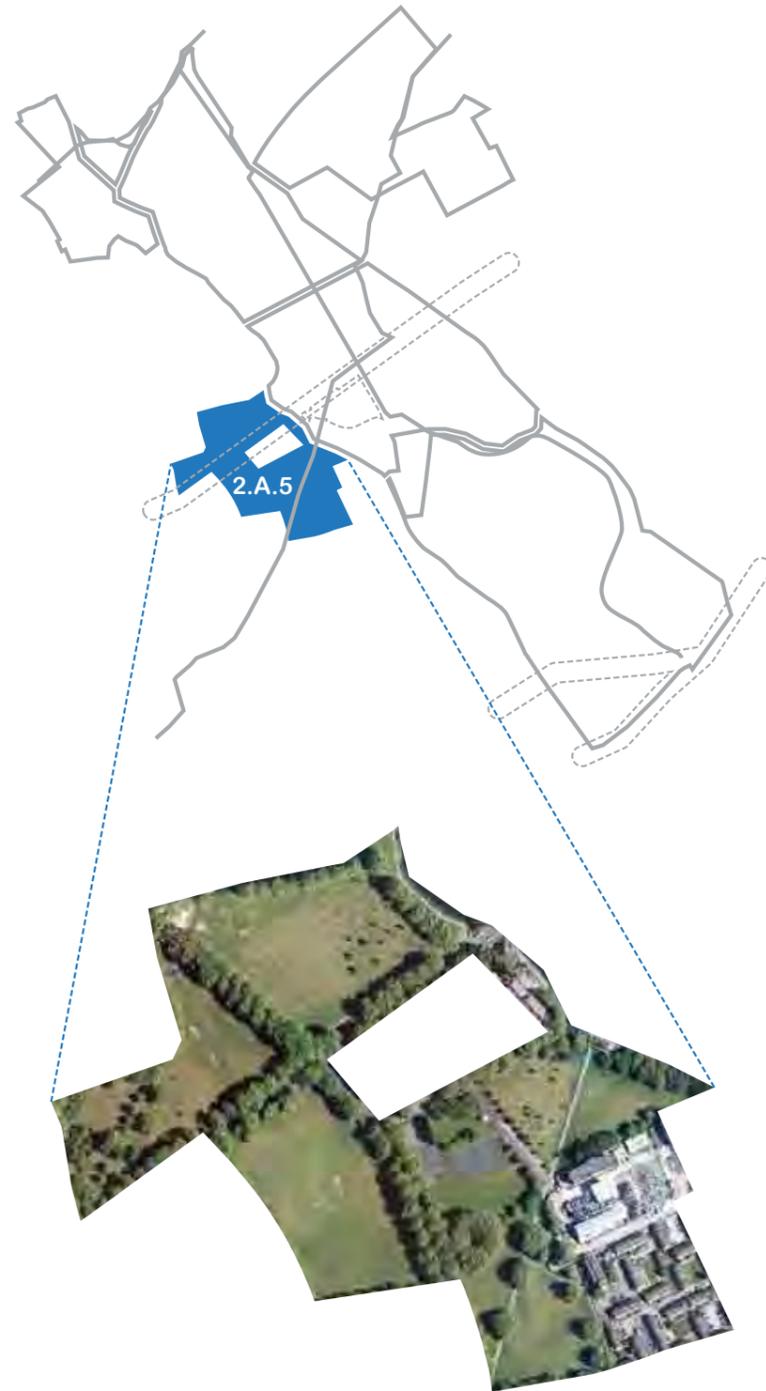


2.A.5 North and South Millfields



Visitors

Maintain and improve pedestrian and cycle links through the area and connections with and through adjacent residential areas.

Sport and Recreation

Safeguard recreational and leisure use of the parkland and waterside open space. Explore options for playable space in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney.

Biodiversity

Support work being undertaken by the London Borough of Hackney to protect and enhance the ecological value of the area and improve access to nature.

Explore options with both the London Borough of Hackney and the Environment Agency to develop waterside biodiversity and its integration with the Navigation and key sites such as Middlesex Filter Beds.

Community

Support events and community use of the open parkland including the community orchard on South Millfields.

Landscape and Heritage

Support the conservation of the high quality mature landscape and open green spaces of North and South Millfields which contribute to and provide a setting for important heritage features just outside the Park.

Work with the London Borough of Hackney to undertake landscape works to screen and tidy up negative features along the boundaries of the Park and around boundaries of individual sites.

Environment

Work with the London Borough of Hackney to explore opportunities to use the waterways to transport waste providing this has no adverse impact on leisure use and ecological values.

2.A.6 Lea Bridge Road



Visitors

Develop the Lea Bridge Road area as a major visitor node. This will include:

Development of a new waterside leisure facility, and a visitor focal point, potentially including visitor accommodation, at Essex and Eastwood Wharf to provide opportunities for water related recreational uses, for example a canoe trail. This development will provide support facilities for visitors enjoying the range of activities and events available within this area. Development of the site which is not appropriate under the terms of the Park Act 1966 and the Park Authority's remit and does not accord with the proposals set out in the Park Development Framework will be resisted.

Enhancement of existing visitor facilities at the Waterworks Centre and a broadening of visitor facilities at the Ice Centre and Riding Centre to provide services to the general Park visitor.

Provision of visitor accommodation as part of the enhanced visitor offer at the Waterworks Centre. Options could include youth hostel style facilities, pods and/or chalets to develop the site as a visitor base, encourage young people and families to visit and complement visits to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the wider Regional Park. Proposals for visitor accommodation would need to satisfy the requirements of the sites designation as Metropolitan Open Land, and be of a scale and design appropriate to the open character, ecological value and landscape quality of the Park.

Improve the quality and accessibility of walking and cycling routes into the Park from Clapton Station with the provision of clear directional signage through the residential areas.

The enhancement and maintenance of a network of all weather shared use paths between visitor facilities, open spaces, and the strategic routes; the Lee Valley Pathway and Lea Valley Walk along the towpath, to provide access for all abilities and users.

Working with stakeholders, including Transport for London on the feasibility of extending cycle hire schemes throughout the Lee Valley with the provision of docking stations at locations such

as the Waterworks Centre.

Enhancement of the quality and safety of existing bridge crossings over the flood relief channel in the east for both pedestrians and cyclists. Work with partners to ensure these crossings link into accessible path networks and open spaces within the adjoining residential and business communities.

Protection of routes used by horse riders and an exploration of the options to extend these south onto Hackney Marsh and through to Olympic Park in association with the operation of the Lee Valley Riding Centre.

Development of opportunities in partnership with British Waterways to increase recreational use of the waterways for pleasure boating and as a means of transporting visitors to and from the area. This should complement the proposed waterside leisure centre at Essex and Eastwood Wharf.

Sport and Recreation

Enhance the range of existing sport and recreation facilities provided at the Ice Centre, Riding Centre and Waterworks Centre. This will include:

At the Riding Centre - increased use of outdoor areas for schooling and exercise and an expanded activities programme.

At the Ice Centre – options for an additional ice pad and the expansion of sporting and leisure use of the Ice Centre to be explored.

Development of playable space and play provision at the Waterworks Centre

Develop new leisure and recreation facilities within the Lea Bridge Road visitor node. Potential sites for such development include the Thames Water Depot (see inset 2.A.6 .1), land adjoining the Waterworks Centre, reuse of existing buildings at Connaught Close and redevelopment of existing industrial land along the eastern edge of the Park. Such development would need to contribute to an enhanced regional offer and would have to be considered in terms of its impact on Metropolitan Open Land, the openness of the Park, its ecological value and need to enhance landscape quality and views through to the rest of the Park.

Ensure opportunities for informal recreational activity are available throughout the area, particularly on Leyton Marsh and alongside the waterways

Biodiversity

Develop the Waterworks Nature Reserve as a regionally significant access to nature destination building on the core visitor infrastructure and link this to Walthamstow Marshes and to proposed visitor facilities at Walthamstow Reservoirs. Enhance and restore habitats within the Essex Filter Beds Conserve, enhance and manage habitats within Middlesex Filter Beds to complement ecological areas on Essex Filter Beds. Establish new habitat margins along the southern and western boundaries of the Thames Water Depot to complement the ecology of the waterways and reinforce connections between Essex and Middlesex Filter Beds.

Work with the Environment Agency to protect, enhance and manage the River Lee Navigation and River Lea and associated waterside environment along the western boundary of this area as wildlife corridors interconnected with the wider ecological resource on Walthamstow Marshes and Middlesex Filter Beds. Support the naturalisation of bank habitats along the Navigation including fish refuges, the installation of fish and eel passes and improved conditions for public access.

Community

Enhance the capacity of the existing facilities at the Waterworks Centre, Riding Centre and Ice Centre to accommodate events, formal and informal learning and arts related activities. Further investment in infrastructure and event management regimes to be undertaken to establish Leyton Marsh as an events space and protect biodiversity, landscape and recreational assets.

The Waterworks to be developed and promoted as the area's base for learning and volunteer related activity. The educational resource at the Centre and natural areas to be safeguarded and enhanced for youth and schools activities and to continue and expand

provision of environmental and heritage based education programmes.

Target 'hard to reach' groups through the volunteer programme in this area, working with key stakeholders such as the London Boroughs of Waltham Forest and Hackney, building upon the 'Your Space – Wild Space' initiative.

Upgrade interpretation, signage and path networks throughout the area to enable visitors to explore the biodiversity, heritage and open recreational spaces of the Park.

Landscape and Heritage

Implement major improvements to landscape quality as a whole, especially to the south of Lea Bridge Road and adjacent to the industrial areas along the eastern edge of the area and to the environment surrounding the Ice Centre to better integrate these areas into the wider valley landscape. Landscape improvements should support and be sensitive to the biodiversity of key sites and heritage assets and aim to strengthen the river valley corridor and its associated waterways, maintaining and creating views out, to and from the valley.

Protect, enhance and interpret the important heritage assets that form a core part of the visitor experience at Essex and Middlesex Filter Beds.

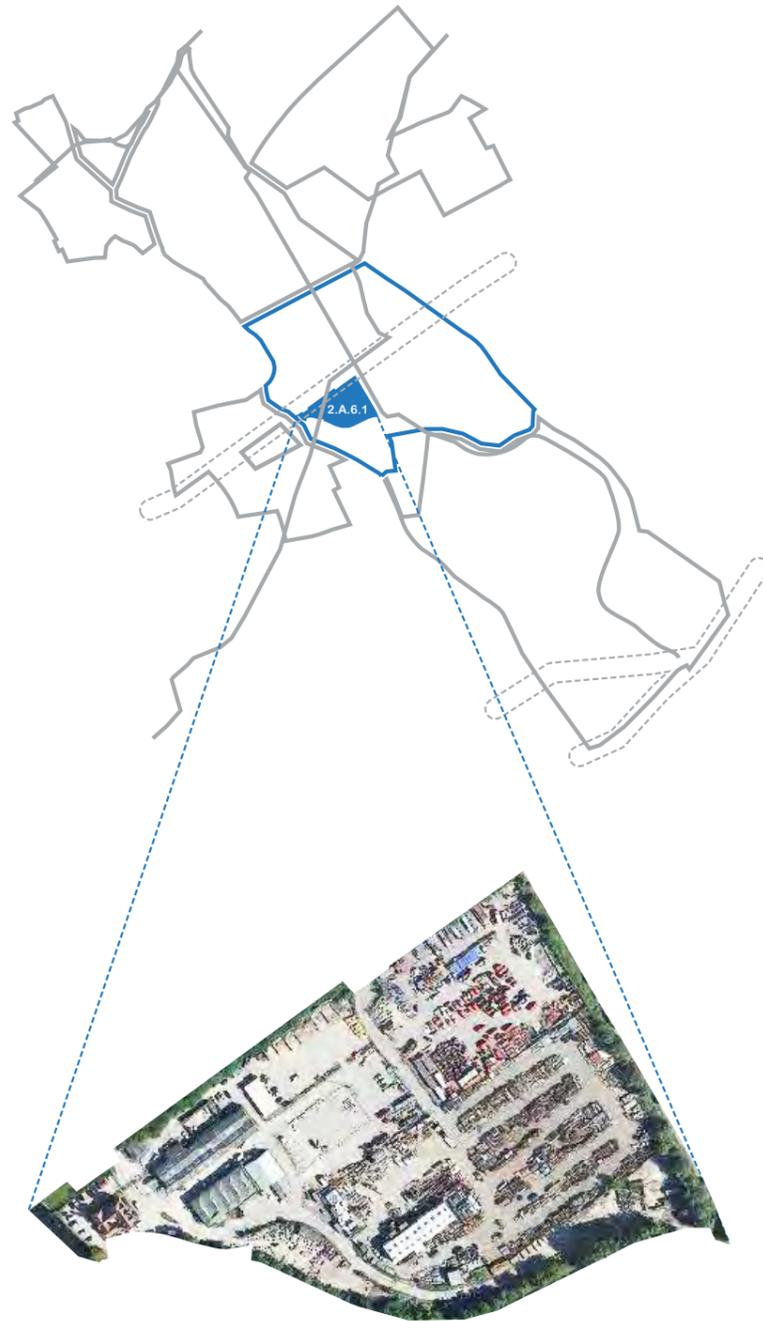
Environment

Work with the Environment Agency to identify and implement measures to improve the biodiversity value of the Flood Relief Channel, and the crossing over the channel into the Park north of the Riding Centre. Support work to improve water quality and to control and eradicate invasive alien species particularly along the River Lea and minimise their impact on the ecology, landscape and recreational enjoyment of the Park.

Explore the options with British Waterways for increased commercial use of the Navigation providing this use will not impact upon biodiversity, recreation and heritage assets.

Maximise efficient use of energy across the existing built facilities.

2.A.6.1 Thames Water Depot



Work with Thames Water, London Borough of Waltham Forest and other stakeholders to identify options for a development at the Thames Water Depot site that will bring this site into a Park compatible use. Appropriate uses would include (but are not restricted to) one or more of the following:

- A waterside visitor hub incorporating leisure related uses
- A biodiversity based and/or heritage related visitor attraction
- Accommodation serving visitors to the Park
- 'Community' related activity and uses as defined by the Authority's adopted Thematic Proposals
- New recreational or sporting facilities.

The type, scale and design of any development would need to be appropriate in term of the sites designation as Metropolitan Open Land and its location within the heart of the Regional Park.

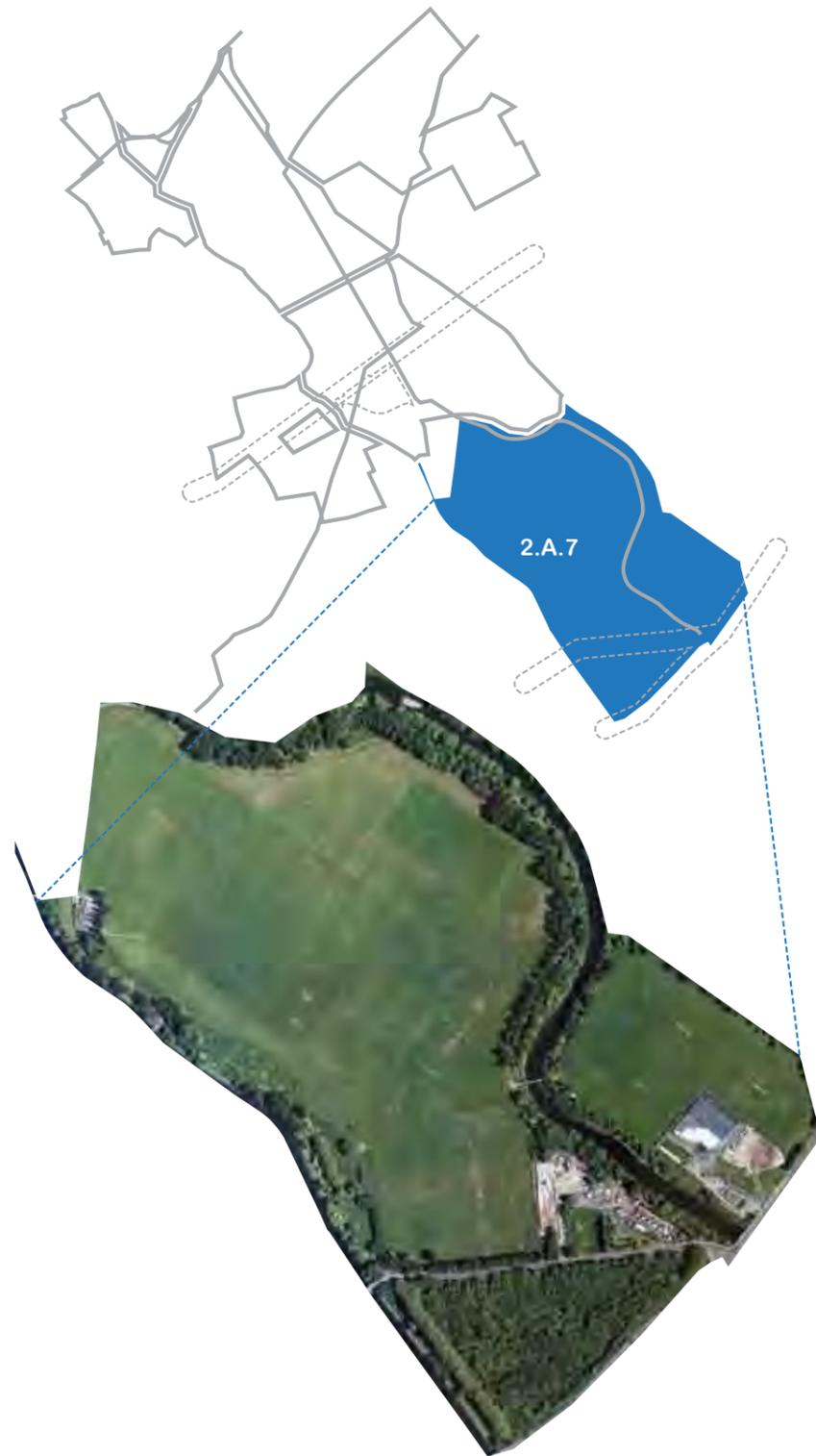
Development or use of the site would be expected to support and complement existing leisure and nature conservation activity and facilities in the area. It should also enhance landscape quality, the ecological values of the environment and adjoining waterways and protect and bring back into public use buildings of heritage value.

The frontage of the site on to the waterways should be protected from any development as an ecological margin.

Development of the site should encourage sustainable modes of transport, improve pedestrian and cycle networks and safeguard the route of the Black Path through part of the site.

Development of the site which is not appropriate under the terms of the Park Act 1966 and the Park Authority's remit and does not accord with the proposals set out in the Park Development Framework will be resisted.

2.A.7 Hackney Marsh



Visitors

Work with the London Borough of Hackney to develop and enhance the route networks within and through Hackney Marshes with the provision of new directional signage where appropriate to form part of a network of facilities linking the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with Lea Bridge Road, Walthamstow Marshes, Springfield Park and Marina and Walthamstow Wetlands. Work with the London Boroughs of Hackney and Waltham Forest to promote connections from the Park to local open spaces, to existing route networks and communities adjoining the Park.

Support the development of a key gateway access point into the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from Hackney Marshes.

Maintain strategic routes; Lea Valley Walk and the Lee Valley Pathway. Explore with the London Borough of Hackney and other stakeholders the options for a horse riding route, clearly demarcated, onto Hackney Marsh and through to Olympic Park in association with the operation of the Lee Valley Riding Centre.

Improve the quality and accessibility of walking and cycling routes into the Park from the residential areas to the west and improve existing bridge crossings over the Navigation.

Support the provision of new visitor facilities at the Hackney Marshes Centre located on south Marsh and work with the London Borough of Hackney to ensure these facilities are available to general Park visitors as part of a network of visitor infrastructure within the wider area.

Sport and Recreation

Support the provision of new and the enhancement of existing land based sport and recreation facilities including the Hackney Marshes centre on south marsh and the proposed Hackney Marshes Pavilion on north Marsh.

Explore with the London Borough of Hackney opportunities for playable space and cycle hire facilities, and the expansion of water based recreational activity on the River Lee Navigation, providing this can be achieved without detriment to the waterside ecology and habitats.

Create a zone of high quality sports and recreation facilities by enhancing connectivity between Hackney Marshes and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Biodiversity

Support works to improve the ecological interest of Hackney Marshes through habitat diversification and enhancement. In particular work with the London Borough of Hackney to introduce new habitat margins to the playing fields/sport pitches, protect and manage existing nature conservation value within areas adjacent to the waterways and at Wick Wood and support works to improve and manage habitats along the eastern edge of the site through tree/shrub planting and meadow creation.

Community

Sports facilities development and provision of new visitor facilities should provide infrastructure for enhanced events use of the Marshes.

Community activities and use of the Marshes such as the Community Tree Nursery and Forest Garden to be supported together with informal recreational use of the Marshes such as walking and stargazing.

Landscape and Heritage

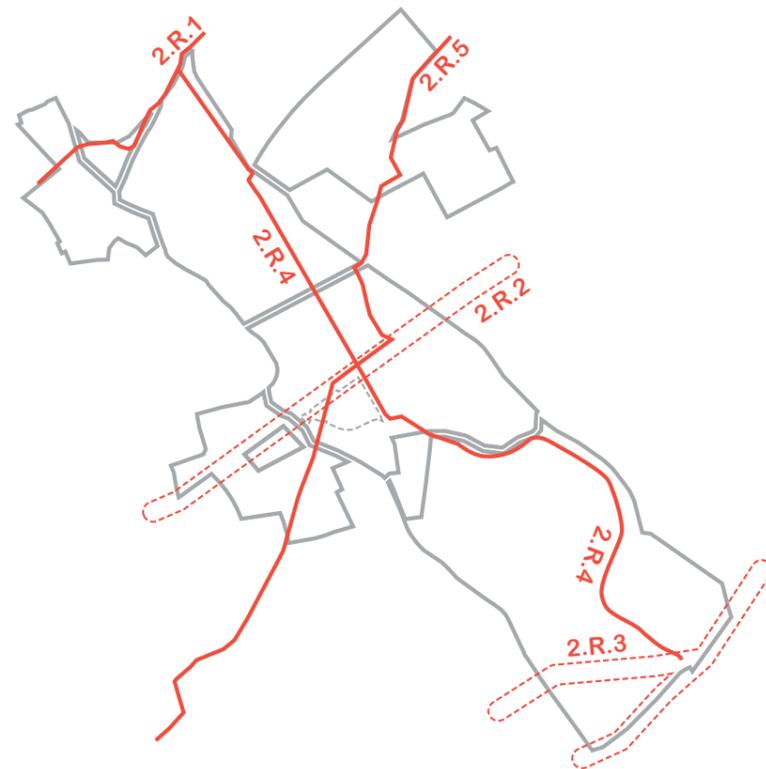
Work with the London Borough of Hackney to enhance the overall landscape quality and structure of the Marshes as part of the river valley corridor and conserve areas of existing high quality adjacent to the waterways.

Maintain and improve views to and out from and across the Marshes.

Environment

Explore options in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney and the Environment Agency for the use of land within Hackney Marshes for flood risk management and flood storage in relation to mitigating existing flood risk and climate change providing this would contribute to habitat diversification and recreational interest.

Routes



2.R.1 Coppermill Lane

Improve Coppermill Lane as a secondary entry point to the Park focussed on pedestrian and cycle access – in particular focussing on accessibility improvements at Coppermill railway viaduct and High bridge over the River Lea and measures to improve the landscape corridor along Coppermill Stream.

2.R.2 Lea Bridge Road

Significantly improve the quality of Lea Bridge Road as a focus for entry to and activity within the Park by:

- Enhancing existing pedestrian and cycle paths adjacent to the Road and across the Navigation and Flood Relief Channel
- Co-ordinating public transport along this corridor including location and quality of bus stops/shelter
- Supporting, in principle the reopening of Lea Bridge station, to improve public transport provision for visitors directly into the Park
- Enhancing and creating new crossing points as key features of the 'Park road' to ensure priority is given to park visitors. New pedestrian crossings should provide safe access directly to Park facilities and visitor nodes such as the Waterworks centre
- Improving the landscape quality of the road to strengthen the presence and awareness of crossing the park/valley, establishing selective visual connections to the open spaces of the valley to the north and south
- implementing a co-ordinated landscape treatment for the road frontage including directional and entrance signage that reflects the range of facilities available.

2.R.3 Homerton Road and Ruckholt Road

Work with partners to undertake comprehensive improvements to the visual appearance and environment of Ruckholt Road as it enters the Park from the east to establish a definite entrance into the Park.

Improve the provision of public transport infrastructure along the route from Ruckholt Road to Homerton Road including the location and quality of bus stops/shelters to ensure it serves Park visitors.

2.R.4 Lee Valley Pathway

Maintain and enhance the route of the Pathway for walkers and cyclists as part of the strategic route through the Park.

Establish connecting paths especially from open spaces, residential and industrial areas to the east and from the Low Hall area.

Create and enhance key entrance points onto the route at Coppermill Lane, Lea Bridge Road and Homerton Road.

2.R.5 Black Path

Entry into the Park along the approximate route of the Black Path to be established in the north east and south west.

A route across the Park between Waltham Forest and Hackney will be maintained using existing path networks around the facilities on Lea Bridge Road.

Opportunities for interpretation of this historic route and the financing of any engineering works to be explored with key stakeholders.