

Appendices

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A. Key Challenges and Land Promoted for Change

Urban growth and land-use pressures

As Castle Point plans for new development, housing delivery, and supporting infrastructure, a number of urban growth opportunity areas have been identified.

While some sites provide important opportunities to deliver new homes and community services, others intersect with ecologically sensitive areas, Green Belt land, or flood-prone zones.

This section explores both the pressures that growth may place on the existing green and blue infrastructure (GBI) network, and the opportunities to strategically enhance and expand it.

Strategic Development Sites and GBI Risk Zones

A series of development sites have been proposed that intersect — directly or indirectly — with the Borough’s most ecologically valuable and climate-vulnerable areas. Many of these are located at the urban fringe, where green corridors, Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS), and flood zones often converge.

Based on the mapped development allocations shown on the facing page, the following areas present potential GBI conflicts:

North West Thundersley

- Located adjacent to ancient woodland and LoWS near Thundersley Little Common and Oak Tree Farm.
- Development here could further fragment woodland corridors and threaten biodiversity continuity.
- Pressure exists to release land from the Green Belt, increasing vulnerability to edge degradation.

Land off Hill Top Avenue and Gibberd Walk (South Benfleet)

- Sited in an already fragmented urban landscape, with limited multifunctional greenspace.
- New development risks further severing ecological and recreational corridors between Benfleet LoWS and Hadleigh Country Park.

East of Rayleigh Road / St. Michael’s Road (Daws Heath fringe)

- Proximity to the Daws Heath Ancient Woodland Complex makes this area particularly sensitive.
- Development here could degrade rare edge habitats and disrupt historic ecological continuity.

Hadleigh (South and Central)

- Growth in this area risks encroaching on Hadleigh Castle Grasslands (LoWS), Borrow Dyke, and flood-sensitive marshland.
- Increased surface water runoff may challenge existing drainage systems and reduce downstream water quality.

Canvey Island – East, West, and South Growth Areas

- Multiple growth zones lie within Flood Zone 3, including areas near Canvey Wick, East Canvey Marshes, and the Green Lung.
- These landscapes provide essential flood attenuation, biodiversity, and carbon storage services — functions that could be compromised if development is not carefully planned and integrated.

Summary of Risks and Pressures Identified

From the site mapping and existing environmental datasets, several overarching risks to the GBI network have been identified:

- Encroachment on or fragmentation of priority ecological corridors, especially in Thundersley, Daws Heath, and southern Benfleet.
- Loss of potential land for SuDS, afforestation, or restoration in locations currently serving buffering or transition functions (e.g. green belt edges).
- Failure to align BNG delivery with strategic GBI objectives, resulting in isolated or off-site compensation.
- Compounding flood risks on Canvey Island if new development does not explicitly contribute to landscape-based flood resilience.

Opportunity areas for enhancement or investment

Despite these pressures, the proposed development sites also present important opportunities to strengthen Castle Point’s GBI network — if planning and investment are carefully aligned.

Sites Promoted for Development and Green Uses

As part of the emerging Castle Point Plan process, Castle Point Borough Council invited landowners, developers, and other stakeholders to submit sites for consideration through a formal Call for Sites. This resulted in two distinct categories of promoted land:

Sites Promoted for Development, which are proposed for housing, commercial, or mixed-use schemes; and

Sites Promoted for Green Uses, which are intended for uses such as public open space, biodiversity enhancement, recreation, or other forms of green infrastructure.

These promoted sites form part of the evidence base for plan-making and are assessed for their suitability, availability, and deliverability in relation to local planning objectives, environmental constraints, and community needs.

The following opportunities emerge from the site analysis:

Strategic Development Site Opportunities

North West Thundersley

- Potential to integrate woodland edge buffers and connect fragmented habitats through tree planting, hedgerow restoration, and targeted BNG.
- Opportunity for a landscape-led edge strategy that reinforces the ecological boundary with Daws Heath.

Land off Hill Top Avenue and Gibberd Walk (South Benfleet)

- Development contributions could fund strategic links between disconnected open spaces and LoWS.
- Urban greening (e.g. native street trees, rain gardens) could enhance biodiversity and liveability in a dense residential context.

East of Rayleigh Road / St. Michael’s Road (Daws Heath fringe)

- Land management or offsetting funds could be used to safeguard and improve the condition of nearby ancient woodland.
- Community-based stewardship or “adopt-a-wood” schemes may support long-term ecological care.

Hadleigh (South and Central)

- A prime location for SuDS, including bioswales, wetland planting, and naturalised watercourses.
- Investment could create an exemplar site for integrating development with water-sensitive GBI.

Canvey Island – East, West, and South Growth Areas

- Strongest opportunity to deliver nature-based flood management, particularly in West Canvey Marsh and Green Lung areas.
- Masterplans should prioritise wetland buffers, coastal planting, and green access loops that combine habitat, recreation, and water resilience.

Strategic Opportunities for Integration

Despite the risks, these development areas also offer high-impact opportunities to embed GBI into growth:

- Use of landscape-led design codes that mandate tree planting, naturalised open space, and accessible public greenspace.
- Requirement for on-site SuDS that deliver both water management and biodiversity uplift.
- Designation of ecological buffer zones along all LoWS and key corridors.
- Use of BNG contributions to implement key projects from the draft LNRS and this study (e.g. hedgerow networks, pollinator corridors, and habitat stepping stones).

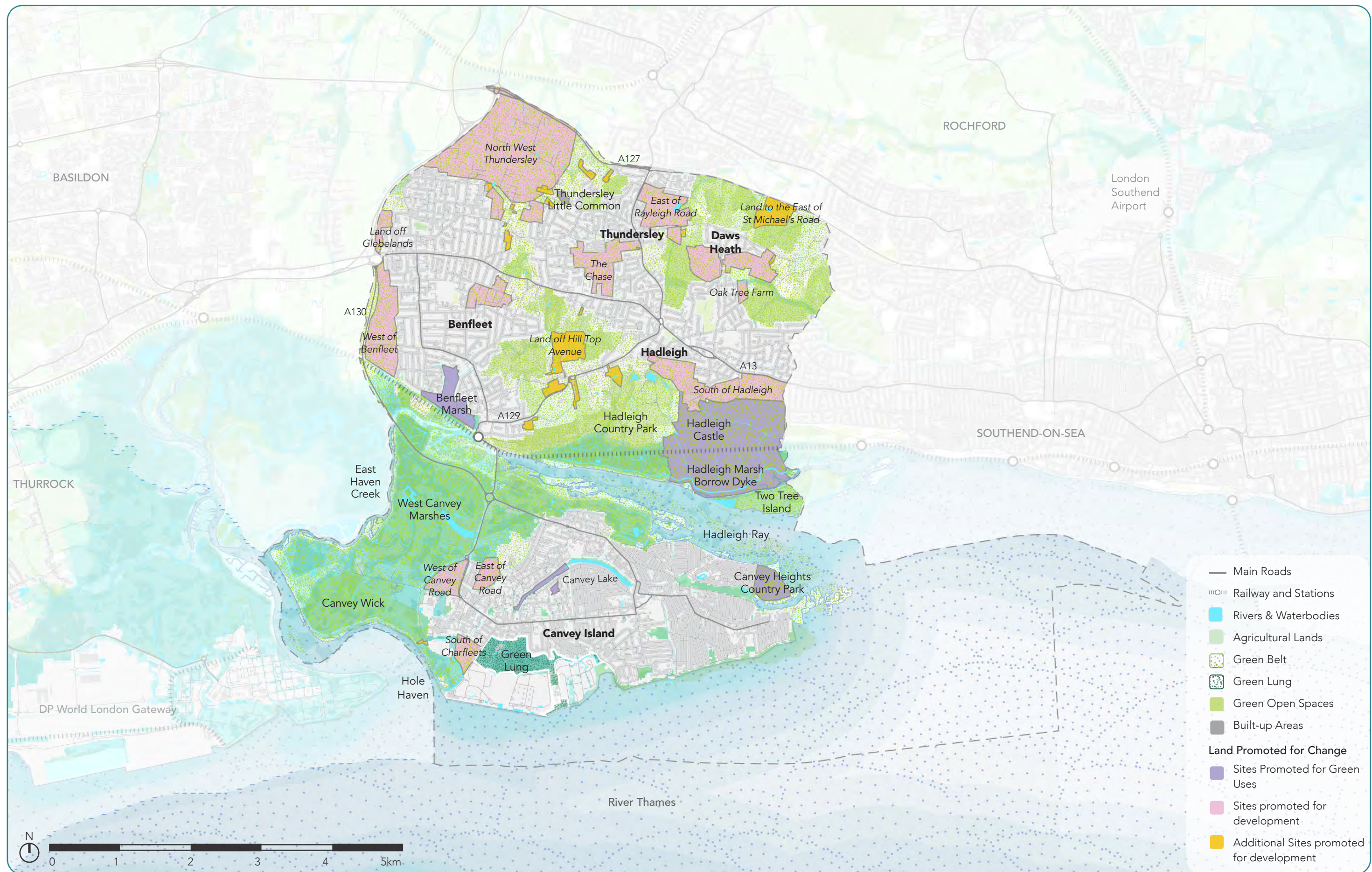


FIG.38 Land Promoted for Change in Castle Point

B. Master Table of Short-term and Long-term Opportunities

| Location | Numbering on map | Location / Policy Area | Opportunity Description | Source | Short-term | Long-Term |
|----------|------------------|---|--|--|------------|-----------|
| Benfleet | 1 | South Benfleet & Hadleigh | Support habitat creation and green infrastructure connectivity between Hadleigh Park and Benfleet Marshes. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy Had2 | | Long-term |
| Benfleet | 2 | Benfleet Marsh | Improve stormwater management at South Benfleet Playing Fields, with connectivity to Creekside adjacent. | Sites Promoted for Green Uses | | Long-term |
| Benfleet | 3 | Creekside (Benfleet Creek North) | Restore the estuarine fringe to increase BNG. (Identified as a strategic site of BNG gain, approx. 19 units.) Improve site management and control motorbike activity. | Strategic Site of BNG in Open Space Assessment 2023; Wildlife Register CPT6/CPT37 | Short-term | |
| Benfleet | 4 | Thundersley Glen, Jervis Wood Lane, to Shipwrights Wood | Improve management and biodiversity of these sites, that will also provide an important ecological and pedestrian network towards Hadleigh. Re-establish meadow habitat through grazing and scrub control | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy Thun4; Wildlife Register CPT 11-18 | Short-term | |
| Canvey | 5 | Benfleet Creek and Seawall | Restore grazing marsh and improve seawall buffer zone | Wildlife Register CPT39 | Short-term | |
| Canvey | 6 | Canvey Island Seawall | Enhance the Canvey island seawall. New flood defences are planned by 2040 - incorporate better pedestrian cycling routes and ecological improvements of waters edge at the same time. This edge is also part of the England Coast path. | SEGBI Study 2020 | | Long-term |
| Canvey | 7 | West Canvey | Ensure a landscape-led masterplan approach to protect this sensitive landscape, and use nature-based solutions, including suds, to manage flood prone areas (Land at west Canvey is planned for residential/commercial/employment development.) Integrate development with multifunctional GBI, especially urban greening and suds, linking to Canvey Wick and West Canvey Marshes. Ancient landscapes in the area to be protected. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy C4 | Short-term | |
| Canvey | 8 | Access to and Around Canvey Island | Enhance opportunities for active travel, access and circulation - incorporate green corridors, walking and cycling routes into any improved vehicle routes. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy C5 | | Long-term |
| Canvey | 9 | South Canvey Green Lung | <i>Short-term:</i> Protect and enhance the South Canvey Green Lung (51ha of undeveloped land that sits between the port facilities at South Canvey and the residential areas to the north) to connect ecological networks. Designated in 1998 Local Plan. <i>Long-Term:</i> Consider creating a Country Park within the Green Lung, utilising the 7 hectares within it which do not have significant nature value and could meet a need of green space provision for local residents. This is also an important LoW that connects to HoleHaven . | <i>Short-term:</i> Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy C6 ; Wildlife Register; <i>Long-Term:</i> SEGBI Study 2020 (Country Park location) | Short-term | Long-term |
| Canvey | 10 | Canvey Lake | Enhance as a multifunctional green space, improving flood storage, recreational paths, and habitat and biodiversity. Extend path network east to Canvey Heights country park and west to HoleHaven. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy C7; SEGBI Study 2020 | Short-term | |
| Canvey | 11 | Canvey Island | Improve access to nature in central Canvey Island. Opportunities 10 and 11 will alleviate the green space shortages | Open Space Assessment 2023 | Short-term | |
| Canvey | 12 | West Canvey Marsh | <i>Short-term:</i> Enhance biodiversity, water management, and flood storage. Extend reedbeds and wetland mosaic; <i>Long-term:</i> Improve visitor access in appropriate locations, and continue to improve wetland for flood storage and habitat gains. | <i>Short-term:</i> Wildlife Register CPT4; <i>Long-term:</i> Open Space Assessment 2023; SEGBI Study 2020; | Short-term | Long-term |
| Canvey | 13 | Canvey Heights Country Park | Improve the park as a Strategic site for BNG delivery - High biodiversity uplift potential (approx. 40 units), supports habitat connectivity and resilience | Open Space Assessment 2023; Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy ENV3 | Short-term | |
| Canvey | 14 | Canvey Heights Country Park | Improve the park's flood resilience, including areas along the Oyster Creek and Smallgains Playing Fields to the southern edge of the Country Park. Also improve the play/recreation opportunities on site. | Emerging LNRS; SEGBI Study 2020 | | Long-term |
| Canvey | 15 | Limburg Road Open Space | Improve as a Strategic site for BNG delivery - Urban-scale BNG opportunity (approx. 40 units), wildflower meadow creation and hedge planting at th Field to the rear of Limburg Road. | Open Space Assessment 2023 | Short-term | |
| Canvey | 16 | Canvey Wick SSSI edge | Extend Canvey Wick into the Canvey Village Marsh and Northwick Farm areas for nature conservation purposes. Support invertebrate habitat management; maintain brownfield mosaic. Enhance nationally important brownfield site supporting over 1,400 species. | Wildlife Register CPT5/CPT36; Emerging LNRS | Short-term | |

| Location | Numbering on map | Location / Policy Area | Opportunity Description | Source | Short-term | Long-Term |
|----------------------|------------------|---|--|--|------------|-----------|
| Daws Heath | 17 | Daws Heath | Enhance green space connectivity, including ancient woodland and informal open space. The quality of the Green Belt in this location is high, comprising meadows, woodlands and some ancient woodland. Some elements of this landscape are managed for wildlife purposes and there is a good level of public access in parts. The area also has a long history of equine activity, including horse riding, stables, and a riding school. There is the potential to extend opportunities for wildlife habitat and recreational access around Daws Heath to improve connectivity between West Wood, the Haven Complex to the north, and Great Wood, Dodds Grove and Belfairs Wood to the east. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy DH1/DH2 | Short term | |
| Daws Heath | 18 | Daws Heath | Improve pedestrian access and crossings in Daws Heath: Additional pedestrian crossings at Rayleigh Road and Western Road; Introduce further cycle routes east/north along New Road/ Daws Heath Road to provide additional access to Belfairs Nature Reserve and West Wood. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy DH1/DH3 | | Long-term |
| Daws Heath | 19 | Daws Heath | Protect ecological transition zones near Daws Heath woodland and explore long-term stewardship and offsetting strategies. Provide additional protections to prevent urban sprawl and coalescence and maintain the openness of this area. Ensure the gaps between Daws Heath, and other settlements are maintained will protect its unique identity and semi rural character. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy DH2 | Short term | |
| Daws Heath | 20 | Local Wildlife Site Buffers | Buffer and enhance priority LoWS in Daws Heath. Opportunities for grassland and woodland habitat creation. There are small gaps of undeveloped land between Daws Heath and its neighbouring larger settlements of Thundersley, Hadleigh, Leigh-on-Sea in Southend-on-Sea, Rayleigh and Eastwood. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy DH2; Wildlife Register CPT24, CPT26, CPT 28, and CPT3; Emerging LNRS | | Long-term |
| Daws Heath | 21 | Daws Heath | Improve strategic connections to the larger SEEPark network - towards the Woodland Arc, connecting to woodlands within Rochford (for example, Hockley Woods) , and east towards Belfairs Nature Discovery Centre in Southend-on-sea. To the south, connecting to Hadleigh Park and the Central Thames Marshlands. (Seven Woods walk) | SEEPark Landscape Framework Business Case | | Long-term |
| Hadleigh | 22 | Hadleigh Marshes | Remediate and restore the ecology of the marshes, while also improving access. Continued maintenance of flood defences is required to mitigate the risks of contamination of the Thames Estuary from the landfill, which covers a large part of the Hadleigh Marshes policy unit. The Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) Plan designates Hadleigh Marshes under Policy ENV2, which entails continuing with existing or alternative actions to manage flood risk. This includes maintaining flood defences at their current level, accepting that the likelihood and/or consequences of a flood will increase because of climate change. Apply SuDS and naturalised water infrastructure to reduce surface water impacts and strengthen GBI around Borrow Dyke. | Emerging LNRS; SEGBI Study 2020; Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2025; Open Space Assessment 2023; Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy ENV2 | Short-term | |
| Hadleigh | 23 | Hadleigh Marshes | Consider long-term management options and longer-term remediation of the contaminated land, which will provide great environmental benefits to this area. | SEGBI Study; Flood Risk Assessment 2025; Emerging LNRS | | Long-term |
| Hadleigh | 24 | Hadleigh Castle Country Park | Improve visitor experience and undertake heritage landscape improvements with a biodiversity focus. | SEGBI Study; Emerging LNRS | | Long-term |
| Hadleigh | 25 | Hadleigh Castle BNG Site | Improve the park as a Strategic site for BNG delivery - One of the five BNG sites in Open Space Assessment | Open Space Assessment 2023 | Short-term | |
| Hadleigh/Thundersley | 26 | Connection between Hadleigh Downs and Coombe Wood | Create habitat links from Coombe Wood, along Jervis Wood Lane to Shipwright's Wood ; enhance site interpretation | Wildlife Register CPT10/14/15/18, etc | Short-term | |
| Two Tree Island | 27 | Two Tree Island | Improve as a Strategic site for BNG delivery - this area holds the largest BNG potential (81 units) in Castle Point, including saltmarsh and intertidal habitats | Open Space Assessment 2023 | Short-term | |
| Two Tree Island | 28 | Two Tree Island | Where appropriate, improve access and sensitive routes for people. | SEGBI Study; Emerging LNRS | | Long-term |
| Thundersley | 29 | Thundersley | Promote green space connectivity for a multifunctional GBI network around Thundersley. Protect and enhance as a District-level multifunctional green infrastructure resource of landscape, ecological and heritage value. | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy Thun4 | Short-term | |
| Thundersley | 30 | Thundersley Great Common | Restore grassland and woodland (Policy Thun4 and Wildlife Register CPT21). Recreation and allotments could be included | Emerging Castle Point Plan: Policy Thun4 and Wildlife Register CPT21 | | Long-term |
| Thundersley | 31 | Local Wildlife Site Buffers | Buffer and enhance priority LoWS in Thundersley | Emerging LNRS, Wildlife Register | | Long-term |
| Thundersley | 32 | Coombe Wood | Improve management to clear tipping. Control invasive species; reconnect ancient woodland compartments. Coombe Wood is an Important part of Benfleet green corridor/connectivity north to North West Thundersley, and to the Woodland Arc | Wildlife Register CPT10; SEGBI Study 2020 | Short-term | |

C. General Opportunities for GBI identified in The Castle Point Plan (Emerging Draft 2025)

| Policy | Opportunity Description |
|---|---|
| Borough-wide (General Policy Context) | Protect and enhance the Borough’s landscape, including Green Belt as part of GBI. |
| Borough-wide / LNRS Integration | Integrate priority habitats and LNRS targets, particularly in Green Belt areas. |
| Borough-wide (Policy SP1) | Strengthen green space provision to enhance biodiversity, climate resilience, and wellbeing. |
| Borough-wide (Policy ENV1) | Protect natural and semi-natural features, with a focus on ecosystem services. |
| Borough-wide (Policy ENV3) | Advance nature recovery and BNG, in alignment with LNRS. |
| Borough-wide (Policy SD1) | Safeguard land for flood management and enhance through landscaping and environmental features. |
| Borough-wide (Policy SD3 – SuDS) | Promote SuDS that also deliver biodiversity and amenity benefits. |
| Borough-wide (Policy Infra4) | Protect and enhance open spaces as part of a multifunctional GBI network. |
| Borough-wide (Policy T3 – Active Travel) | Promote active travel infrastructure integrated with GBI. |
| Borough-wide (Policy GB1 – Green Belt) | Recognise Green Belt contributions to biodiversity, recreation, and landscape character. |
| Borough-wide (Policy SP2 – Urban Land Use) | Prioritise urban land development to preserve greenspaces and enable GBI integration. |
| Tree planting in areas with <10% canopy cover | Urban cooling, biodiversity support, and climate resilience |

D. Data References and Sources

Figure List

| SECTION | FIGURE NUMBER | IMAGE CREDIT | REFERENCE/SOURCE |
|--|---|--------------|--|
| 1. Executive Summary | FIG.1 Within South Essex, Castle Point serves as a critical green heart [...] | | |
| | Five major landscapes | | SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; |
| | Castle Point Open Space | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | FIG.2 Selection of policy and guidance documents referenced in this update | | Refer to each document cover for issuing bodies. |
| 2. Introduction and Planning Context | FIG.3 Two of the five major landscapes identified in the SEEPark [...] | URBAN | SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; |
| | FIG.4 The resilient SEEPark landscape framework [...] | URBAN | SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; |
| | FIG.5 Thames Marshes, Two Tree Island | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.6 Hadleigh Country Park view towards Thames Estuary | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.7 England Coast Path along the sea wall, Canvey Island | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.8 Oikos Jetty, Hole Haven | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.9 Hadleigh Castle Vista | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.10 Tewkes Creek, Canvey Island | URBAN | - |
| 3. Castle Point Today: Green and Blue Infrastructure Context | | | |
| 3.1 Landscape character and key features | FIG.11 The region falls under the Greater Thames Estuary [...] | URBAN | - |
| | Regional Character Areas | - | Vol. 2: South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study Appendix |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | FIG.12 Landscape Characters and Key Features in Castle Point | URBAN | |

| SECTION | FIGURE NUMBER | IMAGE CREDIT | REFERENCE/SOURCE |
|--|---|--------------|---|
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 3.2 Natural assets and ecosystems | FIG.13 Key protected Species and Invertebrate Species Examples found in Castle Point | URBAN | Castle Point Local Wildlife Sites Review, 2023 |
| | FIG.14 Habitat Typologies in Castle Point Based on Draft LNRS[...] | URBAN | - |
| | Habitat Typologies | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) based on draft LNRS (2024) |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 3.3 Hydrological systems and blue infrastructure | FIG.15 North Sea Surge in Thames Estuary | URBAN | Vol. 1: South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study |
| | FIG.16 Map Shows Storm Flood and Flood Zones, Flood Projection and Management in Castle Point | URBAN | - |
| | Storm Flood | | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Flood Zone 2 & 3 | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Future Flood Risk | | https://coastal.climatecentral.org/map/ |
| | Spatial Flood Defences (Sea wall, embankment, high ground), Flood Gate, Flood Storage | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Habitat Creation | | Thames Estuary 2100 Plan |
| | Essex & South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan Policy Development Zone Boundary | | Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan 2 |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | FIG.17 Active Travel Routes, Key Destinations and Activities in Castle Point | URBAN | - |
| | CPBC Walking Plan, CPBC Cycling Plan | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Public Right of Way | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | England Coast Path | | GIS Data Source: Natural England (Open Government Licence) |
| | National Cycling Path | | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Key Destinations - RSPB Sites, Explore Essex Sites, Essex Wildlife Trust Sites | - | https://www.rspb.org.uk/ ; https://www.explore-essex.com/ ; https://www.rspb.org.uk/ ; https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/ |
| | Landmarks, View Points, Ports | - | Author research based on information received from ASELA |
| | Local Nature Reserve, Country Parks, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) + : Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Activities -Kite Flying | - | Hadleigh Park Facebook Page 19 August 2019 |
| | Activities - Hiking / Marinas / Yacht Clubs / Golf Courses / Beach / Swimming | | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 4 Open Space Assessment Summary | | | |
| 4.1 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces | FIG.18 Castle Point Natural and Semi-Natural Open Spaces [...] | URBAN | |
| | Open Spaces | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |

| SECTION | FIGURE NUMBER | IMAGE CREDIT | REFERENCE/SOURCE |
|---|--|--------------|---|
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 4.2 Parks, gardens and civic spaces | FIG.19 Woodside Park | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.20 Thorney Bay Park | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.21 Categorised Open Spaces in Castle Point as identified [...] | URBAN | - |
| | Categorised Open Spaces | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 4.3 Key gaps, overlaps and spatial distribution | FIG.22 Access to accessible natural greenspace [...] | ethos | - |
| | FIG.23 ANGSt Standard: Access to 2ha+ sites within 300m [...] | ethos | |
| | FIG.24 ANGSt Standard: Access to 10ha+ sites within 1km [...] | ethos | |
| | FIG.25 ANGSt Standard: Access to 20ha+ sites within 2km [...] | ethos | |
| | | | |
| 4.4 Comparison with previous assessments and national standards | FIG.26 Castle Point Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 | URBAN | |
| | Wards | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Index of Multiple Deprivation | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | | | |
| 5 Biodiversity and Ecological Connectivity | | | |
| 5.1 Designated and non-designated sites | FIG.27 Designated and Non-designated Sites in Castle Point [...] | URBAN | - |
| | Designated Sites | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Non-designated Sites | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Key Destinations - RSPB Sites, Explore Essex Sites, Essex Wildlife Trust Sites | - | https://www.rspb.org.uk/ ; https://www.explore-essex.com/ ; https://www.rspb.org.uk/ ; https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/ |
| | Key Destinations -Local Nature Reserve, Country Parks | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) + : Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA); Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | | |
| 5.2 Ecological corridors and habitat patches | FIG.28 Habitat Creation Opportunities | URBAN | Vol. 1: South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study |
| | FIG.29 Ecological Corridors and Habitat Patches [...] | - | - |
| | APIBs | - | OS data © Crown Copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000823868; data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.; Contains, or is based on information supplied by Natural England; public sector information licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. |
| | Other Habitat Areas | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | | |

| SECTION | FIGURE NUMBER | IMAGE CREDIT | REFERENCE/SOURCE | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 5.3 Integration with the LNRS priorities | FIG.30 Opportunities for BNG Based on the Castle Point Open Space Assessment [...] | Base Map | - GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) | |
| | | URBAN | - | |
| | | LNRS Strategic Opportunities | - | Draft Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Webmap, shared by Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC): https://place-services.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7e07ae774ea43249765b4b8f6514513 , accessed 12th May 2025 |
| | | Opportunities for BNG | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | APIBs | - | OS data © Crown Copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000823868; data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.; Contains, or is based on information supplied by Natural England; public sector information licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. |
| | | Other Habitat Areas | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 6 Strategic Flood Risk and Climate Resilience | | | | |
| 6.1 Flood zones and surface water management | FIG.31 Map Shows Flood Management, Working with Natural Processes and Runoff Attenuation Features [...] | URBAN | - | |
| | | Working with Natural Processes | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | Runoff Attenuation Features | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | Flood Management - Spatial Flood Defences (Sea wall, embankment, high ground), Flood Gate, Flood Storage | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | Habitat Creation | | Thames Estuary 2100 Plan |
| | | Base Map | | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | | | | Vol. 1: South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study |
| 6.2 Role of GBI in climate adaptation | FIG.32 GBI Benefits Wheel [...] | URBAN | | |
| 6.3 Key opportunities for multifunctional infrastructure | FIG.33 Castle Point Strategic Opportunities for Green and Blue Infrastructure [...] | URBAN | - | |
| | | Flood Resilience - Spatial Flood Defences (Sea wall, embankment, high ground), Flood Gate, Flood Storage | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | Flood Resilience - Habitat Creation | | Thames Estuary 2100 Plan |
| | | Health and Wellbeing - Green Open Spaces | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | Biodiversity Uplift - LNRS APIBS | - | OS data © Crown Copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000823868; data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.; Contains, or is based on information supplied by Natural England; public sector information licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. |
| | | Climate Adaptation - Agricultural Lands and Built-up Areas | - | OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | | Active Travel - CPBC Walking Plan, CPBC Cycling Plan | - | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | | Active Travel - Public Right of Way | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | | Active Travel - National Cycling Path | | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |

| SECTION | FIGURE NUMBER | IMAGE CREDIT | REFERENCE/SOURCE |
|---|--|--------------|---|
| | England Coast Path | | GIS Data Source: Natural England (Open Government Licence) |
| | Existing Greenway | | SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb |
| | Proposed Greenway | | URBAN research based on information received |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 8 Vision and GBI Strategy Framework | | | |
| 8.1 Emerging themes and objectives | FIG.34 GBI Vision: Central Thames Marshlands | URBAN | - |
| | FIG.35 GBI Vision: Woodland Arc | URBAN | - |
| 8.2 Early ideas for spatial principles and priorities | FIG.36 Short-term opportunities | URBAN | - |
| | Opportunities | | URBAN research based on information received, including but not limited to South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study, 2020; SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; The Castle Point Plan (Emerging Draft 2025); Draft Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy, 2024; Castle Point Open Space Assessment, 2023; Castle Point Wildlife Sites Review, 2023. |
| | Key Destinations - RSPB Sites, Explore Essex Sites, Essex Wildlife Trust Sites | - | https://www.rspb.org.uk/ ; https://www.explore-essex.com/ ; https://www.rspb.org.uk/ ; https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/ |
| | Landmarks, View Points, Ports | - | Author research based on information received from ASELA |
| | Local Nature Reserve, Country Parks, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) + : Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Activities -Kite Flying | - | Hadleigh Park Facebook Page 19 August 2019 |
| | Activities - Hiking / Marinas / Yacht Clubs / Golf Courses / Beach / Swimming | | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Proposed Regional Parklands, Proposed Strategic Park | | SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; |
| | CPBC Walking Plan, CPBC Cycling Plan | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Public Right of Way | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | England Coast Path | | GIS Data Source: Natural England (Open Government Licence) |
| | National Cycling Path | | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Existing Greenway | | SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb |
| | Proposed Greenway | | URBAN research based on information received |
| | Sea Wall | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Woodlands and Other Open Spaces | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Flood Zone2 & 3 | | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |
| 8.3 Connection to SEEPark and regional aspirations | FIG.37 Long-term opportunities | URBAN | Please refer to items listed for FIG. 36 |

| SECTION | FIGURE NUMBER | IMAGE CREDIT | REFERENCE/SOURCE |
|--|---|--------------|--|
| Appendices | | | |
| A. Key Challenges and Land Promoted for Change | FIG.38 Land Promoted for Change in Castle Point | | |
| | Green Belt, Green Lung, Green Open Spaces | - | GIS Data Source: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) + Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Land Promoted for Change: Sites Promoted for Green Uses, Sites promoted for development | | GIS Data Source: Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) |
| | Base Map | - | GIS Data Source: OS Open Data (Open Government Licence) + Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) |

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| SECTION | TABLE NUMBER | REFERENCE/SOURCE |
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| 2 Introduction and Planning Context | TAB.2 GBI-Related Policies in the Castle Point Plan (Emerging Draft 2025) | The Castle Point Plan (Emerging Draft 2025) |
| 3 Castle Point Today: Green and Blue Infrastructure Context | | |
| 3.2 Natural assets and ecosystems | TAB.3 Key Habitat Types in Castle Point and Example Locations | Castle Point Wildlife Sites Review (2023) |
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| 8 Vision and GBI Strategy Framework | | |
| 8.1 Emerging themes and objectives | TAB.8 Goals and Objectives | URBAN research based on information received, including but not limited to South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study, 2020; SEEPark Draft Business Case, 2022; The Castle Point Plan (Emerging Draft 2025); Draft Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy, 2024; Castle Point Open Space Assessment, 2023; Castle Point Wildlife Sites Review, 2023. |
| 8.2 Early ideas for spatial principles and priorities | TAB.9 Short-term Opportunities | ibid. |
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| B. General Opportunities for GBI identified in the Castle Point Plan (Emerging Draft 2025) | | |
| | The Castle Point Plan (Emerging Draft 2025) | |

E. Glossary of Terms

| TERM | MEANING |
|---------|---|
| AEP | Annual Exceedance Probability |
| ANGSt | Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard |
| APIBs | Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity |
| ASELA | Association of South Essex Local Authorities |
| BNG | Biodiversity Net Gain |
| CDAs | Critical Drainage Areas |
| CIL | Community Infrastructure Levy |
| CPBC | Castle Point Borough Council |
| EWT | Essex Wildlife Trust |
| GBI | Green and Blue Infrastructure |
| IMD | Index of Multiple Deprivation |
| LCWIP | Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan |
| LNR | Local Nature Reserves |
| LNRS | Local Nature Recovery Strategy |
| LoWS | Local Wildlife Sites |
| NNR | National Nature Reserves |
| PLoW | Potential Local Wildlife Sites |
| PROW | Public Rights of Way |
| RSPB | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| SEEPark | South Essex Estuary Park |
| SEGBI | South Essex Green and Blue Infrastructure |
| SFRA | Strategic Flood Risk Assessment |
| SPA | Special Protection Areas |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| SuDS | Sustainable Drainage Systems |

F. SEGBI Excerpt on Castle Point

Document Full Name: Vol. 2: South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study Appendix: Resilient by Nature

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Prepared for: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)

Date: 21.07.2020

4.2 Local Open Space Capacity Assessment

A South Essex-wide assessment has taken place to identify the performance of existing open space in support of the proposals for this Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

As the study area is so vast and contains hundreds of open spaces, a random sampling method was used to visit open spaces. This was bolstered by visiting as many regional, country and district parks as possible. More detailed analysis will be undertaken at Local Plan level.

The high-level analysis has taken place following the selection of key indicators across a breadth of quality, function, and resilience topics and which have been applied to a representative selection of open space. The outputs from this analysis are provided in schedules within this section of the report.

Indicators

The indicators were selected that best describe the current and future challenges of the open space and were assigned based on making a general assumption during a site visit and are described as follows:

Accessibility & Connections – Can the open space be approached easily from local communities and provide access and inclusivity?

Quality & Maintenance – Does the open space demonstrate an expected level of quality and is it maintained to support this level of quality?

Leisure & Recreation – Does the open spaces provide a range of recreational and leisure facilities to support the local community?

Biodiversity – Does the open spaces include areas of habitat and support a range of wildlife?

Historic Landscape Environment & Sense of Place – Does the open space best represent the historic landscape and features within it. Does the open space reflect well the general sense of place?

Flood Risk & Water Management – Does the open spaces currently incorporate areas for flooding and does it include water management integration, such as swales, rain gardens and attenuation?

Climate Change Adaption – Is the open space in a good place to support climate change. Has this been considered already?

Health and Wellbeing – Does the open space encourage the community to participate in a healthy lifestyle?

Deficiency Areas – Does the community find these open space areas difficult to get to or have to travel a significant distance to get to?

Active and Green Travel Network – Does the open space contribute to an alternative route between community destinations, where walking, cycling or other forms of green travel are possible?

Views & Landforms – Does the open space contribute to the enjoyment of views and promotes beneficial use of the landforms?

Character – Does the open space reflect and support the local landscape character?

Productive Landscape & Economic Opportunities – Does the open space include areas for growing or support local business?

Opportunities for Restoration – Does the open space include opportunities to support restoration and improvements in its landscape?

Urban Greening Opportunities – Does the open space offer opportunities to support urban greening, such as green walls, green roofs and additional planting?

Strategic Bridging Points – Does the open space perform as a strategic bridge over areas that would otherwise be subject to severance, such as rivers, topographic challenges, roads, or rail routes?

Approach & Setting – Does the open space / landscape approach contribute to the setting?

Scoring

The following scoring approach was undertaken:

N/A - Not Applicable

X - No contribution found

√ – Contribution identified and achieves an acceptable level of resource

√√ – Contribution identified and achieves a good level of resource

Open Space Results

The assessments covering Public Open Space in Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock are included in the following pages and concluded with a gap analysis.

***Thurrock and Brentwood are not included in this stage of work, as they have undertaken separate studies on green and blue infrastructure within their respective areas, but have been included in this section just as an overview.**

Castle Point

TAB.5 Castle Point Local Open Space Capacity Assessment

| Open Space | Accessibility & Connections | Quality & Maintenance | Leisure & Recreation | Biodiversity | Historic Landscape Environment & Sense of Place | Flood Risk & Water Management | Climate Change Adaptation | Health & Wellbeing | Deficiency Areas | Active & Green Travel Network | Views & Landmarks | Character | Productive Landscape & Economic Opportunities | Opportunities for Restoration | Urban Greening Opportunities | Strategic Bridging Points | Approach & Setting | Additional Comments |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Primary Care Centre | √ | √ | N/A | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Grassed area associated with Health Care Provision. |
| Bramble Road Play Fields | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | School sports fields. Private, no access. |
| Tewkes Creek | √ √ | √ √ | √ | √ √ | √ √ | √ √ | √ √ | √ √ | N/A | √ √ | √ √ | √ √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Tewkes Creek, lovely mix of new and old planting, provides a number of habitats and a peaceful setting. |
| Smallgains Park | √ | √ √ | √ | X | N/A | √ √ | √ √ | √ | N/A | √ √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Water barrier and holding area, temporary football fields. |
| Kismet Park | √ | √ | √ | √ | N/A | √ √ | √ | √ | N/A | √ | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Park with prominent concrete channel. Can this be naturalised? Some mature trees. Can wall backfill be planted? |

| Open Space | Accessibility & Connections | Quality & Maintenance | Leisure & Recreation | Biodiversity | Historic Landscape Environment & Sense of Place | Flood Risk & Water Management | Climate Change Adaptation | Health & Wellbeing | Deficiency Areas | Active & Green Travel Network | Views & Landmarks | Character | Productive Landscape & Economic Opportunities | Opportunities for Restoration | Urban Greening Opportunities | Strategic Bridging Points | Approach & Setting | Additional Comments |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Heritage Centre | √ | X | X | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | Cemetery. Some planting. Poor maintenance. |
| Roscommon Way Highway Verges | X | X | X | √ √ | N/A | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Naturalistic highway verges. Provide good habitat for butterflies. |
| Lobster Smack | √ | X | X | X | N/A | √ | X | X | N/A | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | X | Lobster Smack. Semi-industrial area under utilised, riverside path too narrow, opportunity for riverside connection to Wat Tyler Centre? |
| Park by Lady of Canvey | √ | √ | X | X | N/A | N/A | X | √ | N/A | N/A | √ | N/A | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | Park by Lady of Canvey Church. Mostly grassed, some scrubby edges. Need more tree planting and facilities. |
| Thorney Bay Beach | √ | √ √ | √ √ | X | N/A | √ | √ | √ | N/A | X | √ | √ √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Thorney Bay Beach. Good play area and small sheltered beach. Paddling pool opportunity? Flood wall. |
| Labworth Memorial Garden | √ | √ | √ √ | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | N/A | √ | √ | √ √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Labworth Memorial Garden. Large grassed area and small area designed as memorial for sitting and contemplating. Beach and Restaurant nearby. |
| Rectory Road | √ | √ | √ √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Rectory Road Park. District type park. Play area, tennis and play fields. Mature trees screening play area and car park. |
| Brook by Nature Reserve | X | X | N/A | √ | N/A | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Channel watercourse. |

| Open Space | Accessibility & Connections | Quality & Maintenance | Leisure & Recreation | Biodiversity | Historic Landscape Environment & Sense of Place | Flood Risk & Water Management | Climate Change Adaptation | Health & Wellbeing | Deficiency Areas | Active & Green Travel Network | Views & Landmarks | Character | Productive Landscape & Economic Opportunities | Opportunities for Restoration | Urban Greening Opportunities | Strategic Bridging Points | Approach & Setting | Additional Comments |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Little Heaven Nature Reserve | ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Little Heaven Nature Reserve. A variety of habitats from woodland to grassland. Good footpaths throughout. Wood production. |
| Thundersley | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | POS spaces with Play Area and mature trees. Woodland with PRow between leading to mature woodland area. |
| St Mary's | ✓ | ✓ ✓ | N/A | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Church with old cemetery. Natural watercourse with scrub vegetation and mature trees. |
| Shipwrights Wood Park | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Shipwright Park with Play Area and large grassed area. Adjacent woodland. |
| Private Football Fields | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Private football fields. Mature trees and adjacent woodland. |
| Private Football Fields | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Private football fields connected with school. |
| Thundersley Church | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Church with old sloping cemetery. Scrub vegetation and mature trees. |
| Villa Road Recreation Ground | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | N/A | N/A | N/A | ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Villa Road Recreation Ground. Grassed area and play area. Overgrown access footpaths. |
| Woodside Park | ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ | N/A | N/A | ✓ | ✓ ✓ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Woodside Park. District type park, with play and sport areas, footpaths leading to adjacent woodland. |

| Open Space | Accessibility & Connections | Quality & Maintenance | Leisure & Recreation | Biodiversity | Historic Landscape Environment & Sense of Place | Flood Risk & Water Management | Climate Change Adaptation | Health & Wellbeing | Deficiency Areas | Active & Green Travel Network | Views & Landmarks | Character | Productive Landscape & Economic Opportunities | Opportunities for Restoration | Urban Greening Opportunities | Strategic Bridging Points | Approach & Setting | Additional Comments |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Memorial Recreation Ground | √ | √ √ | √ | √ | √ | N/A | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Memorial garden with mature trees. And separate park with large grassed area and play area. |
| Hadleigh Park | √ | √ √ | √ √ | √ √ | √ | N/A | √ √ | √ √ | N/A | N/A | √ √ | √ √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Hadleigh Park and Castle. Beautiful setting. Managed for people and biodiversity. Create additional connections to river? |
| Seamore Close | √ | √ | √ | √ | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Large grassed area with play area and scattered groups of trees. Could do with additional edge planting, seating etc. |

(Also Refer to the Castle Point Open Spaces Strategies (2008-2013). See Baseline Report.)

4.3 Local Open Space Gap Analysis

At the borough level

This section reviews the current public open space (POS) standards of each council in the study area and how these standards are being met according to their most recent studies.

As indicated in Table 1, local benchmarks suggest that most areas have sufficient public open space of at least one typology; however, access to space may be more limited, especially for more rural communities, and those areas with a higher deprivation index.

Because the POS standards and methodology of assessment are different for each of the councils, a separate quantitative and accessibility exercise has been carried out, applying nationally recognised standards.

National Standards include:

- Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace

Standards (ANGSt): ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural green space of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home.

- The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) has produced a national allotment standard for a minimum provision of 20 standard plots of 250 square metres per 1,000 households or 0.5 hectares per 1,000 households.

This exercise is not, however, intended to inform or indeed query local standards which have been developed with local knowledge, but it is rather used as a design tool at this initial stage.

The intent is to gather a coordinated impression of POS provision across the study area, as well as to identify any areas which would benefit from future design proposals forming part of this infrastructure study.

TAB.9 Standards per 1000 population of the various typologies of Public Open Space.

| AUTHORITY | NATURAL & SEMI-NATURAL | PARKS & GARDENS | AMENITY GREENSPACE | ALLOTMENTS | SOURCE |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|--|
| | Hectares / 1000 POP | | | | |
| Basildon | 2.62 | 1.82 | 1.33 | N/A | PPG17 Open Space Assessment Part 1 (2010) Open Space Assessment GAP Analysis (2015) |
| Brentwood | 2.00 | N/A | N/A | 0.18 | Brentwood Open Space Strategy 2008-2018 Sport, Leisure and Open Space Assessment (2016) |
| Castle Point | 2.38 | 0.10 | 0.58 | 0.06 | Castle Point Open Space Strategy 2008-2013 |
| Rochford | 3.00 | 0.10 | 0.30 | 0.05 | Rochford Open Space Study 2009 |
| Thurrock | 2.00 | 0.70 | 0.80 | 0.16 | Thurrock Open Space Strategy 2006-2011; to be updated by Thurrock Active Place Strategy (2019) |
| Southend | 1.00 | 1.00 | N/A | 0.21 | Park & Green Space Strategy 2015-2020 |

At the South Essex strategic level

At the strategic level, there are numerous aspects that contribute to the South Essex landscape. As illustrated in previous sections of this report, these include a complex mosaic of habitats, landscape typologies, statutory and non-statutory designations, visual qualities and land uses.

The overlapping of the various layers of landscape and watercourse related elements help to identify gaps in areas otherwise protected by various designations, habitats connections, ease of accessibility, potential threats and areas of conflict between different land uses.

This review will help to identify areas for further local analysis and clarification as well as inform locations and sequence of green open spaces.

Country Parks

Within this GBI study are proposed locations for new Regional Park areas. This has been informed by existing and proposed linkages, land uses and proposed developments.

A high-level accessibility study has been carried out to ascertain which areas have a reasonable access to the existing Regional Parks and which areas are under-provided. Country Parks in the study area have also been included, to get a more comprehensive view of large parks location and their catchment areas.

Country Parks are not included in ANGSt, which provide accessibility standards based on the size of the open spaces. As Country Parks in the study area are of very different sizes and composition, this assessment has used the spectrum of 1,200m (a 15 minutes walk) and 2,400m (a 10 minutes drive) as reasonable distances. The intent of this exercise is purely to identify possible gaps in provision.

As the adjacent map shows, based on this assessment, the following areas are currently under-provided with Country Parks:

- Area between Basildon and Billericay;
- Area between Grays & Stanford-le-Hope;
- Area North of Thundersley; and
- Area North of Southend-on-Sea.

These findings have been considered alongside proposed growth areas, connections and local land uses as well as the sizes and facilities provided by the existing parks.



FIG.53 Green Open Space Gap Analysis: 1.2km and 2.4 km zones mapped around country and regional parks. Communities outside of the yellow zones have inadequate access to parks.

4.6 Castle Point GBI

Castle Point Public Open Space

In order to meet long term objectives of providing residents of Castle Point with a cleaner, greener environment, Castle Point Council has developed the Castle Point Open Spaces Strategies (2008-2013). Although it would benefit from updating, the document identifies opportunities to increase and enhance the existing networks of green spaces and corridors used for informal recreation, and transport serving as habitat corridors.

There are a range of different users for these spaces: equestrians, cyclists, pedestrians and dog walkers all use the Borough’s green spaces.

Many of the Council-owned public open spaces and recreation grounds in Castle Point benefit from a coastline location, making them particularly accessible to users such as houseboat dwellers, beach visitors, and those engaging in water sports.

Natural and Semi-natural

There are 18 areas of open spaces that have been characterised as natural and semi-natural areas, in total the sites cover an area of 204 hectares. These provide a well-connected series of natural open space that provide education and biodiversity opportunities. Not all of these sites are controlled by the Council, therefore management of them requires working with different partners including Essex County Council and Castle Point Wildlife Group.

Parks and Gardens

The Borough has three country parks:

- Hadleigh Castle Country Park - a historic landscape with a diversity of landscapes including salt marshes, woodland and grassland, providing a high quality

facility for education, exercise and entertainment. Managed by Essex County Council, in total the sites have a combined area of 216 hectares;

- Two Tree Island (as part of Hadleigh Castle Country Park).
- Canvey Heights Country Park - on the eastern side of Canvey Island was recently created on a site previously used as land fill and due to the high elevation offers views over the surrounding landscape;

Dutch Cottage Gardens is the only other park, located on the western edge of the A130.

Amenity Green Space

The Borough has 16 formally classified amenity green spaces. In total the sites have a combined area of 46 hectares. There are several good examples of amenity green spaces in the Borough, such as Kismet Park, where an interesting landform sweeps down to a drainage ditch. The site also has mature trees and hedges that create structure and visual interest. Most of the amenity open space contain basic playgrounds. In most cases there is potential to improve the ecological value of the sites.

Castle Point Borough Open Space Appraisal (2012) sets out the NPPF policy on Local Green Spaces, and the 2018 Assessments reference the need for increasing green space for communities, opportunities to enhance these networks of green spaces through improving accessibility, providing new spaces and additional green corridors. No designations are proposed to date through the Local Plan process.

Children and Teenagers

The Borough has 23 play areas that cater for age groups ranging from toddlers to early teens. In total the sites have a combined area of 3.22 hectares. A total of 40 outdoor sports facilities have been identified, some of which are private while others are owned and used by schools and colleges. In total the sites have a combined area of 278 hectares although some of the facilities are not available to the public. Additional sport facilities include two golf courses, including a driving range.

Allotments

The Borough has 7 main allotment sites. In total the sites have a combined area of 5.06 hectares. Most of the allotments are run by allotment societies, while the two allotments on Canvey Island (Waterside Farm and Smallgains) are run by The Canvey Island Town Council. At present all of the allotments in the Borough are over-subscribed, there are currently no vacant plots and long waiting lists of up to three years.

Green Corridors

There are two green corridors in Castle Point:

- The Lake + Southwick Dyke - make up the same green corridor although they have different uses and character;
- Thames Esplanade - is a unique green corridor as it connects key urban features plus it provides access to the Thames Estuary and encompasses the sea defence.

Both are important local facilities and promote sustainable forms of transport (walking and cycling).

KEY FINDINGS

- Natural and Semi-natural open space comprise 18 well connected areas of natural open space, of these 14 are woodlands;
- There is some deficiency in parks provision, which could be reduced with the creation of a new country park at Canvey Wick and improvements and re-classification of other open spaces;
- There is some deficiency in amenity open space in some areas although these are compensated by other types of open space;
- Access to Sports facilities is good within the Borough and all residents have access to some sort of sport facility;
- Play provision: East Canvey has a superior level to the rest of the Borough, the Hadleigh area is in line with recommended level, whilst other areas are below the provision level;
- Allotments provision is in line with national standards although they are currently over-subscribed and there are long waiting lists.
- Castle Point Borough demonstrates significant room for improvement in access to open space, with an extensive residential area that does not have access to a POS within 300m. Although it has some large parks, these are at the periphery of the urban areas.
- According to the Borough’s own standard of 10-15 minutes walking distance to a POS there are still some areas without access to a POS (approx 30%).

REFERENCES:

Castle Point District Council Open Spaces Strategy 2008 - 2013

Castle Point Gap Analysis

The Borough has developed the Castle Point Open Spaces Strategy 2008-2013, which aims to assess the quantity and quality of the existing open space. The priorities include:

- Improving accessibility;
- Improving connectivity between Open Space;
- Improving biodiversity;
- Reflecting local character;
- Protecting and enhancing existing provision; and
- Providing more POS for communities that are suffering a deficiency in open space.

The specific quantitative and accessibility standards outlined for the different types of POS, are outlined here.

Natural and Semi-natural

The recommended standard for natural and semi-natural open space provision is 2.37ha per 1,000 population, therefore meeting the standard. The Borough also have three country parks, which have a semi-natural character and together they provide 2.58ha per 1,000 population (standard is 2.93ha per 1,000 people).

Parks and Gardens

The recommended standard for Urban Parks and Gardens is 0.10ha per 1,000 people, while the current provision is 0,001 per 1,000 people.

Amenity Green Space

The recommended standards for Amenity Green Space and the provision of this typology of open space are both 0.584ha per 1,000 population, therefore meeting the standard.

Cemeteries and churchyards’ provision meets the demand although not subjected to a specific standard.

Children and Young People

Provision for children and young people are provided as 0.22 sites per 1,000 population, with a recommended standard of 0.25 sites per 1,000 population.

Allotments

The recommended standard and provision of allotments and community gardens are both as 0.058ha per 1,000 population and are therefore meeting the standard.

Sports Provisions

The recommended standard for outdoor Sports Facilities and the provision of this typology of open space are both 3.22ha per 1,000 population, therefore meeting the standard.

Accessibility

The Open Space Strategy 2008-2013 recommended accessibility standard for different types of POS are defined as:

- Country parks: 2,400m or a 10 minutes drive;
- Urban parks and natural and semi-natural open space: 720m or 15 minutes walk;
- Sports provisions: 2,400m or a 10 minutes drive;
- Amenity open space: 480m or a 10 minutes walk;
- Children and young people: 480m or a 10 minutes walk;
- Allotments and community gardens: 2,400m or a 10 minutes drive.

TAB.12 Standards per 1000 population of the various typologies of Public Open Space in Castle Point. The colours indicate whether the standard is currently achieved.

| AUTHORITY | NATURAL & SEMI-NATURAL | PARKS & GARDENS | AMENITY GREENSPACE | ALLOTMENTS | SOURCE |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|--|
| | Hectares / 1000 POP | | | | |
| Castle Point | 2.38 | 0.10 | 0.58 | 0.06 | Castle Point Open Space Strategy 2008-2013 |

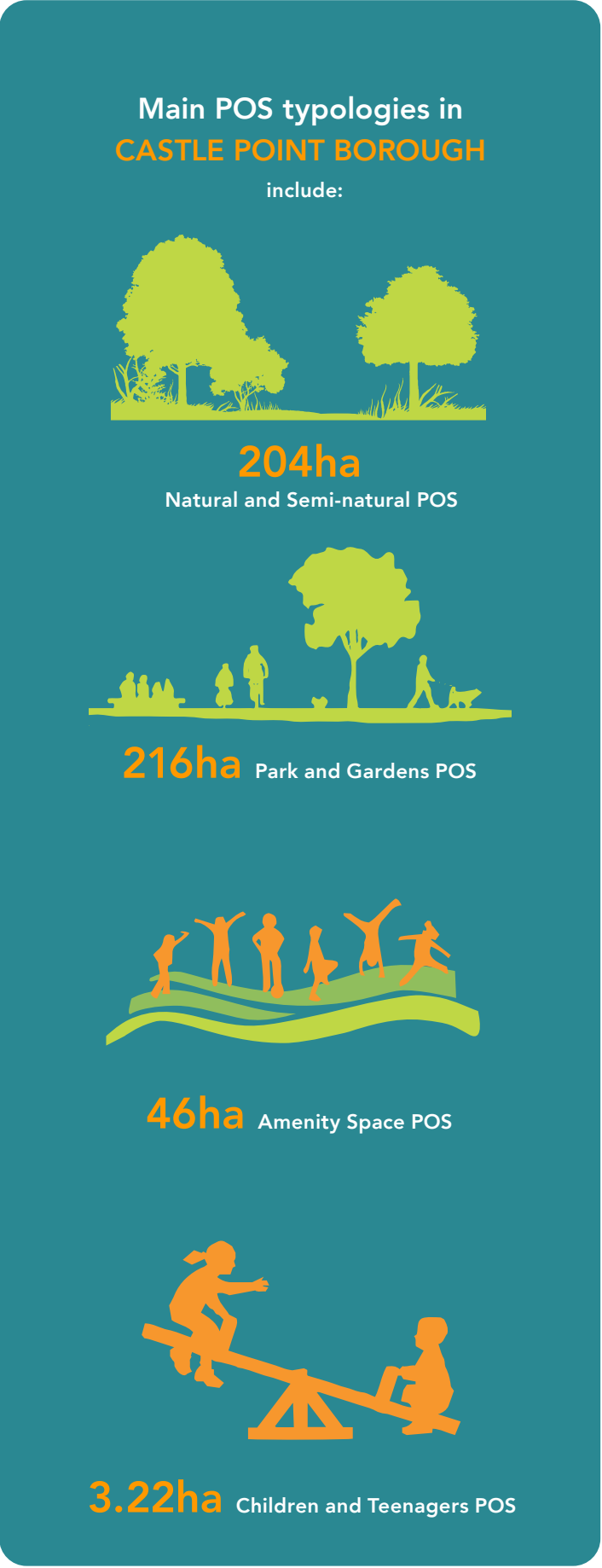


FIG.64 Key POS Index: Castle Point



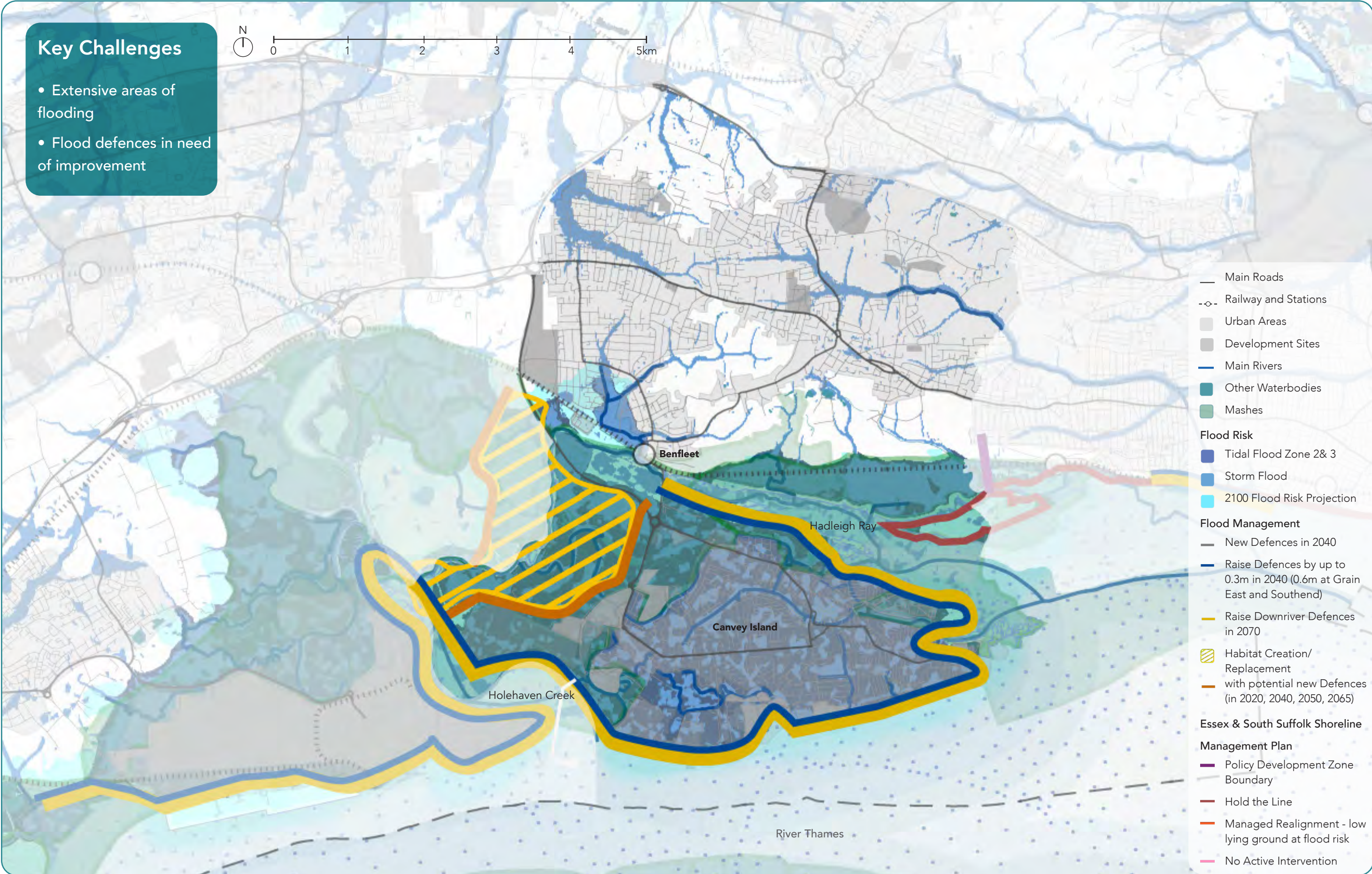


FIG.66 Existing Water Management and Proposed Development Sites: Castle Point



FIG.67 Existing Habitat and Nature Sites, with PRoWs: Castle Point



FIG.68 Proposed GBI Layout: Castle Point (Source: GIS Green Spaces and Agricultural Land from ASELA, Development plots from Local Plans)

G. SEEPark Business Case Excerpt on Central Thames Marshlands and Woodland Arc

Document Full Name: The SEEPark Landscape Framework: Draft Business Case and Investment Proposition

Prepared by: Alexandra Steed URBAN

Prepared for: Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)

Date: 21.07.2022

Central Thames Marshlands

Reimagining a vulnerable landscape into a place of hope

Central Thames Marshlands addresses the challenges of today in this vulnerable and compromised landscape. It offers a GBI solution that enhances current flood defence proposals, provides flood storage, complements and improves existing habitat sites, aligns with developing coastal path plans, while also celebrating its fascinating industrial heritage and ancient history. By doing so, Central Thames Marshlands presents a new kind of park model that not only provides an important address for South Essex, but that brings health and well-being to people's lives, while protecting biodiversity, properties, and the regional economy.

The creation of this vast marshland is already underway. The *Turning the Tide: the South Essex Marshland Landscape Partnership* scheme, produced by the Essex County Council, 2011, has set out the vision. The documents provide a great deal of analysis and rationale for creating the marshland.

The first wave of design for CTM Pathfinder Phase 1 has also commenced, creating improved connectivity and habitat between Coalhouse Fort and Fobbing Marshes and looks to connect important nature sites, such as Thameside Nature Park.

Connectivity will be key to bring this vast landscape

together, spanning a number of local authorities. Habitats will be seamlessly linked and provide adequate space for restoration. At the same time, a plan will be prepared to encourage better access for people in appropriate areas.

The petrochemical industry has also featured significantly in this area throughout the 20th century, along with other industrial uses including landfills. But important nature sites are already growing out of some of the abandoned land; for example, Canvey Wick is a designated SSSI at the site of the partially built and abandoned oil refinery; Thurrock Thameside Nature Park on the former Mucking landfill; Canvey Heights Country Park which was reclaimed from the Newlands landfill site, and the ambitious South Essex Central Marshes scheme is underway.

Central Marshlands addresses the challenges of today in this vulnerable and compromised landscape, and offers a GBI solution that enhances current flood defence proposals, provides flood storage, complements and improves existing habitat sites, aligns with developing coastal path plans, while also celebrating its fascinating industrial heritage and ancient history. By doing so, Central Marshlands presents a new kind of park model that not only provides an important address for South Essex, but that brings health and well-being to people's lives, while protecting biodiversity, properties, and the regional economy.



FIG.17 Hadleigh Castle Vista

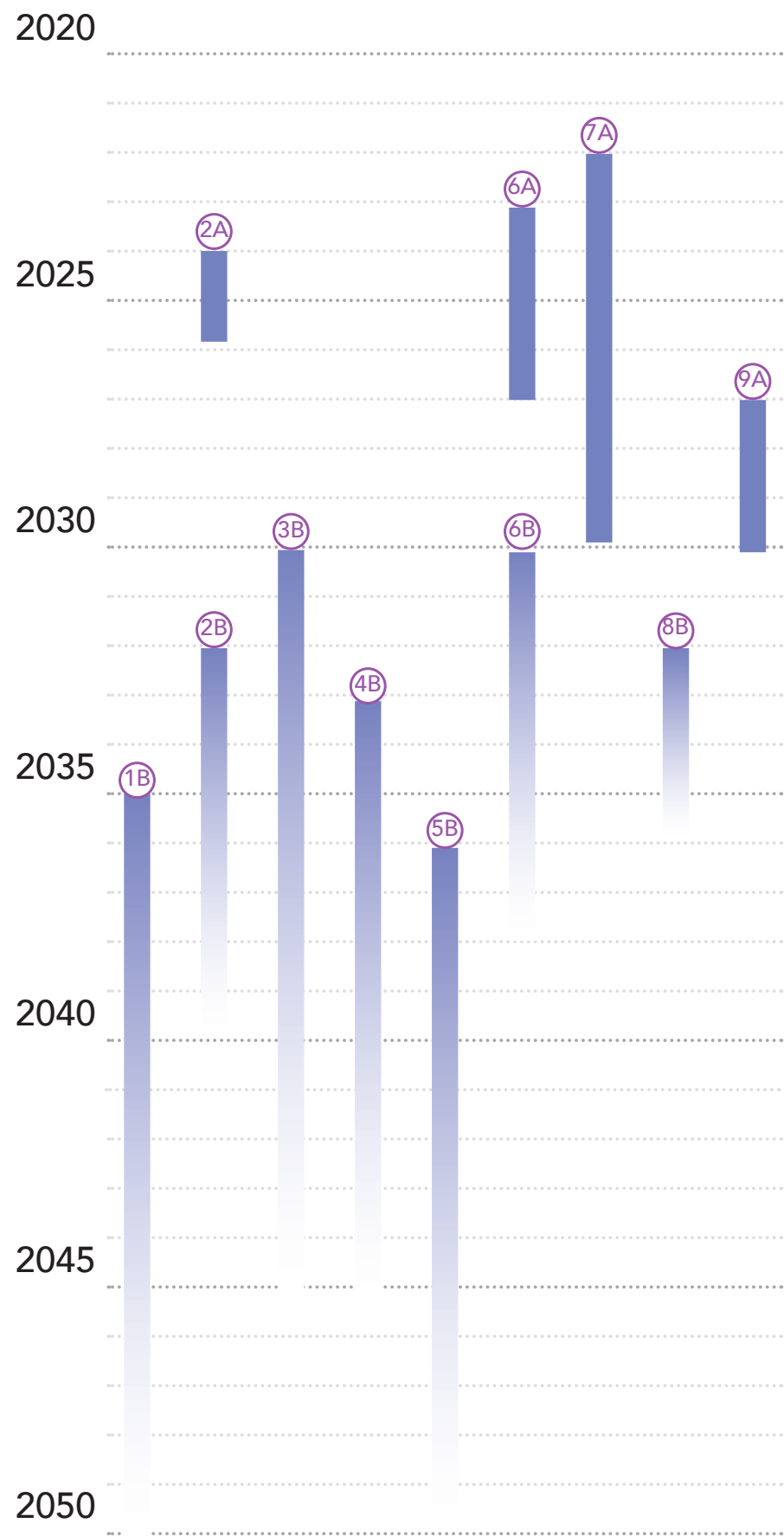
STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Improved access throughout Thurrock and into neighbouring areas with enhanced greenways, recreational loops and green crossings, connecting destinations and habitat sites.
- Improved Cycle routes to DP World London Gateway and Thames Enterprise Park.
- Creation of Central Marshlands, linking along the waterfront from Tilbury Fort to Fobbing Marshes.
- Restoration of landscape character at the 'Land of Fanns'.
- Incorporate GBI into all new developments.

CENTRAL THAMES MARSHLANDS
PROGRAMME

SHORT-TERM OPPORTUNITIES (2020 - 30)

LONG-TERM OPPORTUNITIES (2030 - 50)



1A. Hadleigh Marshes and Two-Tree Island Paths: Plans are underway to improve recreational waterfront access and environmental improvements, to be undertaken along with Phase 3 of the Pathfinder Project.

2A. Hadleigh Castle Country Park: Connections and public access to be improved to the estuary frontage and Coast Path route from this important historic site, along with improvements to Creekside Playing Fields.

3A. Canvey Wick: This unique brownfield site will be protected and improved, with existing industrial features to be enhanced as important landmarks at Hole Haven. (The western part of the island is already part of the proposed South Essex community parklands.)

4A. St Mary's Marsh: An intertidal habitat creation site will be implemented to replace lost habitat (TE2100), and will be designed to have good connectivity to Wat Tyler Park

5A. Central South Essex Marshes (east): This area will be protected, and will complete the network of existing marshes.

6A. Wat Tyler Country Park: Enhancements required, improving connectivity and visitor experience. The Residential Centre will be further improved to modernise the offer and to make it more accessible for those disabled, and tourists.

7A. Fobbing/Corringham Marshes: Improvements to path network, access loops, along with supporting the RSPB with enhanced habitats.

8A. Thurrock Thameside Nature Reserve Expansion: This interesting nature park will expand south to create a wonderful waterside experience. There are plans to expand this site to 845 acres, helping to complete green infrastructure all along the waterfront.

9A. England Coast Path Tilbury to Coalhouse Fort: The Coast Path and flood defence improvements will be combined with improvements for people and wildlife.

1B. Hadleigh Marshes and Two-Tree Island: Longer-term remediation of the contaminated land will open up management options and provide great environmental benefits to this area.

2B. Hadleigh Castle Country Park: The park will be enhanced with better access for people where appropriate, more facilities for visitors, interpretation, events and festivals.

3B. Canvey Wick: Improved public access and environmental improvements will be made to flood defences along with planned maintenance of defences. Enhancements also planned for Canvey Heights Country Park

4B. St Mary's Marsh: Enlarge and extend the site to the west, and implement enhancements to the marsh. (It may take up to 10 years after the realignment is implemented)

5B. Central South Essex Marshes (east): Due to the huge area to be adapted, this marshland will take years to enhance.

6B. Wat Tyler Heights : Continued enhancements in the Wat Tyler Heights area, with a network of trails and other facilities will be improved.

7B. Fobbing/Corringham Marshes: Due to the huge area to be adapted, this marshland will take years to enhance.

8B. Thurrock Thameside Nature Reserve Coast Path: Once the next phase of the nature reserve is open, the Coast Path can be realigned to the coast.

9B. England Coast Path and Flood Defences: The Coast Path will open in coming years, extending continuously along the shoreline. To be coordinated with the flood defence implementation.

**Only bold items are included in the programme.*



FIG.19 Central Thames Marshlands Opportunities

Woodland Arc

Providing more room for the beauty of a woodland area

Central Woodlands is a place of many existing woodlands and country parks, including Cherry Orchard Country Park, Hockley Woods, and Gusted Hall Woods, and can be easily accessed by large centres of the population, serving residents of Rochford, Rayleigh, Hockley and Southend.

The Woodland Arc is a vision for turning an area of farmland into a public open space where everyone can enjoy all that the countryside has to offer. There are numerous public rights of way for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to enjoy.

Along with the extensive planting of native trees to boost biodiversity and create bigger carbon sinks, a range of landscape typologies, including open grassland will be established, and will be extended into the larger park area, and mown to create species-rich meadows.

This location is easily accessible on foot or bike for local residents and supports active travel as well as providing a green lung for these residents.

The woodlands also provide an important habitat for wildlife, that will enjoy an extensively connected network from the west end of the River Crouch, in an arc down to the end of the River Roach. A complete

green loop is envisioned for people and wildlife, circling much of Rochford. This will extend and restore some of the former woodland sites, including the 130 hectares of Hockley Woods.

Areas of flooding have been included in the area earmarked for the park, to allow large areas of flood attenuation and to protect people and properties. Existing and proposed development sites sit around the edges of the woodland, and enjoy easy access to the parkland.

Much of this area is in public ownership which will make investment straightforward.

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Improved access throughout Rochford and into neighbouring areas with enhanced greenways, recreational loops and water crossings, connecting destinations and habitat sites.
- Improved blue corridors, with natural restoration and adjacent trails.
- Creation of the Woodland Arc, bridging the Crouch to the Roach rivers.
- Stewardships in agricultural areas, and agri-tourism opportunities.
- Incorporate GBI into all new developments.



FIG.20 Rayleigh Mount



FIG.21 Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park

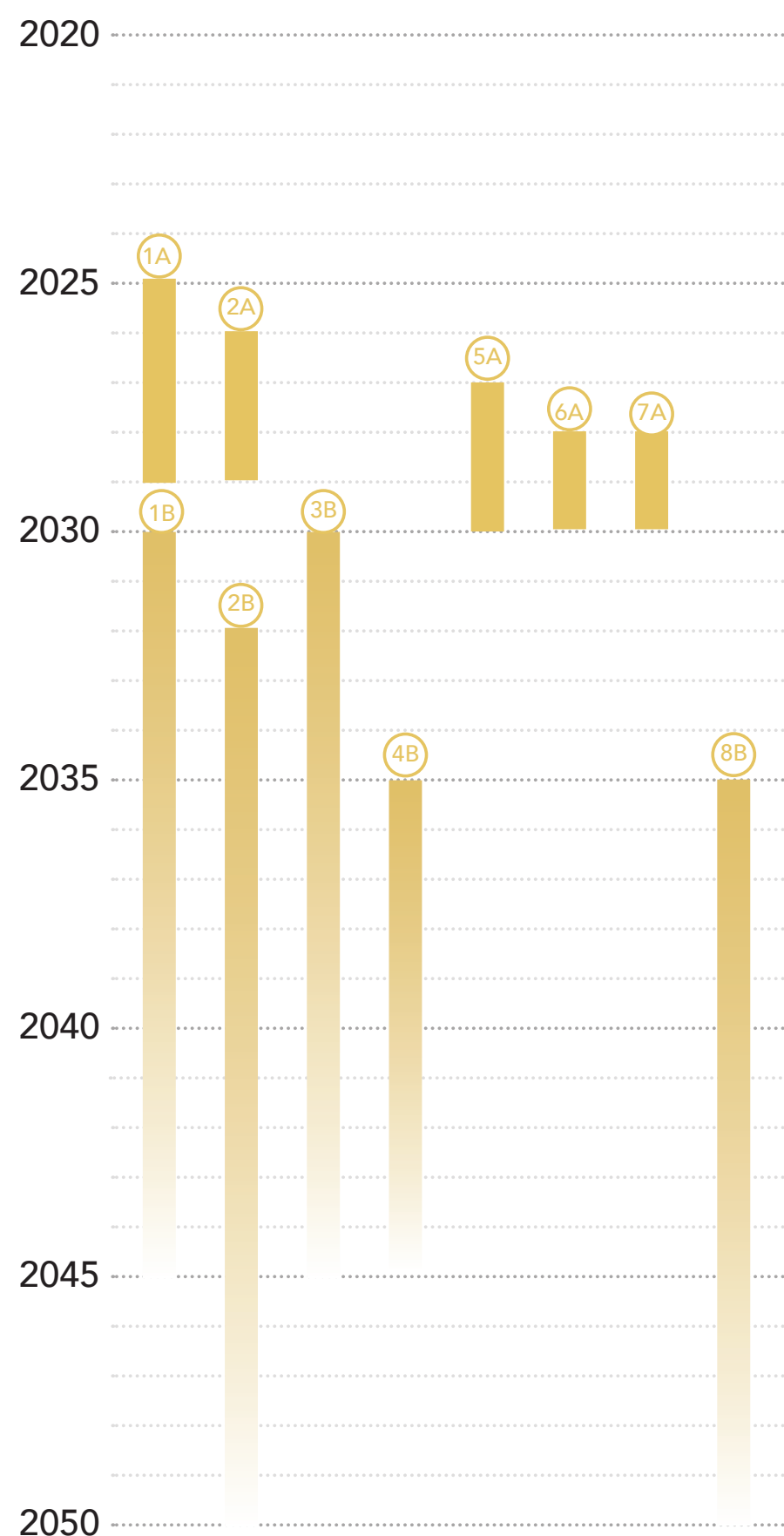


FIG.22 Hockley Woods Nature Reserve

WOODLAND ARC PROGRAMME

SHORT-TERM OPPORTUNITIES (2020 -30)

LONG-TERM OPPORTUNITIES (2030 - 50)



1A. Battlesbridge: The north-west part of the park, connecting to the River Crouch, will be allocated as part of the parkland, providing open space for existing residents, and future developments in the area. Preparation begins for change in use from agriculture land to parkland.

2A. River Crouch Coast Path and Flood Defences: Along with the implementation of the Coast Path and improved flood defences, public access along the northern part of the Central Woodlands will be enhanced.

3A. Hockley Woods Nature Reserve: Preparation begins for change in use from agriculture land to parkland. Hockley Woods to be extended through farmland to connect to the west, south and east, to create a large cluster of woodlands. Areas associated with new developments will be undertaken and green pedestrian and wildlife corridors to be completed as a priority.

4A. Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park: Develop a strategy to enhance the parks natural and recreational features, and improve visitor facilities.

5A. River Roach Connection: A strong link will be developed along the western arm of the River Roach, extending through to Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park, providing access for all users.

6A. Rayleigh Connection: A strong link will be developed from the Woodland Arc towards Rayleigh, enhancing an already popular route.

7A. Benfleet Connection: A strong link will be developed from the Woodland Arc towards Benfleet, connecting the Woodland Arc to Central Thames Marshlands.

8A. Basildon Woodland: Preparation begins for change in use from existing agriculture land to woodland.

1B. Battlesbridge: Implementation of the park scheme will be undertaken, completing the River Loop that connects the Crouch and Roach Rivers. Access also provided from the Battlesbridge Station. Flood attenuation to be built into the scheme as a first priority.

2B. River Crouch Coast Path and Flood Defences: Shoreline improvements will be implemented over the next few decades. However, footpaths and public access along the shoreline will be improved before full implementation.

3B. Hockley Woods Nature Reserve: Implementation of the park scheme will be undertaken, extending from Hockley Woods and bounded by Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park in the south. Due to its size, the park will require phasing, to be agreed through a public engagement and a park plan. This large parkland will serve many existing residents and future developments.

4B. Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park: Continue to enhance the park and ensure high quality management and maintenance in the long-term.

5B. River Roach Connection: This link will be enhanced in line with other schemes progress, including the Coast Path and new developments.

6B. Rayleigh Connection: Continued enhancement of footpaths/bridleways that allow you to get all the way from Rochford to Rayleigh.

7B. Benfleet Connection: Continued enhancement of footpaths/bridleways that connect the Woodland Arc towards Benfleet, connecting the Woodland Arc to Central Thames Marshlands.

8B. Basildon Woodland: Implementation of the woodland scheme, connecting the Woodland Arc to Central Thames Marshlands.

**Only bold items are included in the programme.*

Woodland Arc Transformation

2,163ha existing green spaces increased to 3,620ha of protected parkland

(see facing page for list of transformation projects)

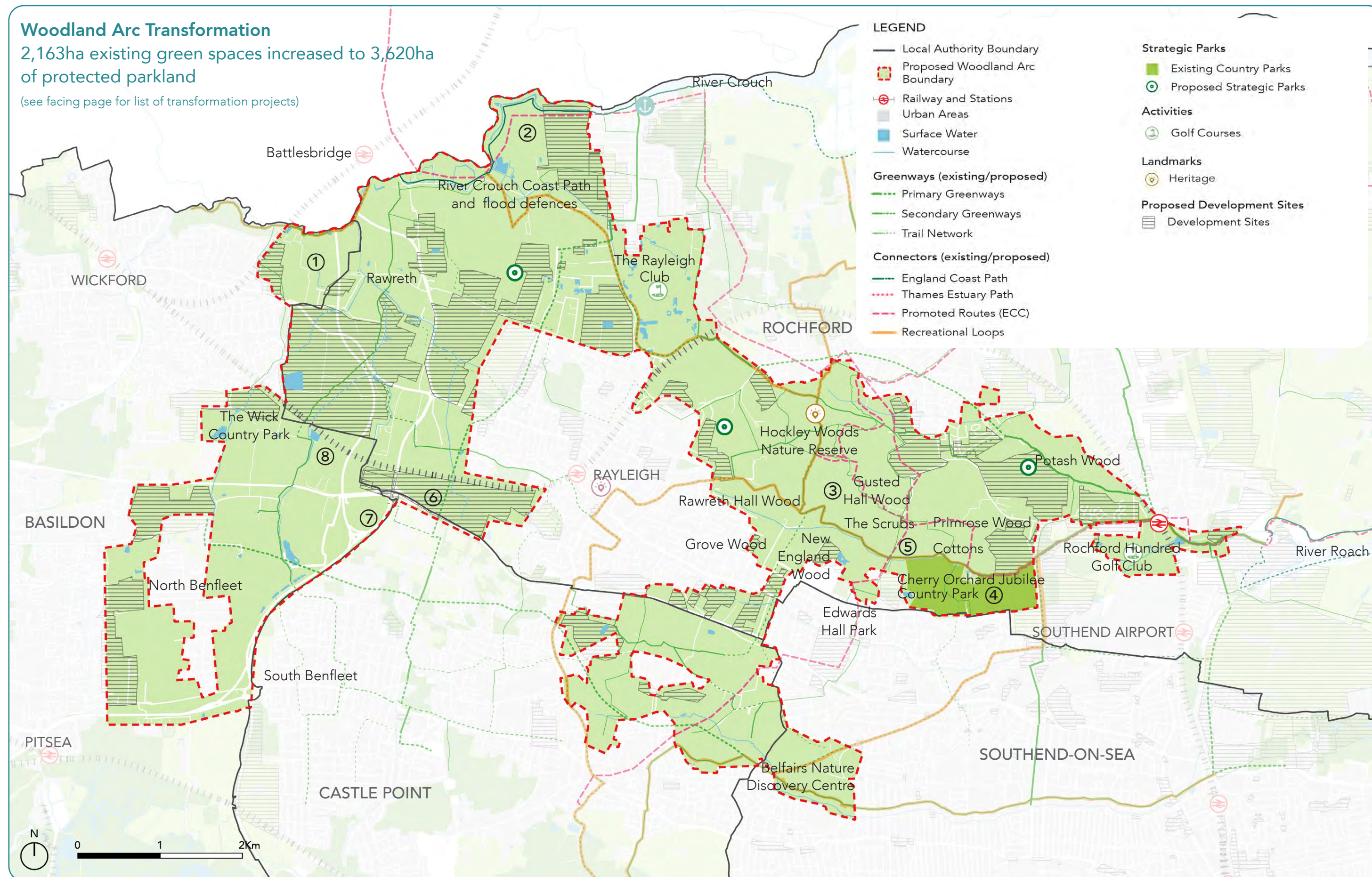


FIG.24 Woodland Arc Opportunities

