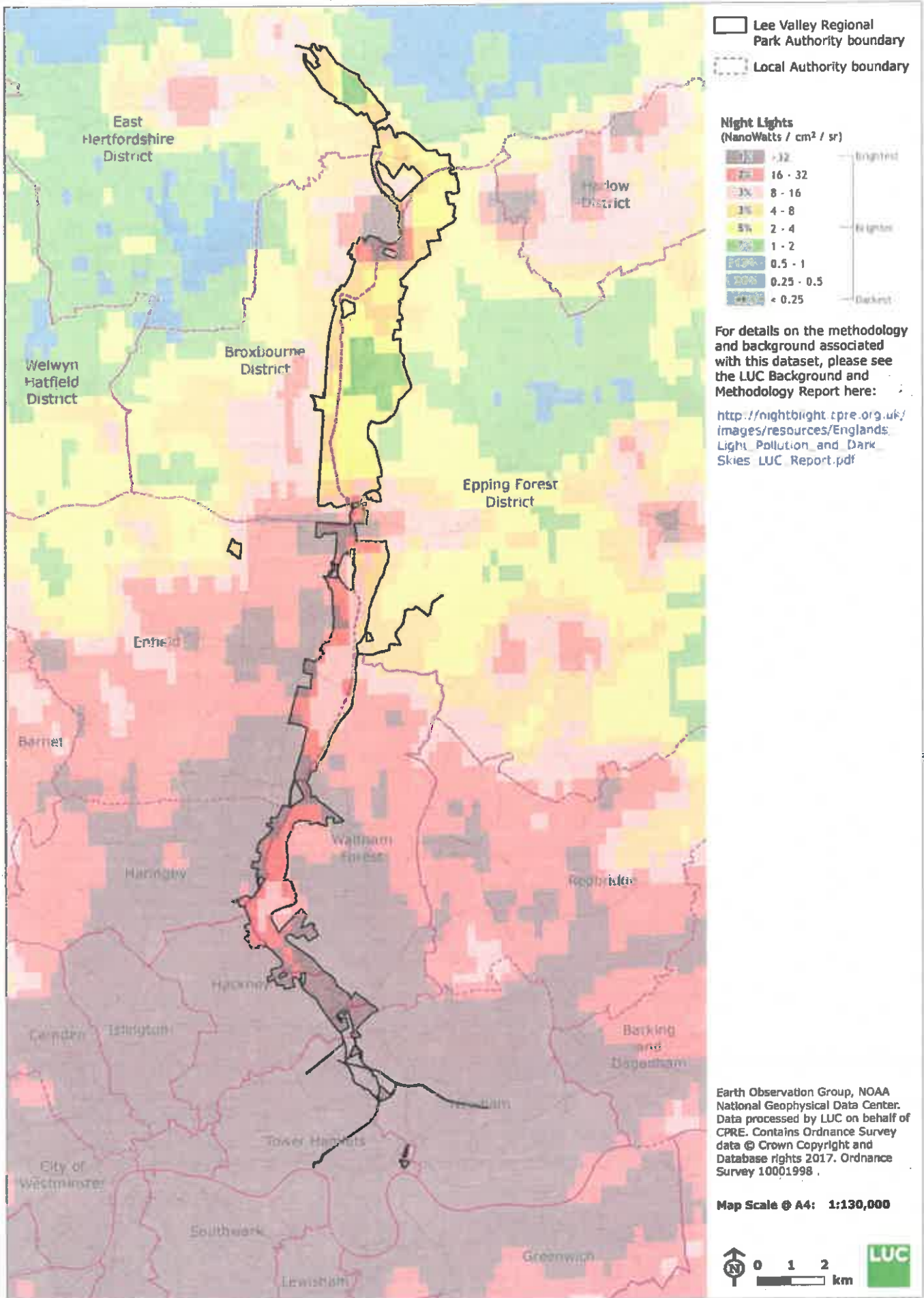


Figure 3.9 CPRE Tranquillity

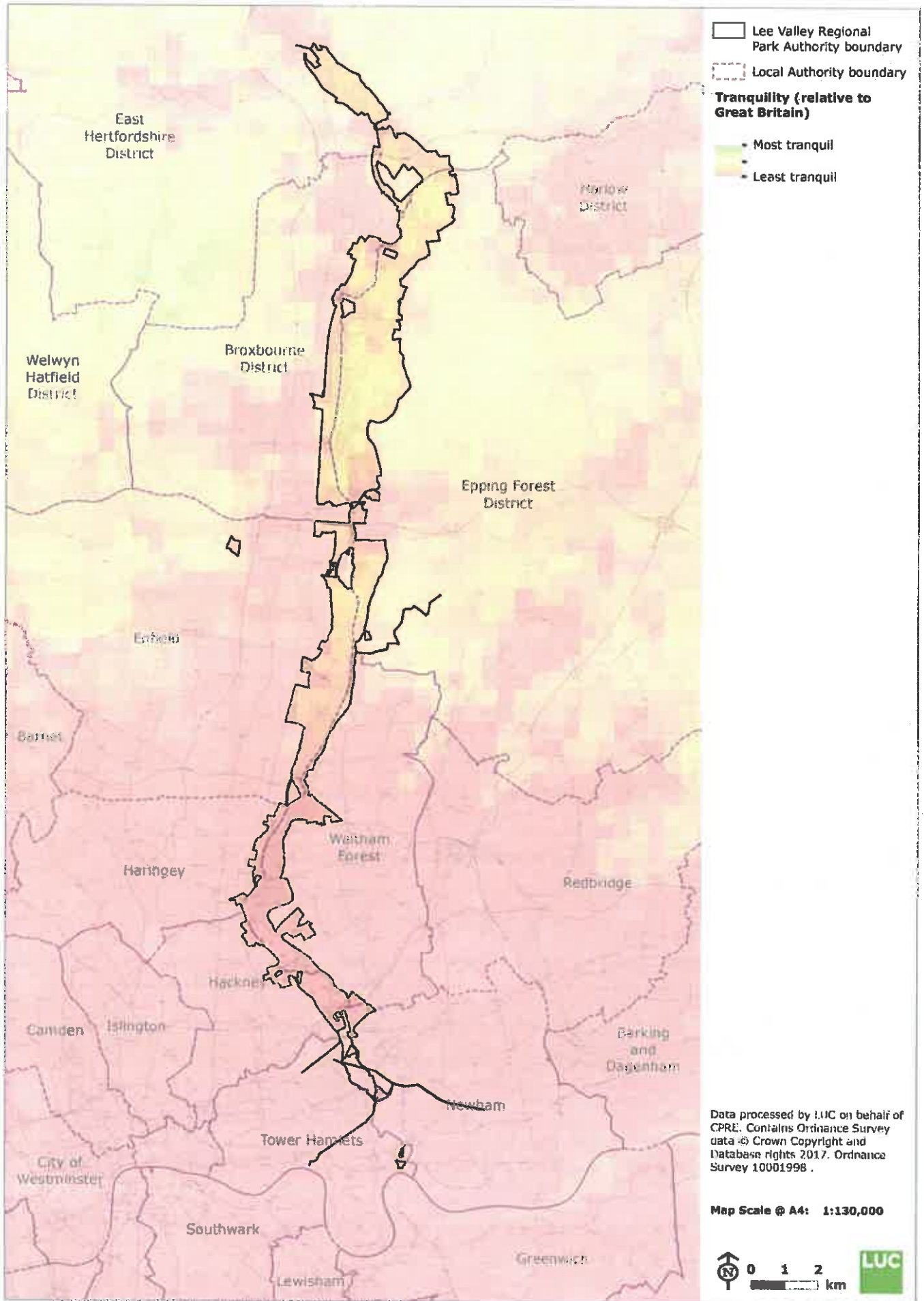
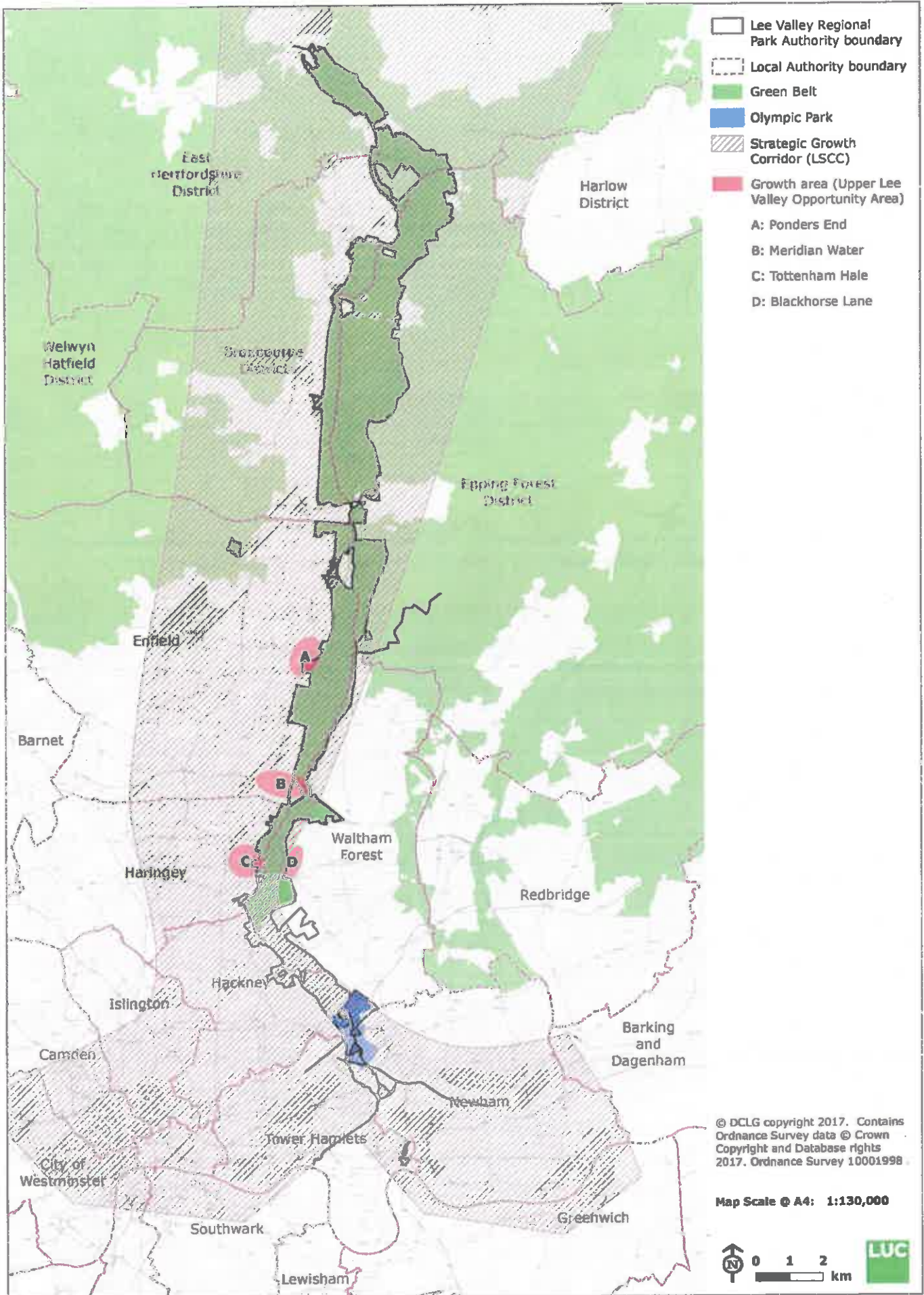


Figure 3.10 – Lee Valley Development Context



4. Landscape Classification

- 4.1 This section of the report presents the results of the landscape character assessment, drawing together information gathered from the desk study review and the field survey.
- 4.2 Twelve landscape types and 38 landscape character areas have been identified as listed in **Table 4.1** below. The classification is shown in **Figure 4.1**, **Figure 4.2** and **Figure 4.3**.

Table 4.1 Landscape Classification

| LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE | CHARACTER AREA | |
|---|----------------|---|
| Valley Floor/Floodplain | | |
| A: Rural valley floor mosaic with wetlands and marshes | A1 | Amwell floodplain |
| | A2 | Rye Meads |
| | A3 | Glen Faba & Nazeing Meads |
| | A4 | Kings Weir to Waltham Town Lock |
| B: Urban valley floor with reservoirs and wetlands | B1 | King George's & William Girling Reservoirs |
| | B2 | Banbury Reservoir |
| | B3 | Walthamstow Wetlands |
| C: Urban valley floor with marshland | C1 | Rammey Marsh |
| | C2 | Tottenham Marshes |
| | C3 | Walthamstow & Leyton Marshes |
| | C4 | Hackney Marsh |
| D: Urban valley floor with leisure facilities | 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 |
| E: Valley floor with post-industrial parks | E1 | Royal Gunpowder Mills |
| | E2 | Essex Filter Beds & Middlesex Filter Beds |
| | E3 | Bow Creek Ecological Park |
| | E4 | East India Dock Basin |

| LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE | CHARACTER AREA | |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------|
| F: Peri-Urban Valley Floor | F1 | Edmonton |
| River Terraces | | |
| G: Terraces with farmland | G1 | Ryegate Farm /Terbets Hill |
| | G2 | Roydon Park |
| | G3 | Clayton Hill - Holyfield Hall |
| H: Terraces with industrial legacy parkland | H1 | Gunpowder Park |
| | H2 | Olympic Park |
| I: Terraces with woodland and pasture | I1 | Arboretum |
| Lower River backwaters | | |
| J: Lower river backwaters | J1 | London Greenway |
| | J2 | Lower River Backwaters |
| Urban Parks and Gardens | | |
| K: Historic Gardens | K1 | Waltham Abbey Gardens |
| | K2 | Myddelton House |
| L: Urban parks | L1 | Town Mead |
| | L2 | Prince of Wales Open Space |
| | L3 | Markfield Park |
| | L4 | St James's Park |
| | L5 | Springfield Park |
| | L6 | Millfields Park |
| | L7 | Three Mills |

The Status, Meaning and Limitations of Boundary Lines

- 4.3 The precision of boundaries drawn around landscape character areas and types varies with the scale and level of detail of the assessment. This assessment has been mapped at a scale of 1:10,000 which means that it is suitable for use at this scale. The scale of this classification will need to be taken into account whenever the assessment is used to ensure that the level of detail is compatible with the intended application.
- 4.4 In reality landscape character does not change abruptly at the boundaries. Boundaries therefore often represent transitions rather than marked changes on the ground.
- 4.5 The LCA maps presented in Part 2 show the boundary of the landscape character areas as a solid green line. Where areas classified as forming part of a landscape character area do not lie within

the LVRP boundary (for example parts of the Olympic Park LCA), this area is indicated as a thin grey line.

Figure 4.1 Landscape Classification – Lee Valley North

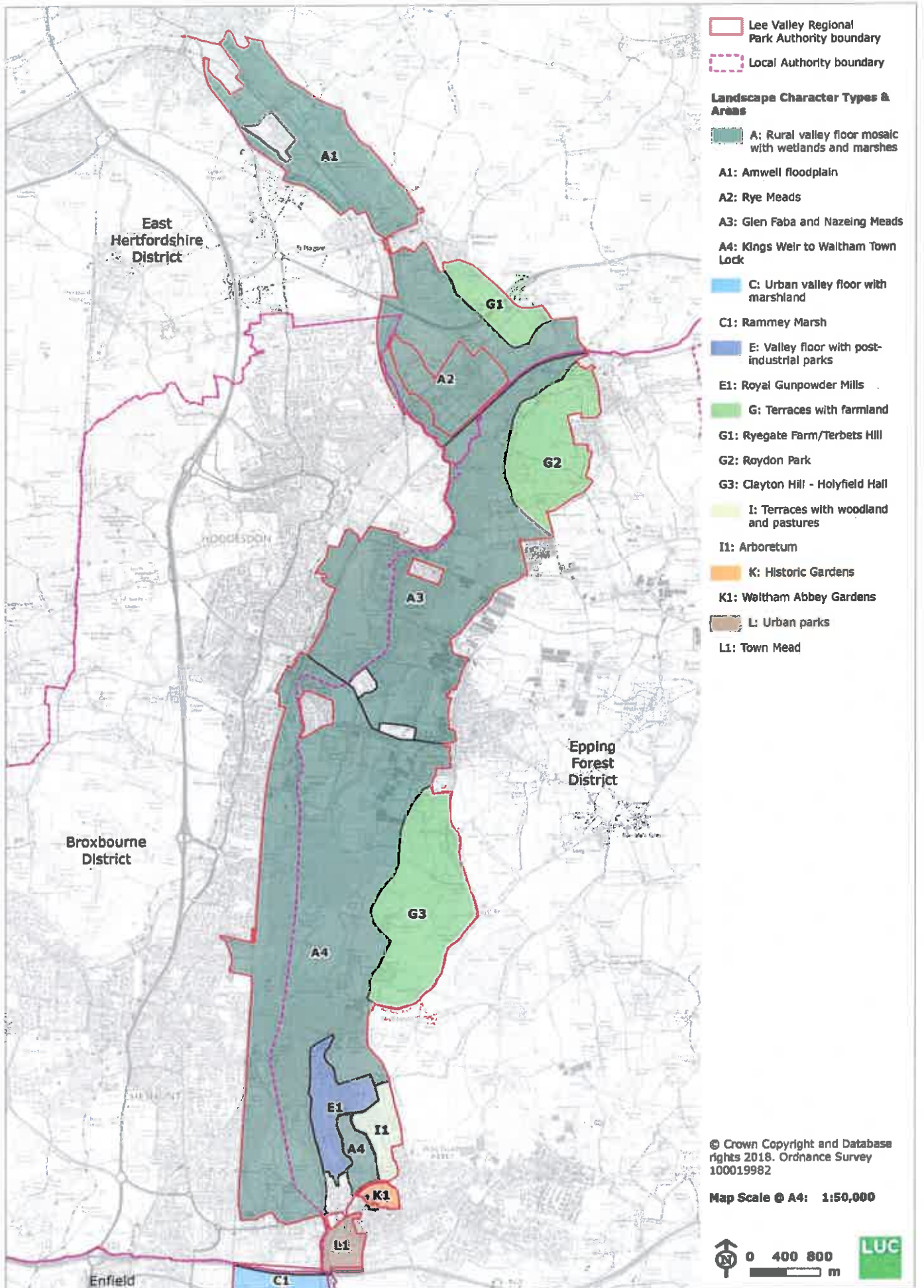


Figure 4.2 Landscape Classification – Lee Valley South

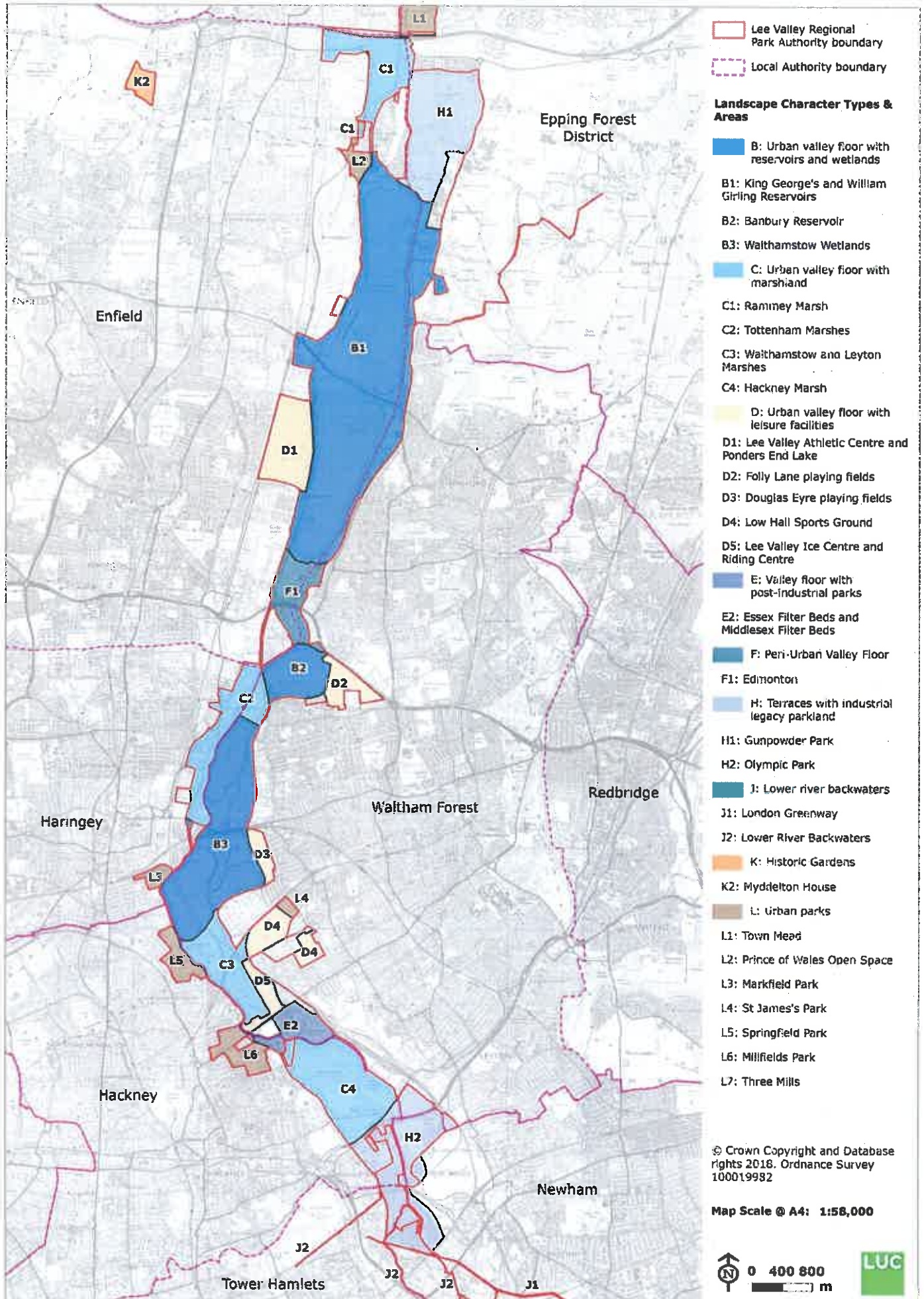


Figure 4.3 Landscape Classification – Lee Valley Southern Backwaters

